

## Henry Distin Cornets

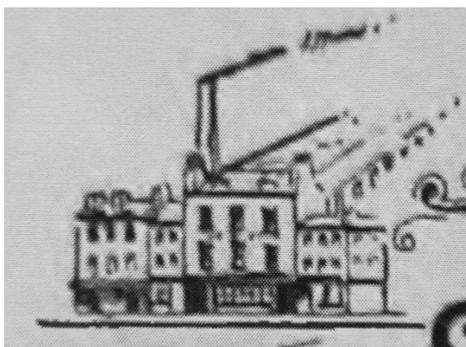
Henry Distin had a long career spanning two countries and four cities for 59 years. This is a summary of the locations and a sample of his cornets found.

**London:** Distin & Sons is founded in 1845 at #31 Cranbourne St.; Henry becomes the owner in 1850 and in 1857 added a second location at #9 Great Newport St.; by 1859, everything had moved to Great Newport and Henry sells the business to Boosey & Co. in 1860; bell markings can help to establish a date of manufacture

Early cornets may have been made by Sax such as this cornet in Eb.



Distin shows this factory drawing in his 1888 catalog which gives the London factory date as 1846.



Serial numbers are said to start in 1850 and this “Levy Approved” cornet #12074 dates to c.1873.



By c.1877, Distin had moved to New York City and was working at the same location as instrument maker Frederick Busch at #255 Bowery.

By 1878, when he had started using his trademark eagle logo, Distin was located at #78 East 4<sup>th</sup> St. The design of cornet #108 is unchanged from the London one.



In 1879, he is at #255 Bowery which helps to date this cornet #233.



Cornet #559 below shows the 1880 address at #115 East 13<sup>th</sup> St.; he changed the piping here



Eb #721 is also from the #115 – 121 East 13<sup>th</sup> St. address



Bb cornet, NY bore, #747, still on 13<sup>th</sup> St.

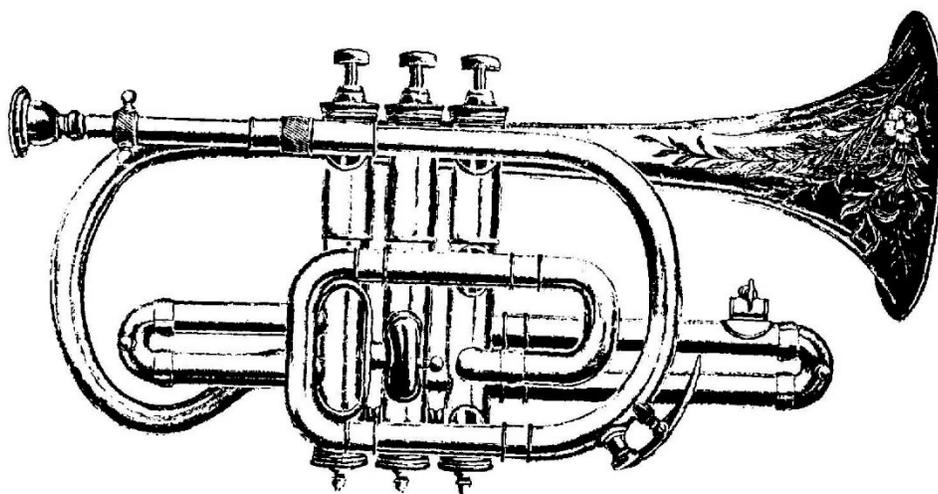


Bb #832 now has him on Cortlandt St. which is likely around 1881 when he was working with Moses Slater at his new factory at #42 Cortlandt.

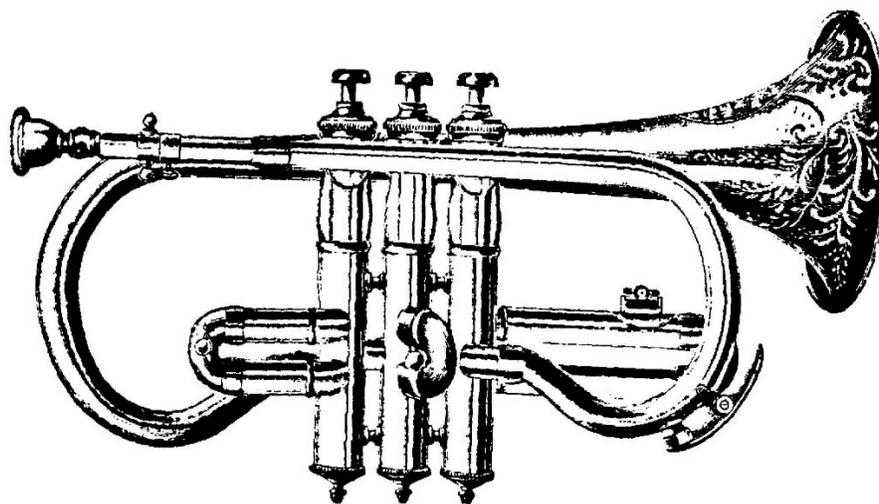


These catalog drawings show his early models from c.1878.

