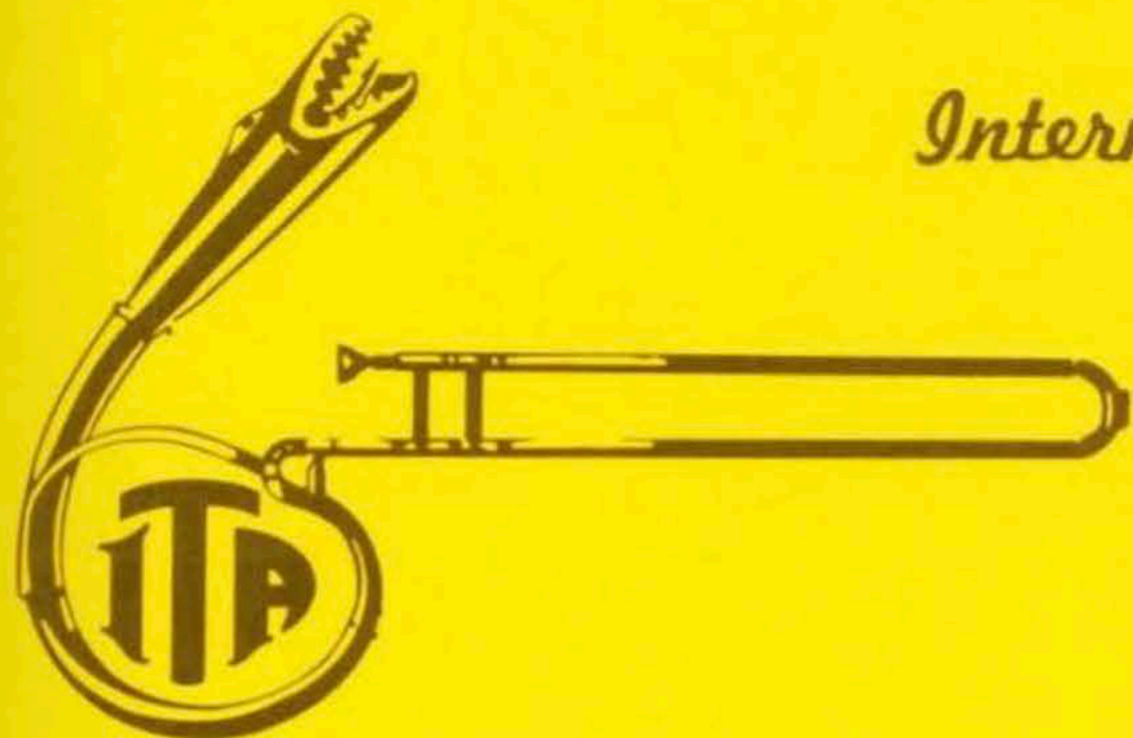


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Kai Winding 1923-1983



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dedicated to the artistic advancement of trombone teaching, performance and literature

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Vern Kagarice, Editor

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to use a double valve horn. Players are leaning slightly more in favor of a standard two valve arrangement (B flat/F/E or D) over the newer "in-line" (B flat/F/G—combined D) set up. 83% of those who responded favor standard size bells, that is 10 inches or less. So called "open wrap" conversions were done on 12 horns while the thumb and third (or fourth) finger trigger operation is favored on double valve instruments over the traditional side by side paddles.

What is clear is that those surveyed do experiment with their instruments, with many players switching horns depending on what literature is being played. Some players have made dramatic equipment changes after playing for many years on one instrument. And with new styles of instruments such as the new Conn 100 series and new valve arrangements like the axial flow valve, more changes are sure to occur.

Key to Abbreviations

- © = conversion
- TT = Thumb and third (or fourth) finger trigger operation
- SS = Side by side (or Holton "magic bar") trigger operation
- Y = Yes
- N = No
- 1 = First choice instrument
- 2 = Second choice instrument

Bass Trombone Equipment Survey

by Douglas Yeo

In an effort to help bass trombonist who are interested in knowing what equipment the leading American symphony bass trombonist are using, I sent a survey to the 29 bass trombonists in the "major" U.S. orchestras (a major orchestra is one with an operating income of at least \$3¼ million). Twenty-four of them responded, and their replies are shown in the following charts. From this we can draw several conclusions.

Bach bass trombones are the clear favorite, with more players using them than all other manufacturers combined. Most prefer

Footnotes

- ¹third instrument: Holton TR 180, 10", 2 valve, not in line, SS, E/D, fourth interchangeable leadpipe
instrument: Bach 50B, 9½", 1 valve, interchangeable leadpipe
- ²third instrument: Bach 50B3G, 9½", 2 valve, in line, TT D
note: instruments not listed in order of preference, uses various slide/bell combinations depending on needs, usually Bach 50BG with light weight or standard slide
- ³third instrument: Bach 50B2, 9½", 2 valve, not in line, TT, D
fourth instrument: Minick/Conn Experimental, 9½", 2 valve, in line, TT, 1st valve in G, together in D
- ⁴third instrument: Bach 50B2, 10" (Mt. Vernon), 2 valve, not in line, SS, E flat
fourth instrument: Conn 60H, 9½", 1 valve
- ⁵third instrument: Conn 72H, 9½", 1 valve, nickel-silver plated

