

Martin Band Instrument Company

Cornets

Elkhart, Indiana

1906 – 1971

The Martin Band Instrument Company was incorporated in early 1906 following the death of the family patriarch, John Henry Martin, in late 1905. He had previously formed the J. H. Martin Band Instrument Company in 1904 but there are no known instruments with this marking. His son, Charles Henry Martin, was the leader of this enterprise and had been working for Conn since 1881.

In February of 1902, Henry was living in Grand Rapids, Michigan (possibly working for York) and filed for a patent on a quick key change slide on a cornet. This could be set up on either side as shown in the two patent drawings below. (I believe the second drawing has the bell reversed by mistake.) He received patent #736,756 on August 18, 1903.

FIG. 1.

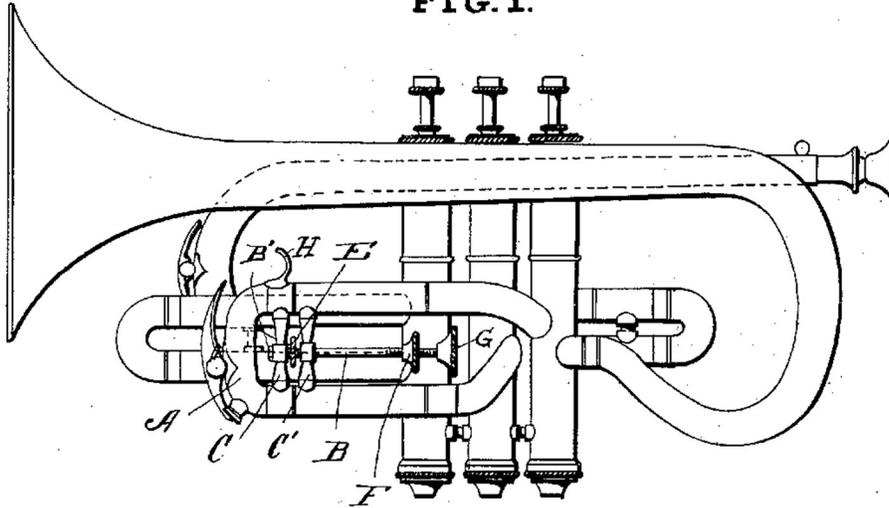
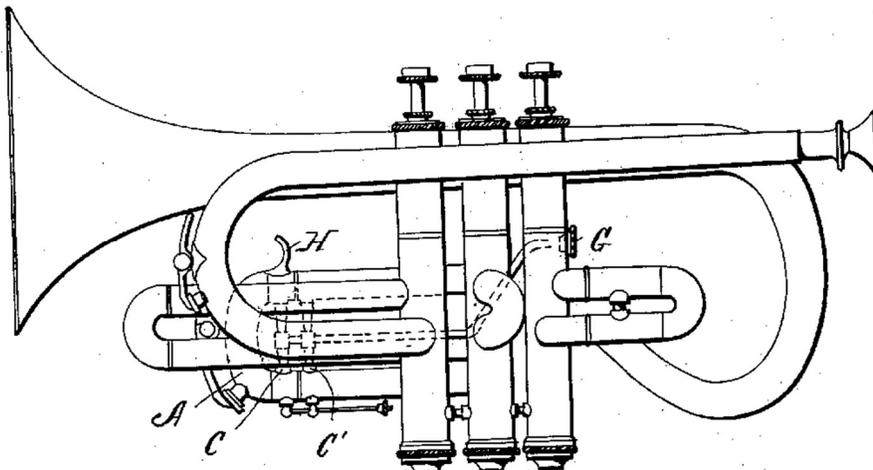


FIG. 3.



The 1912 Martin catalog claims that the “Long” model cornet, with its “Z” shaped lead pipe, was invented by Henry Martin in 1902 and that other makers started copying it after. One of the earliest Martin cornets that I have found a photo of is #6208 below.



