Martin Band Instrument Co. Trumpets

This guide contains photos from my collection, advertising, and the websites of some resellers, which detail the trumpets of the Martin Band Instrument Company.

Founded in 1904 as the J.H. Martin Band Instrument Company by the four sons of Johann Heinrich Martin (John Henry Martin), it was restructured into the Martin BIC the following year. Ownership changed twice, first being bought by a young bookkeeper in 1912 and then bought by Oliver Bassett in 1916. Henry Martin remained President in title until 1922, but the Martin family was out of the business early-on. The firm was later merged into Richards Music Co. in 1961, and then acquired by Wurlitzer following the 1963 bankruptcy of RMC. Wurlitzer sold Martin to Leblanc in 1972. Around 2003, both Leblanc and Selmer were purchased by Steinway Musical Properties and merged with their other holdings under the Conn-Selmer umbrella. Consolidating after the merger, Martin was among the brands, including Holton, that were discontinued in 2007-2008.

The Martin name predated the modern company with JH Martin and his Brother Gottfried having operated several instrument companies in New York starting in the 1850s. Among the notable aspects of those companies were that Henry Distin emigrated to the US to superintend at the Martin’s #31 Courtlandt (now #4 World Trade) facility allowing JH Martin to briefly work for the fledgling Conn & Dupont, later CG Conn, as employee number six.

Martin used only four bore sizes. #1=.445”, #2=.453”, #3=.468” and .472”. There are accounts of .460” Martins as well. It is unclear if these are Leblanc only.
“The Renowned Martin Trumpet”

**Years Built:** ca. 1905-ca. 1912

**Variants:** High pitch. “Low Pitch Tubes” available as an add-on part.

**Significant Characteristics:** A/Bb quick change stop-rod under tuning slide.

Information is difficult to come by. The name “renowned” is circa 1912. May also have been simply “The Martin Trumpet”.

Catalog image
“The Renowned Martin Trumpet” Standard Model

**Years Built:** ca. 1914

**Variants:** High pitch. “Low Pitch Tubes” available as an add-on part (shown at right).

**Significant Characteristics:** Information is difficult to come by. This example shows a unique A/Bb quick change tuning slide that may have been an option.
Martin US Regulation Military Trumpet

Years Built: ca. WWI

Variants: Standard US Regulation in G and F, optional model pitched in C with Bb crook.

Significant Characteristics: Built to the US Quarter Master Corps specification M1855.

Advertising image from Chris Dankler
Martin Superlative Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1916 – <1922

**Variants:** High pitch or optional Low Pitch (shown without a low pitch insert which sold for an extra $5.00).

**Significant Characteristics:** Tuning is by means of an adjustable mouthpiece receiver (this one has been replicated). The horn is a Bb/A trumpet. Quick-change to A is by means of a retaining ring on the lower slide leg.

Martin catalog images show this horn with a brace across the leadpipe upper and lower sections forward of the valves. The illustration appears to be in error.
Martin Symphony Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1914 – WWI period

**Variants:** High pitch or optional Low Pitch (shown with Low Pitch insert installed). A/Bb - Quick change to A is by means of the retaining ring on the lower leg of the low pitch insert.

**Significant Characteristics:**
Martin Handcraft Dansant Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1920s

**Variants:** Built in High Pitch with Low Pitch slide included. Bb/A standard configuration, Possibly available in C as the other models of those years were.

**Significant Characteristics:** Bb/A Quick Change using a retaining ring on the lower leg to catch the slide at the A position. Base model for the period.
Martin Handcraft Superlative Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1920s/30s

**Variants:** Built in High Pitch with Low Pitch slide included. Bb/A standard configuration, Available in C

**Significant Characteristics:** Bb/A Quick Change using a retaining ring on the lower leg to catch the slide at the A position.

