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SAXOPHONE SHIELD

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My invention relates to an improved shield to protect the stoppers on a saxophone or like instrument.

Conventionally a saxophone has a hook shaped bell portion upon which are mounted a pair of large stoppers, or pads. These are normally mounted on the left side of the saxophone and are adjacent the player's right leg during playing. As a consequence, these stoppers tend to be struck by the knee of the operator with the resultant interference with operation and possibility of physical damage. Moreover, operating mechanism for these and other stoppers of the saxophone is usually mounted on the lower end of the saxophone where it may be struck by the knee of the operator to interfere with operation and possibly cause damage.

Heretofore wire guards have been mounted on saxophones to protect the stoppers and operating mechanism on the bell and lower portion of the body of the instrument. However, these are relatively ineffective and, in addition, add considerable weight to the instrument.

In accordance with the present invention a light weight protector shield overlays these stoppers and the operating mechanism at the lower end of the saxophone and has its edges in spaced relation with the saxophone. It has been found that with this structure the bell stoppers and associated operating mechanisms are protected while at the same time the tonal quality of the saxophone is improved. Moreover, the appearance of the instrument is made more pleasing.

The novel features which I believe to be characteristic of my invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. My invention itself, however, both as to its organization and method of operation may best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view with parts in phantom showing a saxophone with the shield of the present invention mounted thereon;

Figure 2 is an enlarged isometric view of the shield of the present invention; and,

Figure 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view through axis 3-3, Figure 1.

Referring now to Figure 1 there is shown at S the main tube or body portion of a saxophone. The hooked bell portion B is affixed to the bottom end of body portion S and a mouthpiece M is attached to the upper end of the body.

As indicated, a pair of stoppers or pads 10 and 12 are affixed to the left side of the bell portion

B of the saxophone. These are opened and closed by manipulation of arms 14 and 16, respectively, which extend over to the main body portion S of the instrument. The arms 14 and 16 are in turn actuated by the key mechanism indicated generally at 18 and which is manipulated by the player. It will be observed that a plurality of key operating elements indicated generally at 15, are mounted on the lower left hand portion of the body B. These operate stoppers 10 and 12 as well as other stoppers located on the lower end portion of the instrument.

In accordance with the present invention, a protective shield 20 overlays the stoppers 10 and 12 and the operating arms 14 and 16 to define a hood over the same. In addition this shield extends over the key operating mechanism 15 located on the bottom left hand portion of the saxophone. The shield 20 is supported from the bell B and body S of the saxophone by the mounting pins 22 affixed thereto to define mounting members and which are received in the mounting holes 20a (Figure 2) of the shield.

The shield 20 may be attached to the mounting pins 22 by appropriate screws 22a threadedly received in these members as shown in Figure 1.

In order to provide ample room for opening and closing movements of the stoppers 10 and 12 and their actuating arms 14 and 16, the shield 20 has a pair of domed portions 20b. These portions are in registry with these stoppers and permit the same to be opened wide without interference from the shield. If desired, pads may be mounted on the top faces of stoppers 10 and 12 as shown at 10a and 12a, Figs. 1 and 3. These pads may be of felt or like padding material and bottom against the domes 20b to limit the opening movements of stoppers 10 and 12.

It will be observed that the shield 20 is in spaced relation with the bell B and body portion S of the saxophone along its entire edge or peripheral portion. I have discovered that by thus mounting the shield it acts as a resonator to improve the tonal quality of the instrument. Thus the stoppers and actuating mechanism are not only protected, but the tone of the instrument is improved as well.

The shield 20 is imperforate and therefore does not allow entrance of foreign objects, no matter how small, into the space occupied by the stoppers 10 and 12 and the operating mechanism 15. This is in contrast to the wire guards heretofore used since they necessarily involved open spaces into which foreign objects, such as a