

Alto Saxophone

Long Tones

scalewise

Zac Johnson

The image shows two staves of musical notation for an Alto Saxophone. The first staff contains four measures, each with a single half note: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second staff, starting with a measure rest labeled '5', contains four measures with half notes: D5, E5, F#5, and G5. Each note is accompanied by a dynamic hairpin symbol below the staff, indicating a crescendo to a peak followed by a decrescendo.

Play each note for about 8 to 12 seconds. Always play with as clear and clean of a sound as you can (eliminate any spit in the sound). Support your sound by breathing from your diaphragm (stomach). Don't be in a hurry to get through this exercise! This exercise is meant to be played slowly with a pure, controlled, even sound.

Play each note by doing the following:

1. Take a big breath.
2. Start out by playing the note as softly as you can.
3. Slowly increase the volume (crescendo) until you reach your maximum volume, always keeping your tone even and controlled (never blasty).
4. Once at your maximum volume, gradually decrease the volume (decrescendo), and slowly let the sound get softer and softer until the sound stops.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 with every note.