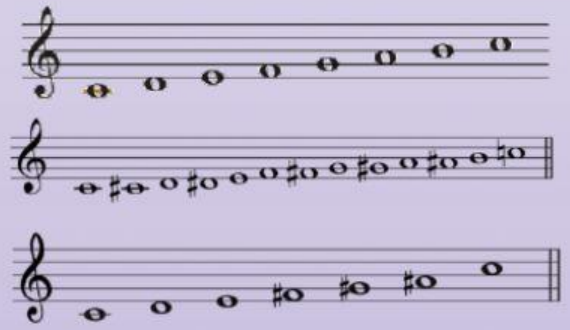
Clarinet

The body of the clarinet is a cylindrical tube with holes. The holes are covered by the fingers to make musical notes. There are also buttons pressed by the fingers which allow pads over holes to open or close so all notes of the **chromatic scale** can be played.

Which of these scales is a chromatic scale?



The clarinet has a mouthpiece, onto which a single piece of cane (single reed) is attached. As air is blown across the reed it vibrates causing the air in the body of the instrument to vibrate.

The modern clarinet developed from a Baroque instrument called the **chalumeau**. This instrument was similar to a recorder, but with a single-reed mouthpiece and a cylindrical bore.

Nowadays, the chalumeau register is the low range of the instrument, characterized by a very mellow, rich sound.

Listen to the chalumeau range representing the cat in 'Peter & the Wolf'

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Clarinets were used in most large orchestras from about 1780.
Several clarinet concertos have been written to showcase the clarinet.

Watch part of Mozart's famous clarinet concerto:

Now watch the clarinet in Mozart's clarinet quintet.

What instruments make up the clarinet quintet?

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The clarinet is a very versatile woodwind instrument, with the biggest range of notes. As well as classical music, the clarinet is also used in jazz. Listen to the opening of Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in blue'.

What musical features/ other instruments do you notice here?

Now watch Benny Goodman playing 'Sweet Georgia Brown'.

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Bass Clarinet

A bass clarinet is tuned in **an octave lower** than that of a regular clarinet. The bass clarinet is - more than a meter tall. On a bass clarinet the "barrel" is an S-bent metal tube, and the bell is also metal and bent up and forward like a saxophone. The bass clarinet is too heavy to hold in your hands for a long time while you play, so you either use the spike or a special carrying construction usually fixed around shoulders and chest.

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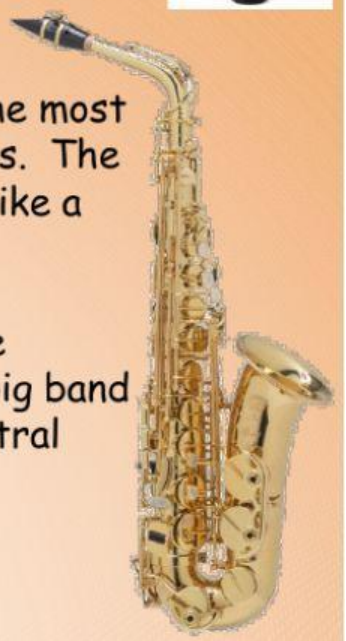
Saxophone

Although the saxophone is made of brass; it is a member of the woodwind family of instruments because it has a **single reed.** Like the clarinet, the player blows into a reed fitted into the mouthpiece of the instrument.



There are several different kinds of saxophone, the most common of which are the alto and tenor saxophones. The soprano saxophone has a straight shape and looks like a metal clarinet.

It was invented in the 1840s by Adolphe Sax . The saxophone is most associated with popular music, big band music, and jazz, but it sometimes is used in orchestral music. Watch a saxophone quartet playing:

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Now watch the saxophone being played in a big band.

What other instruments and musical features do you hear?

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