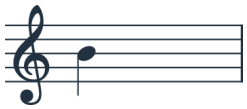Saxophone: B, A and G

Three left-hand notes: read them, finger them, play them. Your teacher guides setup and first sound.

1 · THREE NOTES ON THE STAFF
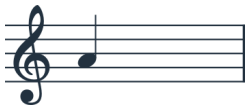
Saxophone music uses treble clef. These are **written** notes in octave 4 (C4 = middle C). Count lines and spaces from the bottom.

B4
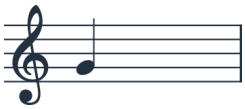


Middle line (line 3)

A4



Space 2

G4

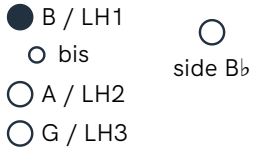


Line 2

2 · THREE FINGERINGS, ONE FINGER AT A TIME

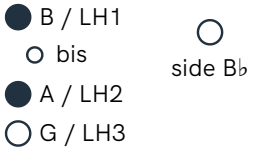
Hand-grouped front schematic: mouthpiece up, bell down; left group = LH upper stack, right group = RH side key; groups are not physical left/right positions. LH = left hand; RH = right hand. LH1 = left index; LH2 = left middle; LH3 = left ring. Solid = pressed; empty = released. All unshown keys released. Octave key off. Not to scale.

B4



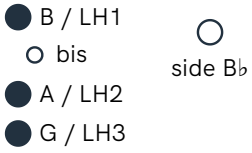
LH1 · octave key off

A4



LH1 + LH2 · octave key off

G4



LH1 + LH2 + LH3 · octave key off

Going down, add one left-hand finger each time. Right hand: no keys pressed. Find each key with your teacher first.
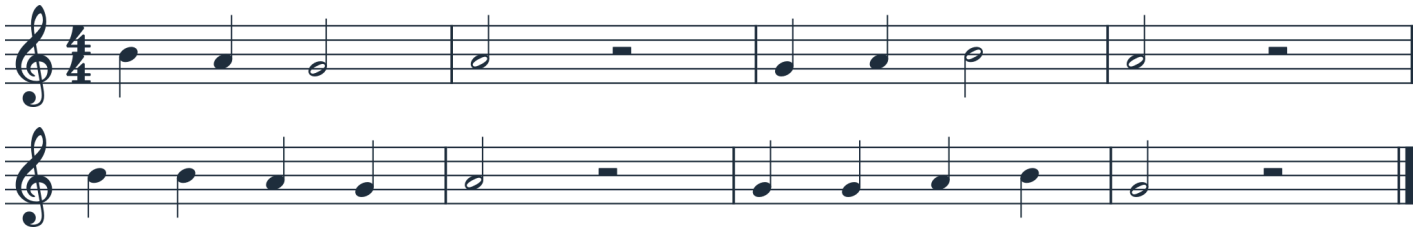
3 · SAME FINGERS, DIFFERENT SOUND

You read	You press	**E♭ alto saxophone sounds** down a major 6th · 9 half steps	**B♭ tenor saxophone sounds** down a major 9th · 14 half steps
B4	LH1	D4	A3
A4	LH1 + LH2	C4	G3
G4	LH1 + LH2 + LH3	B♭3	F3

The fingering and the written note stay the same on both saxophones; only the sound is lower. Soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophones all use these written fingerings. More on this: Handout 392, *Written & concert pitch*.

4 · READ, REST, PLAY

Original tune · 4/4 · quarter note = 60 BPM. Count **1–2–3–4** in every bar. Breathe in the half rests (bars 2, 4, 6 and 8).



Try it Start on B. Add one finger: which note? Add one more? **Answer: A, then G.**
From G, which two fingers lift to play B? **Answer: LH2 and LH3.**

Written-pitch study audio, not concert pitch · piano · quarter = 60 · the tune starts after four clicks.
An alto or tenor saxophone sounds lower than this (section 3). Pitch and rhythm model, not a saxophone tone model.
Scan or visit tissimo.co/worksheets/saxophone-first-notes-b-a-g#listen · Next: Handout 439, *One B-flat, Two Fingerings*.

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