



Blessing Cornets
Elkhart, Indiana
1906-2009

Emil K. Blessing was working for Holton in Chicago when he began his brass instrument company in 1906, primarily making piston valve sets for others. He moved to Elkhart in 1907 and built a shop behind his home. Many instruments can be found with a "Pat. July 1910" mark for his valve patent #963,272 below.

963,272. Patented July 5, 1910.

E. K. BLESSING,
VALVE FOR WIND INSTRUMENTS.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 25, 1909.

Fig.1.

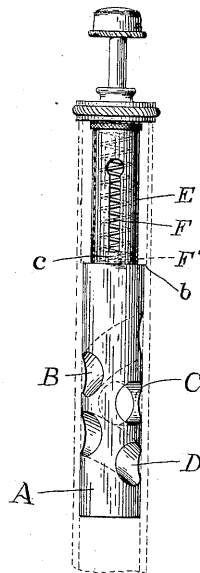


Fig.2.

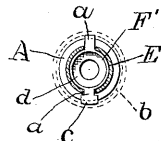
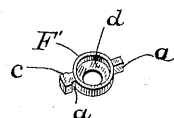


Fig.3.



The earliest Blessing cornet that I have recorded is #200 and is a shepherd's crook design. By 1913, he was making valve sets for Vega in Boston and the Osgood Co in Elkhart. By c.1914, he was making them for Missenharter, and soon after for Nuss in Pennsylvania. Early examples marked with the Blessing name are quite rare.

Blessing started with the union in 1912 and instruments after this time should have the union stamp. This lasted through 1919 before dropping out.

Osgood Co Cornet #1013 c.1913



Undated ad for the same model.



Blessing Melodia model #1501 c.1913 using the same design.

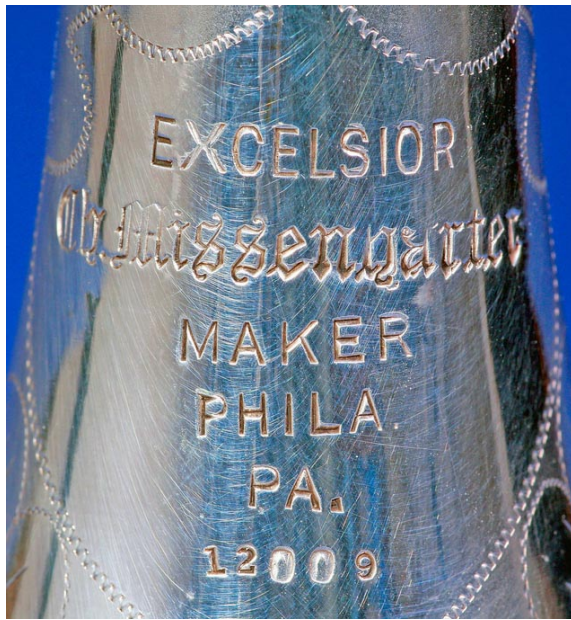


Osgood #25xx c.1913



Missenharter #12009 with Blessing #4005 and patent 1910 valves c.1914.

