

Ludwig Musical Instruments

St Louis – Chicago - Elkhart

There were several Ludwig names in the musical instrument business. Brass instruments can be found under the following names.

Ludwig Music House – St Louis, Missouri

- 1876 Alexander Leo Ludwig (1853-?) starts a musical instrument business in St Louis (Saxophone.org).
- 1884 Ludwig music at 703 Market St, St Louis (directory).
- 1890 Ludwig music is now at 514 Walnut St (directory).
- 1900 Alexander Ludwig, music dealer. Charles Grohe, clerk in music store (census).
- 1904 Ludwig retires and sells to business partner Charles Grohe (1868-1948) (Saxophone.org).
- 1920 Charles E. Grohe, music dealer, born in Austria (census).
- 1920s Ludwig Music House is selling stencils of Conn & Buescher saxophones (Saxophone.org).
- 1937 Photo 2 is a Ludwig Standard mellophone with serial number R54xx. This would imply a stencil made by Windsor, a division of Buescher, in 1937.
- 1940 Charles E. Grohe, owner of music store (census).

Brass instruments found are marked “Ludwig Standard St Louis Mo.” and date to the 1930s and 1940s (photos 1-4 from Horn-u-copia.net).

Ludwig & Ludwig – Chicago & Elkhart

- 1909 Ludwig & Ludwig is founded in Chicago by William F. Ludwig (1879-1973) and brother Theobald (1888-1917) (Edmund Bowles in Grove’s Dictionary of Music).
- 1913 William Ludwig patents a pedal timpani with brother-in-law Robert Danly (Bowles).
- 1922 Ludwig & Ludwig is at 1611 N. Lincoln St, Chicago (*MTR*).
- 1927 William Ludwig contracts with the William Frank Co to make G/D bugles with a horizontal piston valve (WFL Jr letter, 1995).
- 1929 Conn announces that they have purchased Ludwig & Ludwig and combined them with Leedy Mfg in Elkhart, Indiana. William (photo 5) will remain as the manager (*Music Trade Review*, Oct 1).



- 1937 William Ludwig resigns from Conn and starts the WFL Drum Co in Chicago on Damien Ave (Ludwig-Drums.com).
- 1938 William F. Ludwig Jr joins the company (L-D.com)
- 1951 Conn combines their companies to form Leedy & Ludwig (L-D.com).
- 1955 WFL buys the Ludwig name from Conn and forms the Ludwig Drum Co (L-D.com).
- 1958 Ludwig Drum Co registers the Ludwig name trademark. They are at 1728-42 N. Damien Ave, Chicago. The first use of the name was in 1908 (trademark records).
- 1968 The name changes to Ludwig Industries (L-D.com).
- 1972 William F. Ludwig II becomes company president (L-D.com)
- 1981 Ludwig Industries is sold to Selmer (L-D.com).
- 1984 Ludwig moves to Monroe, NC (L-D.com).

Some of the bugles are said to be made by the Frank Holton Co. It's doubtful that the Ludwig company actually made any brass instruments.

Instruments here are from auction photos or Horn-u-copia.net.

