Saxophone Tone Production Problems/Remedies

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sound Produced | Causes of Problem | Remedies |
| Choked sound | Too much pressure from lower lip  Too little mouthpiece in mouth  Reed too thin, closes | Say “A” and “Q”, lip firm to teeth, pressure from jaw structure  Think of a “dot” and half inch from the tip of reed in mouth  Get a thicker reed |
| Wobbly sound | Upper lip instead of teeth touching the mouthpiece | Anchor teeth to mouthpiece |
| Rough squawk | Too much mouthpiece  Reed too stiff | Less mouthpiece in mouth  Get a lighter reed |
| Blows hard or leak | Poor pads or keys | Check octave keys, look for bent keys and bad pads |
| Weak and nasal | Air stream is too slow | Student must feel faster air with resistance from mouthpiece |
| Poor intonation | Tenseness of throat  Inconsistency of adjustments in pads | Sing and match tones using “Ah”  Chick thickness of opening when pads are open on various notes |