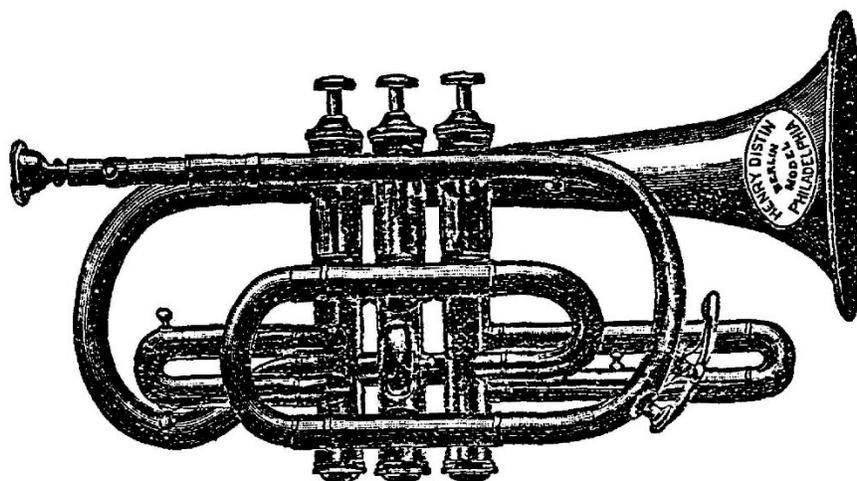
American model Bb



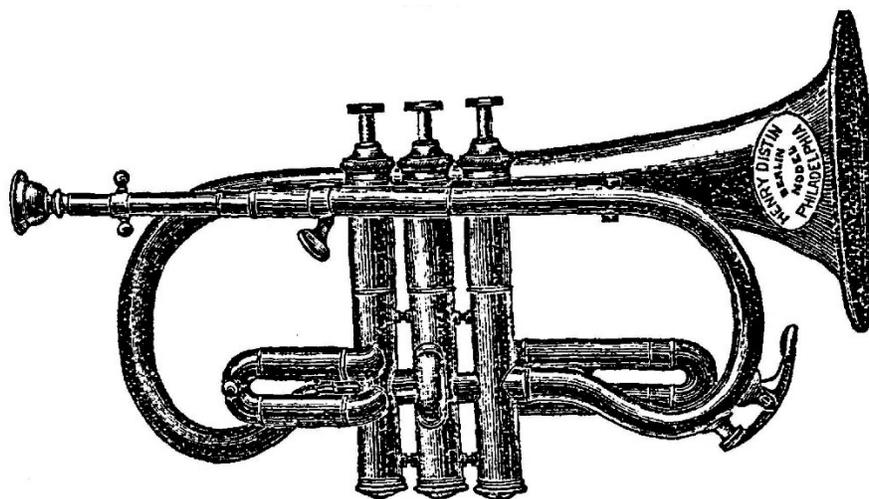
American model Eb



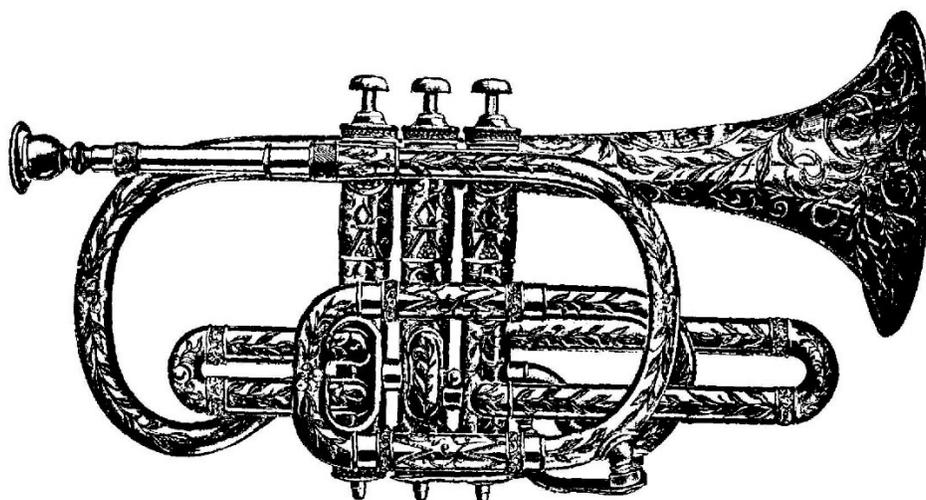
Berlin model Bb



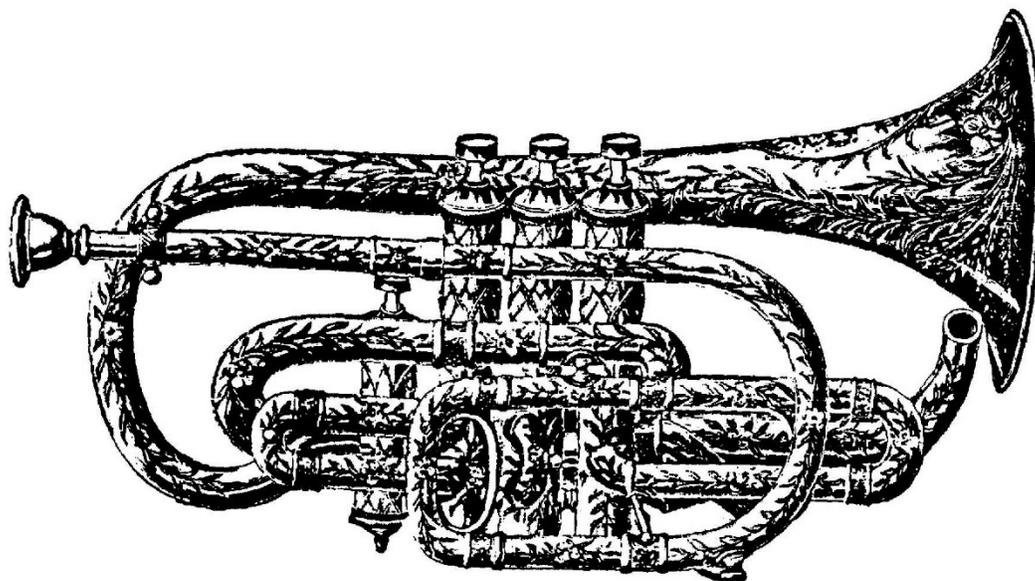
Berlin model Eb



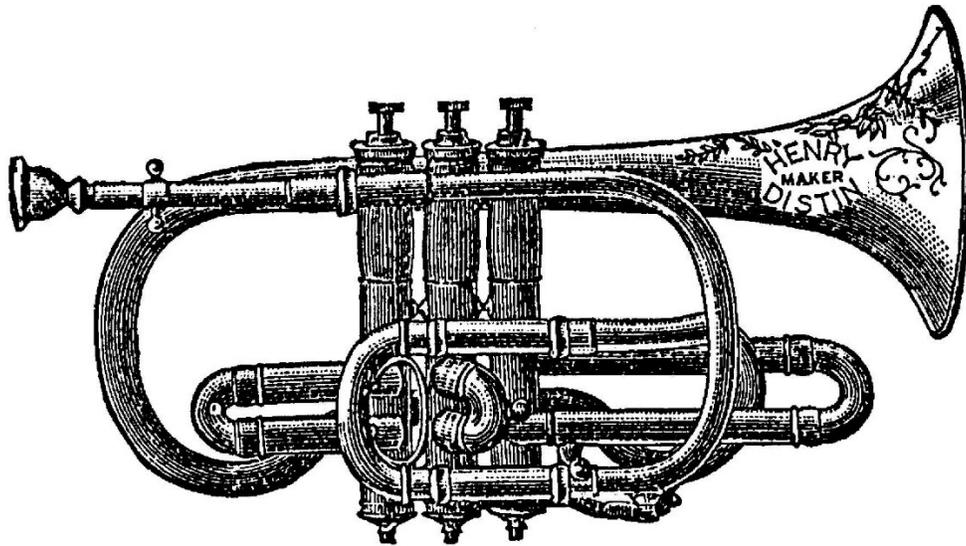
Highest Grade model Bb



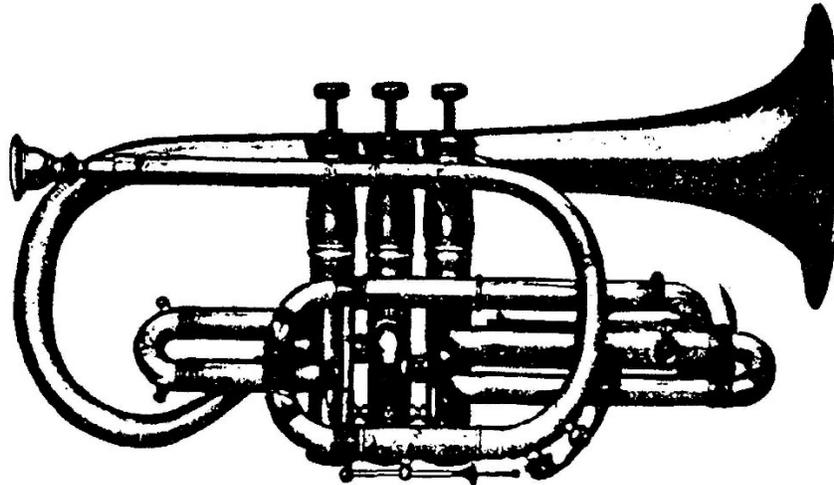
Highest Grade model Bb with Echo Attachment



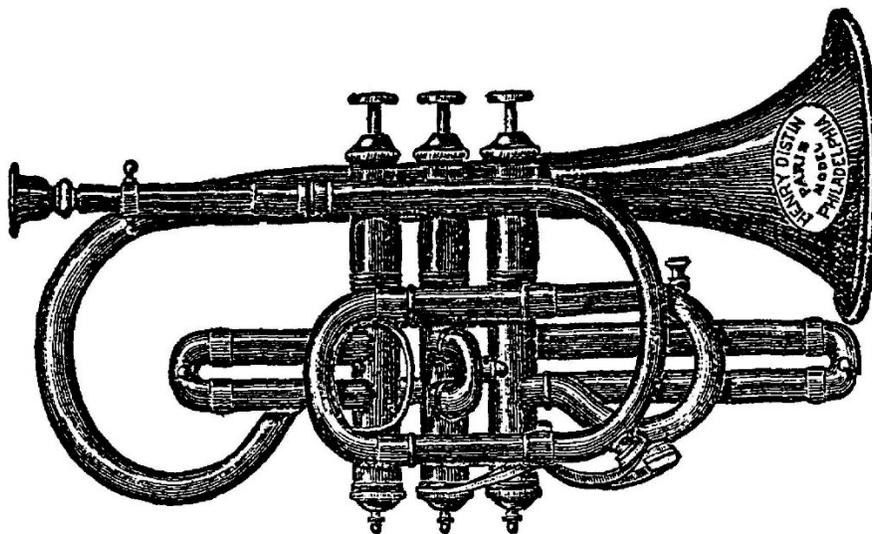
Bb – no model name given



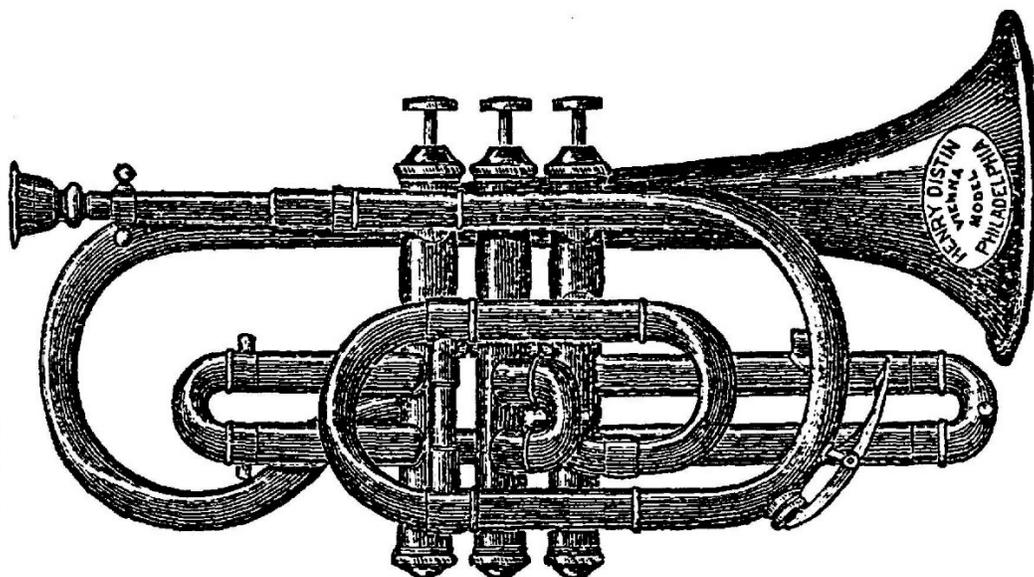
Orchestral model in Bb



Paris model in Bb - 1878



Vienna model in Bb – 1878



After March, 1882, Distin moves to Philadelphia with son William and starts working for Pepper.