#6454 c.1911 – this follows the 1903 patent drawing



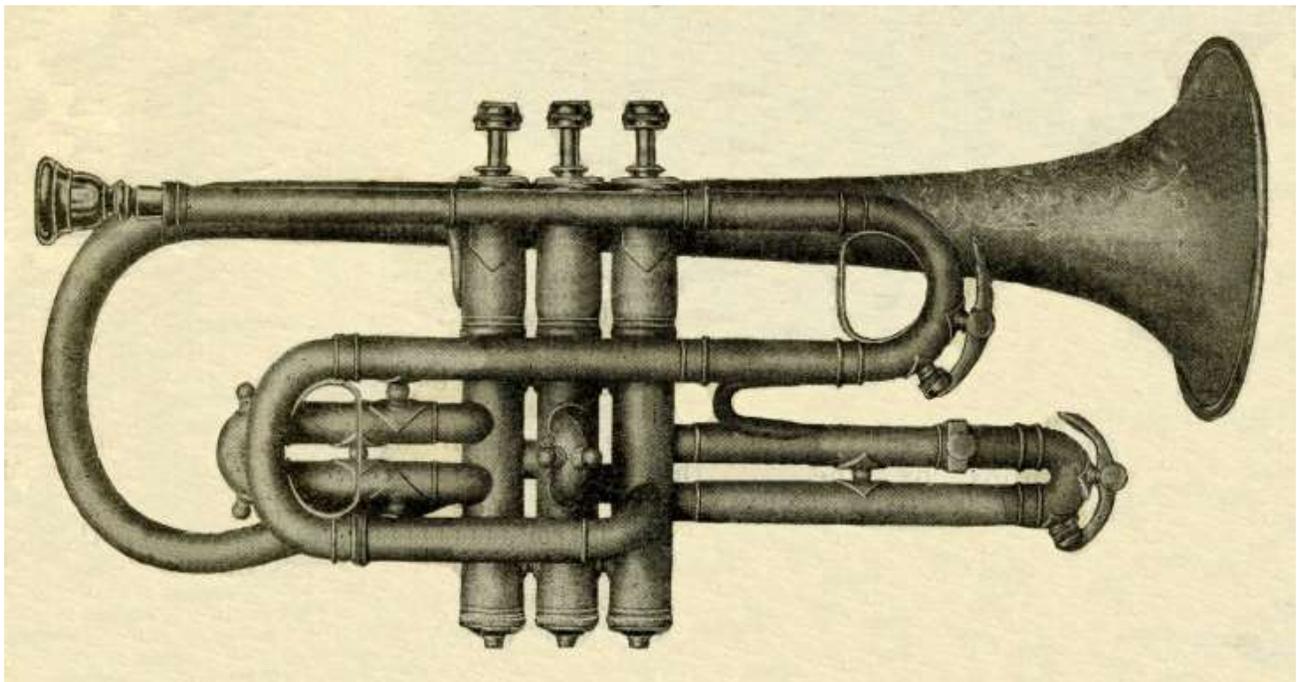
#6798 c.1912 has the same design



As seen in this photo of #6798, there is no quick slide rod.



The earliest catalog image is this Long model below from 1912. They seem to have dropped the earlier model as it does not show up in the catalog.



