



Getzen Trumpets / 1947-1960

The first Getzen trumpets were made in 1947. The instruments highlighted here are those made up until 1960 when the company was sold to Harold Knowlton.

Model 90 #5628 c.1947 (National Music Museum)

Even this early trumpet has a coupler for the separate bell crook. Brett Getzen says that this was done to make replacing a damaged crook easier.



Model 90 #8815 c.1948 (Horn-u-copia.net)



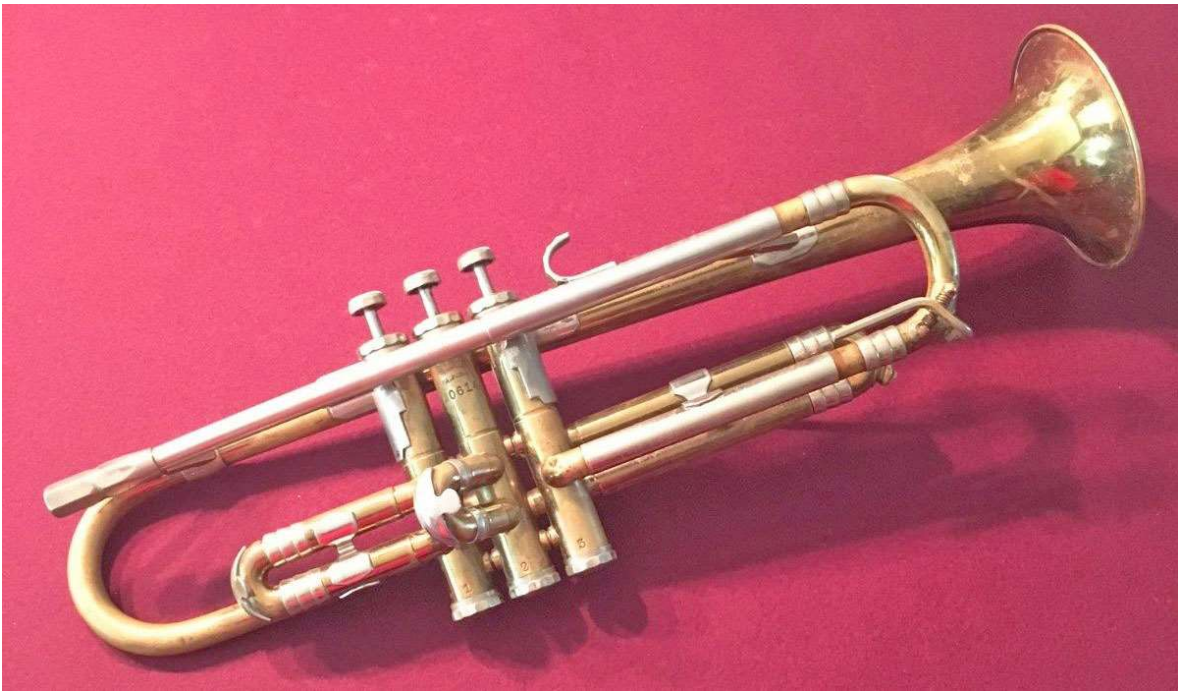
Model 90 #18962 c.1950 (auction photo)

By this time they are using new receivers, slide bracing, & ferrules.

