

Tradition & Excellence

seit 1996

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DIE MUSIKWERKSTATT



Sovereign & Prestige cornets
Sovereign & Prestige tenor horns
Sovereign & Prestige baritones
Sovereign & Prestige euphoniums
Sovereign tubas
Accessories



Since 1837



Boosey & Hawkes's factory



Original Prestige engraving

BESSON SINCE 1837

In 1837, Gustave-Auguste Besson (1820-1874), an acoustic science genius, created the Besson brand in Paris. His new cornet revolutionized the concept and has marked minds and hearts even in our time. His instruments became famous in Europe, and he has been accredited with over fifty inventions.

In 1858, following a long series of lawsuits with Adolphe Sax, Gustave-Auguste Besson left Paris to build a factory in London. Over the following years, Besson continued to manufacture in Paris and London, and also had warehouses for distribution in Brussels, Charleroi, Madrid and Barcelona. Following Gustave-Auguste Besson's death in 1874, the company changed its name, becoming Fontaine-Besson in 1880 in France, and Besson in England.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the Besson factory of London employed 131 workers, producing 100 brass instruments a week, and no less than 10,000 musical ensembles appeared on their contact lists. In 1925, Besson purchased Quilter, and Wheatstone & Co. In 1940. In 1948, the group Boosey & Hawkes (an English music publisher since 1792) acquired the Besson London brand.

Always on the leading edge in design and manufacture, Besson became the brand of recognition for euphoniums, cornets, horns, baritones and tubas. Extensive research enables the company to produce the best valve instruments available today.

Since joining the Buffet Crampon group in 2006, Besson has restructured and re-launched its production of professional instruments in Europe. The student instruments continue to be manufactured in India, under the supervision of specialists from the Buffet Crampon's group. A global leader in professional-level clarinets, Buffet Crampon applies all of its technical, acoustic, organizational and marketing talent, as well as its international distribution network, to the Besson brand.

Besson brass instruments are esteemed by the most talented musicians all over the world, who seek above all "the real Besson sound".

Besson's spirit of innovation and tradition continues to exist worldwide.



Besson Unique Vocal Quality



Since 1837

The Tradition lives on

To guarantee the quality standards, new tooling has been built by the laser measuring of Prototype BESSON instruments including the **Imperial**, **New standard**, early **Sovereign** and new **Prestige** models. This precise measuring ensures the exact dimensions of each component part and guarantees that the exact, original design of each model has been respected fully.



Hand spun bell



Hand hammered bell

The musician point of view



"The new drilling procedures guarantee a perfect action and the perfect seal. Never before will you have felt Besson valves as good as this. They are better by design and are meeting with universal approval from musicians. It is a smoother and faster action so that the musician can concentrate on the music. A close inspection of detail reveal perfectly formed valve port holes with incredible attention to detail."

Steven Mead

Know-how

Bells are to be hand hammered and hand spun, as was the case prior to the early nineties. This method avoids over tensioning the metal and ultimately produces more sonorous instruments; the historic trademark of Besson. All of the valves are numbered and lapped-in individually into every valve case, giving perfect fitting and action. Modern precision tooling, and superior craftsmanship during the whole process of assembling and finishing assures perfect fitting of all the parts, slides and valves, giving better leak-test results, felt by the player as more resonance requiring less energy.

Every instrument is play-tested by musicians who have been involved with BESSON R&D for several decades, such as Roger Webster, Steven Mead, James Gourlay, Lesley Howie and others, in order to absolutely guarantee that the right sound and playing characteristics are respected.

The besson logo guarantees the original BESSON spirit.



Since 1837

History





SOVEREIGN CORNETS

Always leading the way with research and development, the Besson cornets allow the player to adapt effortlessly between the ever increasing stylistic demands made by our contemporary composers. The Sovereign cornets have evolved gradually over the past decades and possess the sound potential and mechanical assurance.



