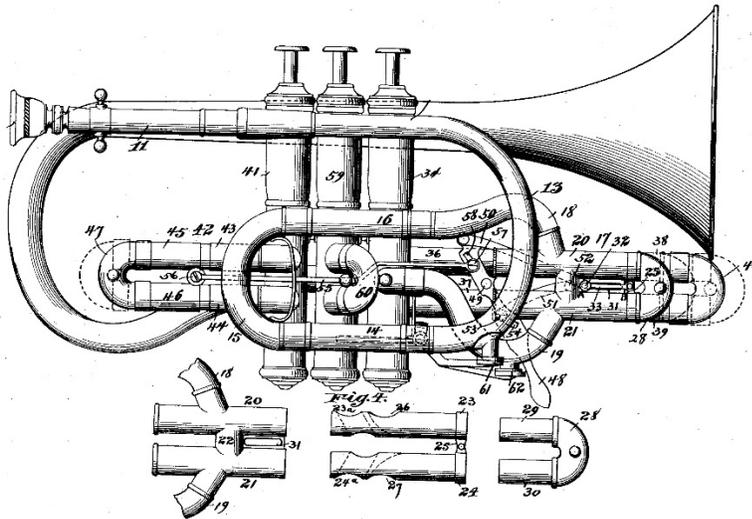


Lyon & Healy American Made Brass

Chicago & LaPorte

Lyon & Healy was founded in 1864 and from an early time sold stencil brass instruments from other makers. By the late 1890s, they decided to start their own line of brass as well as carry the less expensive imports. The new line was called "Own Make" and is stated in their *Band Herald* of 1917 to have started production in 1896.

Musical instrument maker and long-time employee Julius J. Newmann, born in Poland in 1859 and in Chicago by the 1870s, filed for a patent on a cornet with a quick key change lever in 1897. In 1899 he was granted patent #622,820 (drawing below) with assignment to Lyon & Healy. This became known as their "Duplex" model.



The earliest Own Make instrument listed at Horn-u-copia is cornet #98 with an earlier 1898 patent date so this would date to late 1898 or early 1899. Photo 1 is tuba #231 from 1899. These early horns have an engraving of their office building on the bell. Photos 2 & 3 are cornet #252 (auction photos).

Increased demand caused L&H to build a new factory in 1900 and by 1901 they were putting out 100,000 musical instruments per year total including the brass. Cornet #556 (photo 4) still has its certification sheet signed by Jules Levy on June 12th, 1901.

- 1900 Julius Newmann, instrument maker (census); he may have been one of the key employees making these instruments
- 1901 L&H catalog has Own Make and Duplex models; the L&H Own Make cornet is very popular (*Music Trade Review*)



1901 Jules Levy claims in a letter that the Own Make cornet is the best he has ever played.

1902 Cornet #1248 (photo 1) is built

Trombone #2210 from early 1903 (below)



1903 Cornet #2786 (photo 2) is built

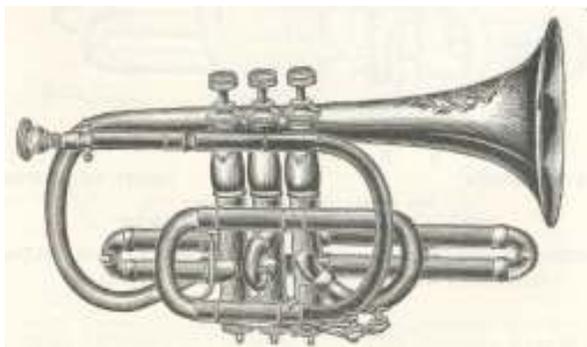
1904 Duplex cornet #4029 (photo 3) has a presentation engraving from September 10th, 1904 and matches the 1899 design patent drawing.

