

# J. W. York Trumpets

Grand Rapids, Michigan

1904-1972

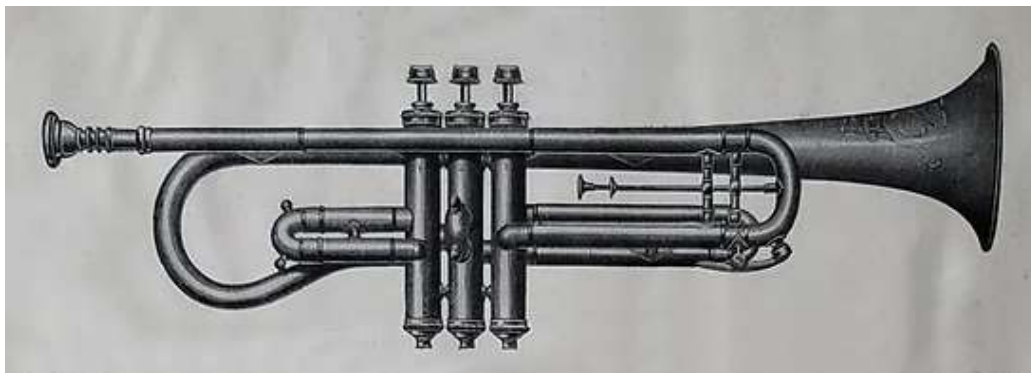
## Shepherd's Crook Trumpet Model

Based on examples found, the earliest trumpet made by York is this shepherd's crook design which started about 1904. Serial numbers range from 10088 to 30000 so date to the 1904 to 1912 period.

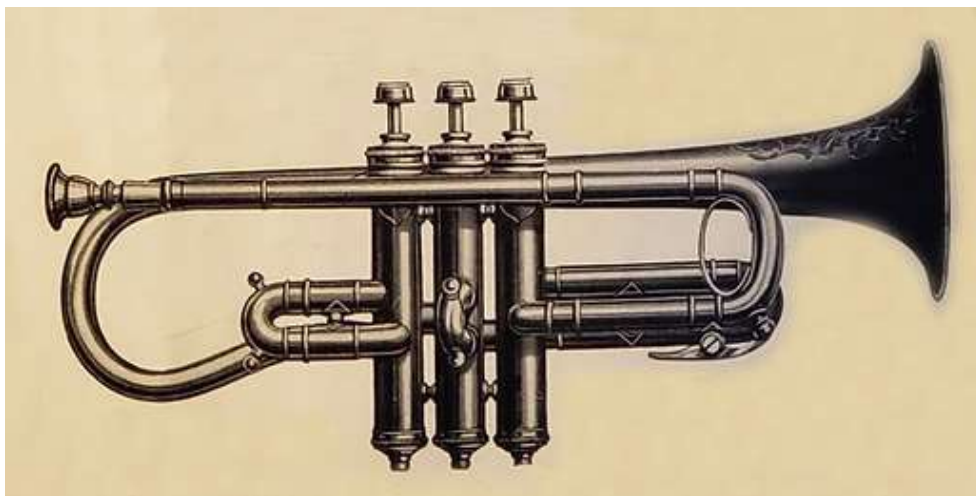
#14191 c.1906



The Bb example below is in the 1908 catalog and in brass was model 53.



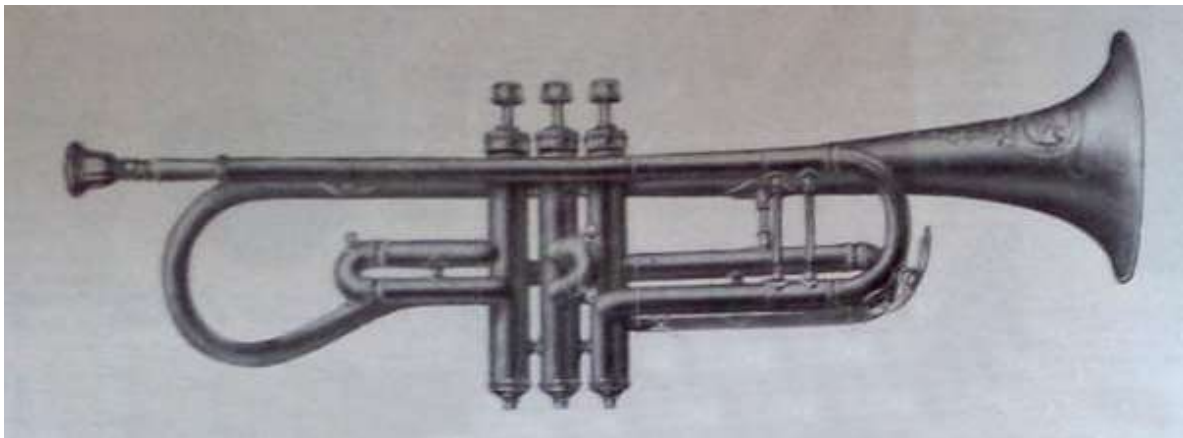
This Eb trumpet was also in the 1908 catalog and was the model 1 in brass.



#20646 c.1909 – by now it had lost the stop rod on the tuning slide



The Bb model in the 1910 catalog with a slight design change.



#28466 c.1911 – the only example to match the 1910 catalog exactly



## Metropolitan Trumpet

The January, 1912 edition of *Music Trade Review* announces a new trumpet being made by York called the Metropolitan. Serial numbers for these are in the 30000 to 81000 range dating them to the 1912 to 1925 period. Some of these have a Bb/A rotary valve, and all have a ring on the third slide with a stop rod.

