



Blessing Trumpets Elkhart, Indiana 1906-2015

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.

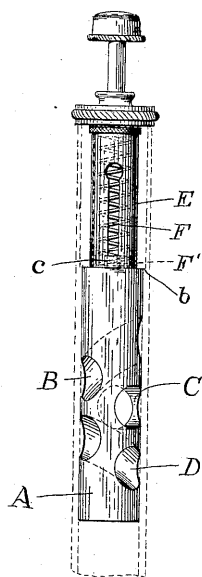


Fig.2.

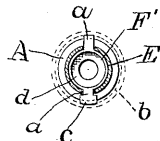
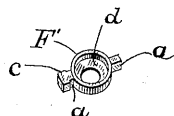


Fig.3.



The earliest Blessing trumpet that I have recorded is #2080 and has the 1910 patent mark. 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.

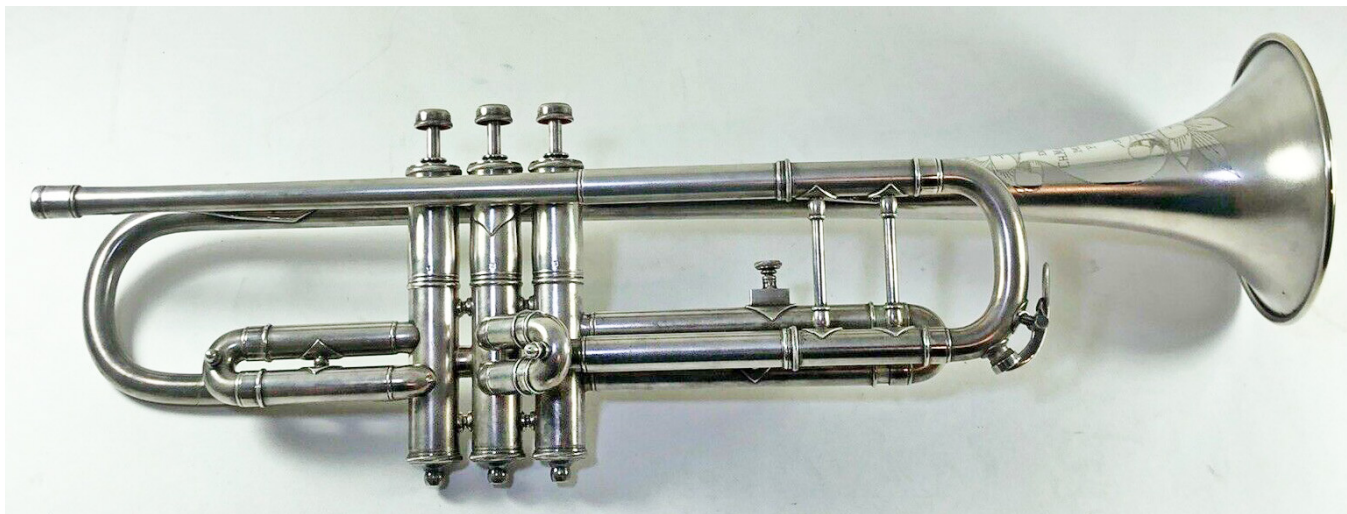
Blessing Junior #9242 c.1917



Blessing Junior #9317 c.1917

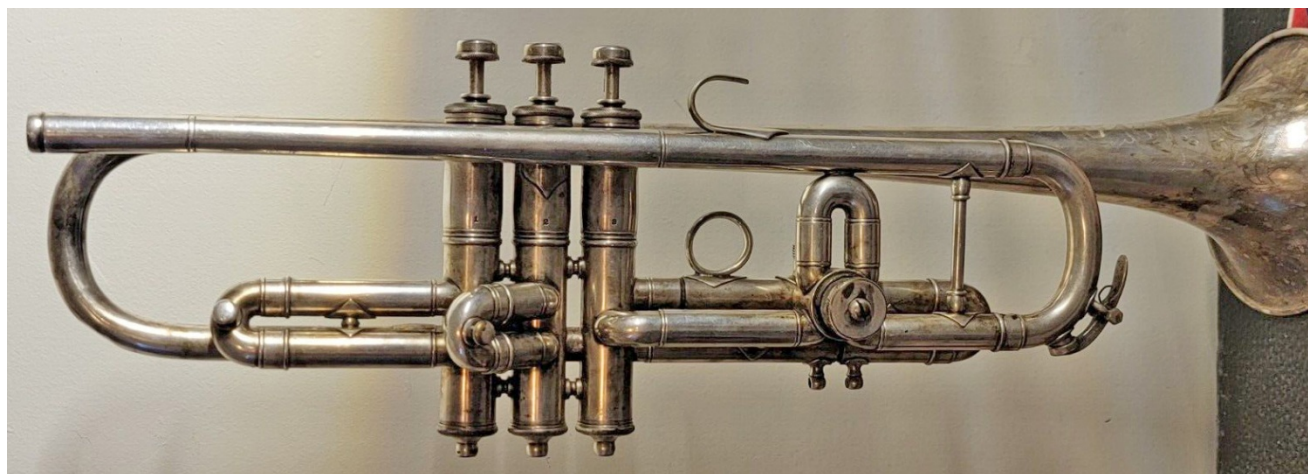


Missenharter #12296 c.1918



The two-section tuning slide shown above was a common solution for quickly changing from Bb to A; something very popular in the teens and twenties. The bottom tube had a stepped outside diameter that catches on the stop nut and the outer slide was for tuning.

