

# WHAT IS A STEP-UP INSTRUMENT?

*Saxophone*

## **Student-line or Beginner Instruments:**

Beginner instruments are made for durability and ease of learning. Designed for the younger player, a beginning instrument is made of sturdier materials and designed so that the student can learn to play with ease. A well-made beginner instrument from a reputable manufacturer is meant to survive the learning curve of a beginner's first attempts and successes. It is built to last the many years in a student's school music "band life," enduring the rigors of intense playing. Some students choose to use their beginner instrument as their marching instrument because of its durability. However, many students' playing progresses to a point that they outgrow the capabilities of the student instrument. This student has progressed beyond the learning curve of the beginner and requires more out of his instrument. These students are ready to "step-up" into an instrument that has been designed for the more advanced player to succeed.

## **Intermediate or Step-up Instruments:**

Step-up instruments are made for tone quality, musical expression, and range. Many step-up instruments will be lighter weight, made of finer metals or exotic wood for a richer tone. Some will have a larger bore for a fuller, bigger sound while some have additional keys or valves allowing for faster play, greater technical accuracy, and extended range.

A step-up instrument allows the student to expand his or her musical growth which often inspires the student to rededicate themselves to their practicing, renewing their excitement to play more challenging music.

## THE STEP-UP SAXOPHONE



<i>Features</i>	<i>Benefits</i>
Annealed bell, body and bow	Best response and tone color
Power-forged keys	Strong; adjustments without breaking
Clear laquered keys	More attractive finish
High F# key	Extended range
Ribbed Construction	Improved post stability
Advanced neck	Better intonation and tone
Bell engraving	Professional appearance
Lighter keywork and springs	Allows greater agility

Always play the instrument before you purchase. Students should test an instrument with their regular mouthpiece, reeds, etc., since different mouthpieces make a significant difference.

***See how it feels and plays to you!***

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