

RIVERSIDE MUSIC

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Retail Store and Music Lessons open 6 days a week

RiverSide Music 'How To' Series

Transpose Instruments (1 of 4): Piano to Saxophone

The note you read on your music does not sound the same on all instruments. To hear the same sound on piano, tenor and alto saxophone (for example the sound 'C'), this is what you need to know. The **Tenor Sax is known as a 'B flat instrument'** and the **Alto Sax is known as an 'E flat instrument'**. The **piano is a 'C instrument'** (played at 'Concert Pitch'). The saxophone instruments read 'C' on their music but sound the other note name (example: *Tenor Sax sounds B flat and Alto Sax sounds E flat*).



Read/play D
on the piano

Tenor Saxophone



Read/play E

to hear the same as D on the piano

Rule: Play **UP 1 tone/step** on the **Tenor Sax** to hear/play the same sound as a piano (or **play DOWN 1 tone/step** on the **Piano** to hear/play the same sound as a Tenor Sax).



Read/play D
on the piano

For Alto Saxophone



Read/play B

to hear the same as D on the piano

Rule: Play **UP 4½ tones/steps** on the **Alto Sax** for the same sound as a piano (or **play DOWN 4½ tones/steps** on the **Piano** to hear/play the same sound as an Alto Sax).

Please also see other Transposing Instrument Sheets in this series