#8400 Long model c.1913



#8481 Long model c.1913



#10105 Long model c.1914



Left side view of #10105



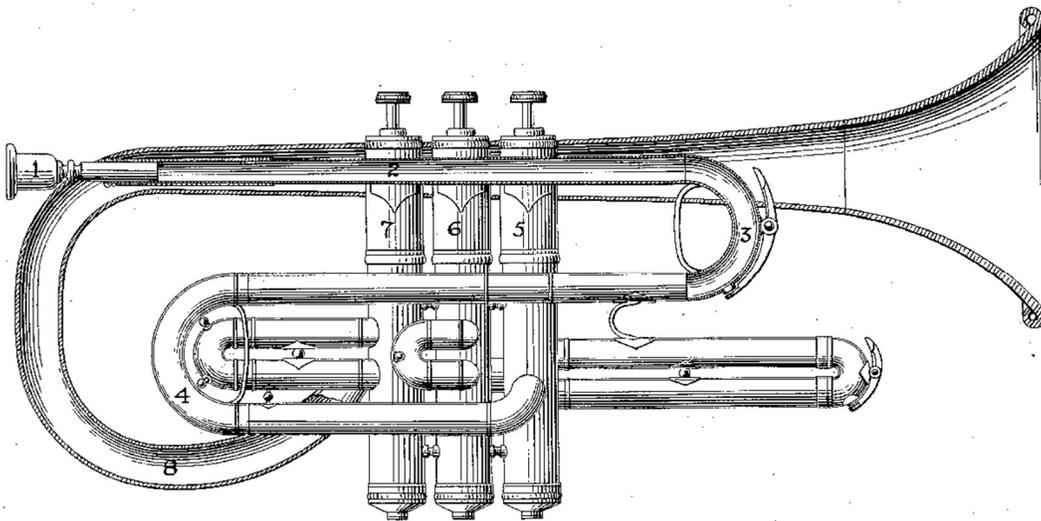
Original case with Martin banner



#11420 Long model c.1914

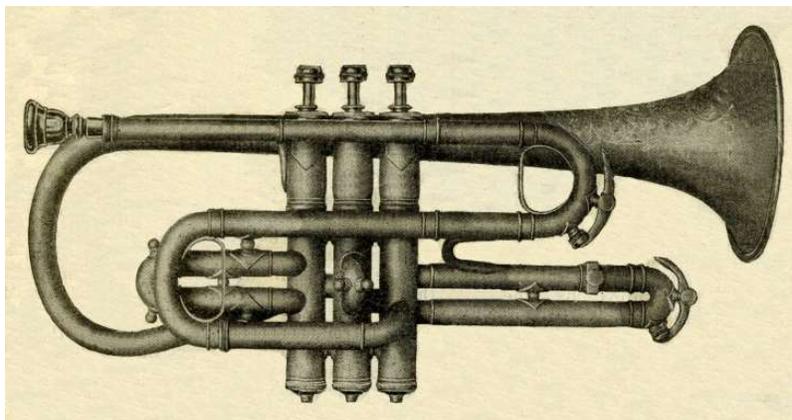


This model is also found in the drawing for patent #1,071,526 filed in 1911 and granted in 1913 to Henry Martin. The progressive bell thickness patent seems to be a copy of the 1907 Buescher patent so perhaps he was copying them.

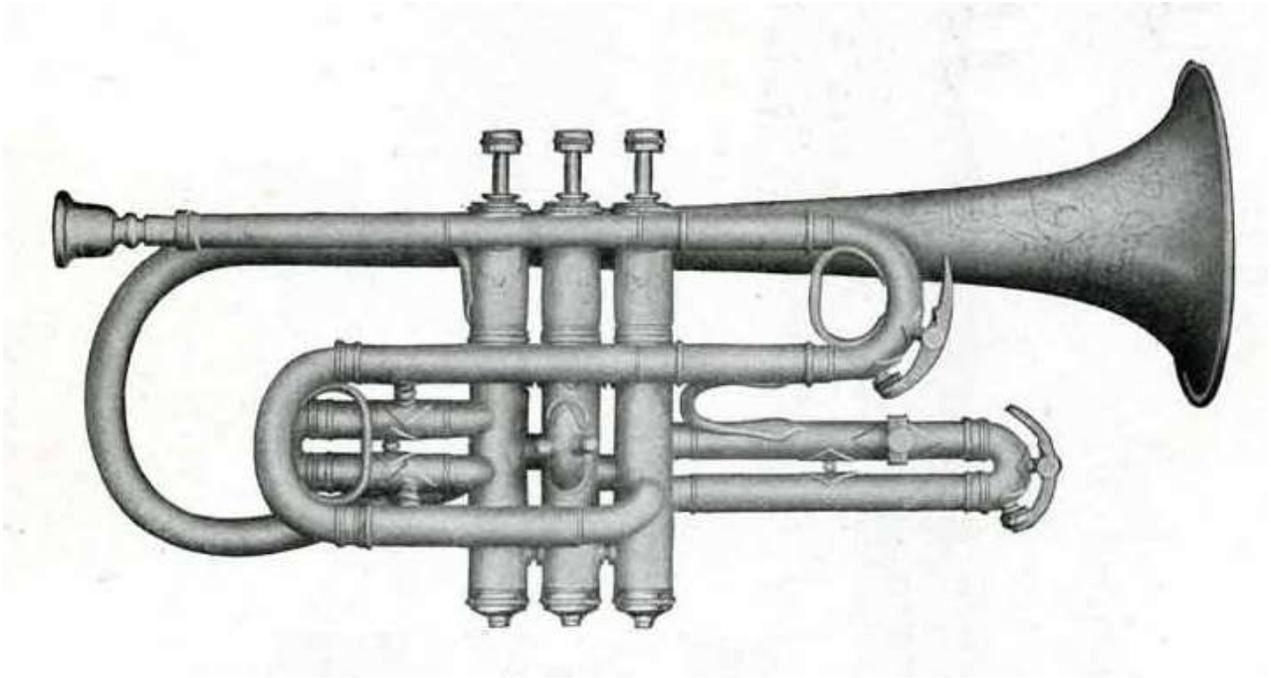


The 1916 catalog has three offerings for cornet.

