



Big John's **ALTISSIMO** *Fingerings*

for the Alto Saxophone.

BIG JOHN'S ALTISSIMO FINGERING

FOR THE ALTO SAXOPHONE.

Big John's Altissimo Fingering for the Alto Saxophone is a book that list out the altissimo fingering that works for me (Big John Babine). These fingerings has been tested and trusted by myself to respond 99%, but first "What is the Altissimo Register?"

The altissimo register is the uppermost register of the woodwind instruments. The altissimo register on the saxophone is comprised of the notes above F#6 (the palm key F#). There is no real limit to how high the altissimo range goes. D8 is the highest fingering I've seen in any chart. However, I can play above D8 with a good setup.

The Altissimo requires a great deal of control over the instrument. If you haven't got a sold grasp on the basic skills necessary to get a good tone on the notes below altissimo, forget about it, it is not going to happen!

Here are some advices to help you with for altissimo,

1. Make sure that you're using the optimal mouthpiece and reed combination.
2. Make sure that your saxophone is not leaking.
3. Practice your overtones.
4. Support those altissimo notes with a solid stream of air.
5. Avoid biting down excessively.
6. Experiment with making different vocal sounds while practicing altissimo notes.
7. Make sure you hear your altissimo notes before you play them.
8. Experiment with different fingerings to discover what works best for you.

However, my secret for playing the altissimo is HEARING. Yes, one can know the right fingerings, use a perfect mouthpiece and reed combination, and make sure that his/her saxophone is not leaking, and yet will not get the altissimo notes. This is why my most important answer for learning the altissimo notes is hearing the altissimo notes before you play them.

Hearing does a psychological work within you. It subconsciously controls the embouchure, shapes the inner mouth, tongue, and throat to match the altissimo note in your inner ear. The correct manipulation of those hard-to-control muscles are guided by your ear

Hearing the altissimo notes will do you more good in playing them, and this applies to both playing the overtones. For me, hearing the altissimo notes is the most important secret that will help you play them more, as knowing the fingerings just gives you an added advantage.

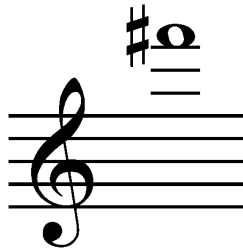
My advice to you is 'make sure you hear your altissimo notes before you play them.' and Include the altissimo range in your practice of long tones, arpeggios, scales and improvisation.

Now, here are my sleeted fingerings that work 99%. Remember that the goal here is really to extend the natural range of the instrument. Good luck and happy practicing.

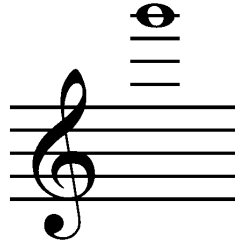
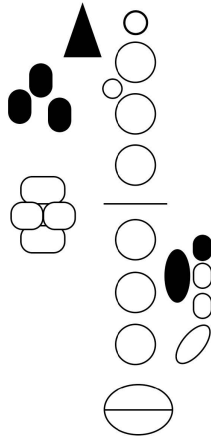


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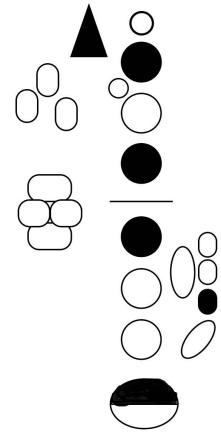
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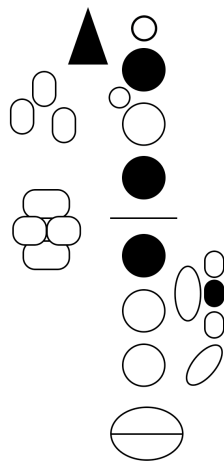
F#⁶



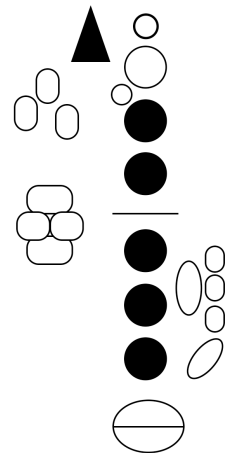
G⁶



G#⁶



A⁶

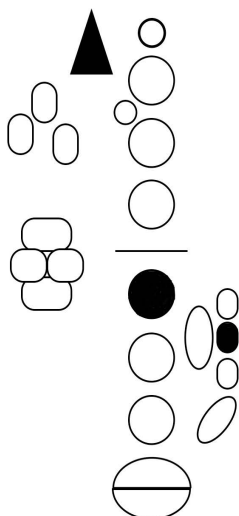


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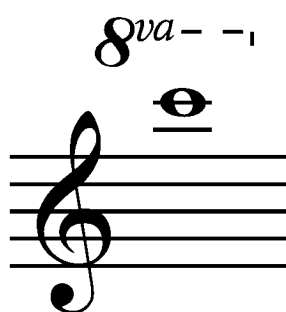
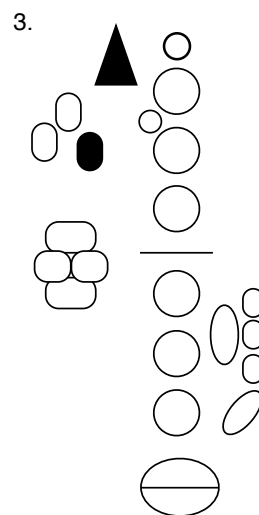
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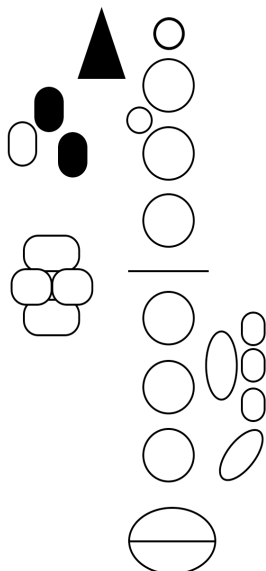
B $\flat$ 6



