

# Vibrato

These exercises will help you develop vibrato – small ‘pulsations’ or ‘wobbles’ of a note that have many uses. It is an essential sound technique on the saxophone and is used in all genres of music, whether it’s classical, pop, jazz... The most common use of vibrato is as an expressive effect, a way of injecting emotion or feeling into a note, but it can also be used to add support to a note, or as an effect on its own.

**Stage 1)** – The first stage in learning vibrato is done away from the saxophone so can be practised anywhere!

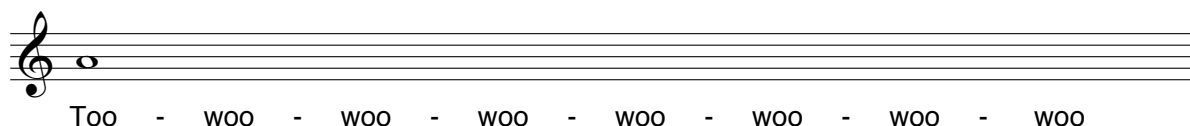
Say ‘Too-woo-woo-woo-woo...’

The ‘Too’ is the start of the note, and the ‘woo’ is the shape your mouth should make in order to produce the wobble in pitch used in vibrato.

## Stage 2)

With your saxophone, blow a long continuous note in the middle (eg. an A).

Whilst holding this note, **slowly** go ‘woo-woo-woo...’ (but without saying anything):



This will create an uncontrolled wobble (  ) – a rough version of vibrato!

Experiment with this wobble on notes across the range of the saxophone.

## Stage 3)

Now we will begin to control the vibrato by making rhythms with the ‘woo’ sound:

We are aiming for a consistent, even vibrato (  ), so practising regular rhythms is a useful stepping-stone.

Practise this on every note and experiment with altering the speed of the vibrato whilst holding a note.

Remember, there is no definitive way to play vibrato (eg. ‘when playing jazz you must play a triplet vibrato’), so just use your ears and see what works.