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**Mastering Basic Techniques**

**By Evan Tate**

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Every aspiring saxophonist has to master basic skills that are necessary for good musicianship.

**Good Tone Production:** This requires not only having a good reed, mouthpiece and ligature, but also a good daily regimen of "long tone" exercises. Long tones are practiced by playing individual tones for a comfortable length of time (6–8 seconds) without stress. For beginners I suggest playing long tones on a simple major scale. Advanced students should use a chromatic scale, octaves and intervals of the perfect fourths and fifths over the full range of the instrument.

**Good Intonation:** I suggest using a combination of the following tools: a well-tuned piano, an electronic tuner and a good ear-training course. If you haven't taken part in an ear training – NOW'S THE TIME! To be able to play in tune requires the ability to distinguish intervals and musical passages correctly and accurately. This is an invaluable skill for every good musician.

**Good Technical Ability:** This means practicing your scales, arpeggios and whatever other studies you have available regularly! "Repetition is the Mother of Skill". Not only regularly but also logically. Which means you must develop...

**Good Practicing Skills:** Often music students get into the habit of playing an exercise or study over and over again, first at a slow pace and eventually faster and that is called "practicing"! There is much more to practicing than that. You must learn to hear and sing the melodies that are being practiced. You must isolate "problem" (rhythmically or technically) passages. Above all, you must develop a regimen and method of practicing and become acutely sensitive to monitoring progress. This takes time and experimentation and perhaps a little bit of research.

Last but not least: before you even start playing or practicing you need a good warm-up. The warm-up starts out as basic as first relaxing your arms and shoulders, stretching the fingers, deep breathing to expand the lungs and make sure you have a standing or sitting posture that supports your breathing and does not disrupt it. On that note I'd like to say, "Have fun and practice with common sense".

## Mastering Basic Techniques

Evan Tate is a freelance saxophonist/instructor and the author of "Master the Basics:Saxophone". He has instructed hundreds of students and performed at several jazz festivals and radio broadcasts. Visit his site to find out how you can get a free subscription to his "Sax Tips eZine Newsletter"<http://www.evantate.de> or <mailto:evan@evantate.de>

### **Basic kitesurfing techniques**

**By Jakob Jelling**

#### **Basic kitesurfing techniques by Jakob Jelling**

This article will describe some kitesurfing techniques so you can advance in mastering the sport. The main advice is always to practice more. The more you practice your kitesurfing techniques, the better your skills become.

One of the most important kitesurfing techniques is mastering the dead-man safety release system. This system and kitesurfing techniques associated with it are extremely important to you, especially if you are just starting to learn the kitesurfing sport. Carefully study the manufacturers description of how your dead-man safety release system works and operates. Another one of the kitesurfing techniques is practicing with your control system. You will need to practice operating the kite with only your left and / or right hand holding the control pole.

Another one of the important kitesurfing techniques is learning to be in command of the power of your kite. You will need to learn to manage the expected surface of your kite and its flying speed rate. Practice flying the kite and trying to de-power it several times by drawing and / or letting the frontage lines loose. This will allow you to alter the angle and to adjust the expected surface. You will also need to practice the kitesurfing techniques of controlling the flying speed to be able to boost or reduce the power of the kite.

The main one of the kitesurfing techniques that allow you to control the flying speed of your kite is to learn to operate your kite's brake lines. Using brake lines (pulling in the brake lines) will help you to significantly reduce the speed of your kite. Practice using the brake lines until you feel completely in control and comfortable using them.

Jakob Jelling is the founder of <http://www.kitesurfingnow.com>. Visit his kitesite for the latest on kitesurfing equipment, kiteboarding lessons, places to surf and much more!



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