

Equipment

Although it is primarily the player that makes the music, and not the equipment, having good, working equipment certainly makes the process of learning and making the music easier. Sometimes it's hard to know what to be looking for, so I've compiled this list of products that are high quality and play well. Before getting any new equipment, always check with me to see if I have more specific recommendations specifically for you. This is especially true when buying a new instrument.

Note: there are many other products that may also work — this list is just a starting point of products that I've known to work well. Items are listed in no particular order.

Reeds:

Traditional cane: Rico Royal, La Voz, Rico Jazz Select, Vandoren Java, Vandoren ZZ, Rigotti Gold

Synthetic: Legere Signature Series

Mouthpieces:

Soprano: Meyer Hard Rubber (6, 7) or Selmer Super Session (D, E, F)

Alto: Meyer Hard Rubber (5, 6, 7)

Tenor: JodyJazz HR (6*, 7, 7*), Otto Link Vintage Series Hard Rubber (6*, 7, 7*)

Baritone: Meyer Hard Rubber (7, 7) or Rousseau Studio or JDX (6, 7, 8)

Ligatures:

Francois Louis, Oleg, Rico Royal H, Rovner

Cases:

ProTec, Michael Manning Custom Cases, BAM, SKB

Modern saxophones:

Yamaha, Selmer Reference series, Yanagisawa

Vintage saxophones:

Selmer Mark VI, Selmer Super Balanced Action, Conn 10M, Selmer Mark VII, King Super 20

Accessories:

Neck straps: Gel Strap from Just Joe's, Oleg

Reed cases: La Voz, Vandoren

Metronomes: Metronomics (software), Korg (Hardware)

Tuners: PitchCenter or iStrobosoft (software), Korg (Hardware)

Reed sanding: Vandoren Reed Resurfacer

Saxophone stands: Hercules

Music stands: Manhasset, Hercules

Microphones: Shure SM 57/58 and Cascade Fathead (wired), AMT Quantum 7 and Nady MHT-16 (wireless)

Earplugs: *(note: I highly recommend getting a quality pair of earplugs to use — your hearing is important and should be taken care of!)* 64Audio or Etymotics custom molded earplugs.

Repair:

Having an instrument in good working condition is extremely important for musical development. When an instrument has mechanical issues, it may make certain exercises much harder, if not impossible to play, and may encourage the development of bad habits to compensate for the problems. If you think your instrument may have an issue, but aren't sure, I'd be happy to play it to see if I can determine what if anything is wrong. For the repair work itself, In Portland area, I strongly recommend either Miguel Moldanado (Band Instrument Repair — 503-257-4095) or Wally's Music (503-656-5323).