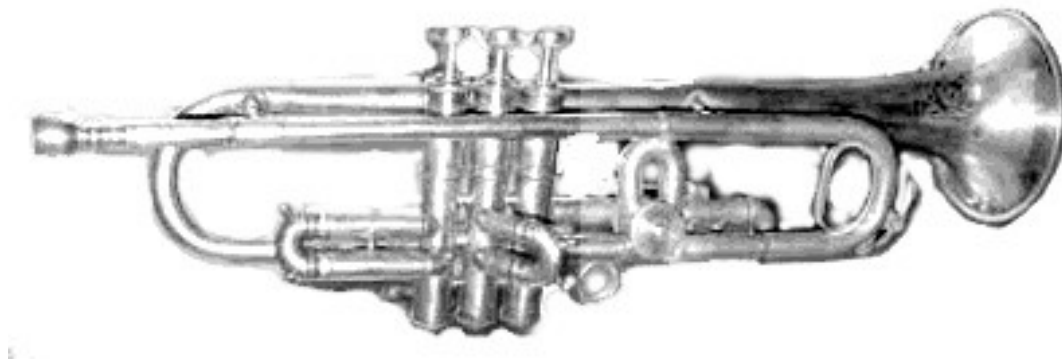
Metropolitan #30613 c.1912



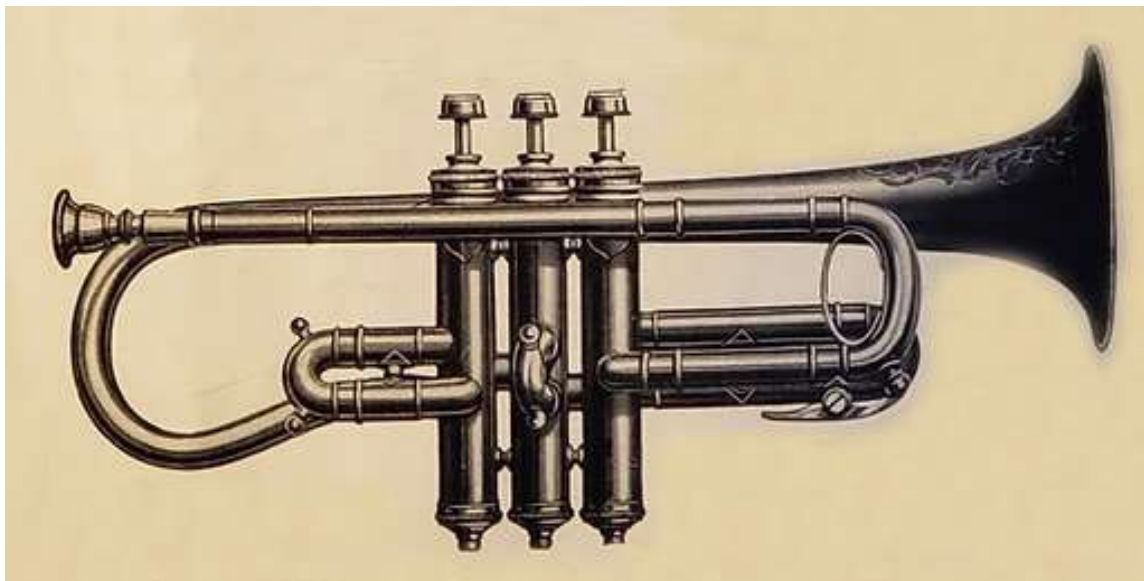
Trumpet #33146 c.1912



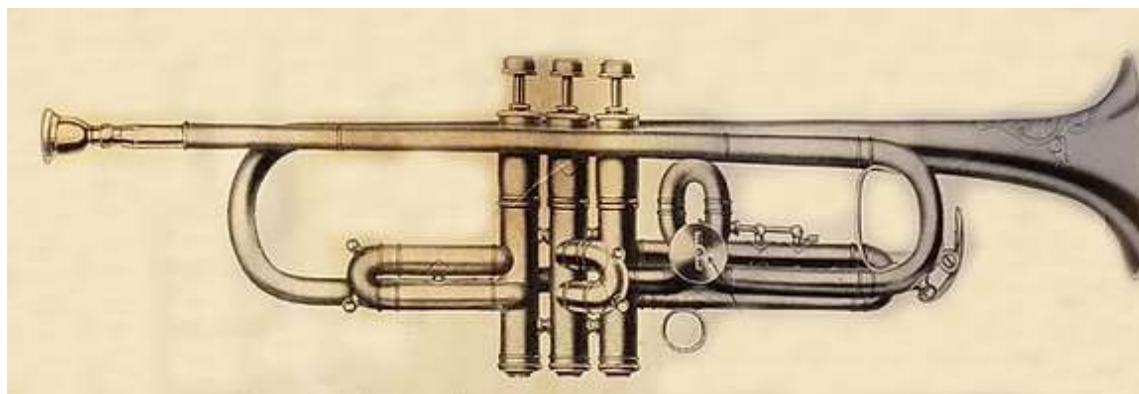
Metropolitan #41630 c.1915



The 1916 catalog has the same Eb trumpet as in 1908 which now is the model 2.  
14" long with a 4" bell



The model 105 Metropolitan in 1916; 19.25" long and a 4.75" bell.



Metropolitan #44001 c.1916



The model 105 Metropolitan is the only trumpet listed in 1917.

Metropolitan #53139 c.1918



Metropolitan #55606 c.1919



#58000 c.1920



Metropolitan #59109 c.1920



Metropolitan #65142 c.1922



#75457 c.1924



The bell still says "York & Sons" so would date before the 1926 change.

This example with unknown serial number does not have the tuning slide brace.



Metropolitan #78251 c.1924

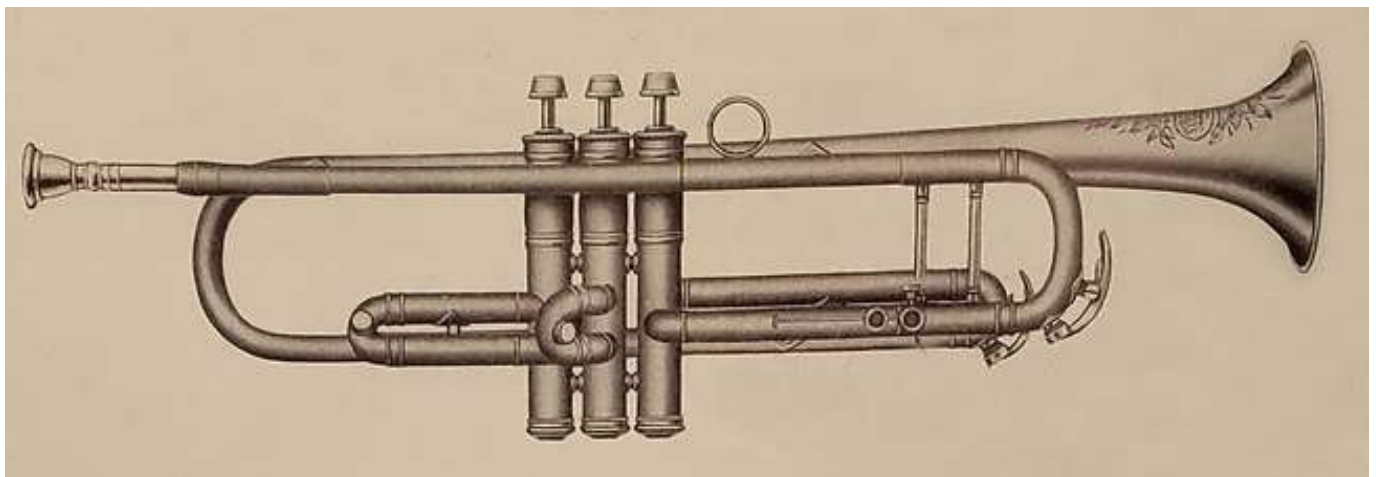


### **Double Slide Brace Trumpets**

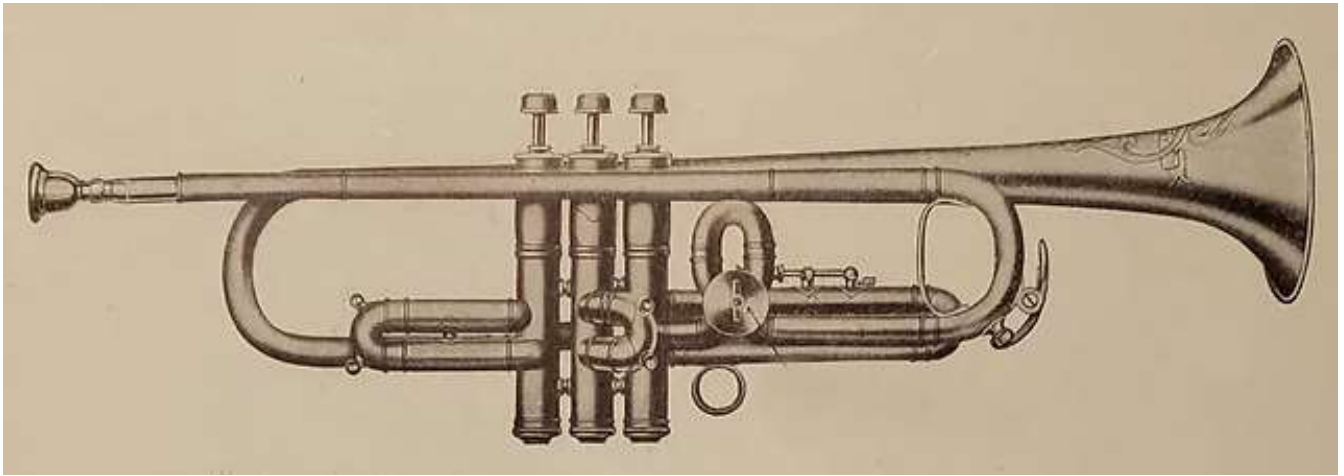
The next trumpets to appear have a double brace on the main tuning slide and the slide knobs have mother of pearl inserts. These have serial numbers in the 81000 to 97000 range and date to the 1925 to 1929 period.

1925 Model 60 Small Bore Trumpet in Bb/A – 18.5” long, 4” bell

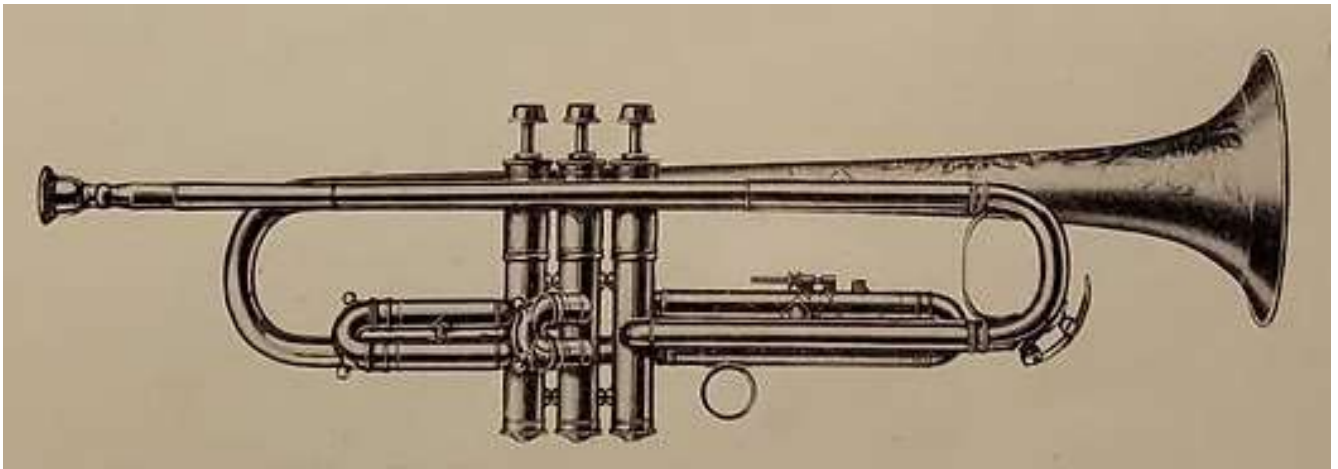
The Model 62 was the same design but in C/Bb/A



1925 Model 64 Metropolitan in Bb/A Low Pitch – 19.625” long, 4.5” bell



1925 Model 70 in Bb/A (#71 added high pitch) – 19.625” long, 4.5” bell



Model 70 #79209 c.1925





Model 70 #79214 c.1925



Metropolitan Model 70 #80973 c.1925 (author's collection)  
This model has a large 0.468" bore and the "frosted" silver finish.





