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Advanced Jazz Saxophone Exercises



SAXOPHONE

Pinky Weights

The extreme lower and upper ranges of the saxophone can be challenging to play with control and consistency.

As we don't often engage our pinkies in everyday movement, the coordination required for the pinky keys on the saxophone—especially the spatula keys—can be difficult to master. A targeted pinky exercise can help develop both strength and agility.

Start on low B-flat and play the following chromatic pattern: **B \flat - C - B - C - D \flat - C - B - C - B \flat .**

Use a **subtone** approach rather than a full, straight tone in the low register to encourage fluidity and control.

Take a full, relaxed breath if you'd like to play the entire pattern in one phrase without stopping for air.



Next, try starting the pattern on other spatula-key notes (such as B, C-sharp, or D-sharp) to further develop coordination across the left-hand pinky keys. Gradually increase your tempo as your strength and control improve, always aiming for clean transitions and a balanced tone.

