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Besson sovereign serial numbers

The Sovereign cornet, launched in 1974, has been a benchmark for brass band cornets ever since its inception. However, over the years, it has undergone several changes and redesigns, including a complete overhaul in 1984. This article aims to delve into the development of this iconic instrument and explore the differences between various models. The original Sovereign cornet, produced from 1974, featured three different models: the 920 Medium bore, 921 Large bore, and 925 Soprano (Eb). The 920 was almost identical to its predecessor, the Imperial model, with an additional main tuning slide. In contrast, the 921 was a distinct instrument with a larger bore and many features borrowed from the Besson International cornet. The "round stamp" moniker refers specifically to the 921 large bore, which sported the Boosey and Hawkes globe logo engraved on the bell. Tommy Wilson, a renowned cornet player, played a pivotal role in the development of the Sovereign cornet. He worked closely with Denis Wick to create mouthpieces for his range, including a cornet mouthpiece that led to his involvement with Boosey & Hawkes' new instrument design. The first large bore Sovereign cornet was born out of this collaboration, and Wilson still plays the original prototype after over 30 years. Subsequent models, including the "923" medium bore cornet, were developed based on the 921 design. These instruments featured lever-style triggers instead of ring triggers, a notable difference from their predecessors. The rare 922 cornet, without triggers, seems to have been marketed primarily in mainland Europe rather than the brass band market. As the range evolved, some late production models of the 921 sported more streamlined valves introduced in the early 1990s. Besson Sovereign Cornets: A Comprehensive Guide (.460 bore) The Besson Sovereign cornet, designed by Dr. Richard Smith, has undergone changes since its introduction in 1984. One notable change is the addition of "Besson London" engraved on the bell and "Besson" on the mouthpiece receiver at some point in the 1990s. Medium bore models include the 923 (.460 bore) and 927 (.466 bore), while large bore variants feature the 922, 924, and 928 instruments. Click here for a spare parts list explaining common parts among Besson models. Over time, the Sovereign cornet has seen slight variations, including changes to valve materials and copper content bell designs. The GS variant, primarily sold in the US and export markets, featured higher copper content bells. Initially, valves were made from Monel but switched to stainless steel before returning to Monel when manufacturing shifted to France. Other notable features include second valve tuning slides that originally pointed forward but later became angled towards the player to prevent water accumulation. Early models had "cockspur" water keys with long levers pointing backwards, which were eventually replaced with conventional short ones in the 1980s. Mouthpiece receivers have also undergone changes. Initially, all Sovereign cornets came with Denis Wick mouthpieces, but later instruments received longer receivers compatible with modern Wick mouthpieces featuring a "L" suffix. This may be attributed to the introduction of larger-tapered mouthpieces or simply a coincidence. The older instruments seem to work better with original-style Wick mouthpieces. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, large lottery grants for brass bands led to a surge in demand for full instrument sets, causing prices to plummet and quality control to suffer. This period is often referred to as the "pre-lottery" era, with instruments from this time considered to be of better quality than those made after the lottery era. Boosey and Hawkes' Sovereign line had a few issues. The period between 1996-1999 saw a surge in lottery grants for brass bands, but it also brought some problems. Some reports claimed that sovereign cornets from this time had valves that didn't lap properly, joints would leak, especially at the mouthpiece connection, and stays would pop off due to poor soldering or tension issues. It was even alleged that some leaks were sealed with super glue gel, which damaged Boosey and Hawkes' reputation. In 1992, the company made a limited batch of 928E echo cornets, around 100 pieces, featuring an additional valve in the bell for mute use in novelty pieces like Alpine Echoes. This unique feature allowed for the muted bell to be removed and stored in the case. The 928T model was introduced in 2016, swapping the first valve trigger with a main tuning slide trigger, similar to the Prestige model. The second valve