

Saxophone, Woodwind Instrument

The three branches of the **woodwind family** have different sources of sound. Vibrations begin when air is blown across the top of an instrument, across a single reed, or across two reeds. Reeds are small pieces of cane. A single reed is clamped to a mouthpiece at the top of the instrument and vibrates against the mouthpiece when air is blown between the reed and the mouthpiece.

The **saxophone** is shaped like a turned up cone and is the only woodwind instrument made of brass. It is considered a member of the woodwind family because it has a single reed like the clarinet. It is only used in the symphony orchestra occasionally, usually for more modern music. Saxophones, like clarinets, are favorite instruments for jazz players, because they can produce a flexible, wailing sound that expresses the feeling of the "blues" very well.