Model 60? #81486 c.1925



Model 60 #81575 c.1925



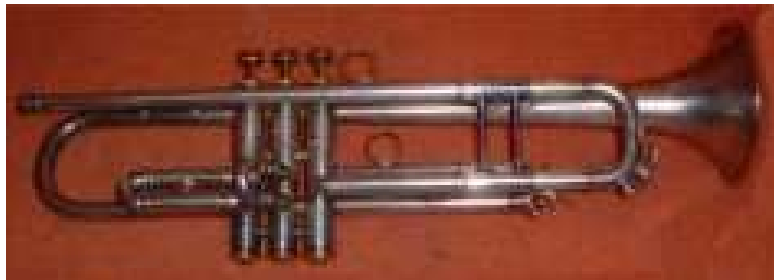
Model 60 #87562 c.1927



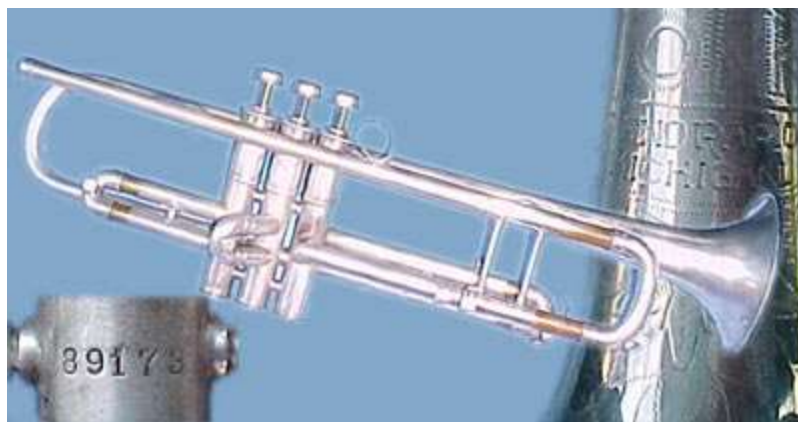
Model 60 #87669 c.1927



#88535 c.1927



#89173 c.1927



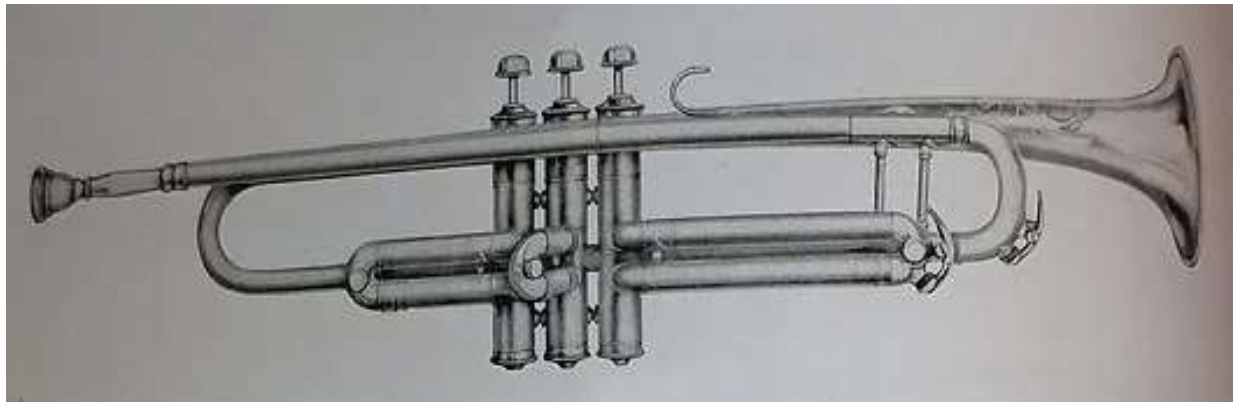
#90947 c.1928



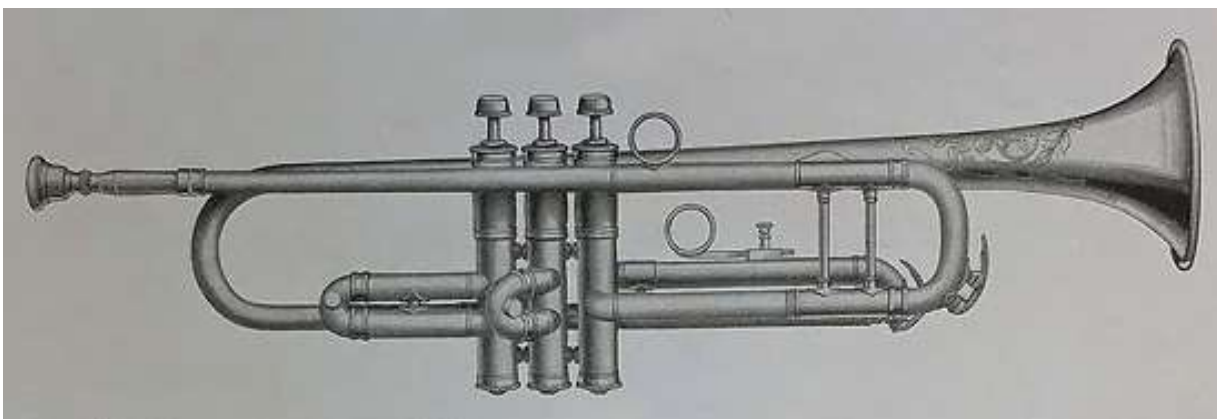
#91776 c.1928 – now marked “York Band Inst. Co.” reflecting the new name



1931 Model 28 Medium bore Trumpet in Bb/A – 21.5” long, 4.5” bell



1931 Model 30 Small bore Trumpet



This same 1931 design also had several other variations:

Model 32 in small bore in C/Bb/A

Model 36 in medium bore

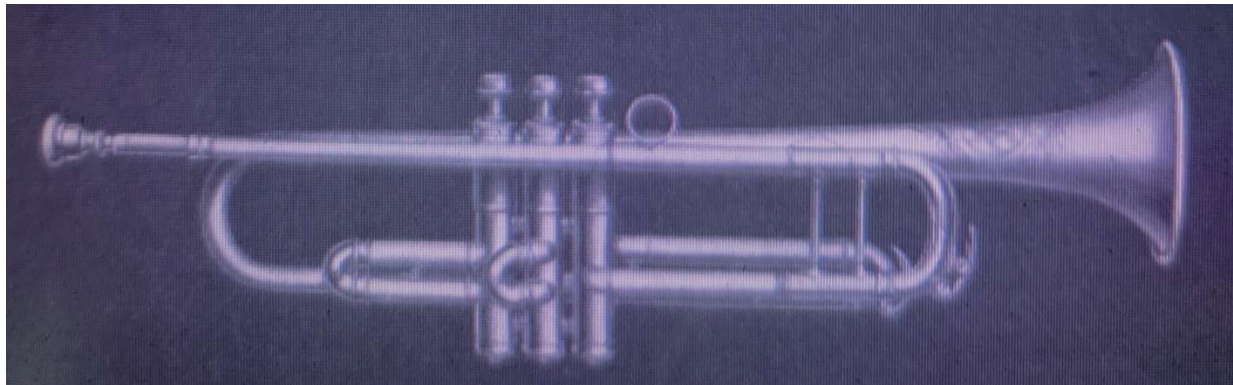
Model 38 in medium bore in C/Bb/A

Model 40 in large bore

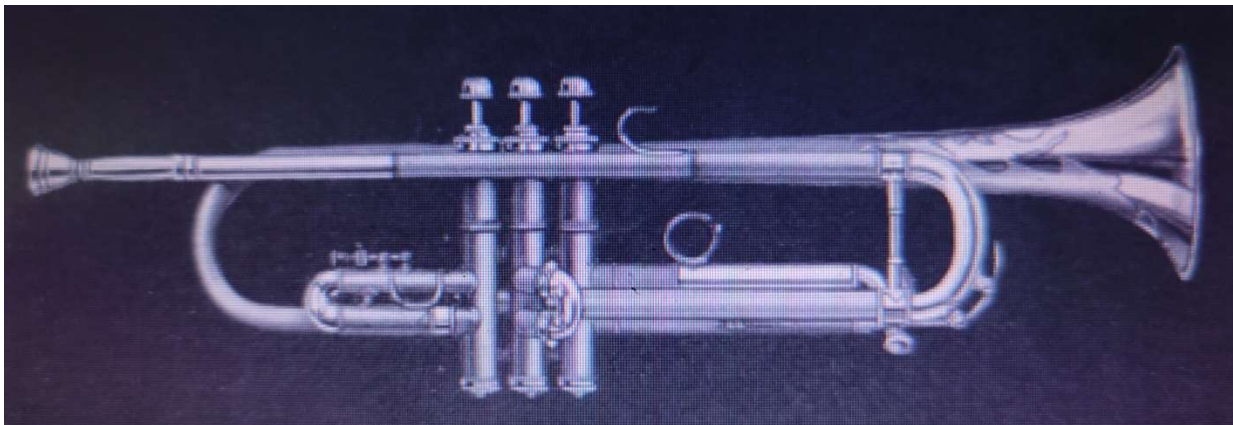
Model 30 or 36 #101735 c.1932



1935 Standard Model 36 advertising image



1935 new Model 42 professional trumpet – these utilized the new valve design which was later called “Feather Touch”



In 1935, professional player James Stamp switched to using the Model 42.



