Learning to play the overtone series often is a breakthrough for young players or students of any age. The sax can be played like a bugle, where many notes can be produced off the fundamental Bb fingering.

Goal: To increase breath control, develop a better tone quality and lay a strong foundation for beginning altissimo studies.

Timeline: Once each day at the beginning of the practice session

Options: Use with <u>5ths</u>, <u>Longtones</u>, <u>Octaves</u> or substitute in place of them as a daily warm up.

IMPORTANT NOTE! It is first necessary that the player has a complete understanding and ability to breath from the <u>diaphragm</u>. Assuming this, continue with the exercise.

- 1. Familiarize yourself with the sound of the overtone series from low Bb to high F (the first 6 notes written below)
- 2. Match the regular side Bb fingering to the overtone fingering (low Bb) then go back to the regular fingering. See "Matching Overtones" below.
- 3. Take a full, supported breath from the diaphragm.
- 4. Open the throat, as though you were yawning. You can also imagine putting a ping pong ball in your mouth to create the "open" feeling in the throat.
- 5. Keep the throat open throughout the exercise, adjusting your throat cavity to achieve the different overtones. Experiment with the throat position, but DO NOT change the embouchure setting!
- 6. The first 2 or 3 overtones should be fairly easy to produce. More control is necessary as you move higher.
- 7. Continue on to "Switching Overtones". All notes are produced using the low Bb fingering.
- 8. If at any time you feel you are biting, STOP the exercise. Relax....don't bite and continue.
- 9. It is most important to remember that once the <u>embouchure</u> is set, it should remain stationary. Most of the overtones are achieved by varying the <u>oral cavity</u>. Any changes in embouchure pressure are minimal. Concentrate on the obtaining the correct oral cavity.

Good luck!

*As always, there is no substitute for a qualified private teacher. Seek a professional who specializes in saxophone.

OVERTONE SERIES

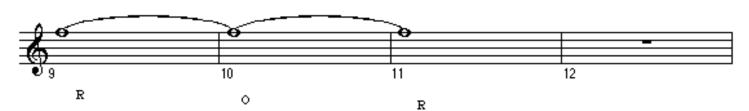
R=Regular Fingering 0=Overtone Fingering (Low Bb)



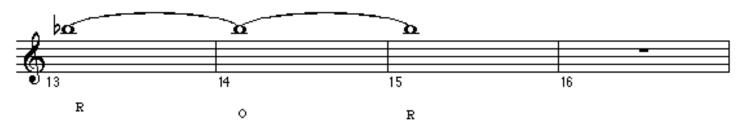
Matching Overtones



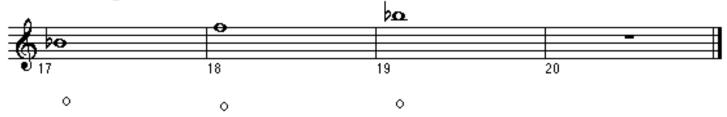
Matching Overtones



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Switching Overtones



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