

## Embouchure Part 1

To find out what the proper embouchure should be like, try the following:

1. Put your thumb in your mouth about 3/4" (2 cm) with the pad of the thumb touching your top teeth just as the mouthpiece does. DON'T BITE!
2. Fold about 1/2 of your bottom lip over your lower teeth.
3. Suck your thumb.
4. Notice that the chin is flat, the cheeks are not puffed, and the lips are drawn around the thumb in a circular pattern.
5. For sax, you simply blow instead of suck.

If you have access to a keyboard or a properly tuned piano, try the following with the mouthpiece alone.

1. Properly attach the reed to the mouthpiece using the ligature.
2. If you play alto sax:
  - ♦ Play A one octave and 6 steps above the middle C on the keyboard.If you play tenor sax:
  - ♦ Play G one octave and 5 steps above the middle C on the keyboard.
3. Match this pitch with the mouthpiece alone.
4. Get a good strong tone with lots of air.
5. Do this at the beginning of your practice session for 5 minutes.
6. Then put the mouthpiece back on the sax, and play with the same embouchure tension.