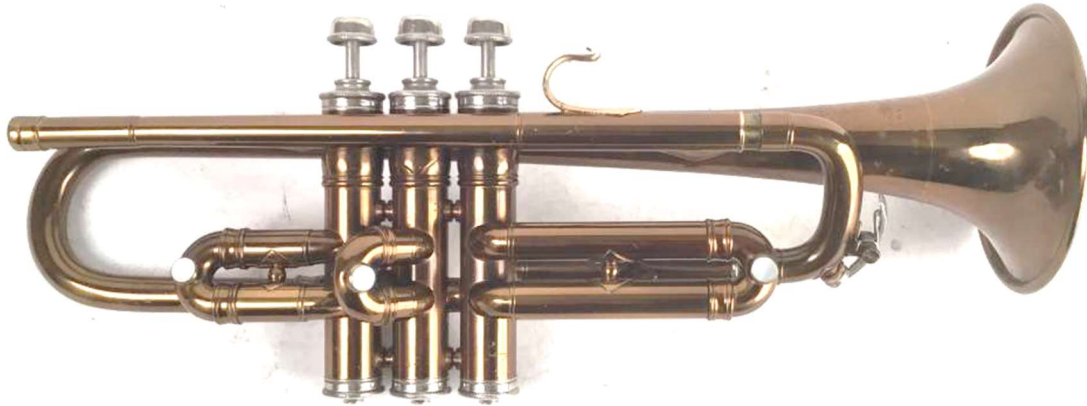
Model 28 #108770 c.1935



Model 28 #111543 c.1937



Eb trumpet #114293 c.1937



Eb trumpet #114304 c.1937



### **Airflow Trumpet**

York applied for the Airflow design patent on November 24, 1939 and received it on April 2, 1940. This very unique design was only built for a few years, yet is now very popular with collectors. Serial numbers are in the 121000 to 125000 range and date to the 1938 to 1941 period.

#120725 c.1938



#121064 c.1939



The Airflow Design Drawing

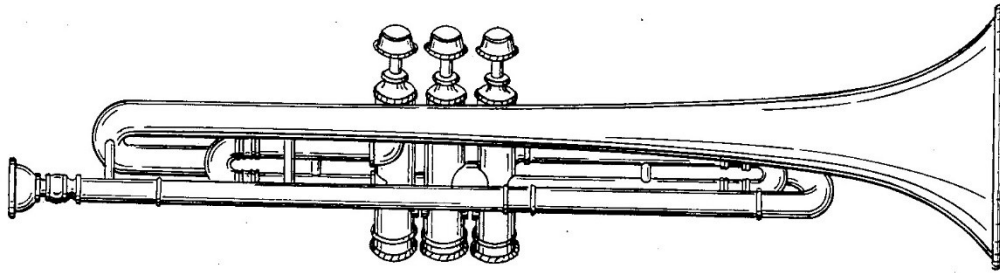


Fig. 1

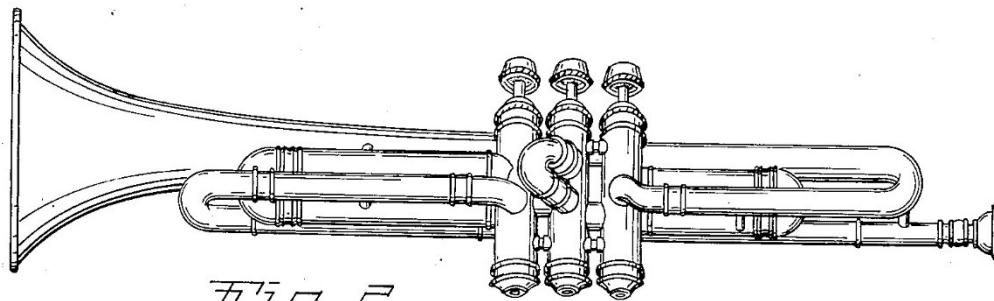
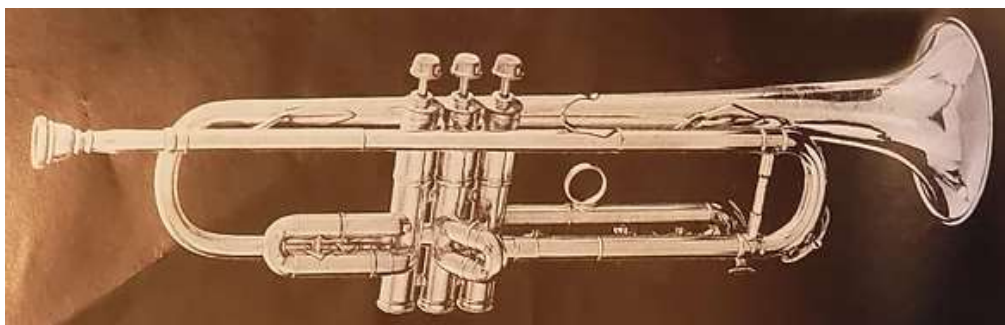


Fig. 2



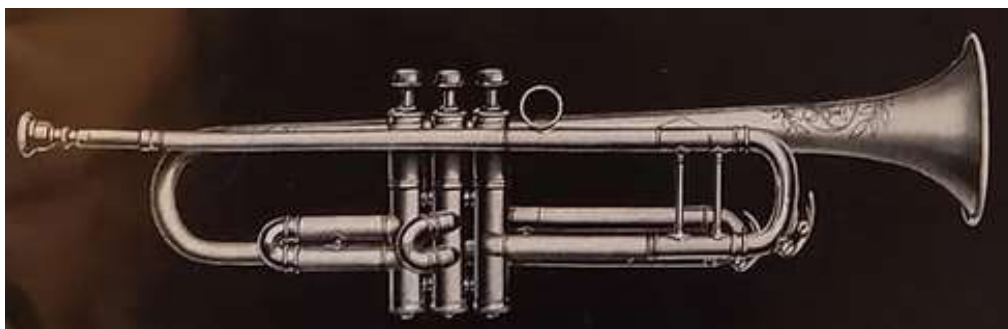
1939 Deluxe 42 model from their catalog – by this time they dropped the first slide saddle  
Also available as a special-order Symphony bore with one-piece bell.



1939 Model 28 Deluxe – medium bore



1939 Model 36 Standard



1941 Model 42? – 0.460” bore, 2-piece 4.55” bell - #124081



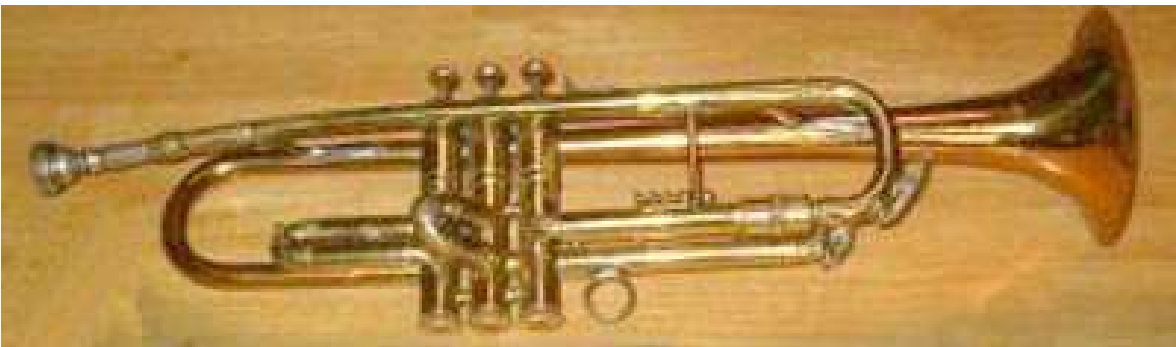
## Custom Trumpets

The York Custom trumpets have serial numbers in the 129000 to 195000 range dating them to the post-war 1945 to 1955 period. These have a tuning slide lock and bottom third slide ring.