(1932 Shown)
Martin Handcraft Symphony Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1920s

**Variants:** Built in High Pitch with Low Pitch slide included. Bb/A standard configuration, Available in C

**Significant Characteristics:** Bb/A Quick Change using Henry Esbach (of Boston) style nested tuning slide and key change slide. There is a retaining ring on the lower leg to catch the rear slide at the A position.
Martin Troubadour Trumpet

**Years Built:** Late 1920s-1930s

**Variants:** Bb/A quick change using a retaining ring on the lower leg of the rear of nested Esbach-style slides.

**Significant Characteristics:** Built to complete with other “pea-shooter” trumpets typical of the period.
Martin Handcraft Concert Model Trumpet

**Years Built:** Late 1920s – 1930s

**Variants:** Built in Bb Low Pitch.

**Significant Characteristics:** Standard construction Bb trumpet. Base model for the period with no special features.

Catalog image
Martin Handcraft New Master Trumpet

**Years Built:** Late 1920s – 1930s

**Variants:** Built in Bb Low Pitch.

**Significant Characteristics:** The bell is made of a cupro-nickel ("German Silver") alloy and lacquered. When new, the appearance mimicked the H.N. White Silvertone series instruments with sterling silver bells. The pinkie ring has broken off this example and the lacquer is yellow from age.
Martin Handcraft New Symphony Trumpet

**Years Built:** Late 1920s – 1930s

**Variants:** Built in Bb Low Pitch.

**Significant Characteristics:** Reversed construction. The third valve slide is standard on the upper side while reversed on the lower – upside down from the normal configuration.

Photo from www.quality-brass.com
Martin Indiana Trumpet

Years Built: 1928 - 1961

Variants: Indiana Band Instrument Company trumpet, Martin Indiana, Martin Indiana Chieftain model names.

Significant Characteristics: Indiana BIC was incorporated as a subsidiary in 1928, but folded back into Martin during the Depression. This was the student line offering from Martin. 1940 IBIC at top of page, 1959 Martin Indiana below
Martin Handcraft Standard Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1930s

**Variants:**

**Significant Characteristics:** Reversed construction.

Photo from Chris Dankler
Martin Handcraft Imperial Trumpet

Years Built: 1930s

Variants:

**Significant Characteristics:** Reversed construction. The less common large bore version is below.

Bottom photo from the BrassCellar
Martin Handcraft Committee Trumpet

Years Built: 1938 - WWII

Variants:

Significant Characteristics: Reversed construction.
Martin Imperial Trumpet

Years Built: WWII-1961

Variants:

**Significant Characteristics:** Reversed construction on both legs of the tuning slide. Does not have a throw for third valve slide, which had been typical on all Martins since the first.

Photo from the BrassCellar
Martin Committee Trumpet

Years Built: WWII-1961

Variants:

Significant Characteristics: Reversed construction.

Photo from Quality Brass
Martin Deluxe (Committee) Trumpet

**Years Built:** <1950 - 1961

**Variants:**

**Significant Characteristics:** Reversed construction, trigger on first, nickel trim.

Photo from Quality Brass
Martin Custom Committee Trumpet

Years Built: 1959 - 1961

Variants: Available in Bb, C, D, Eb, F and Bb piccolo.

Significant Characteristics: Reversed construction, trigger on first, nickel trim.

Photos from the BrassCellar
Martin TU-55 Indiana Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1961-1963

**Variants:** Richards Music Corp. model number shown. Design unchanged.

**Significant Characteristics:** Indiana remained the student line offering under RMC.

Catalog image
Martin TU-53 Imperial Trumpet

Years Built: 1961-1963

Variants: Richards Music Corp. model number shown. Design unchanged.

Significant Characteristics: Reversed construction on both legs of the tuning slide. Does not have a throw for third valve slide, which had been typical on all Martins since the first.
Martin TU-28 Deluxe (Committee) Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1961-1963

**Variants:** Richards Music Corp. model number shown. Design unchanged.

**Significant Characteristics:** Reversed construction, trigger on first, nickel trim.

Photo from Quality Brass
Martin TU-05 Custom Committee Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1961-1963

**Variants:** Available in Bb, C, D, Eb, F and Bb piccolo. RMC model number shown. Design unchanged.

**Significant Characteristics:** Reversed construction, trigger on first, nickel trim.

Catalog image
Martin Imperial Trumpet

Years Built: ca. 1964 - <1972

Variants:

Significant Characteristics: Strongly resembles the former Indiana and is the student line offering under Wurlitzer until, and possibly beyond, the introduction of the Galaxy.
Martin Deluxe Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1964-1971

**Variants:**

**Significant Characteristics:** Nickel plated body with brass slides under clear lacquer. Appears positioned between the top-line Magna and the student-line Imperial of the Wurlitzer period.