Eb cornet #1435 has “Distin for J W Pepper Phil. & NY”; this is the same design as #721 and has to date between 1880 and 1886 when Pepper had a NY store



Bb cornet #3182 has the same bell marking but with an added “Patent Applied For” which refers to the third slide inlet and outlet tubes now at a diagonal and the lead pipe going through it. This was applied for in March of 1882 and received in December 1884.



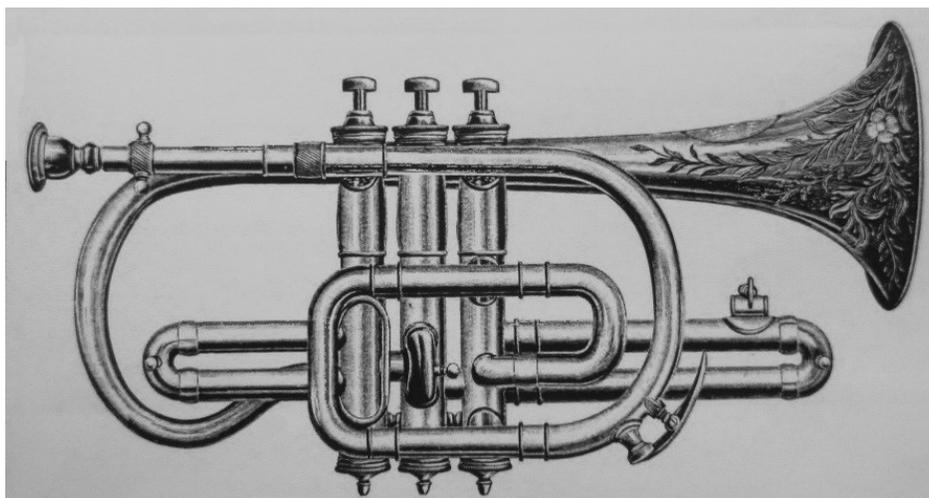
#3189 uses the older design and was made under Pepper



If his serial numbers are all the same sequence then Distin was also making his own instruments in Philadelphia at the same time. Bb Cornet #1716 below is his “New American” model.



