Instruments designed with the individual in mind

SMITH-WATKINS BRASS

We're a small business working from a converted barn in North Yorkshire, England.

We’ve been making custom brass instruments since 1985 with the ultimate satisfaction of hearing our instruments played live, on the tv and radio - with styles varying from Big Band and Military Band to Symphony.

Our instruments sell because of their quality and attention to detail. We’re not interested in ‘trendy’ designs, ‘bling’ or added ‘magic’ - just high quality traditional features which stand the test of time and hours of playing in the hands of professional musicians.

We believe that producing a successful instrument relies on three simple rules:
• Making the best compromise of musical qualities to suit the individual player
• Ensuring a good build to last for many years
• Providing reliability and excellent service to all our customers

We have used our scientific background to understand the complex nature of brass instrument acoustics. In this scientific spirit, we publish our work on the Internet and guarantee that our products are free of pseudo-acoustics, mysteries or magic to help promote them.
B-FLAT TRUMPETS

SPECIFICATION

The B-flat Trumpets have the following features:

• Handmade to order and customised for each player
• Choice of bores, bells and over 15 leadpipes
• Over 500 acoustically different combinations
• Additional variants with trim, finish and an optional security etch of the player’s name or postcode, by arrangement
• Interchangeable leadpipes
• Proven valve system used since 1984
• Each instrument is acoustically tested for consistency in airflow and intonation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURES</th>
<th>BENEFITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choice of Bell bore and leadpipe</td>
<td>Select a trumpet to suit individual playing requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice of 15 interchangeable leadpipes</td>
<td>Enables matching of the leadpipe to the style of music and the environment</td>
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<td>Lightest valves available*</td>
<td>Quicker and more responsive action</td>
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<td>Brass valve guides</td>
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*Even 15% lighter with our optional Titanium piston tops!

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WHY CHOOSE LEADPIPES?

Looking at the instrument as a whole, the bore holds a certain amount of energy, maintained solely by the player, but this is gradually lost through the bell and leadpipe. If the loss is too great through an excessively large bell and/or leadpipe the player will become fatigued and no resonance is possible. Conversely, if the bell and/or leadpipe are too small the instrument would become harder to play and little sound would radiate.

Somewhere in between these extremes there will be an optimum balance for the size of bell and leadpipe for each player, according to his/her embouchure and mouthpiece set-up and playing environment e.g studio, orchestral, quintet, theatre pit etc.

For this reason, we use a set of finely calibrated interchangeable leadpipes in our trumpets and cornets so that the individual player can find their own ideal combination. If the leadpipe and bell are combined in one 3D chart, we can see that the perfect combination would be at the peak. It is our aim to find this point for all our customers!

OPTIONAL FULLY-FLIGHT CASE

As supplied to the British Military.

“...a case that is nigh on indestructible”

4BARSREST.COM REVIEWS

TESTIMONIALS

‘Having used my SW trumpet for the last 27 years, week in week out, I have no need to consider any other make of trumpet. It has stood the test of time amazingly well’ John Gracie, Principal trumpet, Royal Scottish National Orchestra

‘I have been playing a Smith-Watkins trumpet for over twenty years. I need an instrument which helps me change style easily from lead in a big band to orchestral symphonic to brass ensemble to horn sections and to studio work. Centred core sound, excellent intonation and secure slots’ Mike Lovatt, Professor of Trumpet, Royal Academy of Music

John Wilson Orchestra at the BBC Proms. Featuring a full Smith-Watkins trumpet section. Andy Gathercole, Mike Lovatt, Pat White, Jim Lynch (and Russell Bennett)

‘Having the ability to swap lead pipes quickly to change the sound of the trumpet is fantastic. For any type of musical style, this trumpet really works’ The Hallé Orchestra. One of the first Smith-Watkins trumpet sections (in 1987). Current players: Tom Osborne, Gareth Small and Ken Brown

‘Everything I need: good intonation and response with clearly defined slots’ Sgt Jon Hammond, Band of the King’s Division, Preston

CONTACT

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