1904 L&H also starts making trumpets with the Duplex design as in #4585 (photo 4).

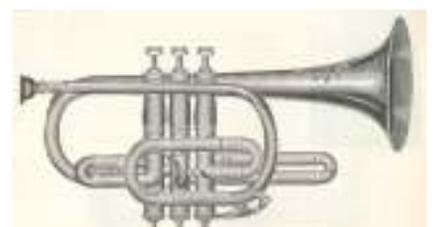
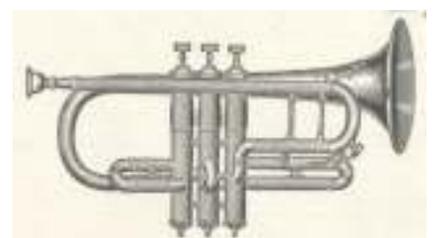
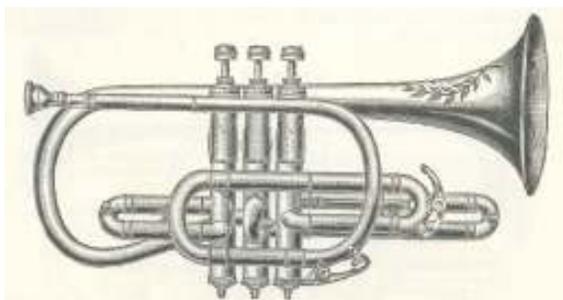
1905 The L&H Own Make Solo trumpet is a new model (*Music Trade Review*)

1912 The L&H catalog has changed the name "Own Make" to "American Make" and "American Professional" models. This shows up on instruments around #12000 labeled "Amn Make".

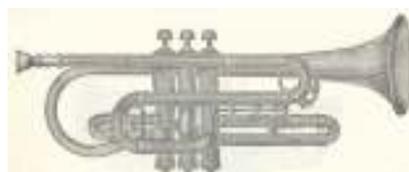
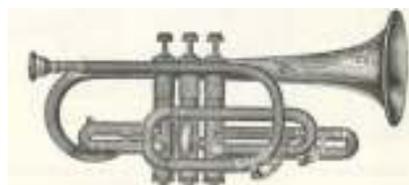
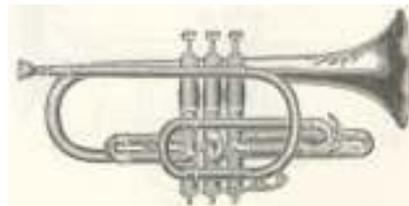
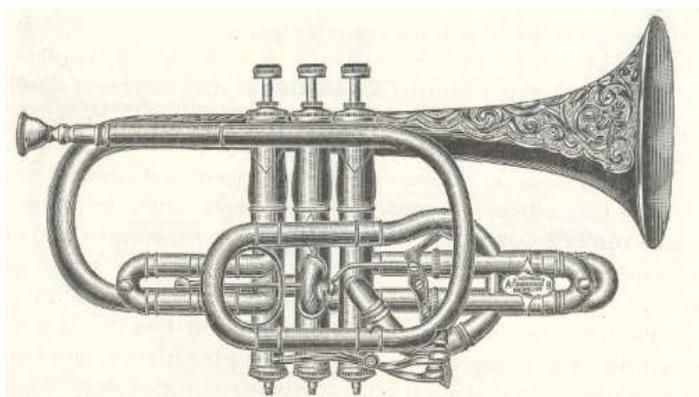
1912 American Make Levy Solo Cornet



1912 American Make Eb cornet (photo 5), C cornet (photo 6), and Solo Bb cornet (below)



1912 American Make cornet trumpet (photo 1) and duplex (below); American Professional regular (photo 2) and long model (photo 3) cornets



1912 Alto horns included bell up (photo 4) and bell forward



1912 Bb Baritone (below)



1912 Trombones include American Make Bb Tenor slide (photo 5) & valve (photo 6), Eb Alto (photo 8), and American Professional Tenor (photo 7)

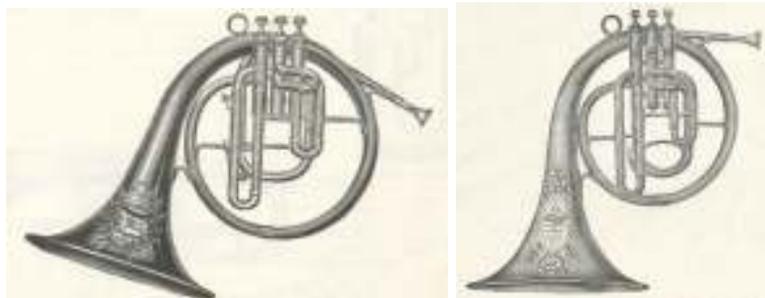
1912 Low brass include American Make Bb double bell Euphonium (photo 1), Bb Tenor (photo 2), Eb Tuba, Eb Monster Tuba, & BBb Tuba (below L-R)