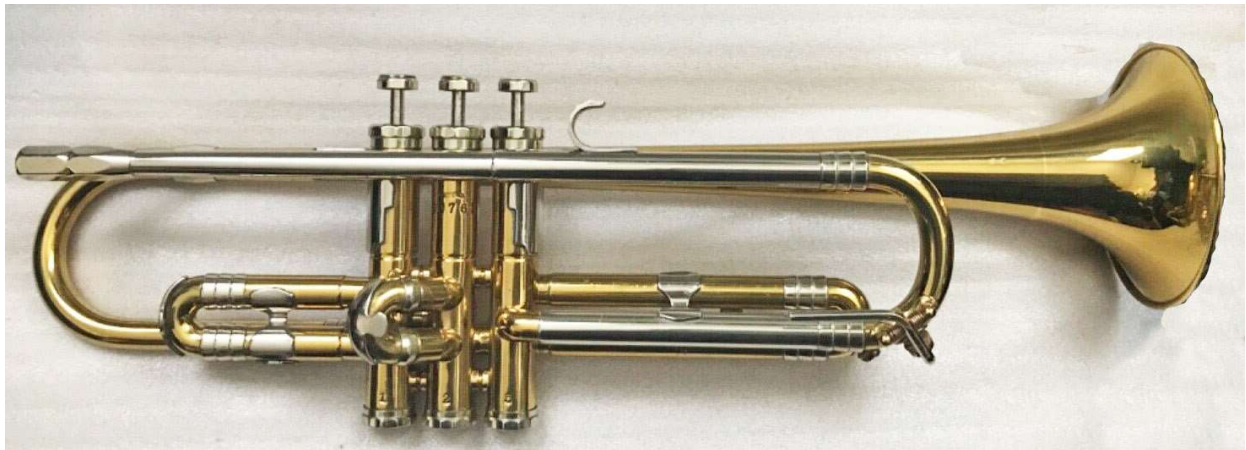


Most trumpets are marked "Pat. Pend." above the serial number. This is said by Brett Getzen to have been a marketing ploy and not related to a real patent application.

Model 90 Deluxe #20614 c.1950 (auction photo)



Model 90 Deluxe #20761 c.1950 (auction photo)



Model 90 Deluxe #23292 c.1950 (auction photo)



Model 90 #24779 c.1951 (auction photo)



Model Super 91 #25566 c.1951 w/Sterling silver bell (Dillon's Music)



Model 90 Deluxe #28046 c.1952 (auction photo)



Model 90 #31574 c.1952 (auction photo)



The valve to bell bracing, slide bracing and slide pulls all appear to be stamped pieces. Perhaps this saved on costs in manufacturing and soldering.

Custom Model #31890 c.1952 (auction photo)

This is the earliest use I have found of the tone ring on the bell flair and the copper ferrules.



Super Deluxe Tone Balanced Model with Copra-Temp bell #41483 c.1954 (auction photo)
These have copper bells and lead pipes. The Super Deluxe model 90 is the same design as the older 90 Deluxe, but with cosmetic changes.



Super Deluxe Tone Balanced Model with Copra-Temp bell #44611 c.1954 (auction photo)



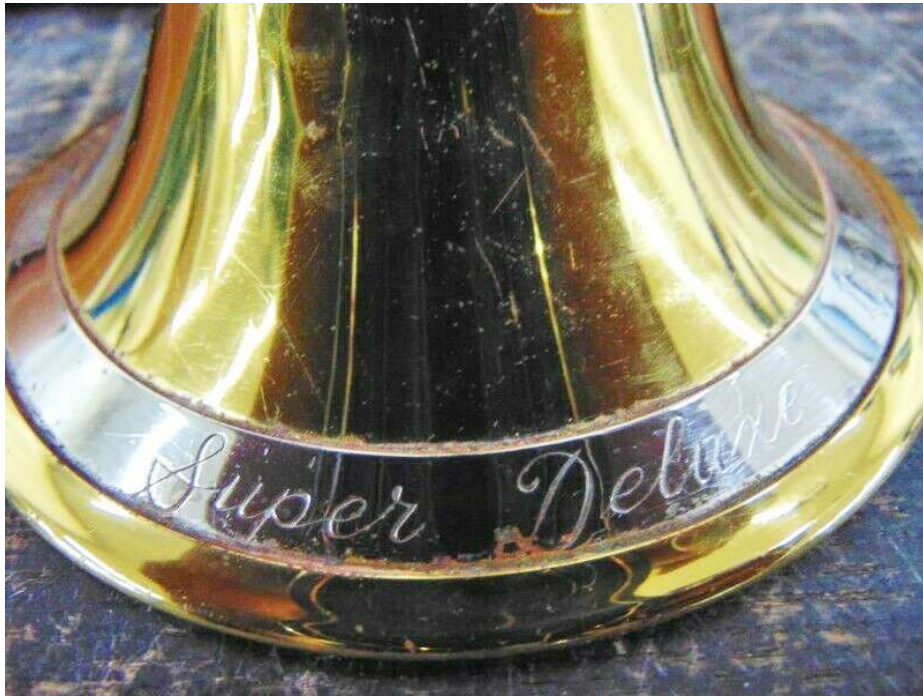
Super Deluxe model #46727 c.1954 (auction photo)



