Chapter II
The Art of Crafting Your Sound

Mark discusses the importance of your setup and how you can make subtle changes to your sound depending on the equipment you use.
CHAPTER OVERVIEW

In this chapter, Mark provides an overview of all the equipment he uses with his saxophone as well as the many saxophone models he has played and currently uses for performances and recordings. While Mark does acknowledge that equipment will not be the only factor which will determine your sound, he also states that the equipment will make it easier to achieve it.

Mark explains that it’s important to experiment with what works with your body. As he points out, a difference in one’s nasal cavity alone can determine the type of mouth piece you will choose. For example, he likes wider baffles in his mouth pieces since he also prefers rubber mouth pieces which have more give than a metal mouth piece. A wider rubber mouth piece will have a woodiness and dryness as well as an edge to the sound that will come out in a live setting or recording studio.

Mark also shares how his equipment would change slightly depending on the artist he wanted to study and emulate at the time, such as Dexter Gordon or John Coltrane. For example, Mark used to play a Selmer Mark VI during the phase in which he wanted to achieve a sound similar to Joe Henderson.

Mark finishes off with several other examples of finer details regarding his setup, such as how he prefers using metal ligatures around his mouth piecea because they tend to give more resonance to the sound. Ultimately, Mark believes you will have to experiment with various setups and how you will have to physically adjust to them until you find a setup that is most comfortable for you.
Your Setup Enables Your Sound

YOUR SETUP ENABLES YOUR SOUND
(begins at 5:44)

• Setup gives your body feedback about how to adjust your technique
• Metal hook gives an extra bit of depth
• Metal ligatures will add more resonance/brilliance
• You may want to change your setup once in a while to check whether there are better options for you

No transcriptions for this section.
YOUR SETUP ENABLES YOUR SOUND

Homework

- Using the next page, make a list of your favorite players and research the type of equipment they used in their setup.
- Consider investing in new equipment if you’re interested in altering your sound or emulating these players.
- Pay closer attention to how your body responds to different equipment - take notes.

ASK YOUR MENTOR

Interact with other users on the website and ask questions! Our mentors will answer all your questions and help you through your musical journey. The best student will be selected each month to receive one free masterclass of their choice.
Your Setup Enables Your Sound - Research