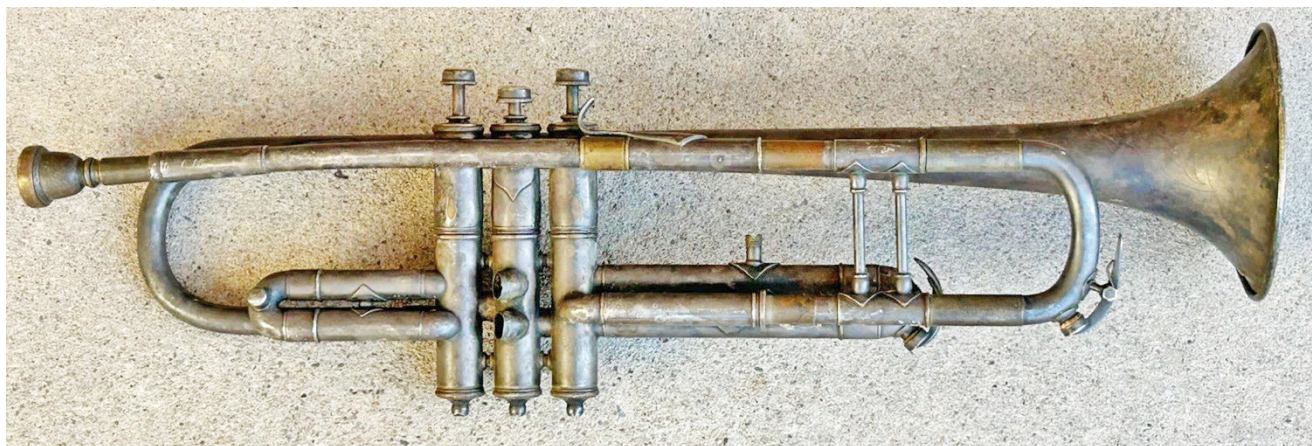
Blessing #14231 c.1920 with a change to a rotary valve for A.



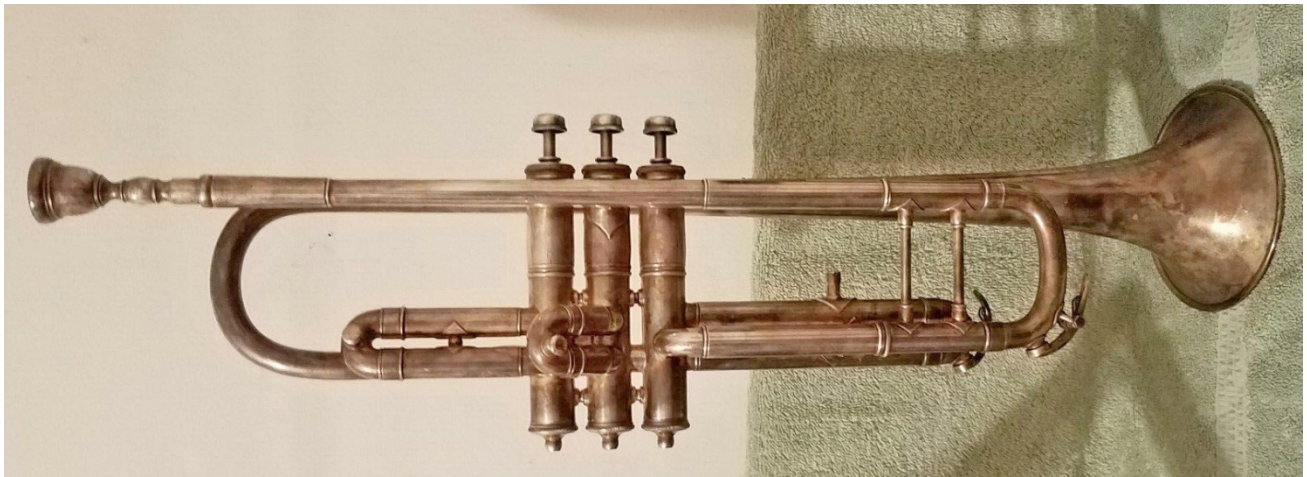
Blessing #14276 c.1920 showing his unique lyre holder.



Blessing #14463 c.1920



Blessing #14521 c.1920



Blessing #14667 c.1920 supplied to Bachman Music. This is the earliest use of his adjustable stop nut for the tuning slide that he would patent in 1930.



Kalashen Peerless #14875 c.1920 made for Mark Kalashen in New York City.

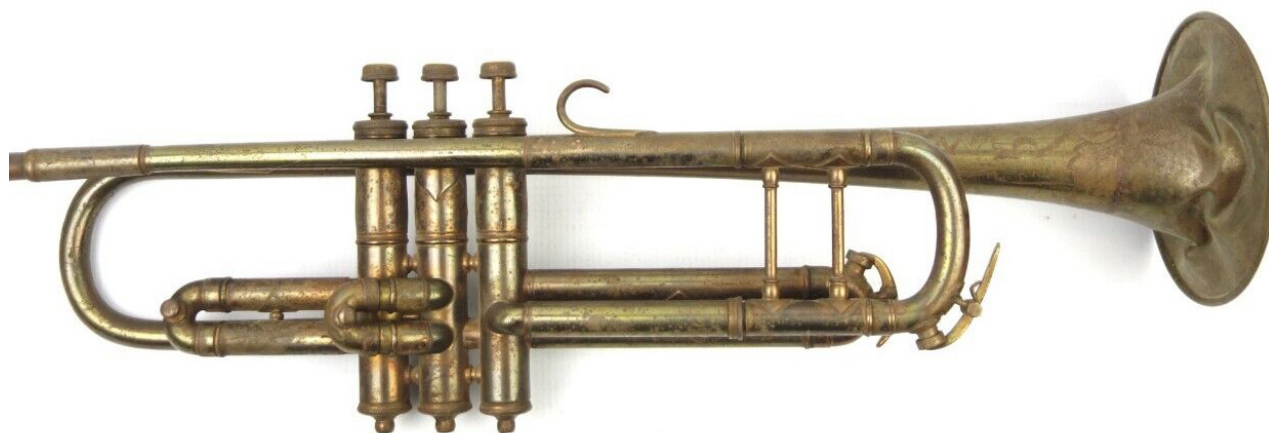


Kalashen imported many other band instruments but his Peerless model was by Blessing. The photo above on the right shows the patent mark and Blessing serial number above it. The "1" below Kalashen's mark may have been a Blessing bore size or model number reference.

Blessing #15192 c.1921



JR Muck & Co #21167 c.1927 w/1910 patent valves



Blessing #21210 c.1927



Very few examples are found from the 1920s so most Blessing production would have gone to making valve sets or stencils for other makers.

The 1930 Blessing patent #1,744,519 for the slide stop nut.