tuning slide now points forward due to this change. The 926 Soprano Cornet, launched in 1988, had a front pull tuning slide like a trumpet and included two screw-in receivers for cornet or trumpet mouthpieces. However, if purchased second-hand, the trumpet receiver often went missing. The 924G Soprano Cornet was released in 2011, with a bore of .460, which is larger than usual but similar to the Courtois AC-107R. This model marked a change from previous designs. In 2009, Boosey and Hawkes started manufacturing their 927 and 928 models in France by Courtois, although some changes were reportedly made to Richard Smith's original design. A unique model, "Imperial Besson," was produced by Boosey and Hawkes between 1980-1983. This instrument lacked a first valve trigger and had a wider bell flare similar to the old 920. They came in smaller cases with black coloring instead of blue. Not to be confused with other instruments, such as the "Besson Imperial" or "Besson International BE-723," which are distinct models. International utilised the sovereign 927 medium bore valve block, slidesm bell and triggers for the model 622 student cornet which also uses the same bell as the 723 Cornet Besson Prestige developed in consultation with Roger Webster. The leadpipe and bell of the prestige cornet are similar tapers to the 928 Sovereign but have different bends to improve response and reduce effort required. The prestige cornet has a third valve trigger but no first valve trigger, instead featuring a main tuning slide trigger. On Boosey and Hawkes made instruments, this was located in the middle of the main tuning slide and caused issues with stickage. When Buffet Crampon relaunched the prestige cornet, the trigger was redesigned with a "miniball" linkage and moved to near the top leg of the tuning slide. The prestige cornet features black onyx instead of mother of pearl inlays on the valve buttons and heavier valve caps. Despite few visual differences between the Besson Sovereign and Prestige models, they share similar bells, valves, metal finish and tuning slides. The Prestige has a slightly larger bore on the lead-pipe and start of the shepherd's crook. The Sovereign 928 Cornet: A Balanced Instrument with Some Drawbacks The Sovereign 928 cornet is a popular instrument among musicians, thanks to its flexibility and free-blowing ability. However, it can be more challenging for average players to get a nice sound from on a Wick mouthpiece. A key factor in achieving good tone on the 928 is choosing the right mouthpiece. The smaller receiver works better with mouthpieces that have the correct taper, while newer models require larger tapers designed specifically for them. Another important consideration is maintenance and build quality. Early short receiver models are generally well-made, but later British-made long receiver models may not be as reliable. German and French models from even later periods can also vary in quality. When considering purchasing a second-hand Sovereign 928, look for instruments with properly soldered braces and correct solder joints. Additionally, check the compression or purchase from a reputable dealer with a return policy to avoid damage. In terms of tone, the Sovereign 928 has an advantage over some other instruments, particularly in free-blowing ability and loud playing. However, it may lack focus and become pale sounding when played quietly, especially in the lower register. Bigger mouthpieces can also be a drawback for this instrument. Hawkes list: A comprehensive overview of Besson's history, production numbers, and notable events. * In the French list, a discrepancy in estimated values has been identified. * Key milestones in Besson's development include: * 1993: The company produces 820xxx parts for Courtois assembly. * 1994: Manufacturing of low brass is transferred to B&S and Courtois for cornets and alto horns. * 2001: Production shifts to the Besson plant in Croxley Green (Watford) with Schreiber parts used briefly before becoming fully manufactured in-house. * Notable sales include: * 2003: B&H sell out to The Music Group. * 2005 (December): Buffet Crampon acquires Besson, relocating manufacturing to France and Germany. * 2012 (December): B&S is purchased by an unknown entity and becomes part of the Buffet Group. * For further information on Besson's history, consulting the Werden Serial Number List or other reliable sources can provide valuable insights.

Besson sovereign tuba serial numbers. Besson serial numbers. Besson sovereign 923. Besson sovereign euphonium serial numbers. Besson sovereign cornet serial numbers. Besson sovereign serial numbers by year. Besson sovereign tenor horn serial numbers. Besson serial number list.