Buying a Beginner’s Saxophone  
By Michael Konig  
  
Buying any instrument for the first time can be a daunting task. This article will explain some of the basic things you should consider before purchasing your first saxophone.  
  
Research instrument dealers in your area. Begin by asking local musicians or band directors for references and start visiting local retailers. Be sure to include visits to dealers that sell both new and used instruments so you can gain a better sense of which type of saxophone you would like to buy.  
  
Learn about the saxophone’s parts. This instrument consists of a neck and a body, but also requires a mouthpiece and reed. The [saxophone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saxophone)’s body has a number of moving parts, including rods and keys. The instrument’s keys should each be lined on the underside with a soft pad.  
  
Inspect the saxophone. As with buying any expensive item, make sure that the instrument you choose is in great shape, especially when choosing a used saxophone. While minor dents, dings, and scratches on the body of a used instrument will not dramatically affect the sound quality, especially for a beginner, problems with a saxophone’s neck should not be overlooked.   
  
About the author: A lover of music, Michael Konig enjoys playing the clarinet and saxophone. Professionally, Michael Konig has devoted much of his career to the health care administration sector.