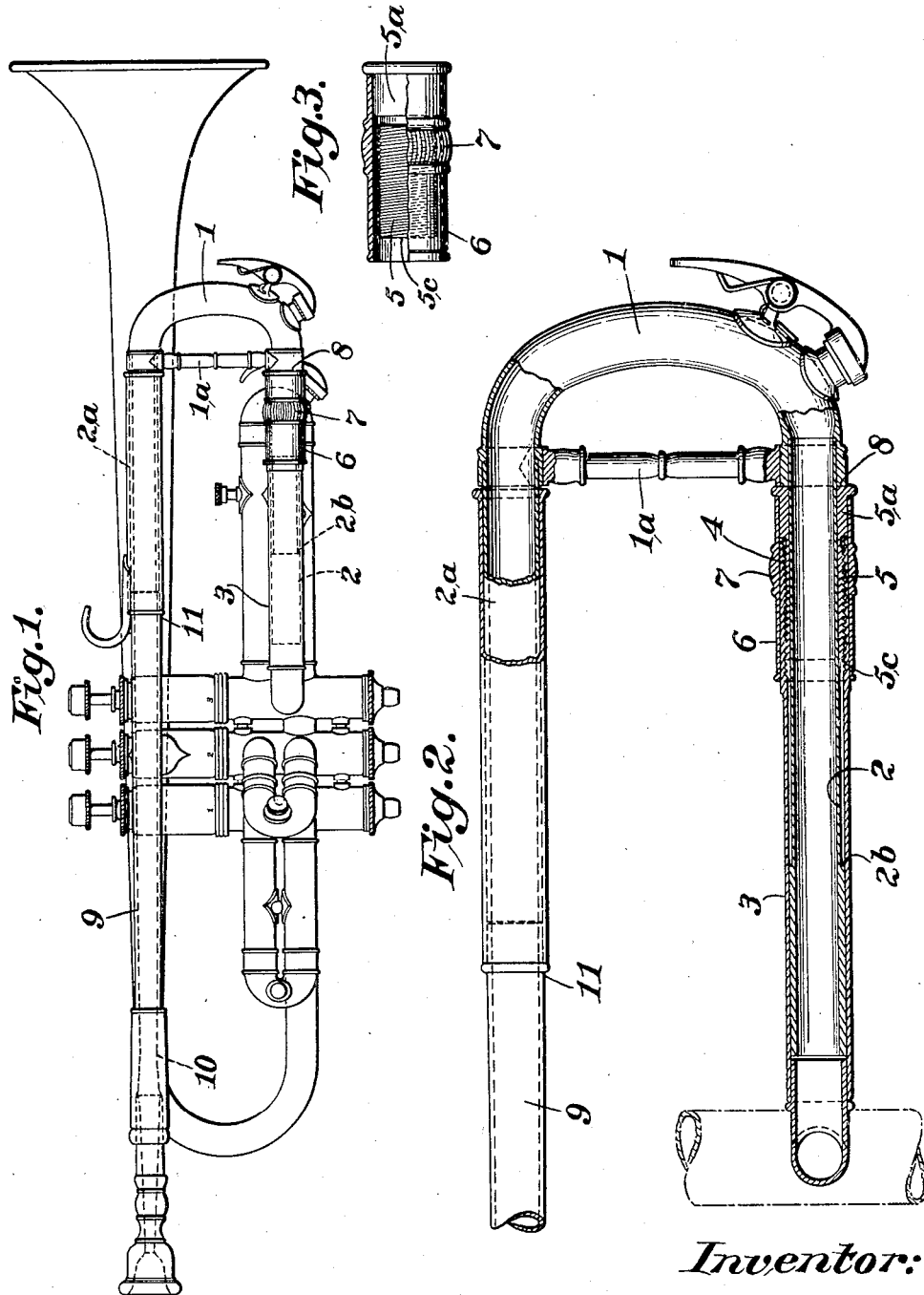
Jan. 21, 1930.

E. K. BLESSING

1,744,519

BRASS WIND INSTRUMENT

Filed May 15, 1923



Inventor:

Emil K. Blessing,

by *Spear, Middleton, Donaldson & Hall*
Attys.

Blessing #27203 c.1934 – the start of more consistent Blessing instruments



Blessing Artist model #27968 c.1934. The first of his model names to appear and also a rare example of his version of the popular streamlined design started by Conn in 1928.



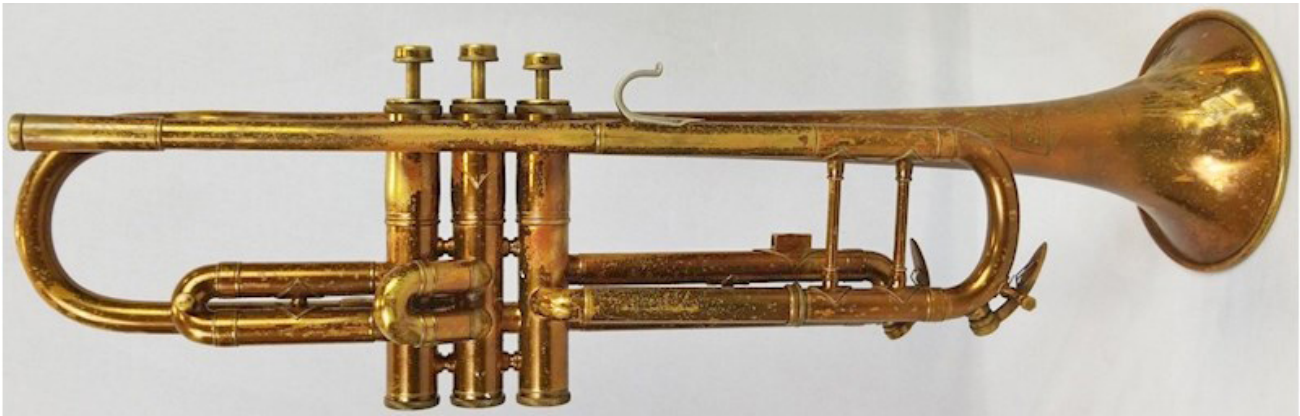
Blessing Artist model #28826 c.1935



Indiana Music Co Professional model #30244 c.1937



Blessing Standard model #30539 c.1937



Rudy Muck modified Super Artist model #31468 c.1939



So far, it appears that the Super Artist design was used by Muck before being released by Blessing.