Super Deluxe Model #52098 c.1955 (auction photo)

This example has blocks to brace the bell and valve branches rather than the stamped parts.





Super Deluxe Tone Balanced Model #52706 c.1955 (auction photo)



Super Deluxe Tone-Balanced model #58585 c.1955



Super Deluxe Model #68377 c.1956 (auction photo)



Super Deluxe Tone Balanced Model w/copper lead pipe #73477 c.1956 (Simon G. collection)



This is Getzen's height of color-mixing with three different metals used.

Case for #73477



Custom 90 Power Bore Model #73967 c.1956 (author's collection)
This is the earliest example I have found of the 90PB model and in mint original condition.



Super Deluxe Tone Balanced model #74600 c.1956 (auction photo)



Custom 90PB Power Bore model #78454 c.1956 (auction photo)



Custom 90 Power Bore model #91424 c.1957 (Raferty collection)



Super Deluxe Tone-Balanced model #91962 c.1957 (auction photo)



Custom 90 Power Bore model #92723 c.1957 (auction photo)



Custom 90 PB Power Bore model #92991 c.1957 (auction photo)



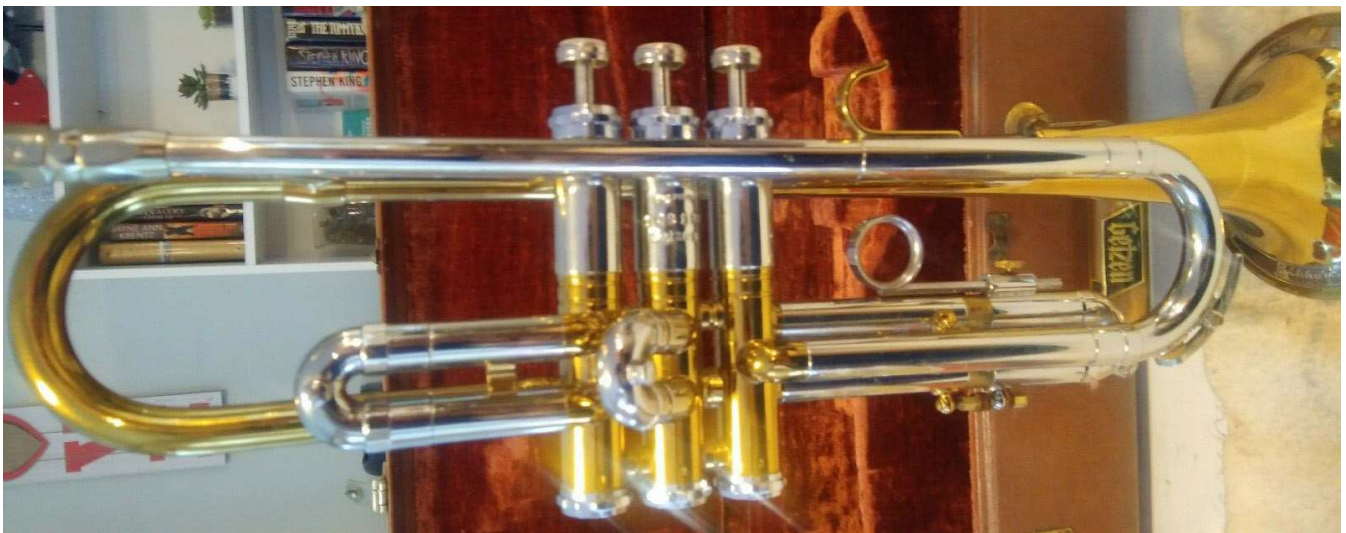
Custom 90 Multi-Duty model #103342 c.1958 (auction photo)