SOVEREIGN BE927

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: Bb
- Bore: .460" (11.68mm)
- Bell Diameter: 4^{3/4}" (120mm)
- Weight: 1.09kg
- Valves: 3 top center sprung monel
- Water keys: 2
- 1st and 3rd valve slide triggers
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate with rose brass bell
- Deluxe plush lined moulded case

SOVEREIGN BE928

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: Bb
- Bore: .465" (11.84mm)
- Bell diameter: 5" (124mm)
- Weight: 1.10kg
- Valves: top center sprung monel
- Water keys: 2
- 1st and 3rd valve triggers
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate with rose brass bell
- Deluxe plush lined moulded case





PRESTIGE CORNETS

The Prestige BE2028 has a redesigned valve block and a fully adjustable microball main tuning slide trigger. It possesses many of the playing characteristics of the old 921's and original International cornets so loved in the 70's. This is the instrument of choice for both soloists and top bands.

"These instruments are fantastic! The feeling of total quality takes me back to the 70's and 80's when the only instrument worth having was a Besson....well in my opinion...it is once again."

Roger Webster



PRESTIGE BE2028

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Bore: .470" (11.89mm)
- Bell diameter: 5" (124mm)
- Weight: 1.225 kg
- 2 water keys
- 3 centre sprung monel valves with dual point action
- Finger hook
- Fully adjustable microball main tuning slide trigger
- Main tuning slide and 3rd valve slide trigger gold-plated
- Gold-plated top and bottom caps
- Black onyx inserts in gold-plated button tops
- Optional heavy bottom caps supplied
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate
- Woodshell, cordura covered case with luxurious red lining, music pouch, accessory compartment and shoulder strap

Sovereign Cornets

BE927-1-0 Lacquer

BE927-2-0 Bright silverplate

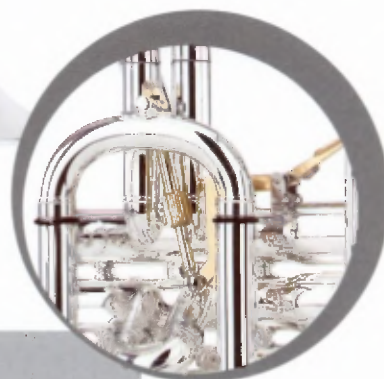
BE928-1-0 Lacquer

BE928-2-0 Bright silverplate

Prestige Cornets

BE2028-1-0 Lacquer

BE2028-2-0 Bright silverplate



Alliance mouthpiece



TenorHorns

SOVEREIGN BE950
PRESTIGE BE2050

SOVEREIGN TENOR HORNS

For years Besson tenor horns have been among the most successful and highly regarded instruments on the market. They have the perfect sound and enough power to fulfil any musical challenge. The Besson Tenor Horns offer a beautiful tonal quality and in a brass band setting have the capabilities to both blend and have soloistic presence.

"I couldn't believe the sound and responsiveness of the new Besson Tenor horn. It feels and plays like my original 'Globe stamped' Sovereign..."

Lesley Howie



Sovereign Tenor Horns

BE950-1-0 Lacquer

BE950-2-0 Bright silverplate

Prestige Tenor Horns

BE2050-1-0 Lacquer

BE2050-2-0 Bright silverplate

PRESTIGE TENOR HORNS

The Prestige BE2050 has been designed to meet the demands of the modern day player, with all the qualities of the BE950 and much more. The addition of a main slide trigger is a pioneering development which allows the player to be in complete control of intonation. In addition, the Prestige Horn has been enhanced with a redesigned valve block, wider dimensions and a new leadpipe which provides a rich opulent tonal superiority.