The Rudy Muck trumpet came out in 1936. This is a 1938 ad from Down Beat Magazine.



Rudy Muck
presents

*Dealers write for exclusive territorial rights.
Musicians write for illustrated booklet.*

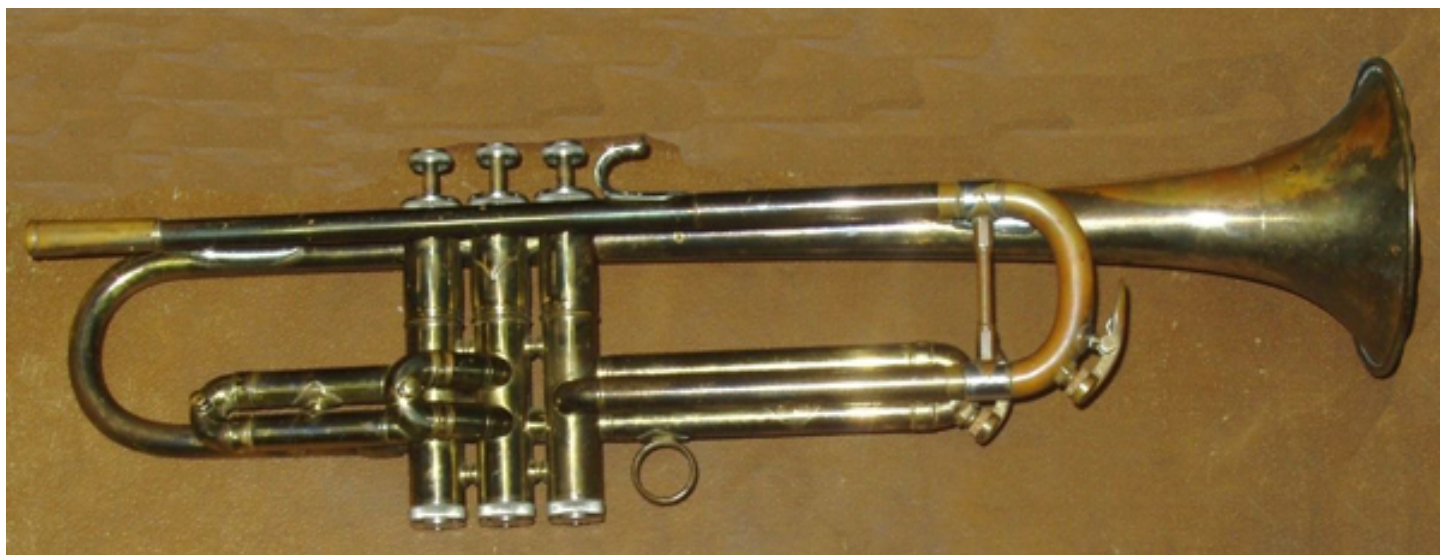
Trumpet \$187.50 Cornet \$187.50
Case \$20.00

