

Hand & Finger Positions

- ◆ Playing saxophone should not be a strength work-out for your fingers. Keys are sensitive, and closing them with too much pressure can cause mechanical problems on the horn.
- ◆ Keeping the fingers on the pearls and your little fingers on rollers of the spatula keys is a really good way to limit the amount of pressure you place on the keys. **ALSO**, keeping your fingers in their proper places allows you to play faster.
- ◆ Your fingers should be relaxed and slightly curled in a "C" position rather than straight.

Exercise:

- ◆ Stand in front of a mirror.
- ◆ Hang your arms by your sides.
- ◆ Gently shake your arms and hands to relax them.
- ◆ When you have relaxed them, notice how your fingers are naturally curled slightly when they are relaxed.
- ◆ Now, place your relaxed, slightly curled fingers on the pearls of the horn, and your little fingers on the rollers of the spatula keys. **KEEP THEM RELAXED and in a "C" position!**
- ◆ Watch your fingers in the mirror, and **slowly** play scales like C, D, F, and Bb major.
- ◆ Make sure your fingers don't leave the pearls of your horn as you are playing the notes.
- ◆ It should be the pads of your fingers that put gentle pressure on the pearls of the keys.
- ◆ You only need to put enough pressure on the keys to close them completely. **No more than that!**