Summary of Primary Instruments Used

Manufacturer	Number Used	Bell Diameter (in inches)				Number of Valves		Double Valve "In-line"	Double Valve Trigger Placement		Conversions	
		9¼	9½	10	10½	1	2		SS	TT	Minick	Others
Bach	15	1	9	1	4	3	12	9	3	9	3	Langlier-2 Thayer-1 Haynor-2
Conn	3		3				3		1	2	1	Woehr-1
Holton	3			3			3		3			
Minick	2		2				2			2		
Reynolds	1			1			1		1			
Total	24	1	14	5	4	3	21	9	8	13	4	5

Equipment Used by 24 U.S. Major Symphony Orchestra Bass Trombonists

Orchestra	Player	Manufact. 1	Model	Bell Size	# of valves	in-line?	Trigger	Second valve tuning	Additional Alterations	Manufact. 2	Model	Bell Size	# of valves	in-line?	Trigger	Second valve tuning	Additional Alterations
Baltimore	Yeo	Bach	50B	9½	1	-	-	-	©Thayer Axial flow valve	Bach	50B2	9½	2	N	TT	D	Minick leadpipe no lacquer
Boston	Hallberg	Bach	50B3	9½	2	Y	TT	D	©Haynor Minick leadpipe								
Cincinnati	Glover	Holton	TR-2-80	10	2	N	SS	D	-	Conn	60H	9½	1	-	-	-	Modified leadpipe
Cleveland	Anderson	Bach	50B3L	10½	2	Y	TT	D/C	Open leadpipe	Bach	50B3L	10½	2	Y	TT	D/C	Open leadpipe
Dallas	Rauscher ¹	Reynolds	Contempora (Cleveland)	10	2	N	SS	E/D	-	Bach	50BL	10½	1	-	-	-	Interchangeable leadpipe
Denver	Reed	Holton	TR180	10	2	N	SS	D	-	Holton	169	10	1 or 2	N	SS	E	Detachable second valve
Detroit	Klaber	Holton	TR180	10	2	N	SS	D	-								
Houston	Waters	Bach-Williams	50B3	10	2	Y	TT	D ^b	©Minick Bach slide, Williams Bell								
Indianapolis	Bart ²	Bach	50B	9½	1	-	-	-	Silver plated, Mt. Vernon	Bach	50BG LT	9½	1	-	-	-	Light weight slide
Los Angeles	Reynolds ³	Bach	50B	9¼	1	-	-	-	1933 vintage interchangeable bell section	Minick	"G" model	10¼	2	Y	TT	C	Minick leadpipe 6 positions, pitched in G, 1st valve in D
Milwaukee	Kimball	Bach	50B2	9½	2	N	SS	E ^b /D	-	Bach	50B3 L	10½	2	Y	TT	D	-
Minnesota	Herring	Bach	50B2	9½	2	N	SS	D	-	Bach	50B3 L	10½	2	N	SS	D	Gold Brass
New Orleans	Erb ⁴	Bach	50B3 LG	10½	2	Y	TT	D	Silver plated	Holton	TR281	10	2	Y	TT	D	Screw bell
New York	Harwood	Conn	62H	9½	2	N	TT	D	5" leadpipe	Conn	60H	9½	1	-	-	-	Minick leadpipe
Oregon	Pierce	Bach	50B2L	10½	2	N	SS	E	-								
Philadelphia	Vernon	Bach	50B2	9½	2	Y	TT	D	©Langelier no leadpipe, removeable valve section to make "straight horn"	Bach	50B2	9½	2	Y	TT	D	©Minick, redone by Langelier
Pittsburgh	McCulloh	Conn	62H	9½	2	N	SS	D	©Woehr no lacquer								
Rochester	Richey ⁵	Bach	50B2	9½	2	Y	TT	D	©Haynor	Bach	50B	9½	1	-	-	-	Standard and light weight slides
St. Louis	Jernigan	Bach	50B3	9½	2	Y	TT	E ^b	-	Conn	70H	9½	2	N	SS	E	Removeable leadpipe, custom double valve
San Antonio	Bird	Conn	71H	9½	1 or 2	N	TT	D	©Minick detachable valve sections to make 1 or 2 valves	Mirafone	Prototype	10	2	N	TT	E/D	
San Diego	Fellinger	Minick	-	9½	1 or 2	N	TT	D	Detachable valve sections to make 1 or 2 valves								
San Francisco	Engelkes	Bach	50B2	9½	2	Y	TT	D	©Langelier	Bach	50B2	9½	2	N	TT	D	-
Syracuse	Boyd	Bach	50B3L	10½	2	Y	TT	E ^b	Detachable bell, also Minick 9½" bell, 2" venturi leadpipe	King	8B	10½	2	Y	TT	E ^b	
Utah	Gottfredson	Minick	-	9½	2	N	TT	D	-	Reynolds	Contempora	10	1	-	-	-	