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# The Study of Saxophone Preparatory Year

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3). A Nine-Year Course of Study for the Modern Saxophonist-Doubler — Saxophone, Flute & Clarinet.

# What the Preparatory Year asks

## EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Performance of all Major scales found in l'Alphabet du Saxophone
2. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano
3. Performance of Etudes from selected method: l'Alphabet du Saxophone

## THE YEAR

October to July, in two semesters.  
Mid-term exam: early March.  
Final exam: early July.

Saxophone students are required to complete the listed methods and satisfactorily present the required scale and arpeggio materials during each school year. Ten compositions will be chosen from each repertoire list and developed to a performance level. Repertoire for the jury examination should be selected in consultation with the student's teacher. Pieces not listed may be studied and performed with the permission of the teacher. Extensive participation in a saxophone quartet and with other instruments in the performance of chamber music and large wind ensemble is requisite for students who have attained an acceptable performance level.

The Study of Saxophone · Desired Competencies

# Scales in the app

1

Exam requirement 1 · Performance of all Major scales found in l'Alphabet du Saxophone  
All 12 Major scales · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

“Students in the preparatory year should be encouraged to learn all 12 scales. This is counterintuitive for most educators. The rationale is retention. Students are very concerned with their own success, and if they can be led to believe that learning 12 scales is an absolute necessity, on the other side of that they will see themselves as outliers. This is why the Milestone exercise in the app really is a milestone.”

2

Practice this year in The Whole Horn

Open in the app

3

Watch the video · 20 s  
[thewholehorn.com/curriculum/study-of-saxophone/preparatory-year/](http://thewholehorn.com/curriculum/study-of-saxophone/preparatory-year/)

Watch the video

# Methods

The Study of Saxophone · the Preparatory Year

## Core Methods

Method, Prati, l'Alphabet du Saxophone

Method, Janzen, Themes Celebres pour Flute a Bec / Soprano Saxophone

Method, Vilio, Pieces Faciles pour Saxophone

## Additional Methods

Mule, 24 Etudes Faciles Saxophone

Meriot, 25 Easy Etudes

Prati, 29 Études Progressives

Herfurth, A Tune a Day, Book 2

Klosé, Complete Method for Saxophone

Londeix, Exercices Mechaniques, Vol. 1

Rubank, Intermediate Method for Saxophone

Delangle, Methode de Saxophone Debutants, Vols. 1–2

Hal Leonard, Play Alto Sax Today! Level 1

O'Niel, The Jazz Play-a-long Method for Saxophone

Andrew Scott, The Art of Saxophone

Druet, L'École Française du Saxophone

# Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · the Preparatory Year

## Core Repertoire

Desloges, Fabliau for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Boutine, Berceuse for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Aubine, Chansons dans la Rue for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Lacour, Tendre Melodie for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Lamaire, Mon Premier Recital for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Naulais, Coconotes for Alto Saxophone and Piano

## Additional Repertoire

Bozza, Le Campanile for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Carlin, Menthe à l'Eau for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Cecconi, Ariette for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Easy Classical Saxophone Play-a-longs 1, 2  
Gorisse, Jour de Fête Berceuse for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Gounod, Ave Maria for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Guicherd, Contrastes pour Sax Alto et Petites Percussions  
Londeix, Beau Dion for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Londeix, Bachelette Tableaux Aquitains for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Martin, Berceuse for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Naulais, Pain d'épices for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Pascal, Planetarium for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Perrin, Complainte for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Purcell, Lilliburlero for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Saint-Saëns, Carnaval — Le Cygne for Alto Saxophone and Piano  
Tchaikovsky, Op. 20a Intro for Alto Saxophone and Piano

# Desired Competency

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3)

## Acquisition of basic skills

air column / breathing  
concept for sound / timbre  
articulation  
rhythmic, digital and timbral homogeneity  
accuracy  
flexibility  
nuance  
intonation  
vibrato

## And

Development of basic technique and knowledge of all Major and Minor scales.  
Ability to hear and play dynamics, develop a sense of musical phrasing and a basic understanding of blend and balance.  
Cultivation of the ability to memorize simple musical passages.  
Development of basic sight-reading skills.  
Ability to notate simple musical passages.  
Understanding of chord-scale relationships; Jazz improvisation using basic facility.  
Basic knowledge of the history of the saxophone and the Giants of Saxophone.  
Experience in ensemble performance — piano accompaniment — ensemble of saxophones.  
Public performance.

# Desired Competency in the app

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3). Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

1

air column / breathing  
Long tones: breathing and one steady note

[Open in the app](#)

2

concept for sound / timbre  
Long tones

[Open in the app](#)

3

articulation  
The Milestone (articulation) · ♩ =60

[Open in the app](#)

4

rhythmic, digital and timbral homogeneity  
All 12 Major scales in quarters, eighths, triplets and 16ths · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

[Open in the app](#)

# Desired Competency in the app

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3). Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

5

flexibility

Tonic triad arpeggios, all 12 Major keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

(Overtones & voicing: basic concepts only, for extremely advanced students)

Open in the app

6

nuance

Long tones: soft → full → soft (messa di voce)

Open in the app

7

intonation

Long tones, then Lock-On (tune two tones until the beating stops), level 1

Open in the app

8

vibrato

Vibrato

Open in the app

# Desired Competency in the app

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3). Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

9

Development of basic technique and knowledge of all Major and Minor scales.  
All 12 Major and Harmonic minor scales ·  $\text{♩} = 60$  · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

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10

Development of basic technique and knowledge of all Major and Minor scales.  
All 12 natural minor and melodic minor scales ·  $\text{♩} = 60$  · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

[Open in the app](#)

11

Ability to hear and play dynamics, develop a sense of musical phrasing and a basic understanding of blend and balance.  
Dynamics: Long tones, soft → full → soft

[Open in the app](#)

12

Understanding of chord-scale relationships; Jazz improvisation using basic facility.  
Chord-scale: the ii–V–I, then its scales: Dorian (ii), Mixolydian (V), Major (I), all 12 keys ·  $\text{♩} = 60$  · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app on the scales

[Open in the app](#)

# The whole course

This is one year of The Study of Saxophone. The whole course, from the Preparatory Year to Year 9, is on [thewholehorn.com](https://thewholehorn.com).

**This is a living framework. Use it as a foundation, adapt it to your context, and revise it as new resources emerge.**

[thewholehorn.com/study-of-saxophone](https://thewholehorn.com/study-of-saxophone)