Custom 90 Power Bore model #103412 c.1958 (photo courtesy of Blaine Kelley)



Custom model #109190 c.1958 (auction photo)



The trumpet offerings in the July 1960 price list were:

Custom 90PB Power Bore = \$210 (+\$30 for Copra-Temp bell)

Model 90 in Bb with brass bell = \$138.50

Model 90C in C with brass bell = \$148.50

Model 90D in D with brass bell = \$148.50

Model 92 in Bb with Copra-Temp bell = \$148.50

Model 93 Herald in Bb = \$138.50

Model 96 in Eb with brass bell = \$138.50

Model 201 Bb Elkhorn = \$79.50 (see next page)

[Interestingly, the model 90MD Custom Multi-Duty does not appear on this list even though I have seen it for the same \$210 price in an undated ad. Perhaps they had ended it by 1960.]

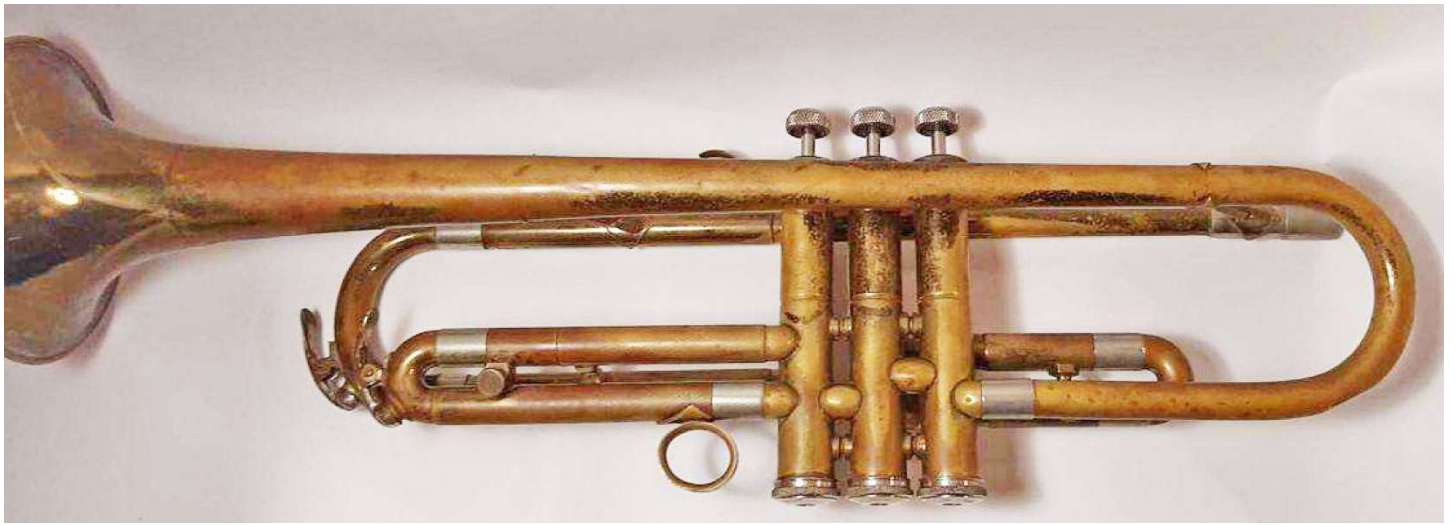
Getzen also made the “Elkhorn” line of instruments starting in 1947. These were less-expensive models that have simple bent rods for braces and all brass parts.

Elkhorn #E1509 c.1947 (auction photos)



Elkhorn #E3215 c.1947 (auction photos)





Elkhorn with unknown #



The Elkhorn line appears to continue until they sell the business in October of 1960.

