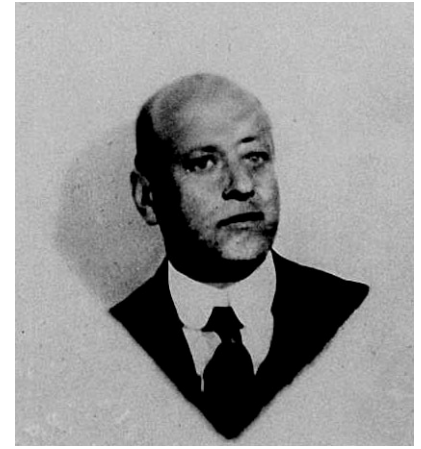


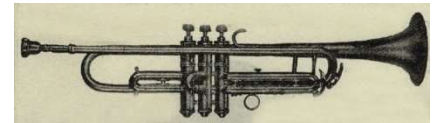
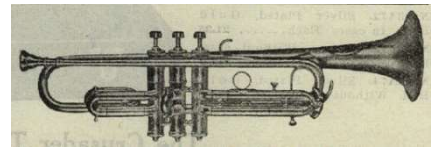
Fred Gretsch Manufacturing Co.

New York City

- 1873 Friedrich W. Gretsch (1856-1895) emigrates from Manheim, Germany to NY, merchant (immigration).
- 1880 Frederick Gretsch, music store bookkeeper, #200 S. 5th St., Brooklyn (census).
- 1883 Fredrick establishes music business in Brooklyn (Gretsch).
- 1884 Frederick is naturalized; shop at #379 Broadway (dir).
- 1885 Gretsch is a drum maker, #132 1st St (dir).
- 1886 Gretsch moves to #134 1st St (dir).
- 1889 Now at #130-132 Middleton St (dir).
- 1893 Moves to #104-108 S. 4th St., drums, 15 workers (dir. & NY Factory Report).
- 1895 Fredrick dies on a trip to Germany on April 30th, leaving son Fred (1880-after 1948, photo 1) in charge at 15 (Gretsch). The factory now has 26 workers (NY Report).
- 1898 Factory now down to 16 workers (NY Report).
- c.1905 Incorporates as Fred Gretsch Manuf. Co (before 1906).
- 1914 A new seven-story concrete warehouse is to be built at Berry & South 5th St (*Brooklyn Eagle*).
- 1915 Move to new building at #60 Broadway (Gretsch Building #4). Fred is president & GM; brother Walter (1882-1940) is sec & treas. Selling 20th Century model percussion, Rex model stringed instruments, and Gretsch Made cornets, trombones, altos, basses & other brass (*Music Trade Rev.*).
- 1921 #52-80 Broadway (dir). Fred opens offices in Paris (#39 Rue Greneata) & Markneukirchen and makes visits to France, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Great Britian & Belgium to buy supplies (*Music Trade Rev.*).
- 1922 They add the Couturier line of band instruments.
- 1920s & 1930s Trumpets are made by Couesnon (Fred W. Gretsch).
- 1924 Gretsch receives a shipment of "20th Century" Sousaphones manufactured for them (*MTR*). Open new showrooms in NYC (#126 W. 34th) & Chicago (#209 S. State St.) by October (*MTR*).
- 1926 Fred Jr. finishes college and starts learning the business.



- 1927 Ad for “Gretsch American” band instruments.
- 1930 Open large branch in Chicago, #226 S. Wabash with William Gretsch (*MTR*).
- 1933 Ad for New Yorker model trumpets & cornets.
- 1942 Fred Sr. retires (Gretsch).
- 1948 William Walter Gretsch (1906-1948, photo below from 1927) dies leaving brother Fred Jr. (1905-1980, photo 2 on page 1 from passport) in charge.



- 1967 Fred Jr. retires and sells the company to Baldwin Music.
- 1968 Still at #60 Broadway; distributor for Couesnon brass (ad).
- 1985 Fred W. Gretsch buys the company back and starts drum production in Ridgeland, SC (Gretsch).
- 2005 Gretsch celebrates 125 years in business.

Page 1 cornets: Commander (possible Pedler), Pathfinder, Pan American stencil (#P13517 = 1920), President (Pedler Art model) & American (Czech. Made)

Page 2 brass: 1933 New Yorker cornet, 1933 New Yorker Trumpet, American Crusader, Gretsch American, Artist model cornet (probably Pedler Art model), baritone, & Gretsch Imperial trumpet (Blessing Super Artist or copy)

Gretsch brass come from a variety of sources in the US and Europe. The style, serial numbers and other markings would need to be used to identify the sources.

Photos from Horn-u-copia.net except first two this page from 1933 catalog.