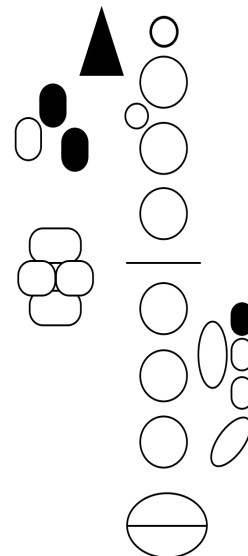
B6



C7



C $\sharp$ 7



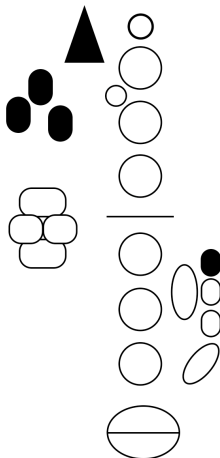
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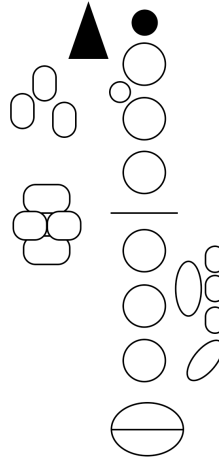


D⁷

1.



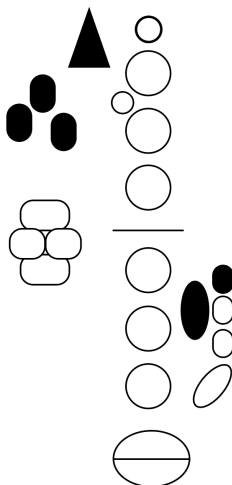
2.



or

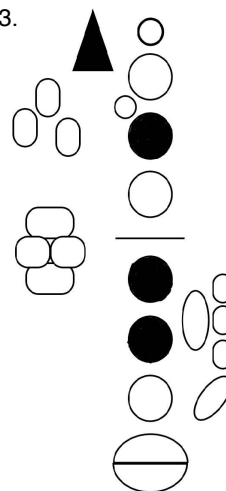


E_b⁷



E⁷

3.

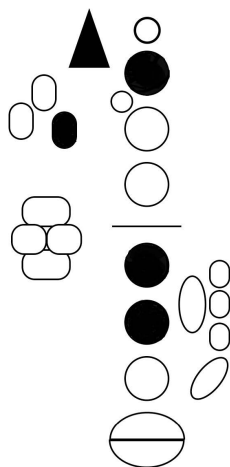


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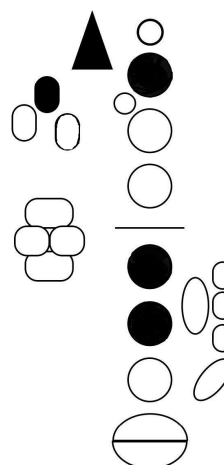
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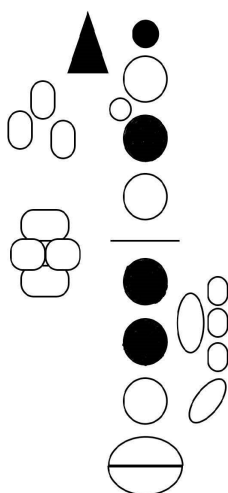
F⁷



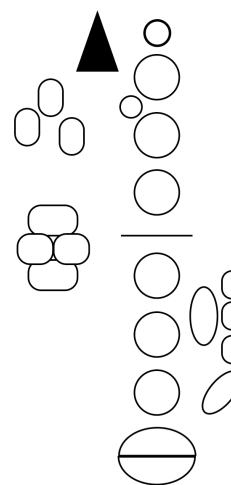
F^{#7}



G⁷



G^{#7}

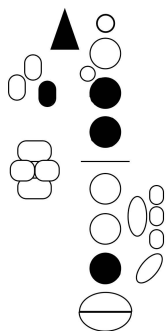


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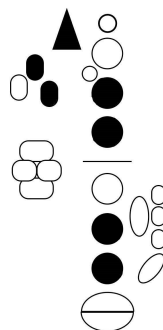
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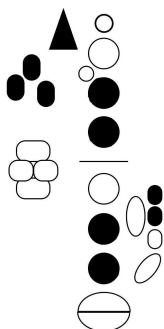
A⁷



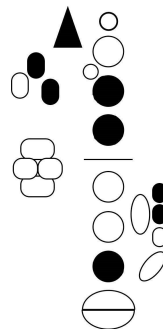
A#⁷



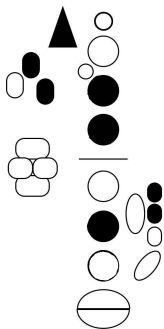
B⁷



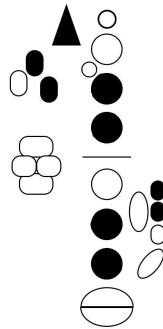
C⁸



C#⁸



D⁸





Congratulations if You have memorized
and played the **ALTISSIMO** fingerings in
this book.

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