Here is a catalog drawing of the “New American” from c.1889.



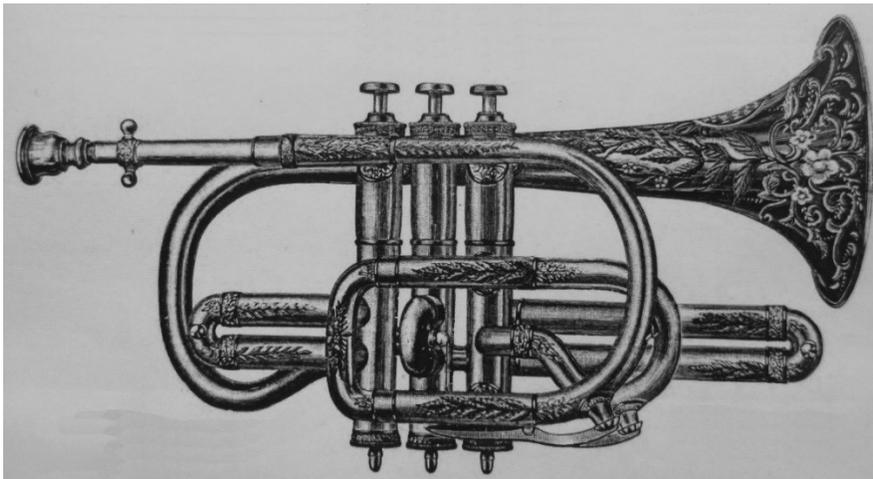
Cornet #1876 is another “New American” model.



Cornet #1814 is a “New London” model.



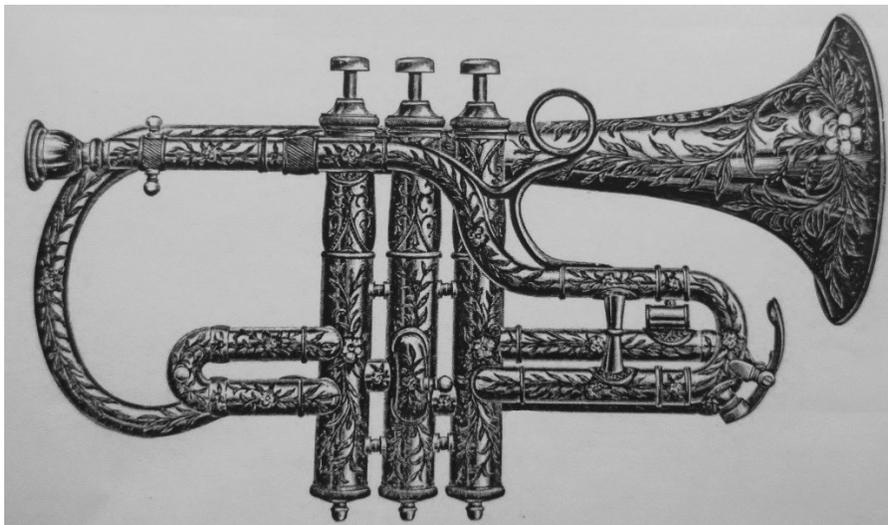
Here is a catalog drawing of the same model from c.1889.



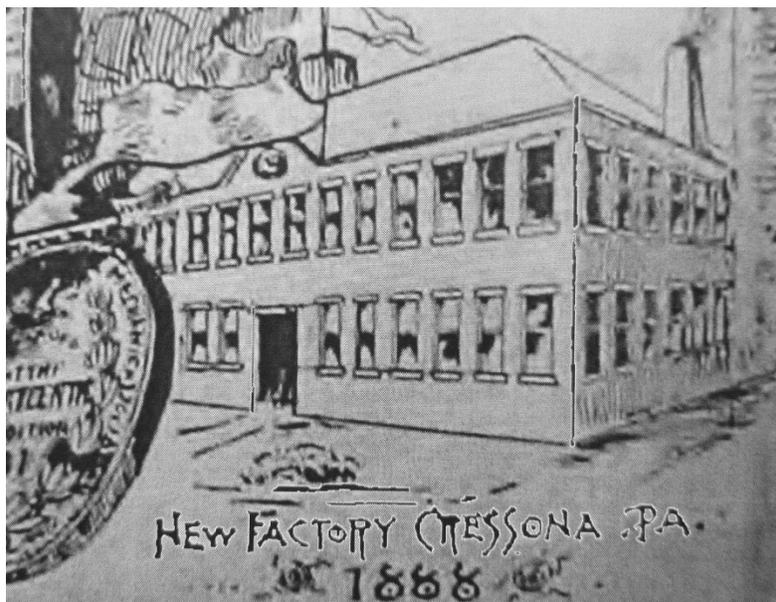
Eb cornet #5029 is a later one from Philadelphia and likely made in the Cressona factory.



This looks like the “Solo” model from the c.1889 catalog.