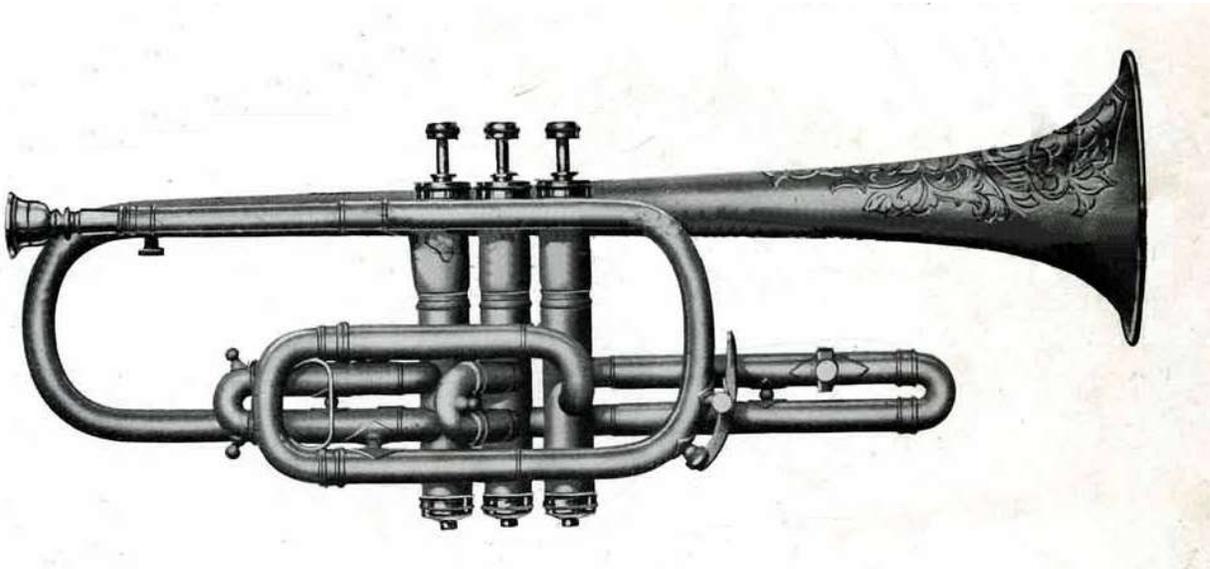
Standard Long model in Bb/A



Standard Long Vocal model in Bb/C



New Superlative model in Bb/A with telescoping lead pipe for quick key change.



#15822 Superlative model c.1917 with rare key change rod





#17886 Superlative model c.1918



#24986 Superlative model c.1920

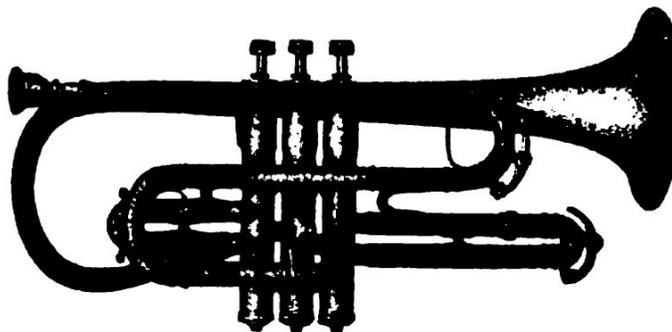
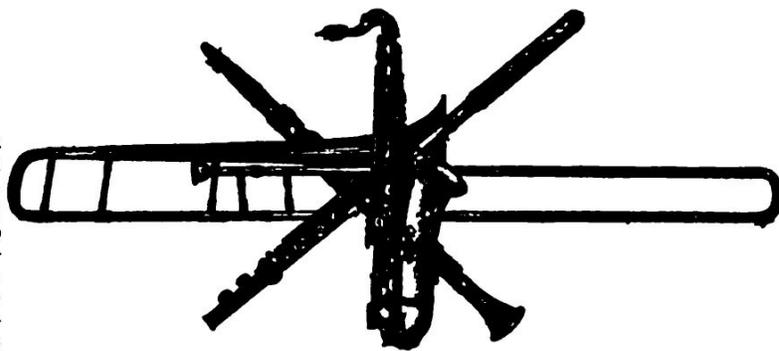


This 1919 ad shows the Long Model Renowned Solo cornet.