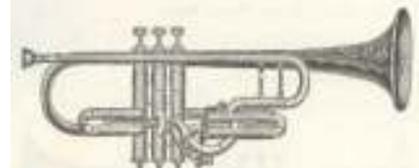
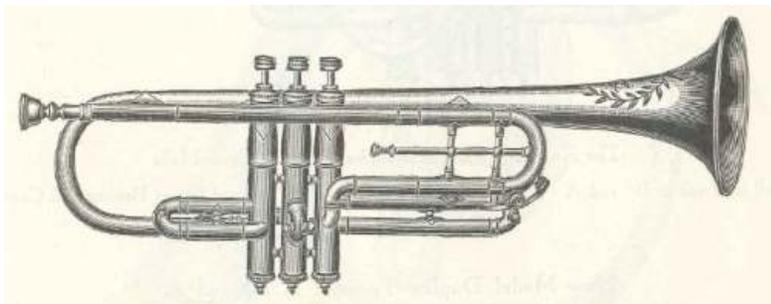
BBb Helicon Tuba



American Maker (L) & Professional (R) Mellophones

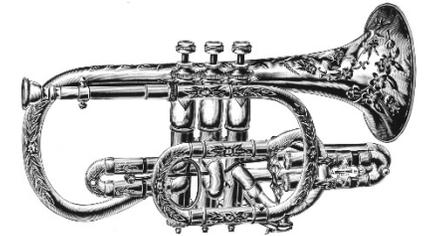
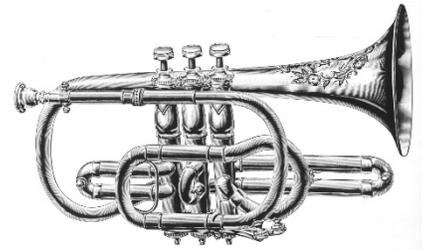
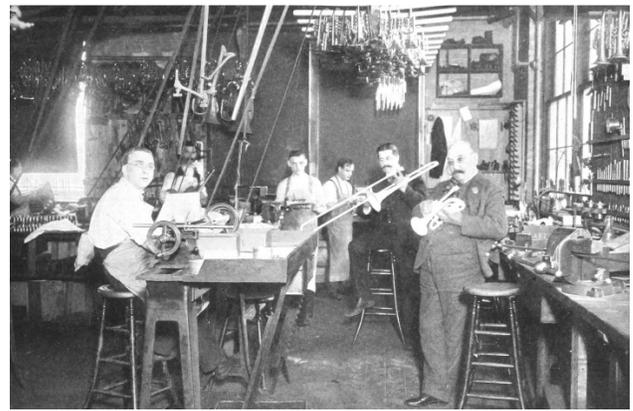
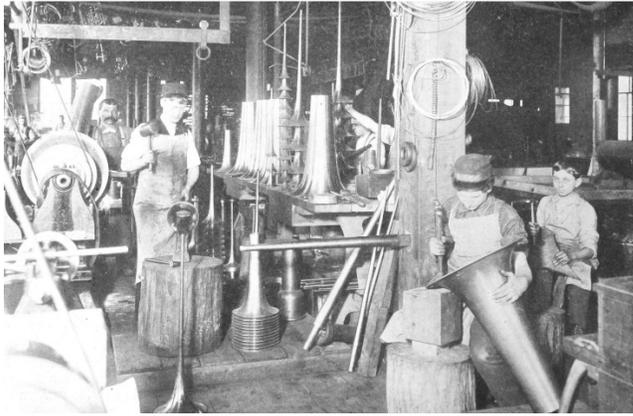


American Make Solo (below) & Duplex (photo3) Trumpets

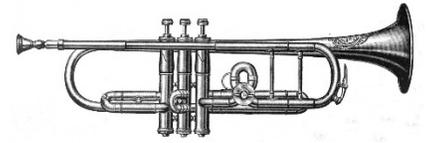


#11013 Duplex

Here are some factory photos from the 1901 catalog. It was located opposite Union Park in Chicago. At right are the Solo & Duplex cornets & BBb Tuba from 1901.