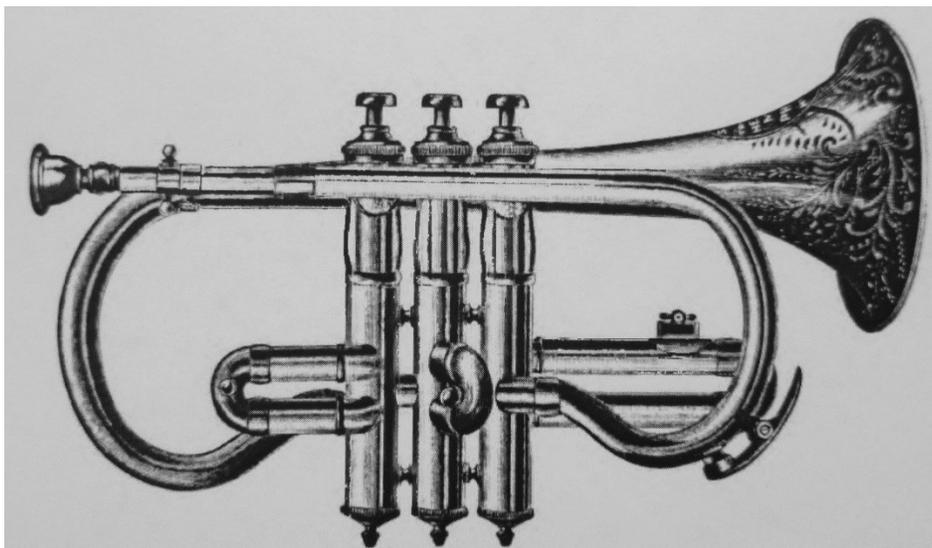
The c.1889 catalog shows this sketch of the “New Cressona Factory – 1888”.



Distin moved to a new factory at #814 Walnut Street in Williamsport, PA in January of 1890 and instruments in the 6000 to 7000 range tend to overlap with either the Philadelphia or Williamsport location. The factory was a 30' x 140' 2.5 story wood structure converted from a former grandstand added to a new 25' x 50' two-story office building as seen in this inaccurate 1921 drawing.

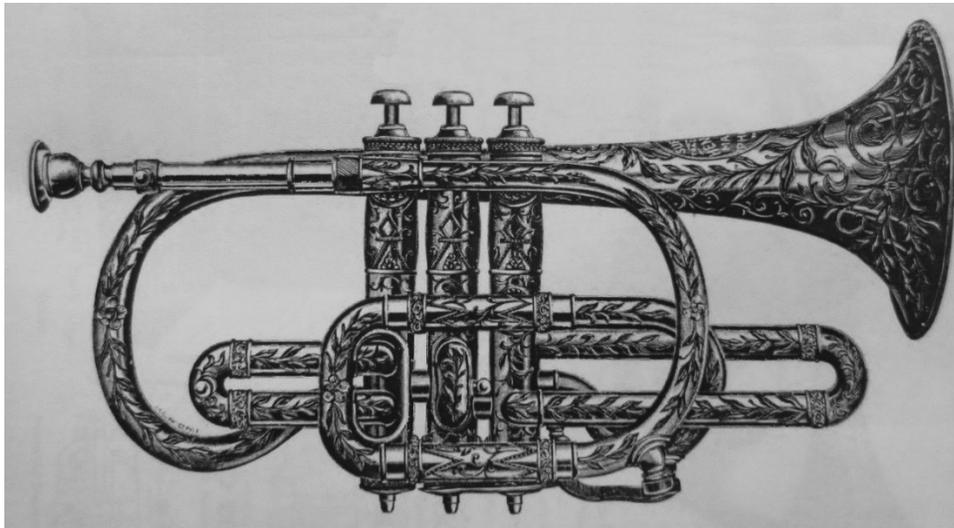


Eb cornet #6997, from Williamsport, is a “Superior New American” model (author’s collection)

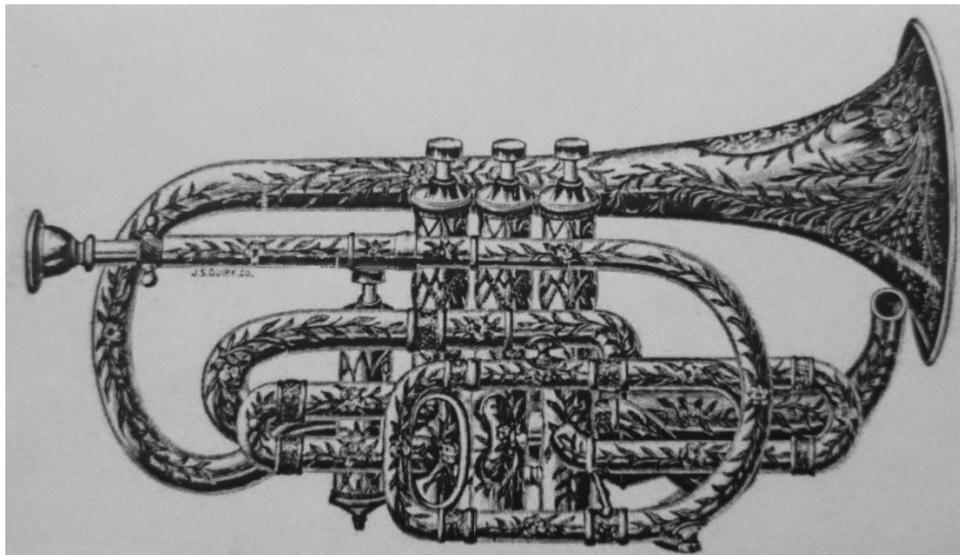


Other models available in the c.1889 catalog are:

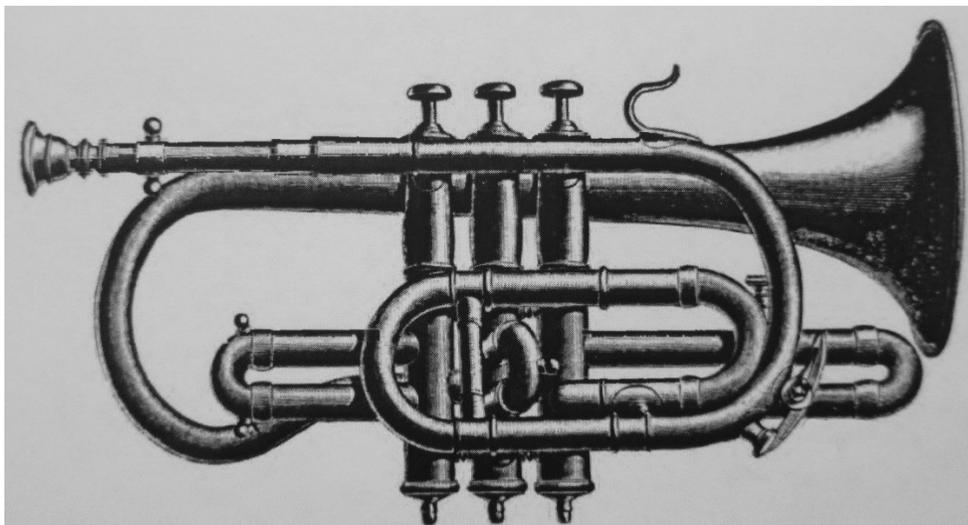
#21 Solo Bb



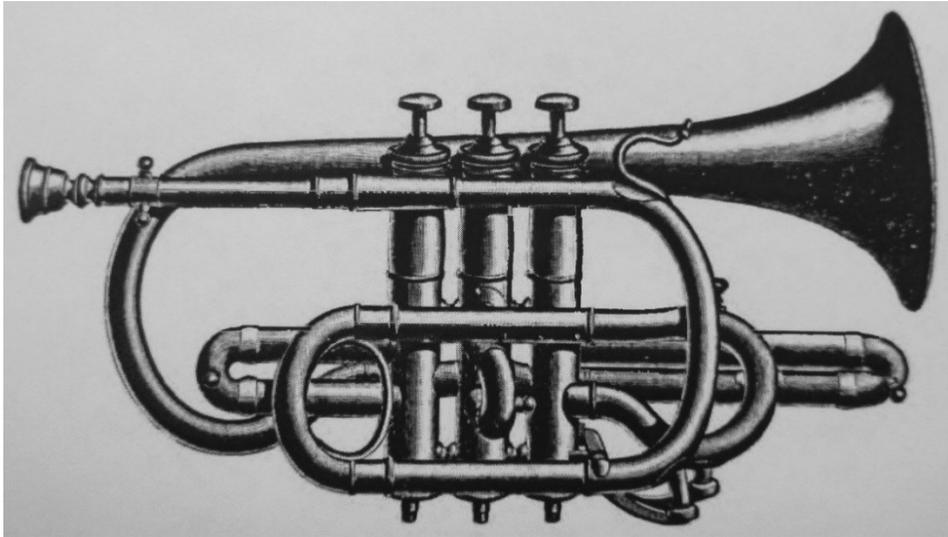
#22 Solo Bb with echo attachment



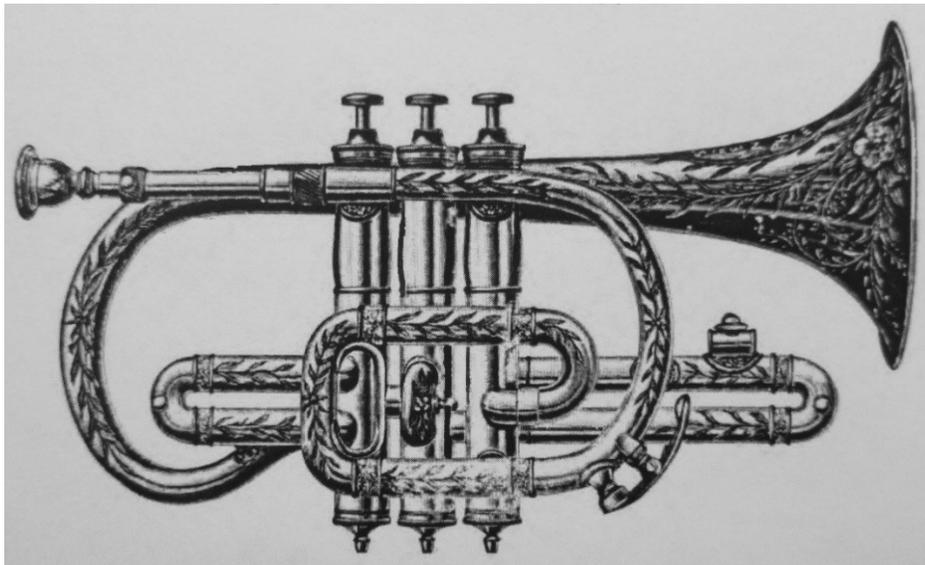
#28 New Paris Bb



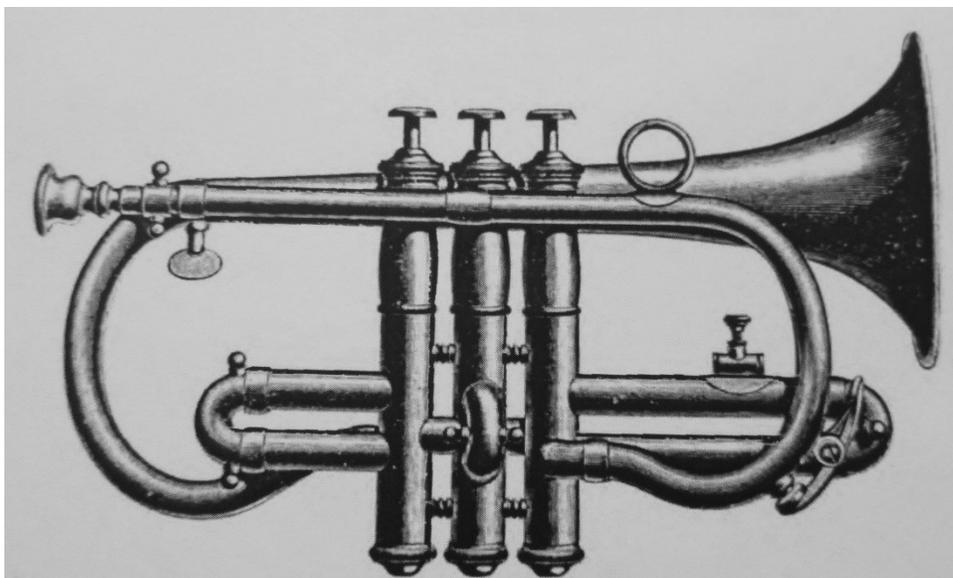
#29 New Paris Bb



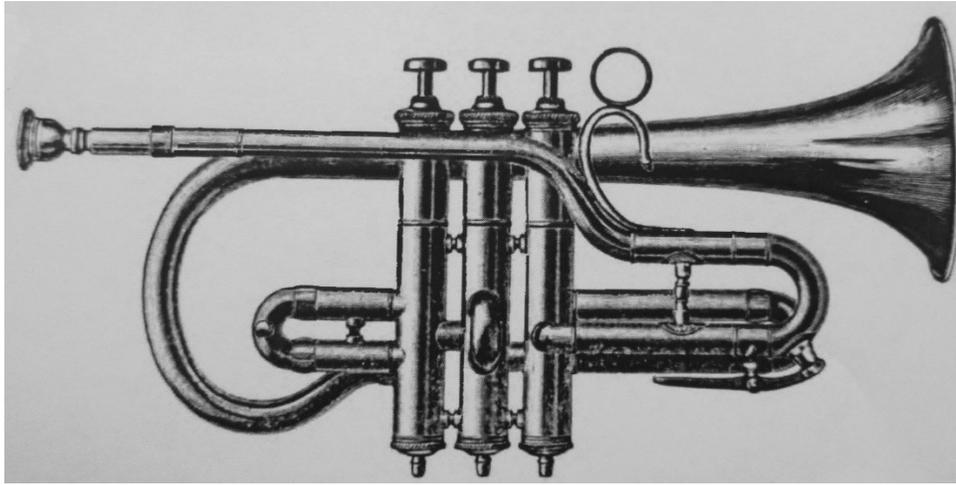
Cornet in C



#26 Eb New Paris



#27 Eb New Paris



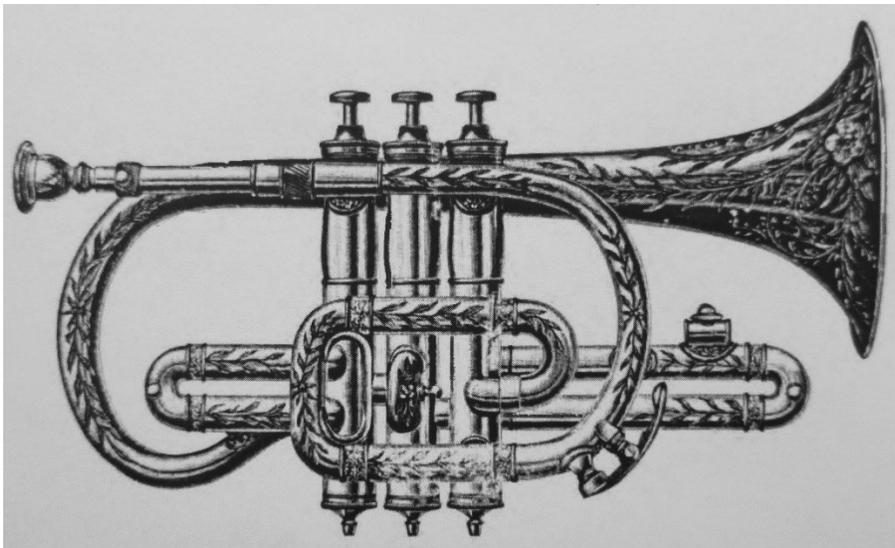
Bb cornet #9045 is a "Superior New London" model from c.1893.



Eb cornet #11420 is a Superior model from c.1898.



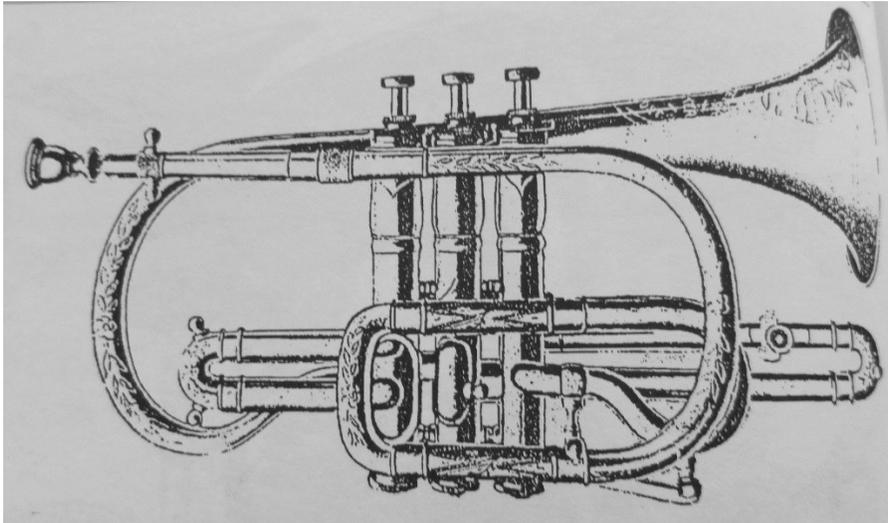
