



Yamaha Alto Saxophone Neck-piece Cork Replacement

Remove and replace a damaged cork on a Yamaha Alto Saxophone (YAS-23) Neck-piece.

Written By: Lauren Wintermute



INTRODUCTION

Through normal wear and tear or rough handling, saxophone corks can become damaged, rendering the instrument useless or operating at diminished quality. This guide will replace a Yamaha YAS-23 alto saxophone cork; however, the size for all alto saxophone neck-pieces is standard, so this repair is applicable to all alto saxophone neck-piece cork repairs.

For optimal performance, saxophones require a well fitting cork. Without this, tone quality will be sacrificed, or the saxophone will cease to function.



TOOLS:

- [Flathead 3/32" or 2.5 mm Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [sandpaper 220 grit](#) (1)
- [Masking Tape](#) (1)
- [Microfiber Cleaning Cloths](#) (1)
- [Paper Clip](#) (1)
- [Utility Blade](#) (1)
- [Utility Scissors](#) (1)
- [Leather Work Gloves](#) (1)
- [Pen](#) (1)




PARTS:

- [Valentino Neck Cork](#) (1)
- [Cork Grease](#) (1)

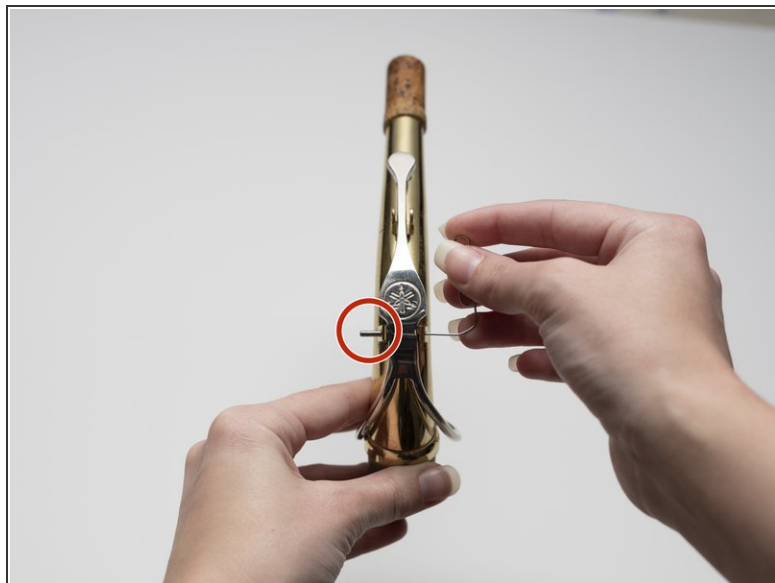
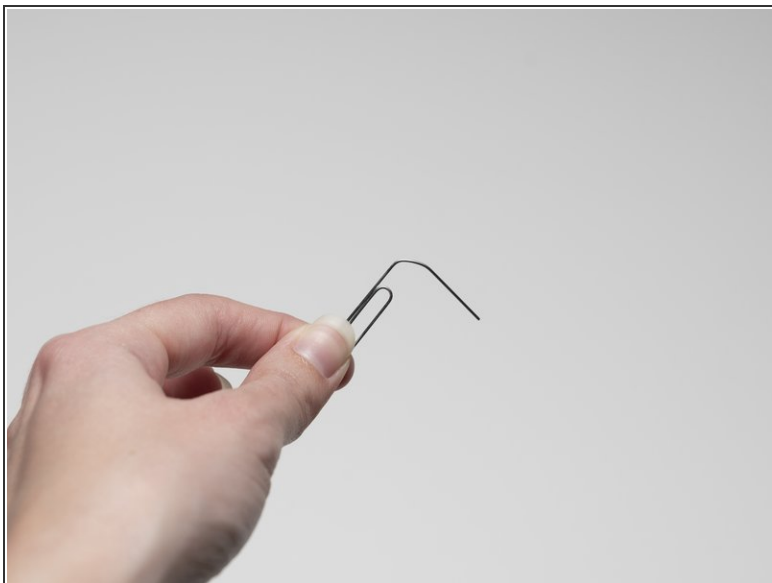
Step 1 — YAS-23 Yamaha Alto Saxophone Neck-piece Cork



 The octave key is silver, while the rest of the neck-piece is gold.

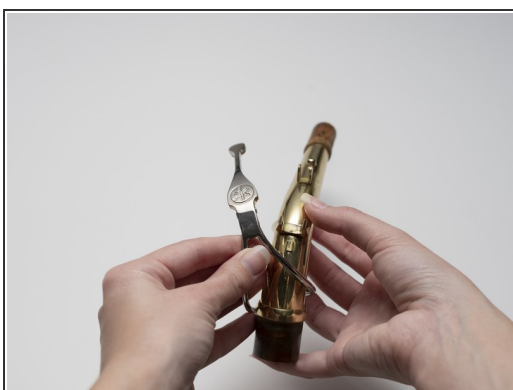
- Locate the screw on the side of the neck-piece, connecting the octave key to the neck-piece.
- Use a small, 2.5 mm flat head screwdriver to remove the screw.

Step 2



- Open a paperclip.
- Push the screw out with the end of the paperclip.
- Set the screw aside for later.

Step 3



- Slide the octave key down off the bottom of the neck-piece.
- Set the octave key aside for later.

Step 4



⚠ Put on leather gloves.

⚠ Cut away from one's self.

- Use the utility blade to scrape off the cork.
- Start at the base of the cork on the neck-piece with the utility blade at a 10 to 20 degree angle.
- In a controlled motion, drag the utility blade along the neck-piece, removing cork along the way.
- Repeat until all of the cork is removed.

Step 5



- ❗ Apply masking tape to prevent damage to the finish.
- Apply masking tape where there is no glue on the neck-piece.

Step 6



- Remove glue and resin by rotating the neck-piece against the 220 grit sand paper.
- Repeat until all glue is gone.

Step 7



 New cork may not adhere correctly without completing this step.

- With a damp microfiber cleaning cloth, wipe off any dust and glue particles.

Step 8



 Do not remove adhesive covering on the Valentino neck cork.

 Make sure the shorter base of the Valentino neck cork is flush with entrance.

- Place the Valentino neck cork flush with the entrance of the neck-piece.
- Mark a line where the Valentino neck cork meets the masking tape.
- Cut along the line.

Step 9



- Wrap Valentino neck cork around the neck-piece.
- Make mark where the Valentino neck cork overlaps.
- ⓘ Make sure the shorter base of Valentino neck cork is flush with entrance to neck-piece.
- ⓘ If Valentino neck cork appears to be too small on one side, rotate 180 degrees.

Step 10



- Cut the Valentino neck cork along the line made in the previous step.

Step 11



- Remove the adhesive covering on the back of the Valentino neck cork.
- Wrap the Valentino neck cork around the top of neck-piece.
- ⓘ Place the narrow end of the Valentino neck cork flush with the tip of the neck-piece.

Step 12



- Remove the masking tape.

Step 13



- Sand the seam of the Valentino neck cork until it is even with the rest of the Valentino neck cork.

Step 14



- Apply a generous amount of cork grease on the whole Valentino neck cork.

Step 15



- Place the octave key on the neck-piece.

Step 16



- Re-insert the screw.
 - Tighten the screw with a small, 2.5 mm flat head screwdriver.
 - The replacement is complete.
- i** When applying a mouthpiece to the neck-piece for the first time, it will be difficult and require force. This is normal.