Custom #128957 c.1942

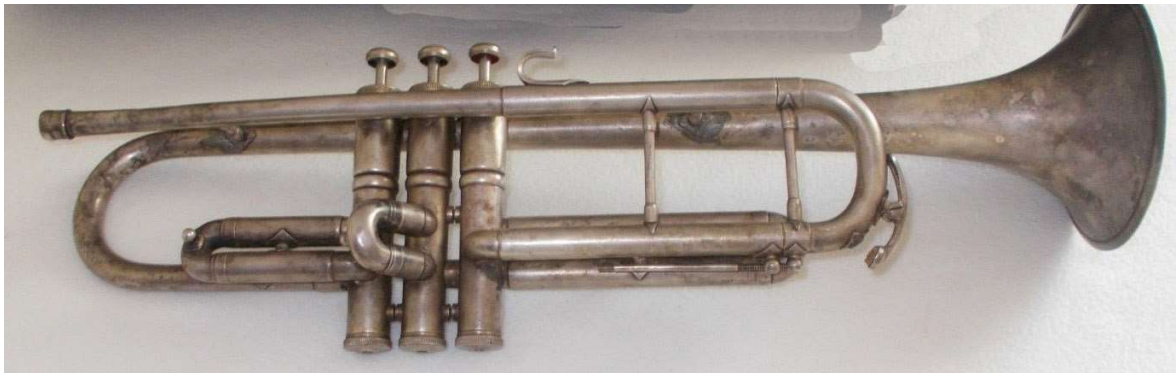


#129072 c.1942



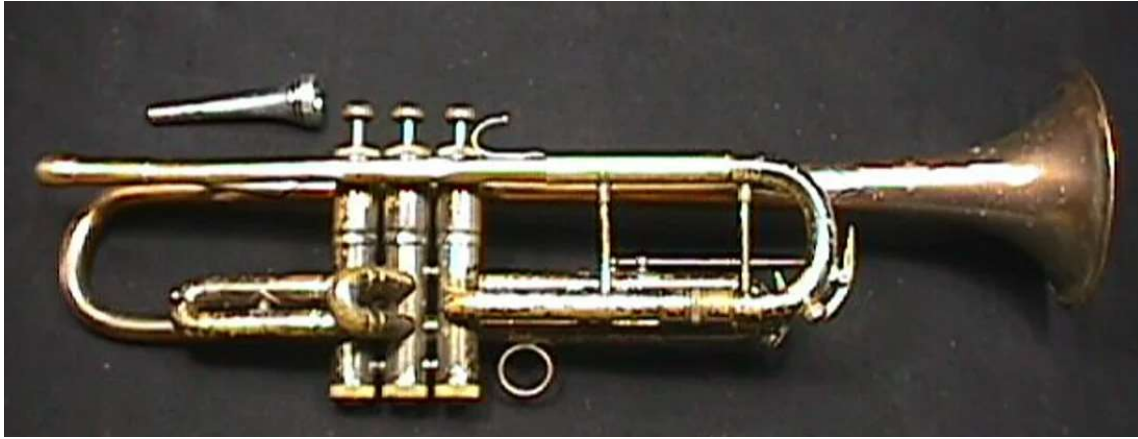
## USA Trumpets

This trumpet is marked "USA by York" and has serial #130715 dating it to 1945.



1940 York is purchased by Carl Fischer in December and plans were to increase production.

Custom #133952 c.1945



Custom #134323 c.1945



### **Feather Touch Trumpets**

The original Feather Touch valves were filed for a patent back in 1931 which they received in 1933. The design was used on some trumpets at the time but examples marked “Feather Touch” and “Feather Touch Master” came out just after the war. Examples have serial numbers in the 133000 to 188000 range dating them to the 1945 to 1953 period. These are said to be made by Blessing.

#145876 marked “Feather Touch”, c.1948



1933 Patent Drawing for Valve Design

Aug. 15, 1933.