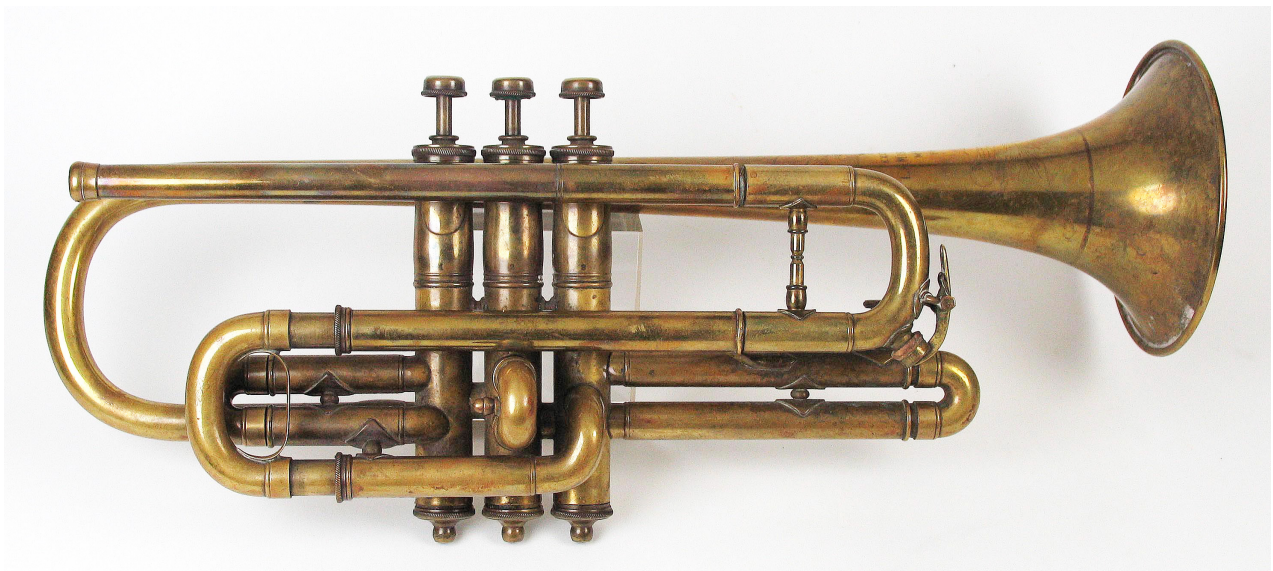




Missenharter #12084 with Blessing #6000 c.1915.



Missenharter #12159 with Blessing #7630 c.1916.



Blessing #10003 c.1917



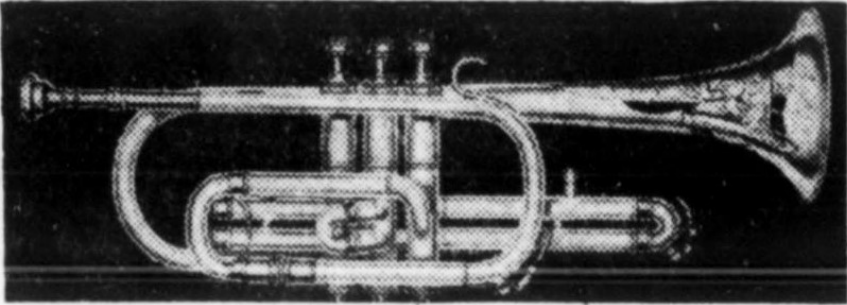
After WWI, examples of Blessing instruments are very rare and mostly trumpets. One Junior model cornet has #12419, but the majority of Blessing's output seems to have been valve sets for other makers. The Patent 1910 valve sets appear under names like Muck, Nuss, Hickernell, and Kalashen throughout the 1920s and it's not until the mid-1930s that the Blessing name appears again under the Standard and Artist models. The earliest Artist model cornet I have recorded is #28097.

This is an ad from 1934 with no model name given.

THE CORNET SUPREME

It's A

BLESSING



**A Real Instrument for the Modern
Up-to-Date Musician**

Sent on Six Days Free Trial. Write For Prices and Terms

E. K. BLESSING. CO, ELKHART, IND.

Artist model #29800 c.1936 (Horn-u-copia.net).

This is the same design as the 1934 ad except for adding the third slide adjustment.



Hager Deluxe Standard model stencil #31528 c.1939.



The first Blessing Super Artist models start c.1938. #31768 below c.1939.



Rudy Muck Series 97 stencil of the Blessing Standard #34395 c.1941.