Martin Renowned Instruments

are built up to a standard—not down to a price to compete with inferior goods. Those who can appreciate highest quality will recognize in Martin Instruments the greatest value for the money. Musicians can not make a better investment than by purchasing a "Martin."

Every user of a Martin Long Model Renowned Cornet is an involuntary advertiser of its merits. It has won a place in the Sun. Bands using them are assured of a Melody Section of unsurpassed Strength and Beauty.



The Martin Long Model Renowned
Solo Cornet

MADE BY

THE MARTIN BAND INSTRUMENT COMPANY ELKHART, INDIANA

A complete catalog will be mailed to you upon request, illustrating and describing the Highest-Grade Instruments in existence, from Piccolos to Drums, for particular and temperamental musicians of all degrees of proficiency, from amateur to virtuoso.

**ALL MARTIN INSTRUMENTS ARE MADE AND SOLD UNDER A
PERPETUAL, PROTECTIVE GUARANTEE OF
EXCELLENCE AND DURABILITY**

Every musician should send for a copy of "Triumphant Trumpet Tones," published periodically for free distribution; also list of Musicians' Supplies, catalog of music for Bands, Studies and Instruction Books for students, and Solos for all instruments with Band or Piano Accompaniment. All mail answered the same day as received. Address

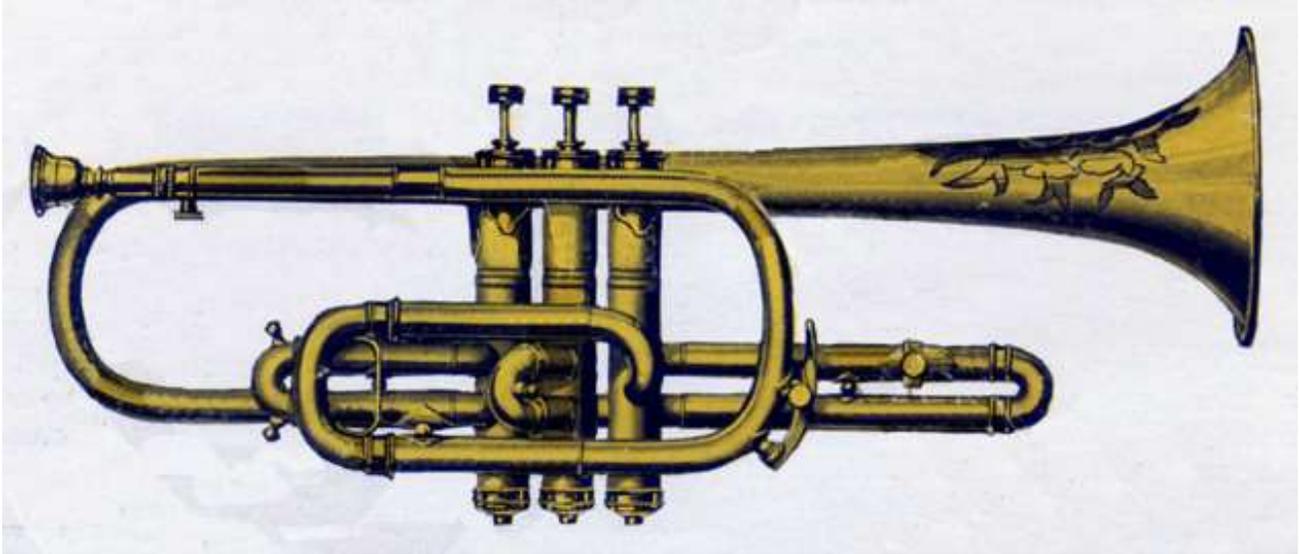
THE MARTIN BAND INSTRUMENT COMPANY, ELKHART, INDIANA

W. J. GRONERT, GENERAL MANAGER

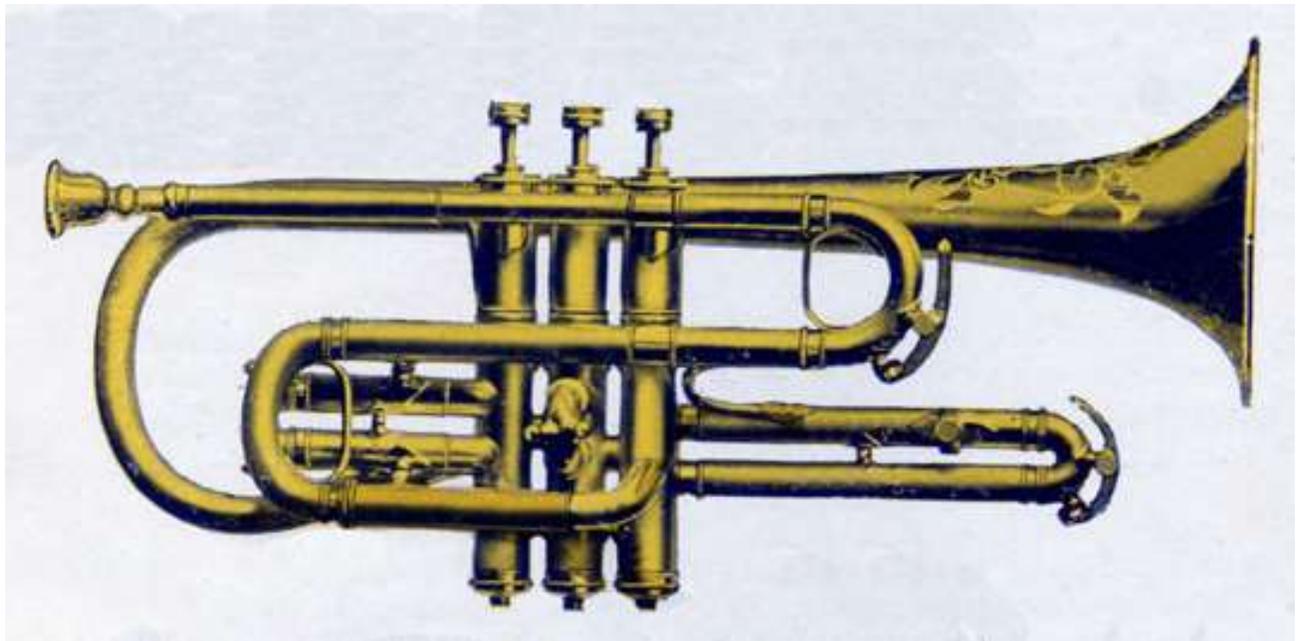
Once a musician accepts Martin service by using a Martin Instrument he is so well and fairly treated that he never forgets, but comes again when he has patronage to bestow and confidently tells his friends, well knowing that they will receive not only courtesy and promptness, but the best service that men of large and long experience in catering to musicians' needs can render.

The Artistic lines please the eye—the splendid tones thrill all within hearing. The perfect tune appeals to the temperamental. The reliable mechanism is a delight to all and makes them fool proof.

**The 1922 catalog introduces the “Handcraft” label for all instruments.
The cornets are the Superlative and Standard (formerly Long) models.**



Standard model of 1922



The 1922 catalog explains the five options for finish:

#1 = Brass

#2 = 4x silver plated, satin finish with burnished engraving

#3 = 4x silver plated, satin finish w/gold bell, trim & engraving

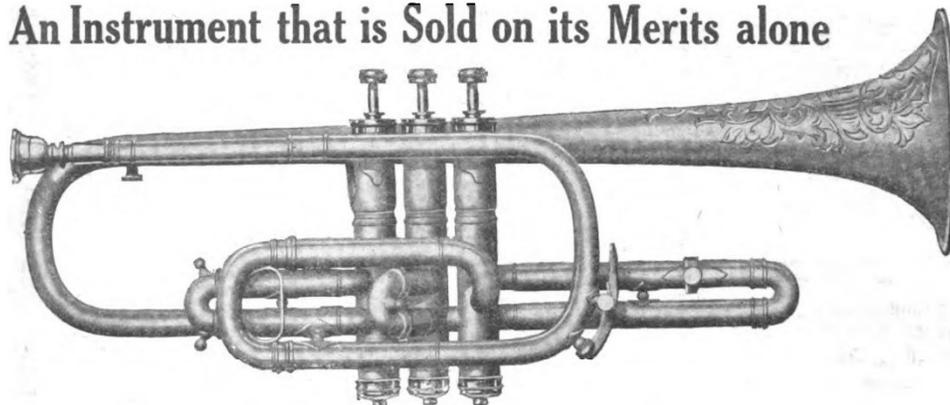
#4 = 4x gold plated over 4x silver plate, satin finish, burnished bell & engraving

Artists' Special = same as #4 but all burnished & special artistic engraving

1920 ad for Superlative cornet

The MARTIN SUPERLATIVE CORNET

An Instrument that is Sold on its Merits alone



More instruments are being sold on their past masters' reputation than on their actual MERITS.

Every Martin Instrument must go through the most severe test.

Our Superlative Cornet is a true Martin product, and an instrument that is the popular choice where perfection of tone, free action, expert workmanship and the best of materials are desired. It

is neat and compact, perfect in balance and has no apologies to offer for numberless contraptions.

Here you have but a skeleton outline – for particulars write for our new complete catalog which will give you a detailed description, and outline an easy way for you to try this instrument to your personal satisfaction.

Write today

THE MARTIN BAND INSTRUMENT CO.

Builders of Instruments of Supreme Quality

ELKHART,

BOX 525.

INDIANA.

#38xxx Superlative model c.1923



After compiling about 600 Martin instruments on a list, the above cornet is the only one found between 1920 and 1928. Perhaps the popularity of the newer trumpet so overshadowed the cornet that few were made or saved.

#91000 Handcraft Superlative cornet c.1928



In 1928 the owners of Martin founded the Indiana Band Instrument Company to make lower-priced band instruments for the student market. The first ones didn't carry the Martin name but were made in the same factory and used their own serial numbers.

Indiana cornet #6874 c.1929 patterned after the Standard model



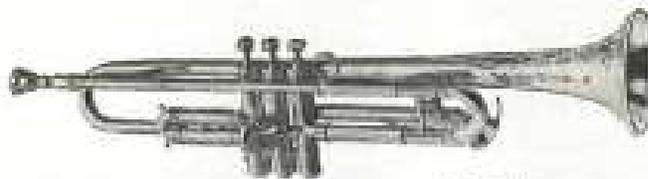
Martin introduces the new Sport model trumpet, cornet & trombone in June of 1930. In August they are having a contest to find a new name for the model. They settle on the "Troubadour". These have a narrow design that became popular in the 1930s.

Troubadour #999xx c.1930

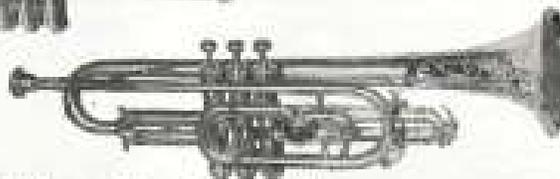


The Sport model ad from 1930

Announcing ▶



**The
NEW**



Sport Model MARTINS

◀ Trumpet - Trombone - Cornet ▶

Distinctly modern; narrow-lined, rakish as a custom-built Sport Model automobile; wondrously graceful; in workmanship worthy of the master artist in metal, Benvenuto Cellini; so easy blowing as to be veritably sensitive to a sigh; built of the finest French light yellow Trumpet Brass hand-hammered to fine and true a temper as to have all the ring and all the carrying power to dominate even a circus band!—*that*, together, with all the other virtues of the world famous Martin *Handcraft* (hand-built) Line, is Martin's New Sport Model Trumpet, Trombone, and Cornet.

A DEALER OPPORTUNITY!

Here is a smashing opportunity to make Real Profits. This New Sport Model Martin is a real business stimulator; you can see, hear, feel its points of difference, its selling qualities. It has universal appeal.

PRIZES FOR A NAME

Along with punchy advertising effort we are stimulating interest in the New Sport Model Martins by offering prizes for a name. For details, drop us a card.

