

# Proliferation of the Double Front Loop Mouth-pipe Variation in American Cornets

When a genetic variation occurs in nature, the viability of the variation is determined by the survival of the varied organism long enough to reproduce. For innovations in instruments, the law of survival is much the same, but the mechanism could not be more different. In organisms, traits pass down familiarly, while in industry, they are copied and replicated between social units (companies) through reverse-engineering and purposed adaptation. Thus, while a beneficial trait in any organism can only proliferate as fast as its descendants, and only in them, a unique industrial innovation may proliferate much faster through unrelated successors, while the originating firm could even elect to drop the variation in future iterations of “the same model” by name. Below, this is illustrated with the proliferation of the double front loop in cornet design, which began at Frank Holton & Co. in Chicago in 1906.