Photo from Robb Stewart
Martin Magna Trumpet

Years Built: ca. 1964-1971

Variants:

Significant Characteristics: Similar to the former Imperial but with trigger and third valve throw added. Bells appear to be high copper brass.
Martin Galaxy Trumpet

Years Built: by 1969 - 1972

Variants:

Significant Characteristics: A student line horn. This example is modified with Amado waterkeys.
Martin Brio Trumpet

**Years Built:** by 1972 - <2007

**Variants:**

**Significant Characteristics:** Second-tier offering following the Leblanc acquisition of Martin.
Martin T3460 Committee Trumpets

Years Built: by 1972 - 2007

Variants: T3460 is a medium bore.

Significant Characteristics: Redesigned by Larry Ramirez following the Leblanc acquisition of Martin.

Photo from Quality Brass
Martin T3465 Committee Trumpets

**Years Built:** by 1972 - 2007

**Variants:** T3465 is a large bore.

**Significant Characteristics:** Redesigned by Larry Ramirez following the Leblanc acquisition of Martin. {T3465 with thumb saddle inset}

Photo from Quality Brass
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Favorite</td>
<td>ca.1904 – well before 1912</td>
<td>[Short Cornet]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renowned</td>
<td>ca.1904 – just before 1912</td>
<td>[Unique front-heavy wrap]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Model</td>
<td>1904 – before 1916</td>
<td>[ Perfected-wonder style S]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Long Model &amp; Vocal</td>
<td>by 1916 – before 1923</td>
<td>[Renamed Long Model]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superlative</td>
<td>by 1916 – before 1923</td>
<td>[Classic wrap cornet]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handcraft Standard</td>
<td>before 1923 – ca.1930</td>
<td>[Renamed Standard Long]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handcraft Superlative</td>
<td>before 1923 – before 1934</td>
<td>[Renamed Superlative]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Master</td>
<td>circa 1927</td>
<td>[Unique wrap, nickel bell]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Band Instrument Co.</td>
<td>1929 – WWII</td>
<td>[Classic wrap student horn]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handcraft Imperial</td>
<td>circa 1930 – WWII</td>
<td>[Pro, 2nd loop at bell design]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handcraft Standard</td>
<td>by 1934 – before 1939</td>
<td>[Intermediate - Imperial wrap]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handcraft Standard</td>
<td>by 1938 – WWII</td>
<td>[Double front loop design]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>WWII – 1962</td>
<td>[Classic wrap pro cornet]</td>
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<td>Imperial</td>
<td>WWII – 1965</td>
<td>[Classic wrap int. cornet]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>WWII – 1965</td>
<td>[Classic wrap student horn]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deluxe</td>
<td>before 1956 – 1965</td>
<td>[Modified Committee]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard Smith</td>
<td>mid-1950s</td>
<td>[Built unique for customer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom Committee</td>
<td>1959 – 1965</td>
<td>[Modified Committee]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magna</td>
<td>1965 – 1972</td>
<td>[Classic wrap pro cornet]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperial (former Indiana)</td>
<td>1965 – 1972?</td>
<td>[Classic wrap student horn]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galaxy</td>
<td>by 1969 – 1972</td>
<td>[Classic wrap student horn]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: Dates are best guesses based on very few catalogs and Ebay seller claims regarding age.*
A Few Cornets

Martin Imperial 1922
Martin Standard 1935
Martin New Master 1927
Martin Leonard Smith 1954
Martin & Co. 1871
Martin Renowned 1914