



Wollongong

Wind Repairs

Which Saxophone Pad Should I Choose?

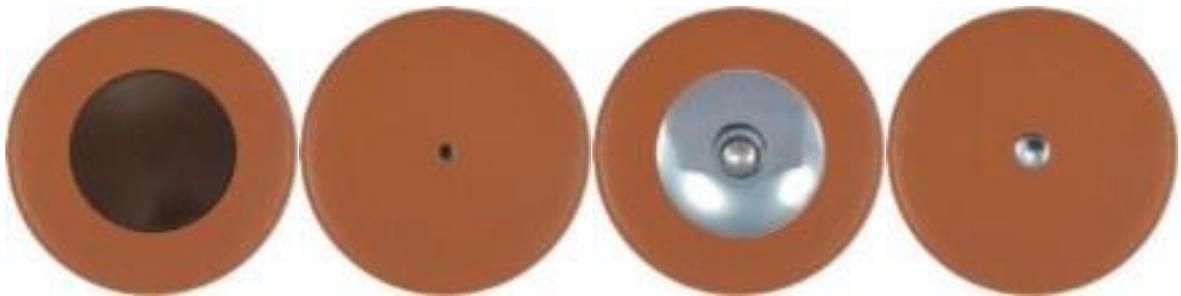
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Disclaimer: the contents of this document are intended to be informative but by their very nature are general. You are strongly advised to seek independent advice before using the document in specific circumstances.

So you play the saxophone, and the time has come for a repad. But which pads do you choose? Do you go for the cheaper tan pads, or do you invest a little more and choose kangaroo leather pads? Here is some more information about some of the more common pads on offer at Wollongong Wind Repairs. Hopefully it will help you to make the correct choice for your situation. If you are still unsure, please do not hesitate to ask for advice from myself or of course from your teacher, if you have one.

Please note that I can order any pad you like, but this document describes only the more common ones: standard sheepskin/tan pads, SoftFeel pads and RooPads. Other pads are of course available and I will gladly order them and install them for you; please contact me for a quote.

Option 1 - Standard Sheepskin Pads



These are the most common pads for lower end student instruments or for those who don't play very often. A cheaper, but certainly not inferior option, these pads last well if taken care of properly. These pads have a firm woven felt with a cardboard backing and high quality kid leather stretched over the top.

They come with plastic resonators, domed metal resonators, or a rivet.





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Option 2 – SoftFeel Pads



The SoftFeel pads are similar in nature to the Standard Sheepskin pads, and made from the same high quality materials, but they contain medium soft woven felt instead of firm woven felt. As a result, you get a superior quality saxophone pad with a softer feel than that of the standard sheepskin pads.

They come with plastic resonators, domed metal resonators, a rivet or flat metal resonators.

Option 3 – RooPads



Kangaroo leather is one of the strongest light weight leathers available. Kangaroo has been shown to have a highly uniform orientation of fibre bundles in parallel with the skin surface. It does not contain sweat glands or erector pili muscles and elastin is evenly distributed throughout the skin thickness. This structural uniformity explains the greater tensile strength of the leather. This results in amazing abrasion and tear resistance, which are just the qualities a saxophonist needs.

Why are RooPads™ kangaroo pads better?

- RooPads™ don't stick! (isn't that enough?)
- RooPads™ reduce pad noise!
- RooPads™ leather is the most durable!

Although more expensive, this firm and extremely durable saxophone pad does not stick and will not make noise, plus it is more durable than any other pad I have come across. So why choose anything else?

They come in white or chocolate, with plastic resonators, a rivet, domed metal resonators or flat metal resonators.





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What's With All These Different Resonators?



Resonators are attached to the pad with a rivet and they reflect sound back into the bore of the saxophone. While there are a lot of theories in the saxophone repair field about the different sizes, shapes, and types of metals used in resonators, it is often difficult to pinpoint with certainty the specific differences that resonators make.

Generally, increased surface area of the resonator is attributed to free-blowing and "brightness". Less surface area is attributed to a "darker" sound.

Because the resonator is only one contributor among many factors in sound production, it is best to let the player decide what they like best.

From least surface area to most, the resonators go from: rivet, flat metal, domed and seamless domed. I am also happy to install pads with Maestro Star resonators. These are star shaped and tend to give more projection, but also come at a higher cost. If you are interested to learn more about these resonators, please contact me and I'll tell you more and give you a quote for your choice of pad with these resonators.

As a rule of thumb, I generally use flat metal resonators on vintage instruments that originally came from the factory with them, such as Conn and Martin saxophones.

For budget saxophones and lower end student saxophones, I use the plastic domed resonators.

For most other saxophones, seamless domed metal resonators are a great choice because of their versatility.

Ultimately... it's up to you and your preferences!