J. R. MUCK & SONS, Inc.
125 EAST 126th STREET NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

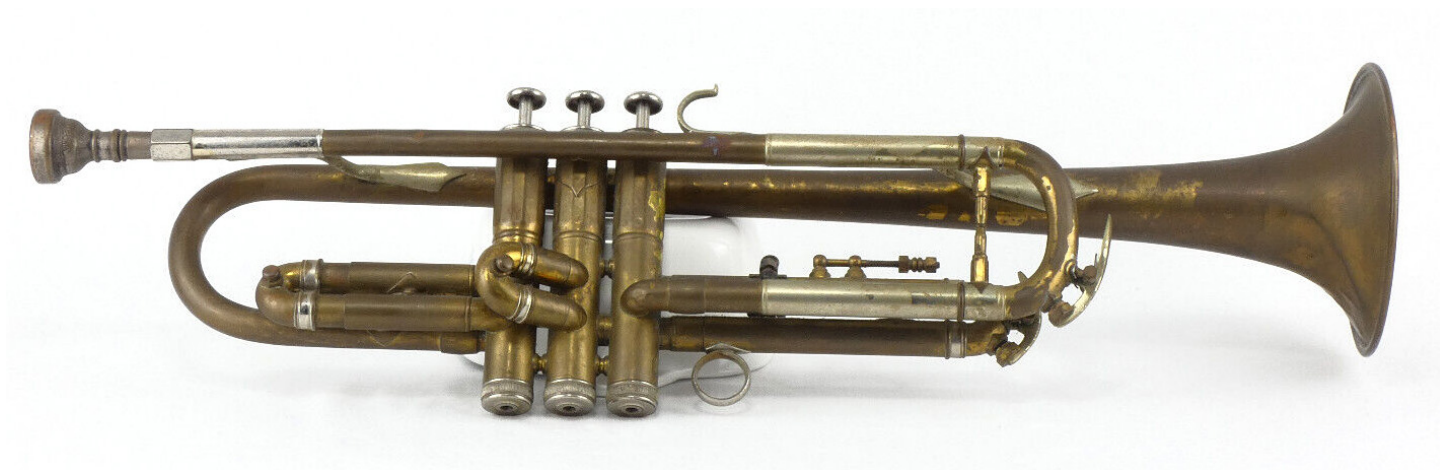
Blessing Artist #31911 c.1940



Rudy Muck Series 97 stencil of the Standard model #32300 c.1940



Rudy Muck #33225 c.1940



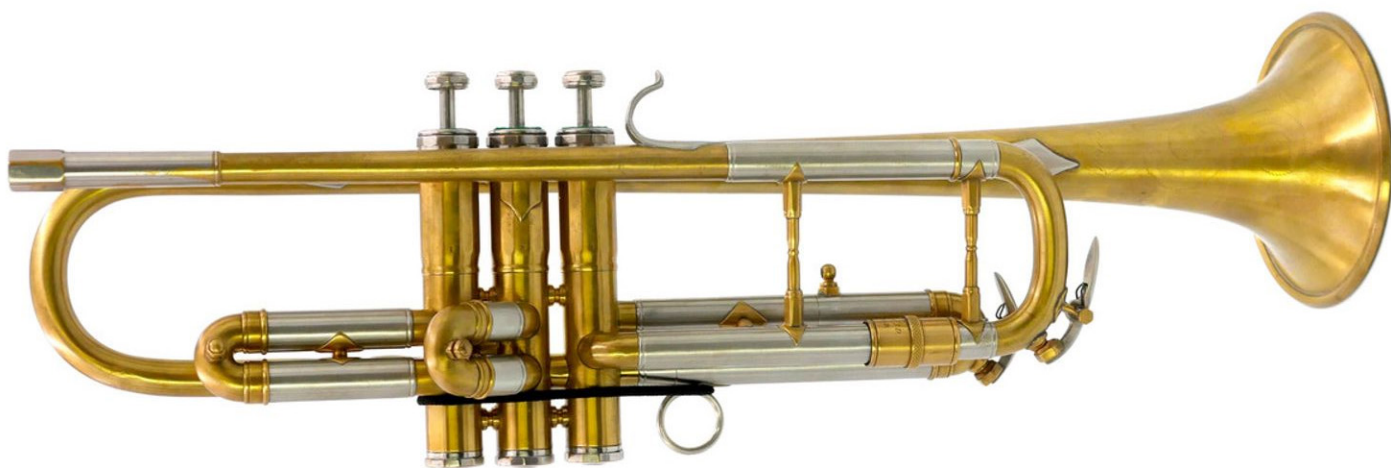
Blessing Super Artist #33227 c.1940



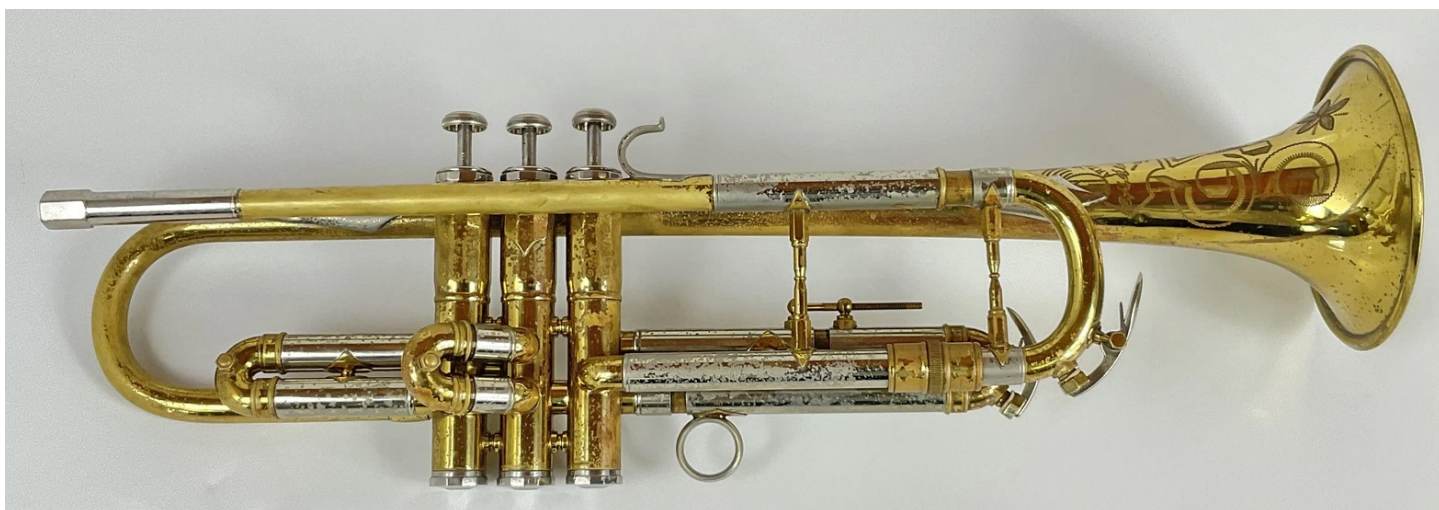
Blessing Super Artist #34104 c.1941



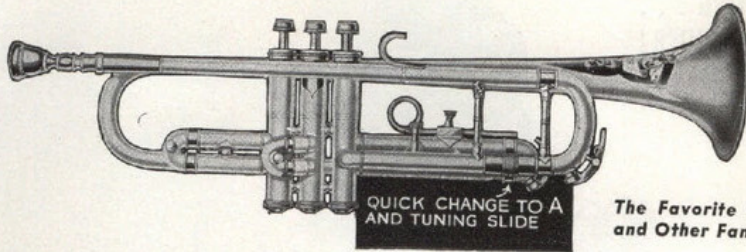
Blessing Super Artist #34907 c.1941



Blessing Super Artist #36031 c.1942



BLESSING TRUMPETS AND CORNETS



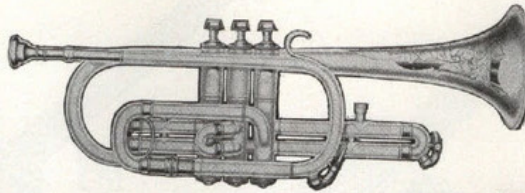
The Favorite of Ted Lewis and Other Famed Musicians



BLESSING ARTIST TRUMPET

Illustrated directly above is the famous Blessing Artist Trumpet, known the world over for its richness of tone. A precision made, hand-built instrument with quick change to A and tuning slide. The valves and slides are fitted with micrometer exactness to 1/1000 of an inch. Exclusive patented Blessing tuning mechanism enables tuning to the fraction of an interval. Many of these trumpets are used in the finest bands in America who prefer the super-quality of Blessing instruments over all others. A written 20-year guarantee bond assures satisfaction with every Blessing trumpet. Available in two finishes, gold lacquer or silverplate with gold bell. Each instrument complete in silk, plush-lined deluxe carrying case.