MARTIN

Band Instrument Co., Elkhart, Indiana

#1015xx Troubadour model c.1931 [DeCarlis]

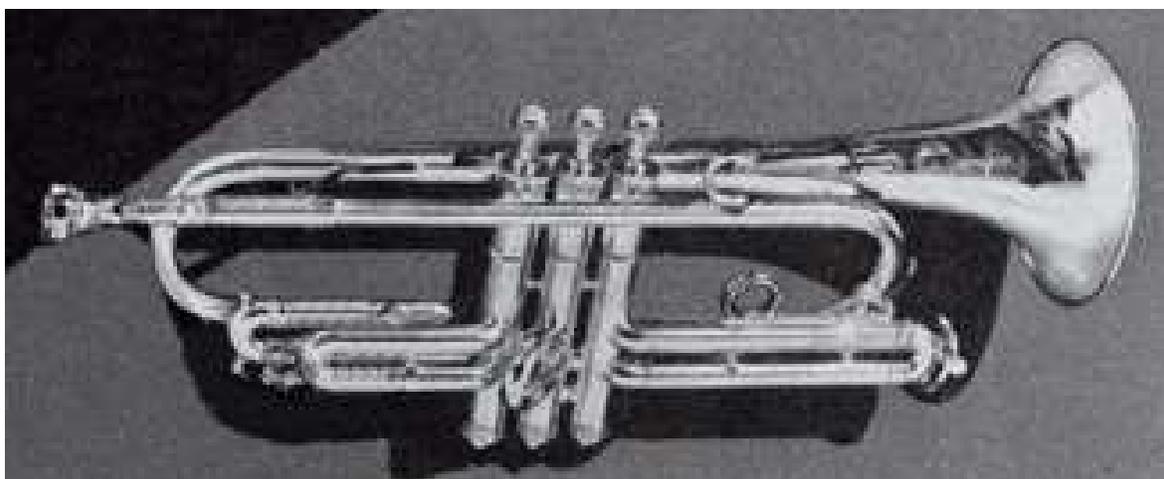


#104xxx Troubadour model c.1932



The 1934 catalog has the Standard and new Imperial model cornets.

1934 Standard



1934 Imperial



1934 Prices

Imperial = \$100 brass; \$105 lacquer; \$110 silver w/gold bell; \$175 gold satin; \$200 gold

Standard = \$85; \$90; \$95; \$160; \$185

Imperial model #111163 c.1935



Imperial model #115337 c.1936



Imperial model #117782 c.1936



Indiana model #17890 c.1936 uses the older Superlative design



Mouthpiece from this time



Handcraft Imperial #136843 c.1940



Martin introduces the new Committee model trumpets & cornets in 1940.

Imperial #1367xx c.1940



Handcraft Standard #140634 c.1940



Handcraft Standard #141955 c.1941



Committee model #1578xx c.1946



By the 1948 catalog, Martin is offering the Committee, Deluxe Committee with nickel silver trim, Imperial and Indiana model cornets.

1948 Committee



Mouthpiece from this time used into the 1960s



1948 Imperial



1948 Indiana



Committee #1702xx c.1950



Committee #1736xx c.1950 (three photos)



Imperial #1771xx c.1951



1959 models were Custom Committee, Deluxe Committee, Deluxe Committee Soloist, Committee, Imperial, and Indiana Chieftan.

Martin was sold to RMC in 1962 and they began adding their logo to the bells.

The Music Man film came out in June, 1962 and Martin started making “The Official Music Man Model” trumpets and cornets.

Imperial Music Man model #2156xx c.1962



Mouthpiece introduced by RMC



Imperial Music Man model #2163xx c.1963



Indiana #1254xx c.1963



1962 models are Deluxe Committee, Imperial, & Indiana

Martin is sold to Wurlitzer in mid-1964 and they introduce the Galaxy & Magna models.

Galaxy #6908xx c.1964



Imperial #7005xx c.1964



Magna model #7039xx c.1964



Imperial #7055xx c.1965



Deluxe model #7143xx c.1967



1967 models are Deluxe, Magna, & Imperial

Mouthpieces probably introduced by Wurlitzer in the 1960s.



Magna #7150xx c.1967



The highest cornet number I have found so far is 715952 from c.1967. There are so few examples from this time that dating them is uncertain, but all cornet production would have ended in 1971 when Martin was sold to Leblanc.