The final group of Getzen trumpets are these marked "Beacon Boston". They were sold as stencils for the Beacon Musical Instrument Co in Boston and date to the 1940s and 1950s.

Beacon #1184 c.1947 appears to be an Elkhorn model (auction photo).
Notice that these have the same receivers as the early Getzens.

[Note: not all instruments with the Beacon name are from Getzen]



Beacon #17075 c.1950 with the same unique bell coupler used by Getzen (auction photo)



Beacon #27573 c.1952 uses the same bent rods for bell braces as the Elkhorn (auction photo)



1959 ad for new Thumb-Touch Tuning in Down Beat magazine.

A REVOLUTIONARY NEW TRUMPET

Thumb-Touch Tuning

brings you the **FIRST**
AMERICAN-MADE TRUMPET
that can be **PLAYED EXACTLY**
IN TUNE AT ALL TIMES!



The horn that took the Music Show by storm is the sensational new Getzen trumpet with Thumb-Touch Tuning. Product of over ten years' research, extensive clinic exposure and professional evaluation, this instrument has been pronounced "the most perfect playing trumpet ever produced."

What does Thumb-Touch Tuning do? It tunes 3rd valve notes . . . it tunes 1st valve notes . . . it tunes 2nd valve notes . . . it tunes any and all notes of the entire instrument *while playing* — easily, quickly, exactly.

Tuning, the traditional bugaboo of trumpet players, has finally been mastered. Whether the horn is warm from playing or cool from resting, and no matter which valve or combination of valves is used, Getzen Thumb-Touch Tuning means finest possible intonation.

If accurate intonation really matters to you in your musical advancement, you owe yourself this amazing new trumpet. See your dealer now, or write us.

THIS IS THUMB-TOUCH TUNING

Instrument is first tuned in usual manner with regular tuning slide. Normal holding position places left thumb over hinge of touch-tuning lever. By rocking thumb up or down, pitch is lowered or raised effortlessly to desired degree. Pat. pending.

Getzen 90XX Thumb-Touch Trumpet with Gladstone Case \$168.50

Getzen 90PBXX Custom Thumb-Touch Trumpet with Gladstone Case \$240.00

the **GETZEN CO.,** inc. | ELKHORN, WISCONSIN

September 3, 1959 • 35

The photo isn't clear, but this appears to have a thumb lever that moves the bell tail.

The 1960 price list doesn't offer this option, so perhaps it was quickly dropped.

1959 ad for a slide trumpet.

Bobby Hackett says:

“TERRIFIC ... every brass man will want one.”



**GETZEN
Bb SLIDE
TRUMPET**

• Bobby Hackett, top TV and recording star.



**ONLY
\$19⁹⁵**
with instruction book
(Cornet same price)

Cornet players . . . trumpet players . . . trombone players . . . beginners too — for those new effects that are impossible with any other instrument, get this sensational Getzen Slide Trumpet. A genuine musical instrument, same true tone as ANY trumpet, with full range and accurate A-440 pitch. Ruggedly built of brass, polished and lacquered, Getzen-guaranteed. Easy to play — learn quickly with furnished instruction book.

Same slide principle as standard trombone, with slide positions plainly marked on outside slide. Lightning action, tunable, any mouthpiece fits. At music dealers, or write us.

THE GETZEN CO., INC.
Elkhorn, Wisconsin

FLASH! FLASH!

Since this ad went to press, the following great names have been added to the rapidly growing list of Getzen Slide Trumpet enthusiasts:

- ★ **JOHN (DIZZY) GILLESPIE** (“‘S a gasser!!!”)
- ★ **DUKES of DIXIELAND**—Frank and Fred Assunto
- ★ **UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN**—Five star trumpeters under Ray Dvorak
- ★ **CBS-TV CHICAGO ORCHESTRA**—Louis Panico, Joe Silvia, Warren Kime
- ★ **SKITCH HENDERSON**—Doc Severinsen, Yank Lawson
- ★ **LOUIS (SATCHMO) ARMSTRONG**

January 8, 1959 • 39

One example found at an online auction.