A77152 Gold Lacquer with Case **\$132.00**
A77153 Silverplate with Case **149.50**



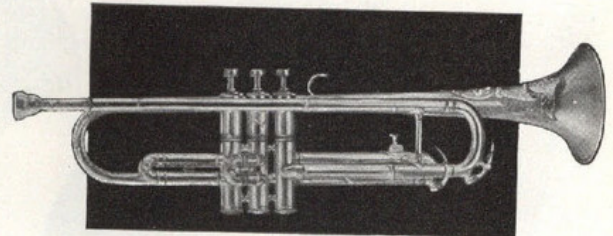
BLESSING ARTIST CORNET

Here's the newest model Blessing Artist Cornet for 1942—a cornet that is the favorite with many of the most popular bands and leading musicians. Has countersunk valve caps for unequalled fast and easy action. A custom-made, hand built instrument backed by Blessing with a written 20-year guarantee bond. Round, full, richly sonorous tonal quality, remarkably even register and intonation absolutely perfect. Choice of two finishes both richly engraved. Gold lacquer or silverplate with gold bell. Complete in silk plush lined carrying case.

A77154 Gold Lacquer with Case.... **\$132.00**
A77155 Silverplate with Case..... **149.50**

BLESSING—THE BEST NAME IN BRASS!

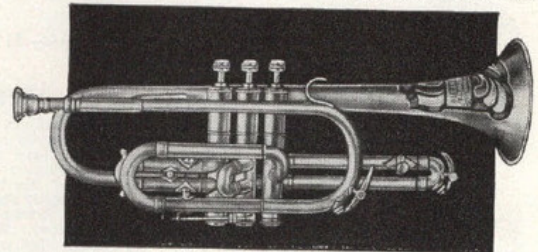
For more than two generations among top ranking musicians, the name Blessing has been a symbol of the finest craftsmanship in trumpet and cornet manufacturing. Only Blessing gives a written 20-year guarantee bond with every cornet or trumpet. Check the great bands of the nation and you will find that many of them use Blessing instruments. Paul Whiteman's orchestra, dozens of other famous popular dance and concert orchestras, all use Blessing instruments. Their recommendation is the best guide for any amateur or professional musician in choosing a brass instrument. Buy Blessing and be assured of lasting satisfaction.



BLESSING STANDARD TRUMPET

Nickel silver pistons ground and lapped by hand for perfect fitting and compression; improved countersunk valves and third finger ring. Guaranteed by Blessing for 20 years. Your choice of two finishes, hard gold lacquer or silver with gold bell. Complete with professional, deluxe carrying case leatherette covered and plush lined.

A77156 Gold Lacquer with Case..... **\$89.50**
A77157 Silverplate, Gold Bell, with Case..... **96.00**



BLESSING STANDARD CORNET

Tonal quality is round, full and richly sonorous. Remarkably even register intonation, as perfect as is found in the highest priced cornets. Comes in a choice of two finishes, gold lacquer or silverplate with gold bell. Complete in carrying case.

A77158 Gold Lacquer with Case..... **\$89.50**
A77159 Silverplate with Gold Bell with Case..... **96.00**

1945 ad oddly showing a backwards York Airflow image

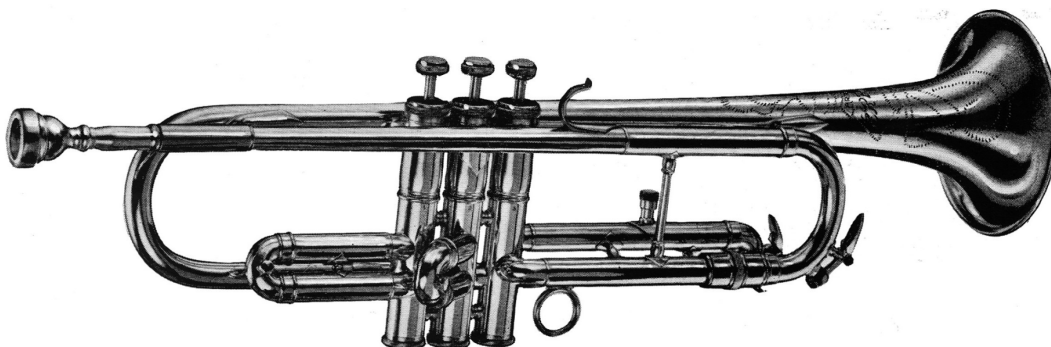


1940s catalog images

Standard



Artist



Beautifully—superbly—styled! The valves are hand-fitted, short in action, noiseless in operation. Balusters, finger buttons, valve caps, water keys and mouthpiece receiver are finished by hand. Patented tuning device and patented tiltless star. Adjustable third valve slide Of brass, with lacquer finish.

BLESSING ARTIST TRUMPET

Super Artist #36031 bell



Artist model #40726 c.1947



Following WWII, Blessing models show up as stencils under names like Acadamie, Astro, Bundy, Gretsch, Hamilton, Montgomery Ward Grenadier & Kadit, Rockwell, Sears Silvertone, and York.

Artist model #42000 c.1947



Super Artist #42207 c.1948



Super Artist #43298 c.1948



Super Artist #43393 c.1948



Super Artist #50644 c.1950



National model #51084 c.1950



c.1950 Super Artist



The BLESSING '*Super-Artist*' TRUMPET

One Piece Seamless Bell, Hand Hammered and Hand Drawn

Octagon inset valve caps, tops and bottoms. Octagon valve casings. Nickel caps, mouthpipe, slide ends and rings.

Brass, Lacquered, Elaborately Engraved

\$145⁰⁰ in case

BLESSING BAND INSTRUMENTS ARE FASHIONED BY HAND

The advertisement features a large, detailed illustration of a trumpet against a dark background. In the bottom left corner, there is a small, stylized illustration of a man in a suit playing a trumpet. The text is arranged around the trumpet, with the title at the top, descriptive text to the right, and the price and brand name at the bottom.

c.1950 Artist



The BLESSING '*Artist*' TRUMPET

Inset valve caps, patented tuning device, hand fitted valves. Third valve slide ring.