C cornet #14074 is a "London" model from c.1900.



Bb cornet #14495 is a "London" model from c.1900.



Undated catalog drawing of London model



Bb/A cornet #14859 is a “Superior Highest Grade” which is a model name often found. This is from c.1901 and shows the Bb/A valve which was becoming popular at this time.



Cornet #15955 is another Highest Grade model c.1903 (author’s collection)



Original case with accessories for #15955



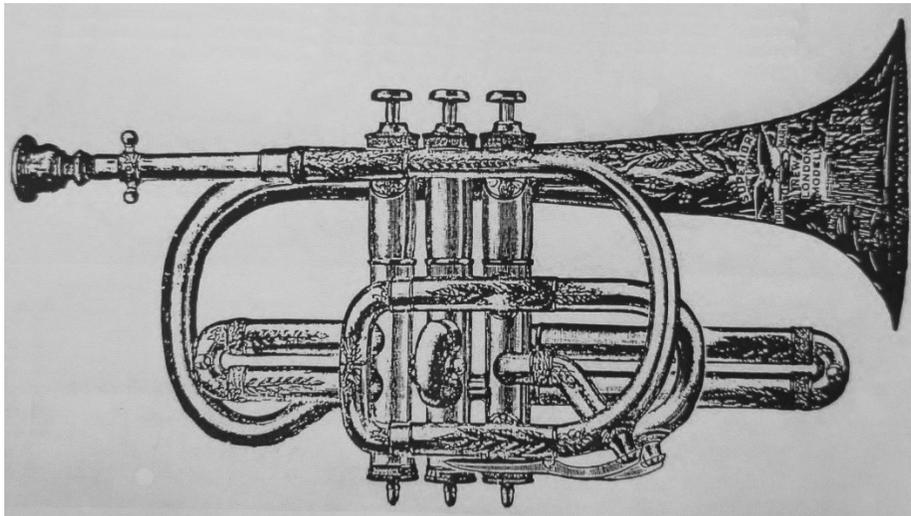
Cornet #16914 is another “New American” model Bb from c.1904.