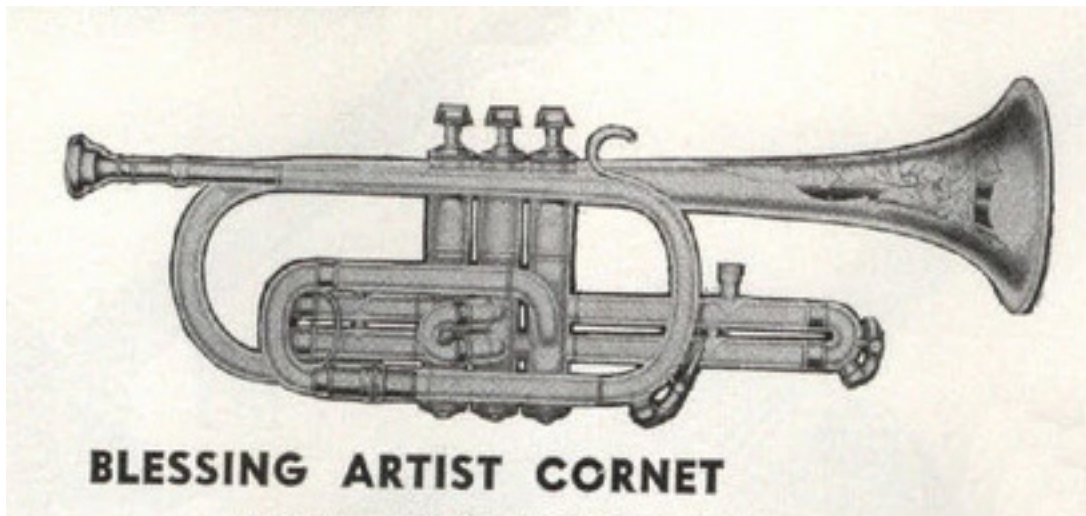
Rudy Muck professional model stencil of the Blessing Super Artist #34808 c.1941.



Blessing Super Artist #35360 c.1942.



1942 Artist model



1942 Standard model



Undated Artist model



Undated Super Artist image



BLESSING

Super Artist

TROMBONE

A product of skills that are unmatched. Here is precision that gives swift and smooth action. In medium large bore, with $7\frac{1}{2}$ " elaborately engraved bell. Of brass, with lacquer finish; chromed slides and trim.

CORNET

Constructed in the same superb manner as the Super Artist Trumpet described on the opposite page. Here is the finest of American cornets, equipped with the patented Blessing tuning device and patented tiltless star with adjustable third valve slide with stop. Of brass with lacquer finish.

Super Artist #41764 c.1947



Super Artist #43622 c.1948



Super Artist #43699 c.1948



Standard model #46570 c.1949



Super Artist #47692 c.1949



Standard #57109 c.1952



Hamilton Supreme stencil #59211 c.1952



Hamilton Supreme stencil #59300 c.1952



Blessing Standard #65022 c.1954



Blessing Standard #70608 c.1955



Blessing Artist #75521 c.1956



Blessing Standard #83512 c.1958



Sears Silvertone stencil #103846 c.1961



Reynolds Medalist cornet #103897 c.1961

RMC purchased Blessing and Reynolds in 1961 and used Blessing almost exclusively to make the student Medalist model for Reynolds until Merle Johnson bought Blessing back in 1964.



Standard #105963 c.1961



Super Artist #106177 c.1961



Standard #118909 c.1962



1964 cornet models were Standard, Artist, and Super Artist.

1965 was the start of the Scholastic model registered in 1967.

Standard #138897 c.1965



Gretsch Pathfinder stencil #163814 c.1968



Montgomery Ward Kadit stencil of the Scholastic model #173772 c.1970



Scholastic model #195770 c.1972



Baldwin Special stencil #301671 c.1981



The first XL model cornet came out around 1977.

XL model #414118 c.1991



Scholastic #432291 c.1993



B-121 model #470608 c.1997



B-120 model #522400 c.2002



B-120 model #676003 c.2009



Randy Johnson became president of Blessing in 1996 following his father's retirement and the above "B" prefix for the model may have started then. In 2009, Randy sold Blessing to Vern Powell Flutes and manufacturing moved to a different location in Elkhart. All production ended in 2015 with the sale of Blessing to St Louis Music and their change to imported stencils.