

Foreword – *Transitions of brass instruments and mouthpieces*–

Trumpets were long-tubal instruments in the era of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), and the mouthpiece's rim diameter was larger than a current mouthpiece. The cup was hemisphere, and there was a hole which connects to the backbore. In 1820s, Cornets were modified as a short-tubal instrument like a current brass instrument, then, almost all of the brass instruments had been evolved to instruments like the current ones around 1900.

In 1918, one guy called Vincent Bach produced a dozen mouthpieces. However, the mouthpieces had a dispersion of the size even though he made the mouthpieces as a same model, and different mouthpiece suits a different player. Actually, even he did not expect the results. Then, Vincent created the logic about rim and cup size of brass mouthpieces. He laid a quadratic logic by adding the cup size like A, B, C on a linear logic like 1,2,3. This “quadratic line-up” idea for brass mouthpieces had not been existed by the time, so it was a revolutionary development in the brass instruments' history. His easily understandable logic and high quality mouthpieces have been spread throughout the world, and they are now even said as “The world standard”.

However, there are some models that do not follow the logic in the line-up, and it is often hard to change mouthpiece size because the rim is different. These difficulties are results of a production problem at the time and of reflecting a taste of a certain player with who Vincent developed his mouthpieces. In fact, larger mouthpieces tend to have a thinner rim, but it does not mean it should be. It was occurred by the standard measurement of brass rods. Now, many manufacturers have copied the Vincent's famous mouthpieces and are providing almost same products as their unexcelled mouthpieces, but it is obvious that such an attitude does not develop the brass instrument's world.

BEST BRASS do not deny influences from great pioneers in the past like Vincent. Their passion for developments of brass instruments is totally genuine. BEST BRASS believes that it is our mission to take over the pioneers' passion and contribute to developments of brass instruments and the music.



Mouthpiece for English slide trumpet around 1840.

(Picture: Hamamatsu museum of musical instruments)

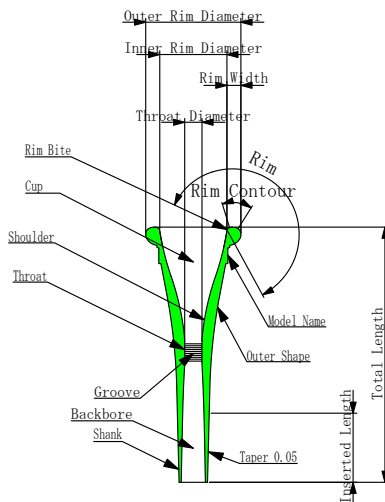
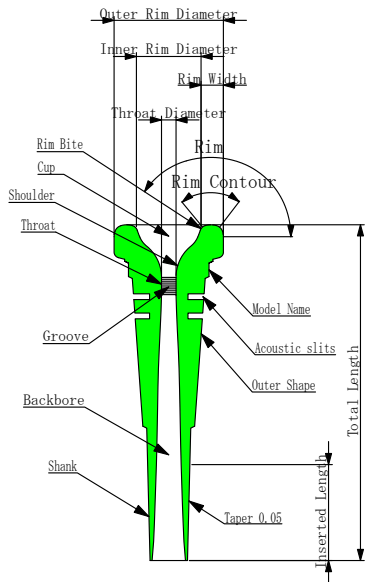
** Flat rim and hemisphere cup can be seen.*

Part names of a mouthpiece

Frame formats of mouthpiece are shown below. It deepens your understanding to look over them while you are reading this handbook.

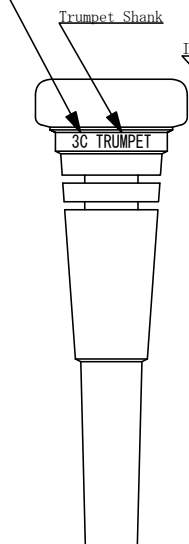
Part names of Trumpet mouthpieces

Part names of Horn mouthpieces

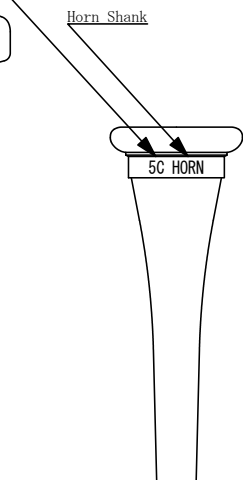


-Meanings of the engraved mark-

I.R.D. is size 3, and Cup depth is C.



I.R.D. is size 5, and Cup depth is C.



I.R.D. is size 7, and Cup depth is C.