A. J. JOHNSON

1,922,685

VALVE STRUCTURE

Filed Sept. 26, 1931

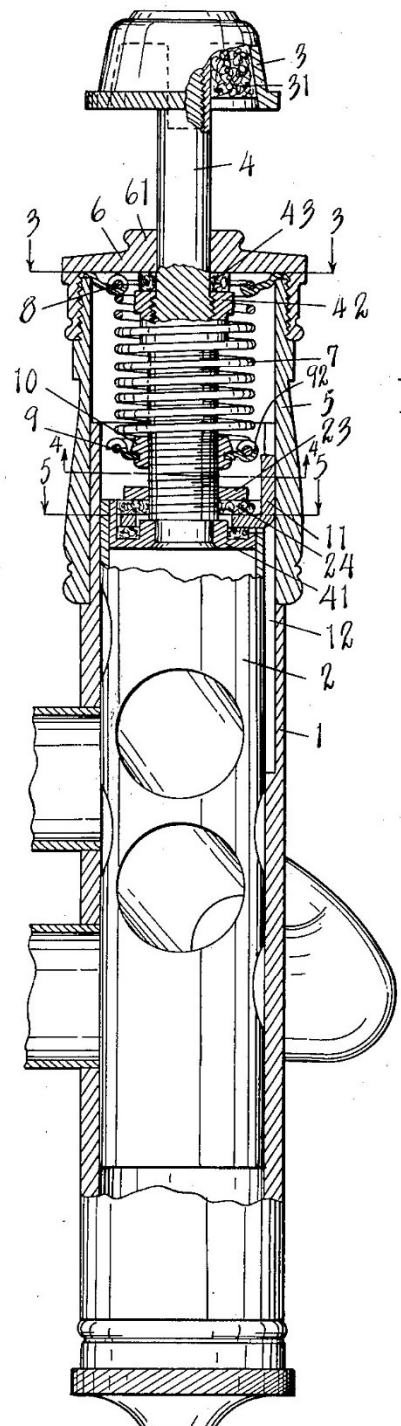


Fig. 1

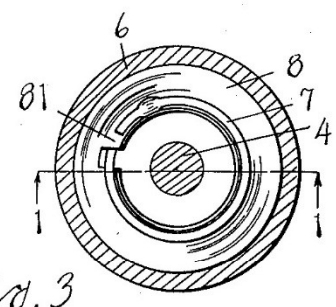


Fig. 3

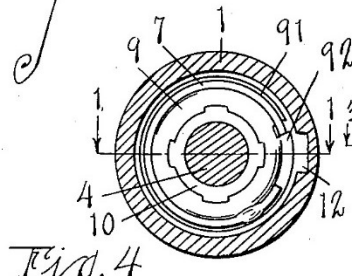


Fig. 4

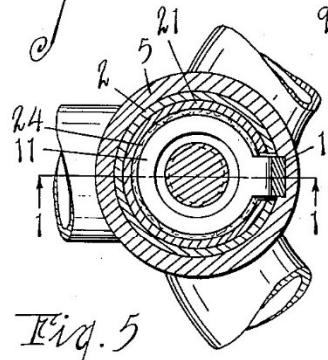


Fig. 5

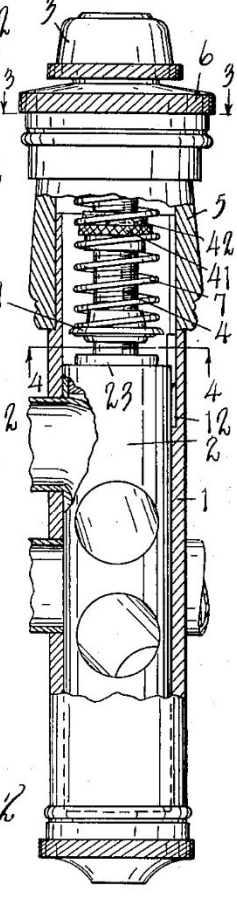


Fig. 2

INVENTOR  
Alfred J. Johnson  
BY *Chappell & Carl*  
ATTORNEYS

#143488 c.1948



#143516 c.1948



#143528 c.1948



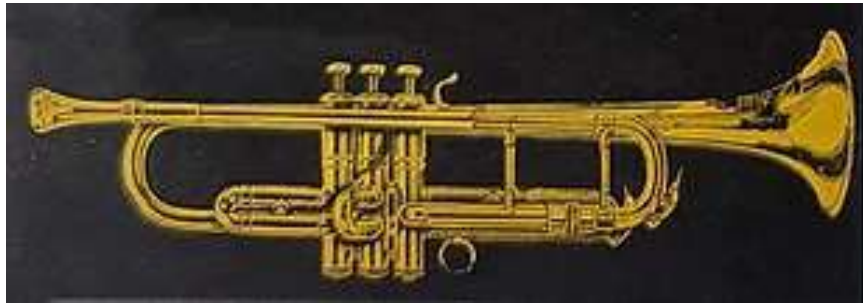
Feather Touch Master #145686 c.1948



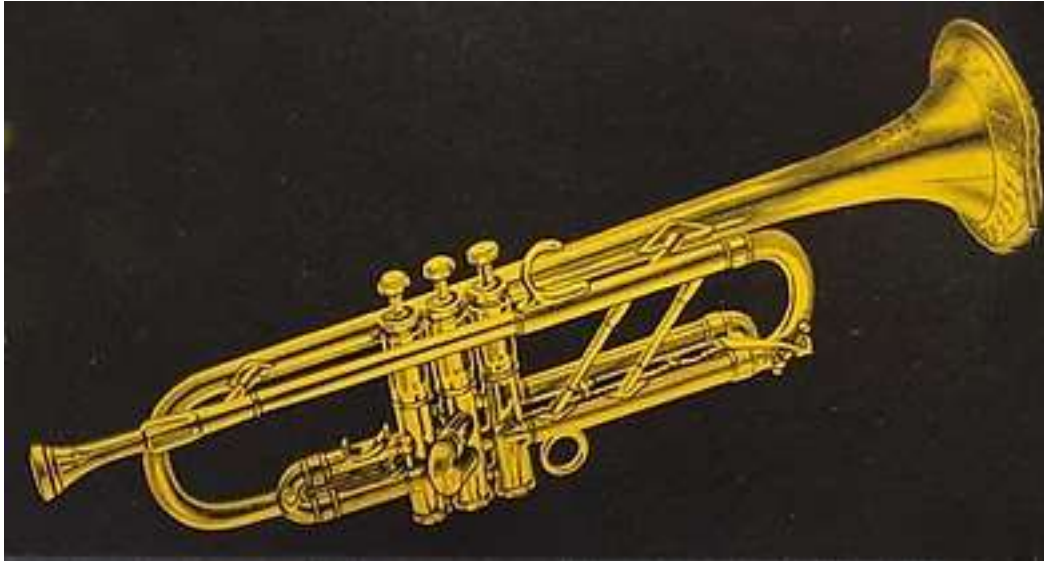
#174428 c.1951 – marked “USA”



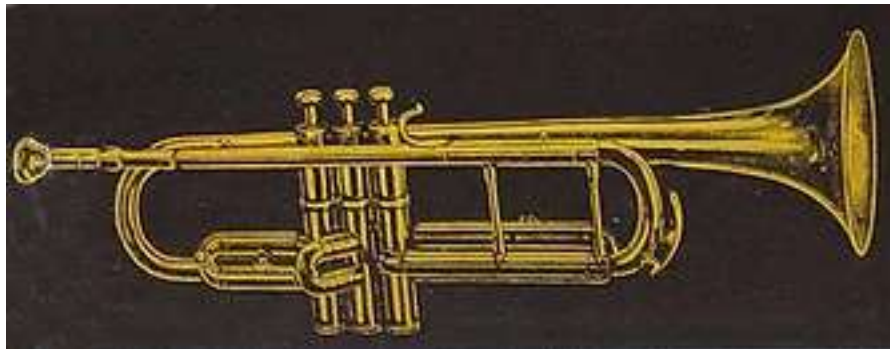
1952 Model 15 Standard



1952 Model 560 Feather Touch Master



1952 Model 105 – USA Band Instruments



1952 Model 205 – Grand Rapids model



#177686 c.1952



### **Baronet Trumpet**

This Baronet model has serial #201822 and dates to c.1956.



### **York 75 Trumpet**

York celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary by coming out with the Model 75 trumpet. These have serial numbers in the 202000 to 211000 range and date to the 1956 to 1958 period.

Model 75 #202013 c.1956





#211616 is a "75 Brilliant" model c.1958 – these had a bronze bell



### **Artist Trumpet**

The Artist model has serial numbers in the 160000 to 204000 range dating them to the 1950 to 1956 period.

#204507 c.1956



### **Hallmark Trumpet**

The Hallmark trumpets have serial numbers in the 183000 to 242000 range dating them to the 1953 to 1963 period.

Hallmark model with unknown number



## Super Custom

#208437 c.1957



## National Model

Serial numbers around 191000 so mid-1950s era



## Bellaire Model

This model is similar to the Artist model

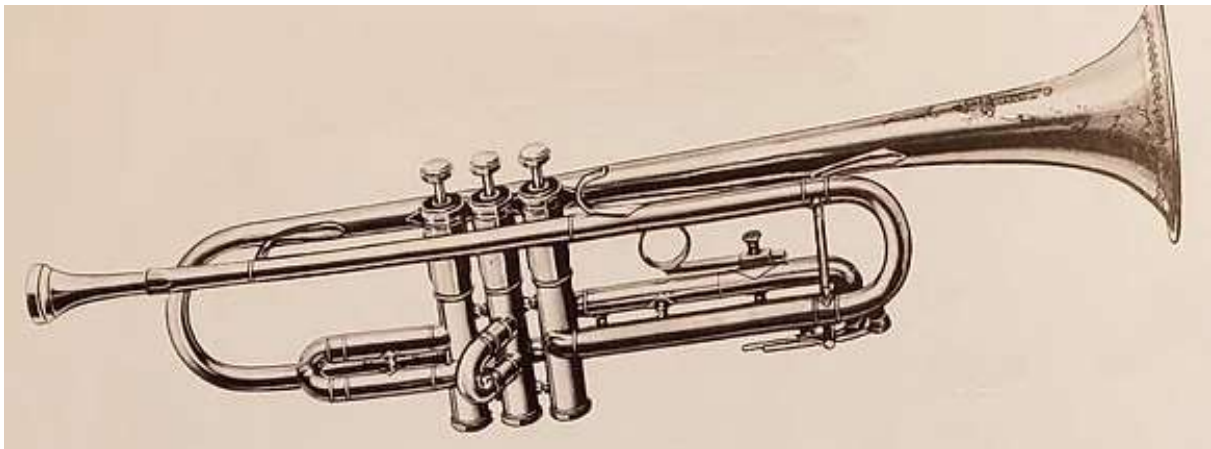


With Carl Fischer ownership, some of these trumpets likely had German origins.

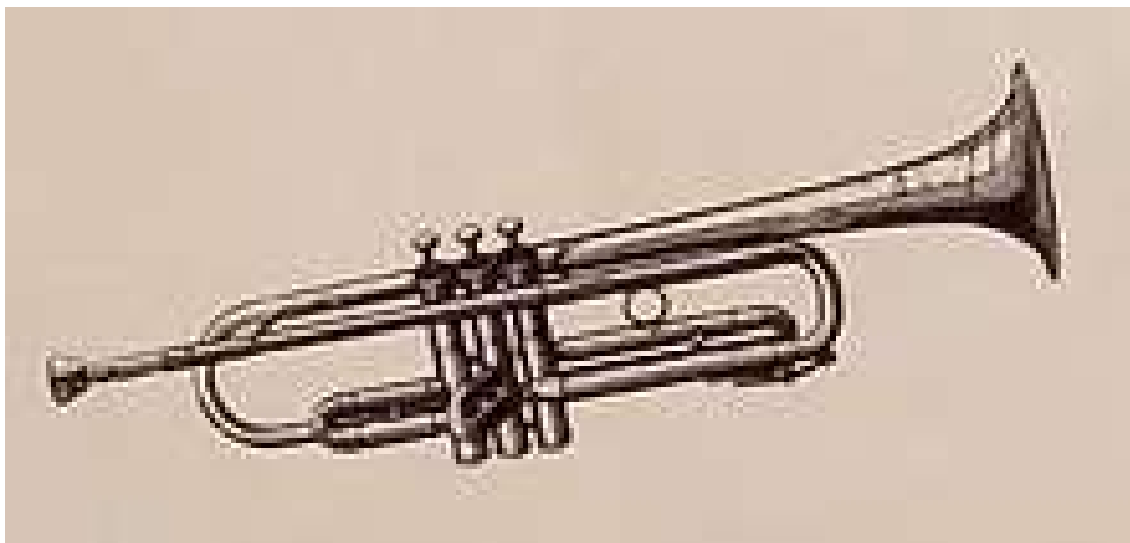
One former worker mentioned Bohm Meinl as a source and many of the designs and serial numbers match with that company. These include the York 75 models which have valve blocks matching Rudy Muck Citations; another Fischer-owned company.