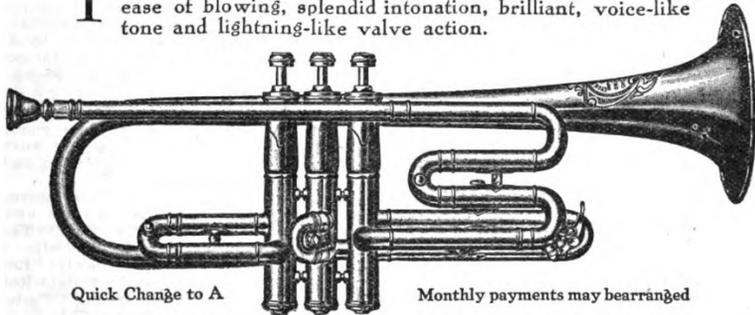
- 1910 Julius Newmann, instrument maker for L&H (census)
- 1913 Increasing demand for L&H instruments causes them to start building a new factory at the corner of West Fullerton and Crawford Ave (later 40th St or S. Pulaski). Construction started in May 1913 and finished in 1914. (MTR)
- 1918 L&H ran ads in *Jacobs Monthly* in 1918 and 1919 for their "Improved Own Make" instruments. I am not certain when they started with this name but the serial numbers appear to reset to zero for these. (#384 photo 1 & below)



Lyon & Healy's Improved Own-Make Cornet

Euphonic Model in B^b and A High and Low Pitch The cornet that pleases everybody

THIS instrument possesses many unique features—perfect ease of blowing, splendid intonation, brilliant, voice-like tone and lightning-like valve action.



Quick Change to A Monthly payments may be arranged

Length, Mouthpiece to Bell, 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Each cornet comes complete with music lyre and two silver-plated mouthpieces, and fine side-opening, leather-covered, plush-lined case. Other instruments of the set are now available.

Send for beautifully illustrated description of the instruments you require Price, in Brass, \$65—other finishes in proportion

LYON & HEALY - WABASH AVE. Chicago
AT JACKSON BLVD.



The Lyon & Healy Improved Own-Make Trumpet

In Bb and A, Low and High Pitch. Rotary Change to A. Adjusting Ring On Third Valve Slide.

THIS instrument possesses, in the highest degree, the distinctive voice quality which marks the difference between the genuine trumpet and the "hybrid" long cornet so often found masquerading as a trumpet. Clear, sparkling and martial in tone, yet possessing in mezzo voce a beautiful, lyric, singing quality, it is the character of instrument demanded by the great writers of oratorio, symphony and grand opera. It has the flexibility, power and timbre necessary to the rendition of the highest class of music. In smoothness of scale, ease of blowing and facility of playing in the extreme high and low registers it has no rival among instruments of its family.

Built in low pitch and supplied with high pitch slides, or in low pitch only, as desired.

This Trumpet is built on perfect trumpet proportions, of the very best materials obtainable, by workmen of the highest class. It is guaranteed for its entire lifetime against any possible defect in workmanship or material.



Sold on easy terms if desired, and sent on one week's free trial.

Price
\$90
to
\$155

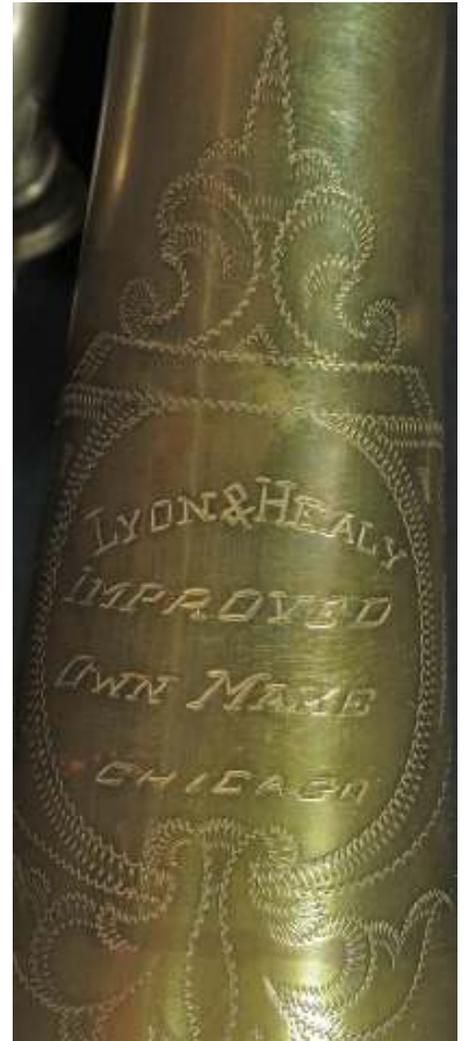
According to Finish

Without Rotary Change to A, deduct \$5.00 in any finish.

