

Vega Cornets

1909-1960s

1909 Vega purchased the Standard Band Instrument Company of Boston and added their logo of Vega inside a star (photo 1 at right).

This change in ownership also came with a change in the valve block as well as the valve numbering system. This changed from 1-2-3 to multiple digits like 16-17-18 as on #1415 (below & #2 at right); implying a large European maker as the source.



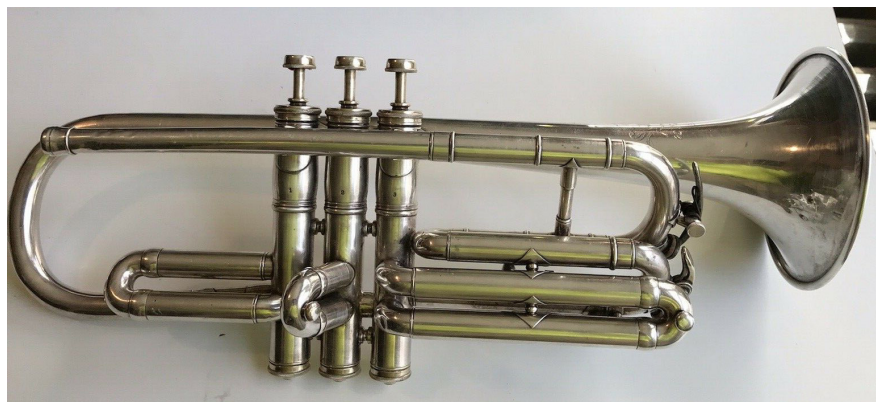
They soon switched to a fixed lead pipe as on #2061 from c.1910 (below & #3).



1911 The next group of Vega cornets appear with the Blessing valve patent from 1910. These do not use the Blessing serial number font, so if the entire instruments were made by Blessing, Vega added their own serial numbers.

There is also a change in the serial number font and a gap from 2100 to 3500 in examples found.

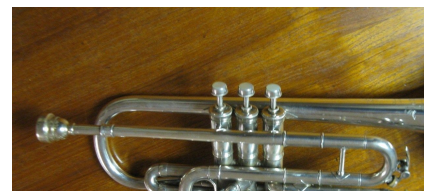
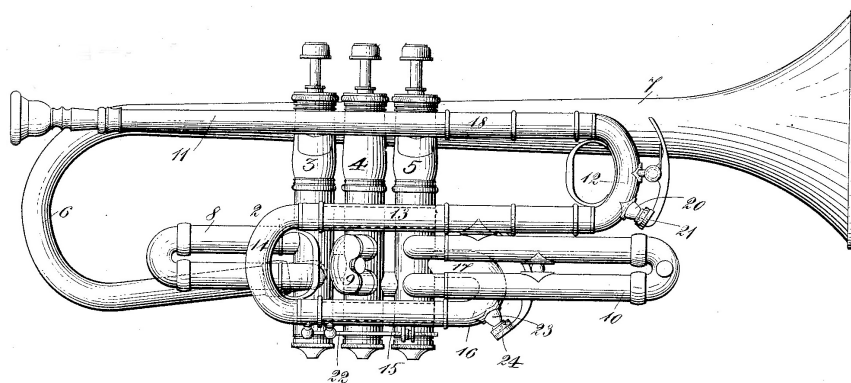
Cornet #3739 c.1912 (below & 1 & 2 at right)



Cornet #4173 c.1913



A March 1912 patent application used the design below which matches 4392 (photo 3) and 5962 (photo 4).



These continue to use the 1910 Blessing patent on the valves.

These also have the union stamp which started in 1913 at Vega.

1917 Vega moved to 155 Columbus Ave in Boston at around serial #6000, dropped all cornet production, and started producing the Charles George model trumpet.

1920 From many examples found, Vega seems to have switched to serial number 20000 in 1920, with the first two digits being the year made and the last four the sequence number for that year.

Coloratura cornet #20197 matching 1912 patent.



This is the lone cornet example found until after the Triumphal model came out in 1929.

1929 The Triumphal model trumpet was introduced and a rare cornet version is shown below in #31035 from 1931 (author's photo).



1929-1941 Trumpets and cornets from this period have a change in design and use the same serial number font and valve casing to bell braces found on HN White/King Liberty trumpets. Photo 2 shows the brace which only differs from the Liberty (photo 3) by the use of a rounded bottom rather than angled sides.

The serial font used in this period is an exact match that King used up until 1955 (photo 4).



1933-1936 Vega switched to the Advanced Triumphal model trumpet and cornet. A few, rare examples of the cornet can be found such as #35079 (below & top right). These appear to be unchanged from the Triumphal model.



The Advanced Triumphal models all have a “Pat. Apl’d For” mark which may be a design application that was never granted.

1936 Vega started the Standard and Power models this year. They continued to use the White serial font and the valves look like a match to the pre-1932 Liberty model. They also carry a “Pat’d” mark for the valve spring guides patented by Vega in 1925 (photo 2).



Standard cornet #36299



Standard cornet #36307



**Power model #37227 from 1937.
This appears to be a Standard with added nickel tubes.**



Power model #40033 from 1940.



#40033 showing the original case



1941 The highest pre-WWII number found is 41144.

1942-1946 Vega has no known production during the war and it is unknown exactly how much was actually made in Boston up to 1941.

After the war, all brass instruments found were stencils made by other companies. This fits with all known surviving examples as outlined below.

Roth-Reynolds stencils / Cleveland

Power model #36004 c.1947



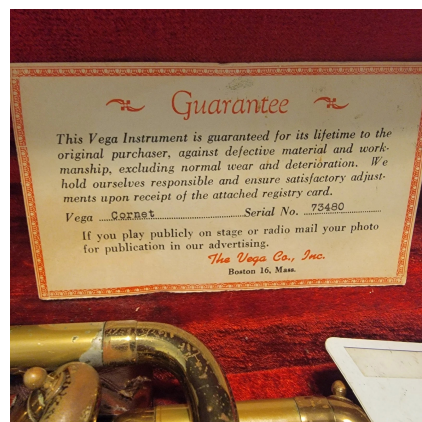
The post-war Power model trumpets were stencils of the Roth model 300 with some minor changes in details like the valve caps & buttons. The cornet above uses a valve casing design from before the war and a Roth serial font from after the war. This has a different third slide design but other details match the Roth model 310 cornet.

Power Special #55954 c.1952



Power model #73480 (photos 3 & 4 at right) c.1955

These use Roth serial numbers.



Pedler & Sons stencils / Elkhart

**Odell cornet #36320 c.1949
This was a stencil of the Pedler Amer. Triumph.**



Odell cornet with unknown number.



Blessing stencils / Elkhart

**Triumphal model #86808 c.1958 (author's photo)
This was a Blessing Standard model.**



Bohm Meinl stencils / Germany

Triumphal model #610178 (below & #2 at right)