Bb cornet #17xxx is a “London” model from c.1905



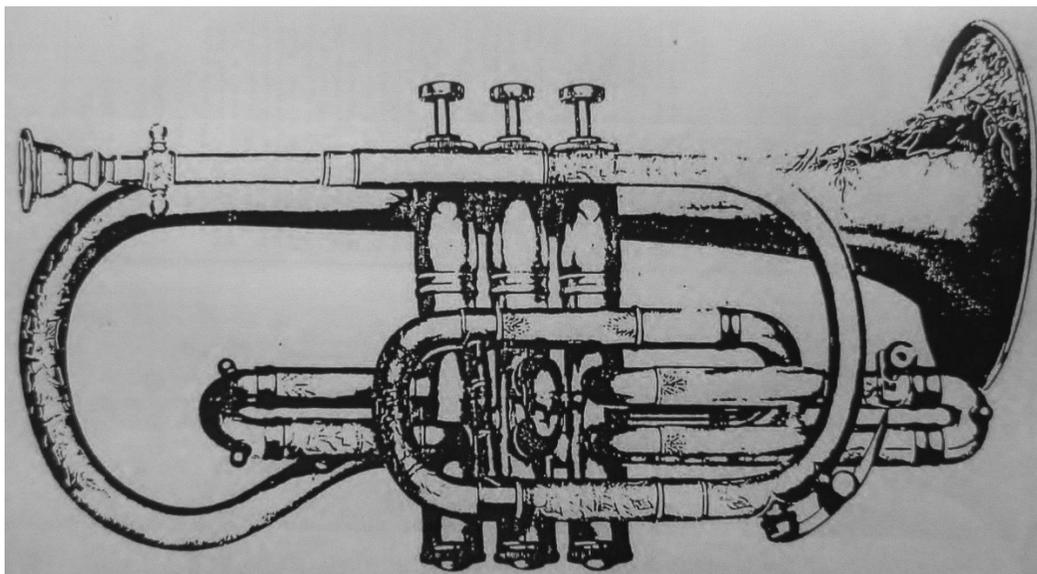
Here is a 1907 catalog drawing of the “London” model.



Bb cornet #17906 is from c.1906 and looks like the “Oxford” model (a Besson copy).



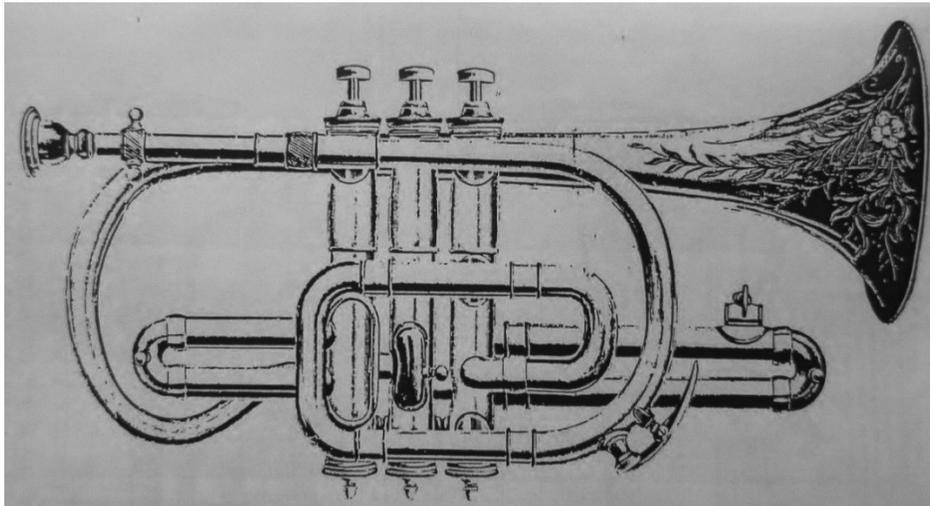
1907 Distin “Oxford” model catalog drawing.



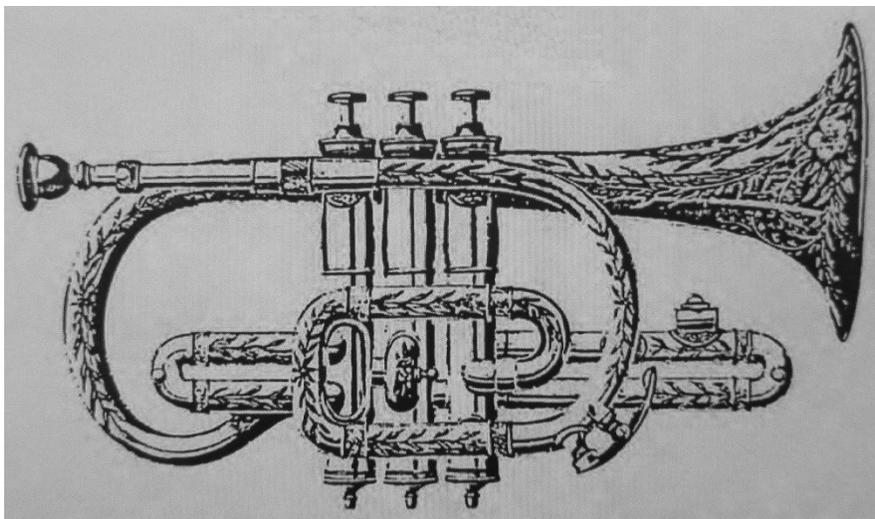
Bb cornet #18499 is an "American" model from c.1907.



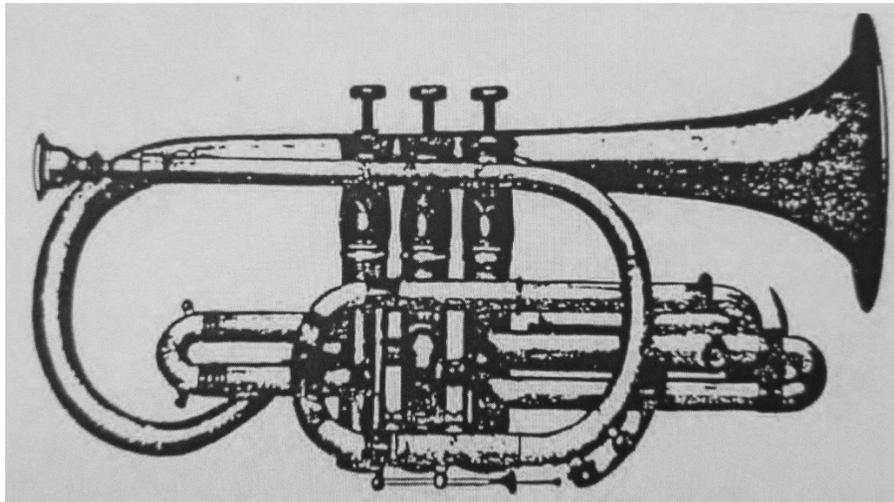
1907 catalog drawing of the "American" model



Here is a 1907 drawing of a model #60



Another 1907 drawing shows the “Orchestral” model in Bb with a quick change slide.



Distin dies in 1903 but the name continues up through 1908 when long-time superintendent Brua C. Keefer buys the company and changes the name to his own. The serial numbers for Distin instruments go up to around 19600.