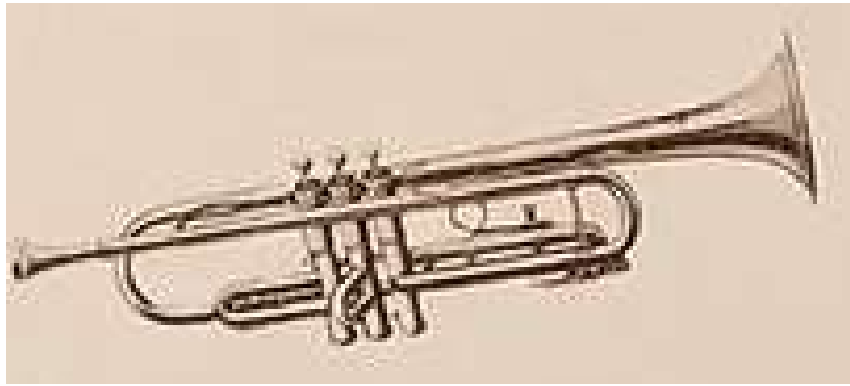
1962 Model 17 Custom – 0.468" bore, 4.75" bell, 19.5" long



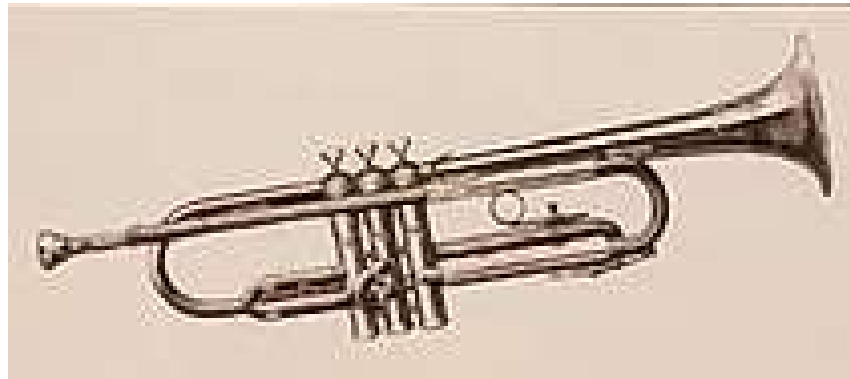
1962 Model 105 National – 0.475" bore, 4.625" bell



1962 Model 18 Custom Superba – 4.75” bronze bell & NS bell flair, 0.468” bore



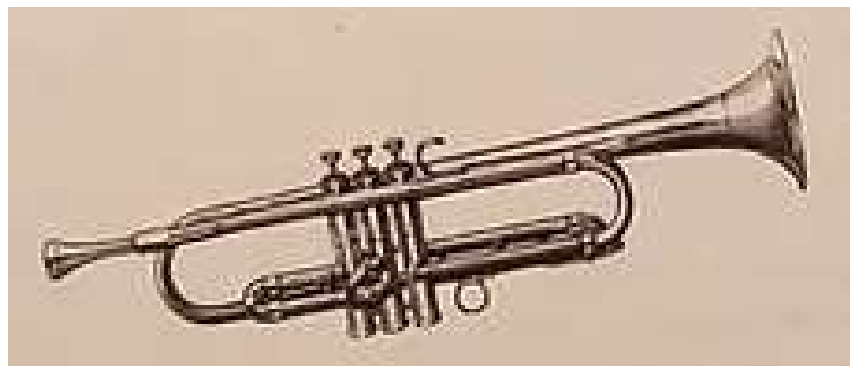
1962 Model 75 Anniversary Trumpet – 4.75” bell, 0.468” bore



1962 Model 76 Anniversary Brilliant with bronze bell – 4.75” bell, 0.468” bore



1962 Model 500 Master – 4.25” bell, 0.468” bore



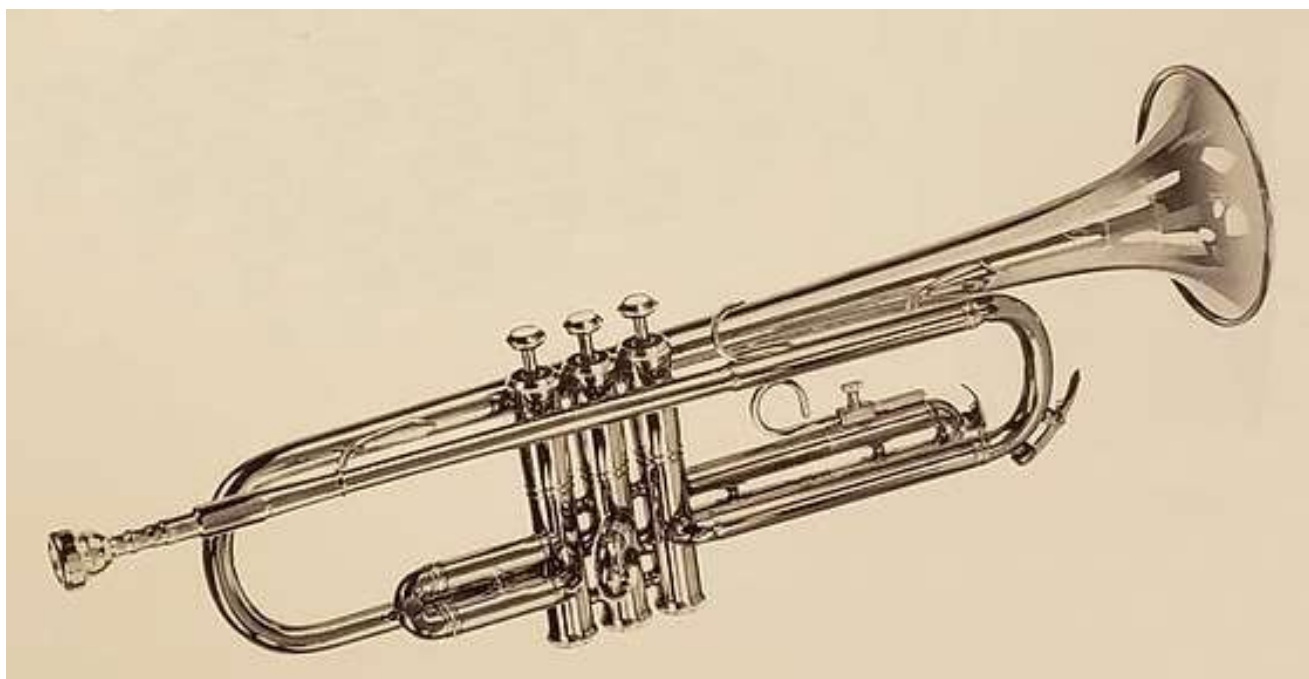
In 1970, York was sold to Tolchin Instruments and the factory was closed.

## Senator Model

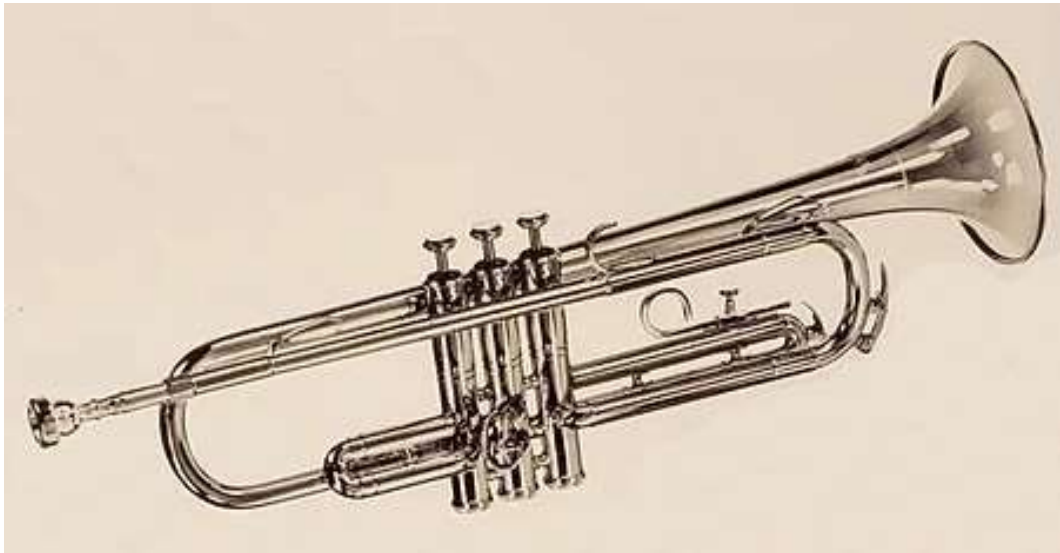
#521158 possibly made after the sale in 1970 to Tolchin. These trumpets are made in Kraslice, Czech Republic by Amati



