



The Band Director Handbook for Clarinet and Saxophone

a step by step guide to better sounding
clarinet and saxophone section

Vandoren[®]
PARIS



The First Six Weeks

The first six weeks are all about sound!

- Long tones for every warm-up
- Once you introduce dynamics in week three, include soft-loud-soft warm-ups.
- In week four introduce a simple 5-note chorale. (Download example

from www.whyvandoren.com.)

Recommended equipment week 1-6

- An instrument in good working condition
- Any beginning mouthpiece
- Any reed in excellent condition (no chips)
- A music stand for home practice
- The method book of your choice

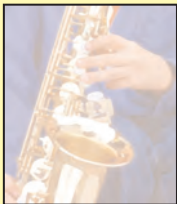


Important! Do not let students leave their reed on the mouthpiece. It is also important for them to rotate between at least two reeds (different reed for each session).

Weeks 6-12

The second six weeks are about sound and facility.

- Continue tone drills
- Increase articulation and technique
- Using the same chorale, add articulation and known rhythms. (Download example from www.whyvandoren.com.)



Recommended equipment week 6-12

- It's time to upgrade to quality reeds. At this point in your young clarinetist's or saxophonist's life, a reed with more wood in the heart and a better tip than entry-level reeds is necessary to continue to improve tone, articulation and intonation. (Go to www.whyvandoren.com for a reed comparison chart.)
- A good reed case for proper rotation is also necessary.



Important! Not all your students will play the same reed strength. With the new Vandoren FlowPack (individually wrapped reeds) you can have them try different strengths to find the proper strength before they buy a whole box.



Week 12 and beyond

From week 12 on, your players are in multiple registers, playing a wide range of rhythms and articulation.

- Continue tone drills
- Increase articulation and technique exercises

Recommended equipment week 12 (& after)

To improve the sound of your section:

- Upgrade to a quality mouthpiece.
- Knowing which mouthpiece is right depends on the physical aspects of your students.
- Ask your music dealer to provide mouthpieces your students can try to find the right match. (Go to www.whyvandoren.com for a mouthpiece comparison chart.)



Recommended mouthpieces:

Clarinet: 5RV Lyre, B45, M30, M15 and M13 Lyre

Sax: Optimum AL3 and AL4

Important! Mouthpieces wear out! Between cleaning them and playing them, the facing of mouthpieces will eventually become uneven. When your students begin to have intonation problems or when reeds stop working, it's time to select a new mouthpiece.



Jazz Band

Choices for your jazz band should be based on their experience level. A beginning group needs mouthpieces that will project and reeds that will help them with sound and jazz articulation. (For jazz articulation exercises go to www.whyvandoren.com.)

Recommended equipment

Reeds: Choose a reed that works for the type of sound you want for your group.

Java reeds are very bright - good for rock and latin music

V16 reeds are darker and great for traditional jazz and newer music

ZZ reeds combine the best of Java and V16 for sound and articulation



Mouthpieces: You have many more choices. Contact your dealer to bring samples for your groups to try. We recommend Alto V16 A7M and A7S, Tenor V16 T55 or T75, Bari B75 or B95. As your players mature, modify the reed strength accordingly.

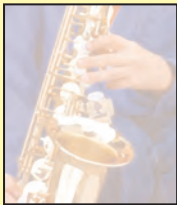
All mouthpieces sound better with an Optimum ligature.

Step up (Concert Band)

Recommended equipment

Should your students move to a step up instrument, an upgrade in the mouthpiece/reed/ligature set up is necessary.

- If your students are playing at level three or above you should consider these upgrades:



Reeds:

V•12 clarinet reeds provide a darker tone which is desired particularly for students participating in solo and ensemble.

Mouthpieces:

For solo and ensemble at level three or above, consider the M30 mouthpiece with V•12 reeds. This combination is one of the most popular among professional clarinetists. For saxophone, the Optimum AL3 with Vandoren traditional reeds is used by some of the finest soloists in the country. Both are great set ups for students involved in solo and ensemble.

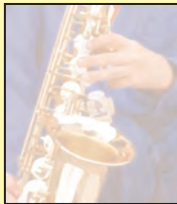
Ligatures:

The Optimum ligature for saxophone and clarinet is simply the most versatile ligature available. The multi-plate system provides color and unparalleled richness and response.



Marching Band

The principal requirement for outside performances is volume. While you need some sort of tone quality, you need volume from your reeds and mouthpieces. Consider jazz band set ups for outside performances.



Recommended equipment

Reeds:

Java or ZZ reeds for saxophone are very bright and will carry in a football stadium or in a parade. Clarinets are more successful with **Traditional reeds**.

Mouthpieces:

Clarinet: AT45 is a synthetic B45. It has the same dimensions but is a bit brighter. Other choices include M30 and B40.



Saxophone:

Alto: Jumbo Java A45, V16 A5S, A5M, A6S and A6M

Tenor: Jumbo Java T55 and T75, V16 metal T55 or T75

Baritone: B75

Important! You can download reed comparison charts and mouthpiece comparison charts from www.dansr.com/educators or at www.whyvandoren.com