Lyon & Healy

50-94 Jackson Blvd., CHICAGO, ILL.

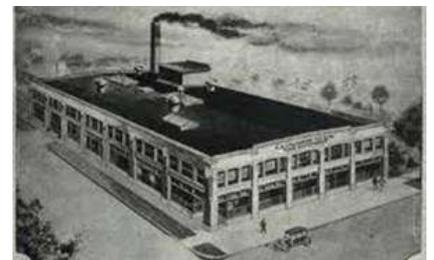
No. G 18



#3075 – Smithsonian

- 1924 Lyon & Healy buys the Couturier company (*MTR*, Jan 14); the Couturier Co. newly incorporated (*Presto*, Feb 23)
- 1924 the LaPorte city directory lists the Couturier Co. with F. L. Lemm manager & Otto Ziegler superintendent; band instrument manufacturer at #1202 Lincoln Hwy.
- 1925 "A new deluxe model Lyon & Healy trumpet is the latest addition to the Couturier line." (*MTR*, Jan 3) (photo 4 #13887, next page photo 1 #14545, photos 2&3 #14717)

Photo 4 is euphonium #32003; trombone #55085 below



LYON & HEALY GETS BAND FACTORY.

After a shutdown of several weeks, the E. A. Couturier Band Instrument Company, of La Porte, Ind., opened last Monday with the full force of employes. A deal whereby Lyon & Healy, Inc., of Chicago, is to assume control of the company will be completed in a few days, officials of the LaPorte concern say.

SELLS LYON & HEALY LINES

L. L. Fox, Former Couturier Traveler, to Carry Fine Chicago Line of Brass Instruments.

L. L. Fox, formerly Couturier traveler in the Middle West, has entered the Lyon & Healy fold and will hereafter sell Lyon & Healy Couturier brass instrument business in his old territory, which includes North and South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Montana and Oklahoma.

The Lyon & Healy Couturier factory, at LaPorte, Indiana, is extremely busy at the present time, and orders are arriving with marked consistency, which indicates a good demand for the Lyon & Healy products throughout the country.

MAKING COUTURIER AGENCIES.

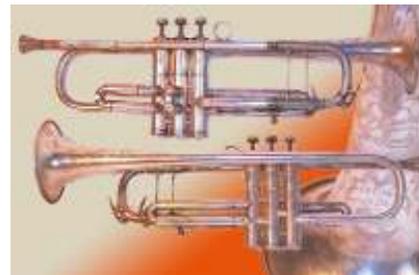
The Couturier band instrument factory at La Porte, Ind., well known for many years as makers of instruments of the highest grade, is now a subsidiary factory of Lyon & Healy, Chicago. Couturier agencies are being placed on a wide scale by Lyon & Healy and dealers who have in mind the advantage arising from representing a leading line are getting in touch with Lyon & Healy on this proposition. The facilities of the Couturier plant will be increased so as to take care of Lyon & Healy's principal outlets as well as the many dealers throughout the United States who have always been identified with these artistic instruments.

COUTURIER CONICAL BORE

Under Lyon & Healy Control, Band Instrument Product of La Porte Plant Is Stimulated.

The control of the Couturier line of band instruments by Lyon & Healy, Chicago, marks a new era in the band instrument field. Only a few years ago, the continuous conical bore instruments saw the light of day and since that time they have made amazing inroads into the favor of the foremost musicians of the country.

Whenever competition includes individuals of thought, and especially in the case of school bands, the continuous conical bore line is usually sold because teachers instantly recognize that here is an instrument fundamentally right. It is built in accordance with the laws of nature, that a sound wave expands as it travels. Under the control of Lyon & Healy the Couturier continuous conical bore is bound to further interest musicians all over the country.



1928 L&H closes the Couturier plant (due to no profit) and makes arrangements with Holton to make their line. All machinery, tools, & patterns were transferred to Holton who will make them for L&H (*MTR & Presto*, March 10th)

This probably ends all US brass production for L&H.

American Professional #2483 (photo 1 & below)



Couturier made #14591



Photos are from auction sales or Horn-u-copia.net unless noted.