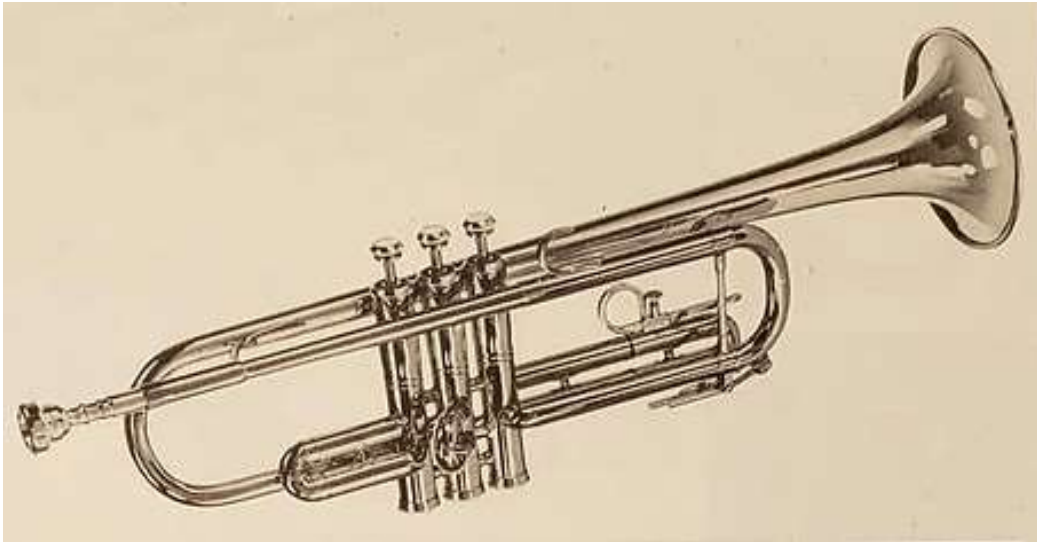
1972 Model 500 Master



1972 Model 605 Superba



1972 Model 18 Custom Superba

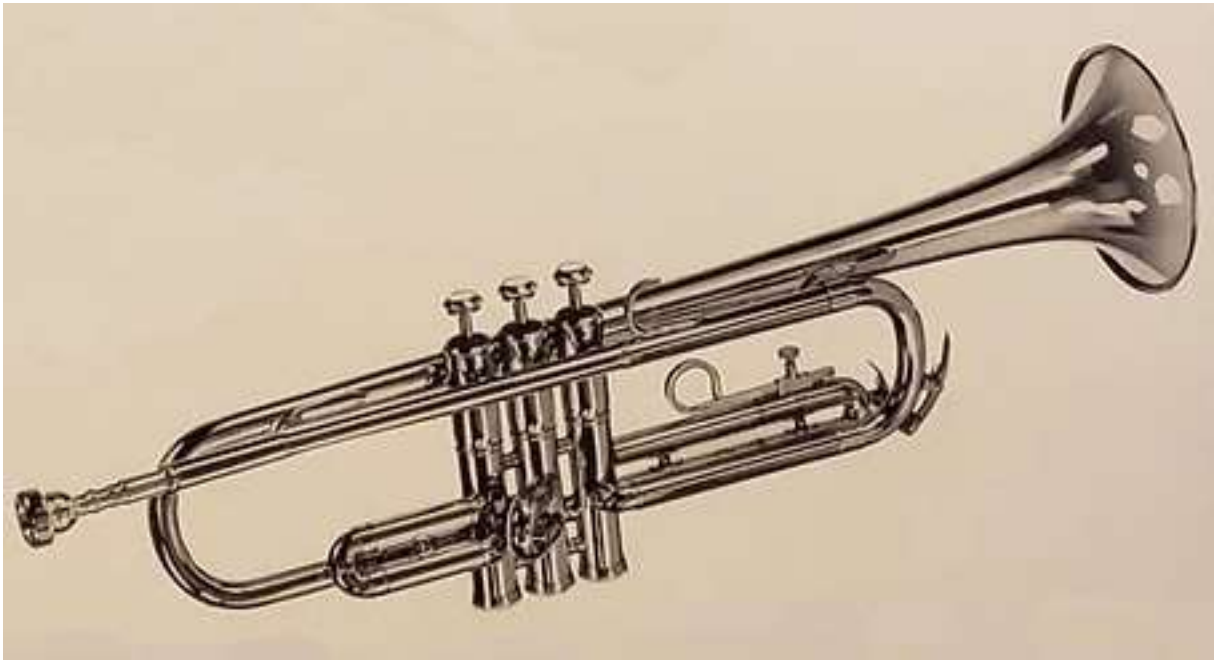


Custom Superba #644524 c.1970 (author's photos)

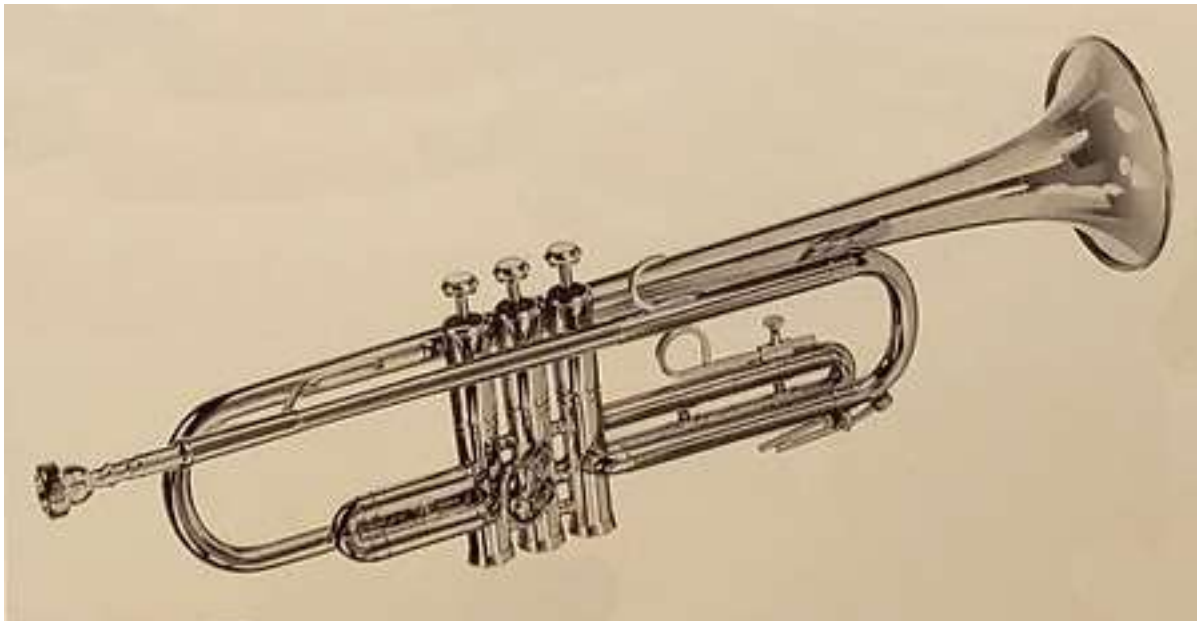




1972 Model 105



1972 Anniversary Model 76 with bronze bell



In 1976, the York name is sold to Boosey & Hawkes.



### **Other assorted models made by York**

Instruments marked "Germany" are said, by a former York employee named Lou, to be made by Bohm & Meinel (pronounced Bame & Minel) in Geretsried.

Herald trumpet #79758 c.1925



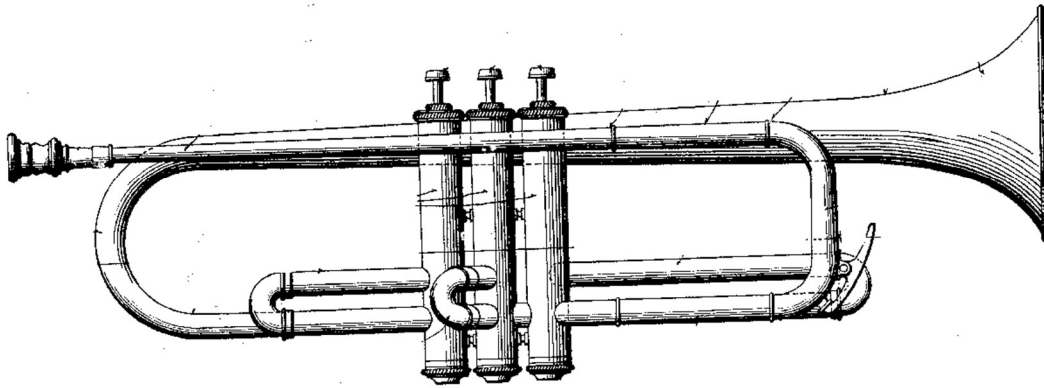
Herald trumpet #210909 c.1958



### **Hickernell Solo Trumpet**

Ross Hickernell, a professor for many years at the Dana Musical Institute, patented his Solo model trumpet design in 1924. He had applied for the patent back in 1922 and it was announced then that they would be made by Nuss Manufacturing in Harrisburg, PA. The initial ones were made there but at some point, he switched to York for manufacture. They have their own serial numbers in the 3200 to 3800 range and I have read mention of them as late as 1935.

1922 Patent Drawing



#3288 missing some parts



Ross Hickernell, F. C. M., A. C. M.  
Professor of Band Instruments

## **Grand Rapids Band Instrument Co.**

York started the Grand Rapids Band Instrument Company in 1911 at the same plant and continued to use this name until their sale in 1926. This was meant to be a lower-priced student line.

#38909 c.1914



Photos are from online sales and Horn-u-copia.net unless otherwise noted.