Brass, Lacquered, Beautifully Engraved

\$105⁰⁰ in case

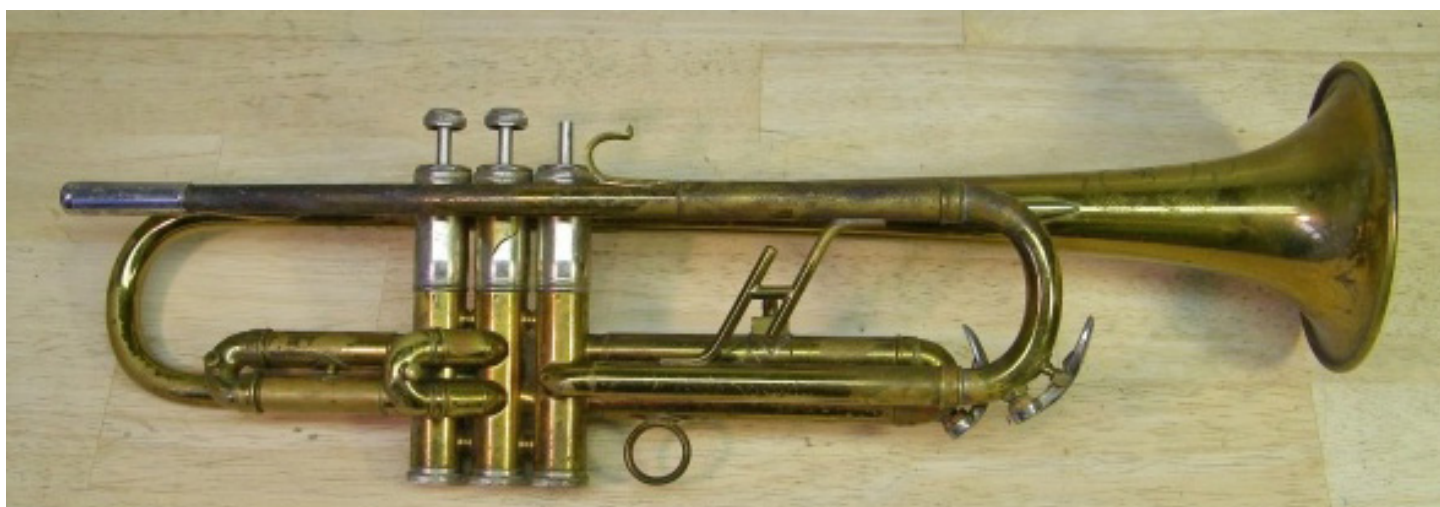
BLESSING BAND INSTRUMENTS ARE FASHIONED BY HAND

This advertisement is similar to the one above, featuring a large illustration of a trumpet. It includes a small illustration of a man playing a trumpet in the bottom left corner. The text is arranged around the trumpet, with the title at the top, descriptive text to the right, and the price and brand name at the bottom.

Standard model #55872 c.1951 – now with nickel-silver or plated upper valve casings



Hamilton stencil of a Standard model #59323 c.1952



Artist #64585 c.1954



Standard #65000 c.1954



Super Artist #71295 c.1955



National #71355 c.1955



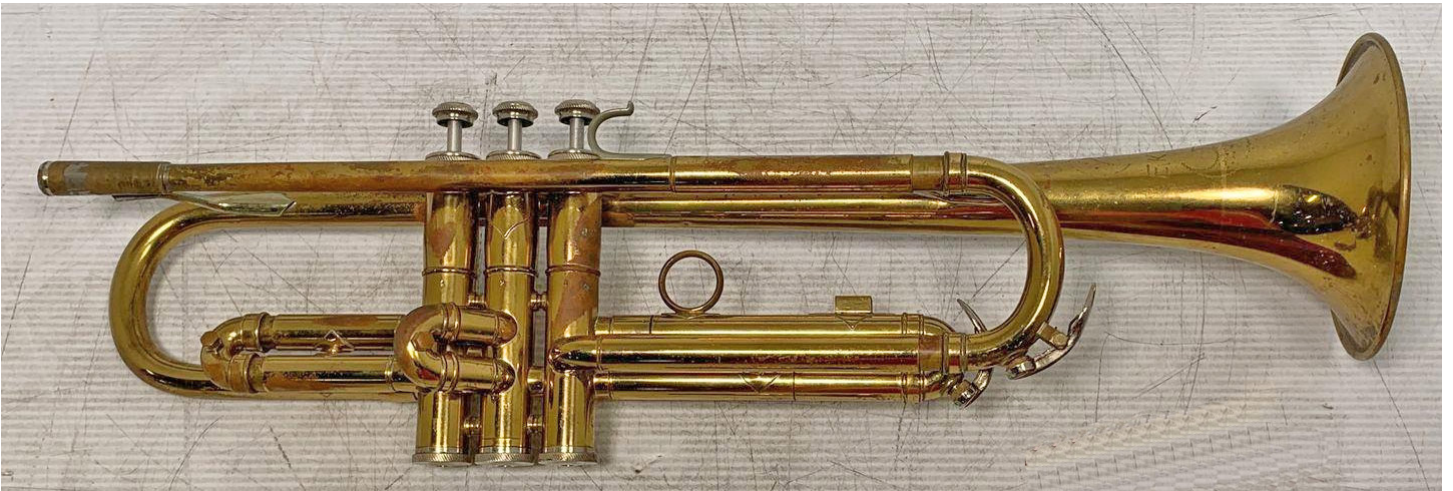
National #76179 c.1956



Standard #89713 c.1959



Standard #106565 c.1961

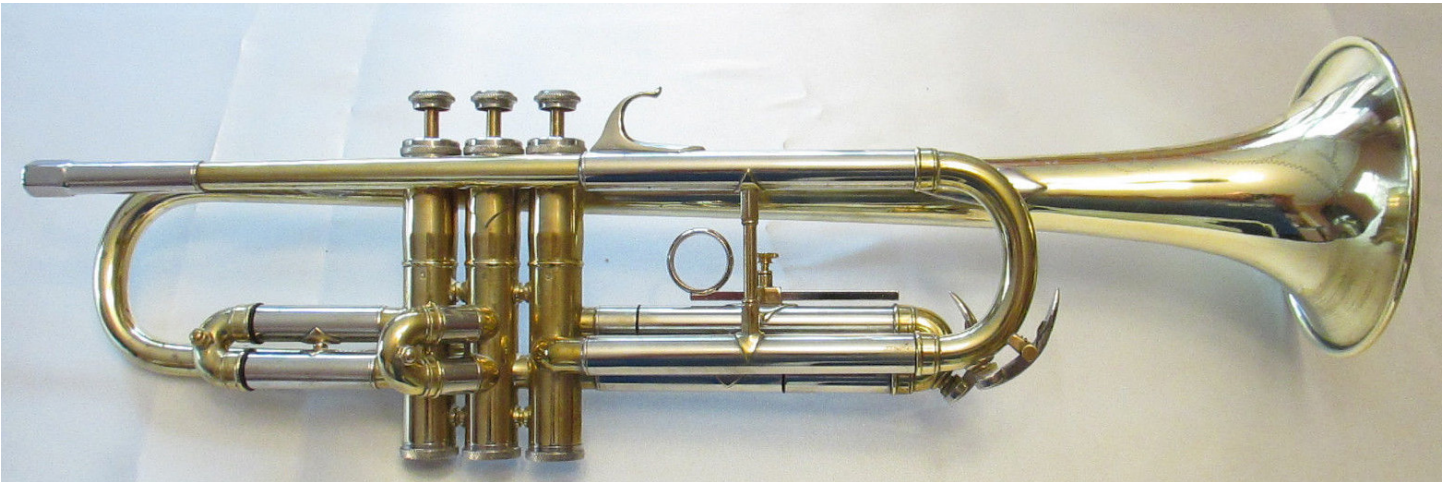


Blessing made mostly Reynolds Medalist models in 1961-1963 under RMC ownership.

Standard #120628 c.1963



Super Artist #136264 c.1964



Artist #143591 c.1965



The Scholastic line starts with first use on May 21, 1965.

Super Artist #158648 c.1968



Scholastic #185716 c.1971



Scholastic #211920 c.1974



Alpha BK model #255307 c.1977



XL model #261284 c.1978



Scholastic #264496 c.1978



Super Artist #267014



XL #274000 c.1979



Scholastic #322414 c.1982



ML1 model #337323 c.1983



Scholastic #356647 c.1985



Artist #366723 c.1986



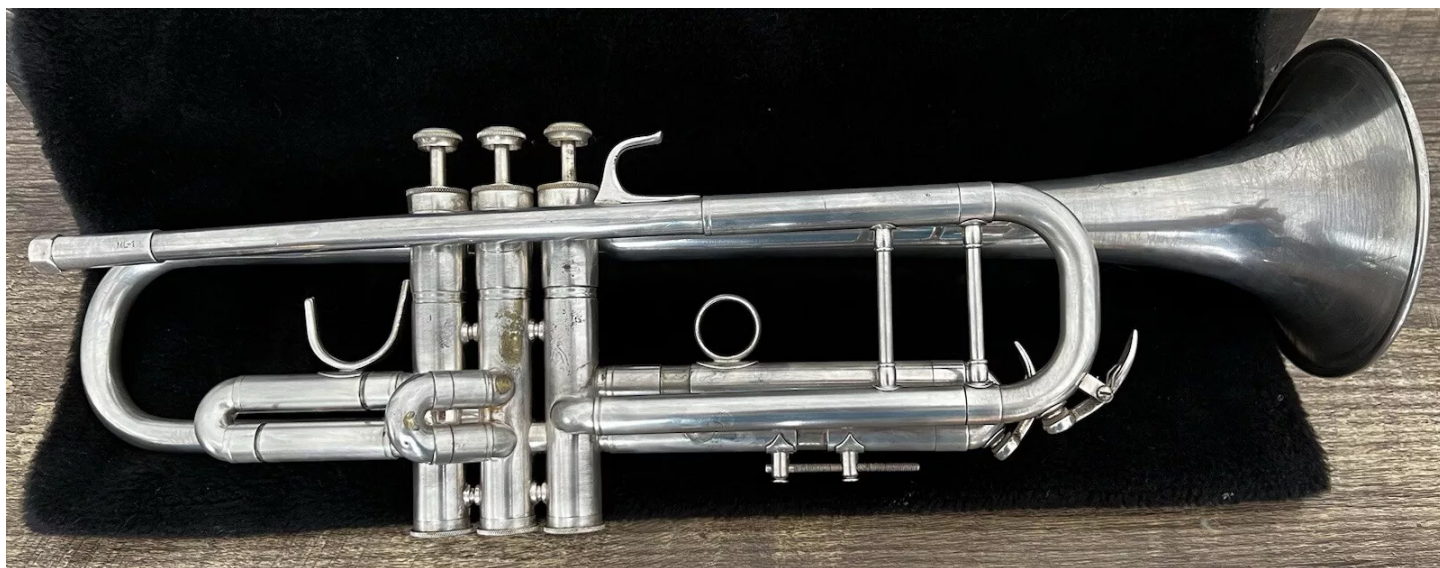
B125 model #406336 c.1990



Artist #444538 c.1994



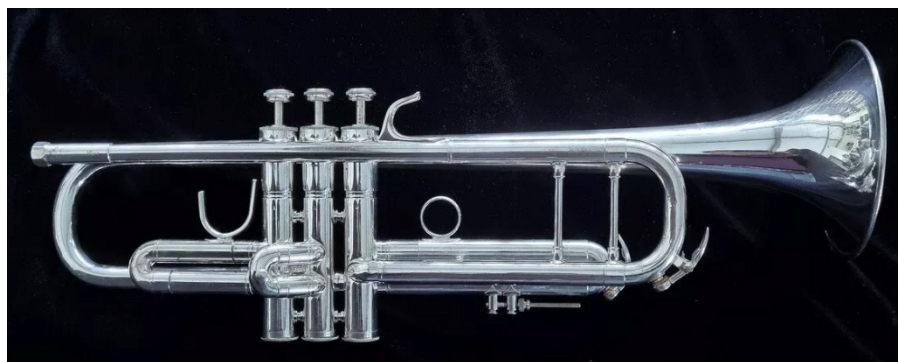
ML1 #470850 c.1997



XL #473135 c.1997



ML1 #474119 c.1997



Scholastic B125 #477686 c.1997



Scholastic #500498 c.2000



B125 #563757 c.2006



In 2009, Blessing was sold to Vern Powell Flutes and production moved to 2995 Paul Dr in Elkhart.

B125 #A00126 c.2009



XLTR #A10086 c.2009



B126 #D07097 c.2012



BTR 1460G #H35247 c.2014



Blessing was sold to St Louis Music in 2015 and all domestic production ended.