SOVEREIGN BE950

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: Eb
- Bore: .402" (10.2mm)
- Bell diameter: 8" (203mm)
- Weight: 1.98kg (4lb 6oz)
- Valves: 3 top sprung monel
- Finger buttons inlaid with mother of pearl
- Water keys: 3
- Upright bell
- Patented spring damper set
- Famous lead pipe design into 3rd valve
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate



PRESTIGE BE2050

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: Eb
- Bore: .409" (10.40mm)
- Bell diameter: 8" (203mm)
- Valves: 3 top sprung monel
- Main tuning slide trigger
- Black onyx inserts in gold-plated button tops
- Water keys: 3
- Additional removable slide with water key
- Newly developed lead pipe for freer blowing
- Left hand finger hook for additional balance and support
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate
- Gold-plated trigger, top and bottom caps
- Optional heavy bottom caps supplied



SOVEREIGN BARITONES

The Besson Sovereign baritone has for years been regarded as the leading top of the range baritone in the world of brass bands. Its even response and clarity in a variety of articulations is a notable feature, with the 3 valve compensating system delivering matchless tuning throughout its range. It's been seen the choice of leading baritone virtuosi and top band players. It's the sound conductors want to hear from the right side of a brass band, capable of the most thrilling fortissimos and whispering pianissimos.



Sovereign Baritones

BE955-1-0 Lacquer

BE955-2-0 Bright silverplate

Prestige Baritones

BE2056-1-0 Lacquer

BE2056-2-0 Bright silverplate

SOVEREIGN BE955

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: Bb
- Bore: .52" (13.11mm)
- Bell diameter: 9.1/2" (241.3mm)
- Weight: 2.5kg (5lb 8oz)
- Valves: 3 bottom sprung stainless steel
- 3 valves compensating
- Patented silicon rubber spring damper set
- Upright bell
- Water keys: 3
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate



PRESTIGE BE2056

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Same as BE955
 - 4 valves compensating
- Available 2nd half 2008

SOVEREIGN EUPHONIUMS

Besson Sovereign Euphoniums are an example of the British mastery of brass. Both 967 and 968 are fully compensating instruments, and both have benefited from the recent upgrades to all aspects of their production with totally new parts throughout, guaranteeing a quality never before achieved with this most famous of brands.



SOVEREIGN BE968

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Bore: .59" (15mm)
- Key: Bb
- Weight: 4.2kg (9lb 15oz)
- Bell diameter: 11 1/4" (284mm) upright
- Valves: 4 bottom spring stainless steel
- Water keys: 4 (including 3rd valve slide)
- 2nd valve finger ring
- Compensating
- Patented spring damper set
- Nickel-silver tuning slides
- "Floating" leadpipe
- Nylon Delrin valve guides
- Classic bell size
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate



SOVEREIGN BE967

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Bore: .59" (15mm)
- Key: Bb
- Weight: 4.25kg
- Bell diameter: 12" (304mm) upright
- Valves: 4 bottom spring stainless steel
- Water keys: 4 (including 3rd valve slide)
- 2nd valve finger ring
- Compensating
- Patented spring damper set
- Nickel-silver tuning slides
- "Floating" leadpipe
- Nylon Delrin valve guides
- Classic bell size
- Finishes: Lacquer or bright silverplate



PRESTIGE EUPHONIUMS

The Prestige euphonium has been designed to meet the needs of top players everywhere. As a recommendation of some of the world top soloists, for the first time ever the sensational main tuning slide trigger comes as standard, allowing players complete control of pitch, throughout the entire range. The sound quality is unsurpassed with a new dimension of richness, a sound that is always full and projects its quality to the back of any concert hall.

"I never thought that I could find an instrument better than my Prestige...well I have! It is the new Besson Prestige...looks about the same, feels about the same...plays like an absolute dream! Without doubt, the best instrument I have ever played."

Steven Mead



PRESTIGE BE2051

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: Bb
- Bore: .59" (15mm)
- Weight: 4.65kg
- Bell diameter: 11 1/4" (284mm)
- Valves: 4 bottom sprung stainless steel valves
- Water keys: 3
- 2 finger rings
- Compensating system
- Tuning slide trigger with snap-on ball quick release system
- Patented spring damper set
- Nylon valve guides
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate



PRESTIGE BE2052

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: Bb
- Bore: .59" (15mm)
- Weight: 4.7kg
- Bell diameter: 12" (304mm)
- Valves: 4 bottom sprung stainless steel valves
- Water keys: 3
- 2 finger rings
- Compensating system
- Tuning slide trigger with snap-on ball quick release system
- Patented spring damper set
- Nylon valve guides
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate



Sovereign Euphoniums

- BE967-1-0 Lacquer
- BE967-2-0 Bright silverplate
- BE968-1-0 Lacquer
- BE968-2-0 Bright silverplate

Prestige Euphoniums

- BE2051-1-0 Lacquer
- BE2051-2-0 Bright silverplate
- BE2052-1-0 Lacquer
- BE2052-2-0 Bright silverplate





SOVEREIGN EEB TUBAS

The design of the Besson EEB Tuba is one of the most famous designs in history of tuba development. Made famous by the legendary John Fletcher who advised on its design, it has for a couple of generations been regarded as the possessing the ultimate rich tone in bands and also professional symphony orchestras.



SOVEREIGN BE980

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: EEB
- Bore: .681" (17.3mm)
- Bell diameter: 17" (431mm)
- Weight: 9.3kg (20lb 8oz)
- Valves: 4 bottom sprung stainless steel
- Compensating
- Water keys: 4
- 2nd valve finger ring
- Original John Fletcher mouthpipe
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate
- Moulded case, plush lined interior, with wheels

SOVEREIGN BE981

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: EEB
- Bore: .681" (17.3mm)
- Bell Diameter: 19" (483mm)
- Weight: 9.3kg (20lb 8oz)
- Valves: 4 bottom sprung stainless steel
- Water keys: 4
- Compensating
- Original John Fletcher mouthpipe
- 2nd valve finger ring
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate
- Moulded case, plush lined interior, with wheels



SOVEREIGN BE983

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: EEB
- Finishes: Lacquer or silver plate
- Bore: .681" (17.3mm)
- Bell Diameter: 19" (483mm)
- Weight: 8.2kg (18lbs)
- Water keys: 4
- Valves: 4 stainless steel, front action, bottom sprung
- Compensating
- Delrin valve guides
- Lightweight valve springs
- Newly designed mouthpipe
- Adjustable thumb ring
- Two carriage rings
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate

SOVEREIGN BE982

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Same as BE981
- With smaller tapered leadpipe and two carriage rings



SOVEREIGN BE994

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Key: BBb
- Bore: .730" (18.54mm)
- Bell Diameter: 19" (483mm)
- Weight: 11.8kg (26lb 8oz)
- Valves: 4 bottom sprung stainless steel
- Compensating
- Two carriage rings
- Finishes: lacquer or bright silverplate



Sovereign Tubas

- BE980-1-0 Lacquer
- BE980-2-0 Bright silverplate
- BE981-1-0 Lacquer
- BE981-2-0 Bright silverplate
- BE982-1-0 Lacquer
- BE982-2-0 Bright silverplate
- BE983-1-0 Lacquer
- BE983-2-0 Bright silverplate
- BE994-1-0 Lacquer
- BE994-2-0 Bright silverplate
- BE995-1-0 Lacquer
- BE995-2-0 Bright silverplate

SOVEREIGN CC TUBA BE995

Available 2nd half 2008





ACCESSORIES

BESSON instruments are made the highest standard by skilled craftsmen using superior quality material and technical expertise. BESSON has a long tradition in the art of brass musical instrument making and enviable world-wide reputation for the quality of its products. This vast experience, coupled with the very latest in modern manufacturing techniques brings you an instrument of excellence to be enjoyed and cherished.

Your instrument is a valuable item, well worth your respect, care and attention. Regular maintenance is important and a little time and effort will certainly pay off. BESSON selected specially for you these accessories.



CLEANERS

BCA4920BE - Silver and/or lacquer cloth, microfibre



OILS & LUBRICANTS

- WE4001 - Valve Oil Pro Quality
- WE4002 - Rotary Valve Oil
- WE4003 - Slide Oil - medium viscosity
- WE4004 - Slide Gel - high viscosity
- WE4005 - Trombone Lube
- WE4006 - Key Oil
- WE4007 - Bearing & Linkage Oil
- WE4008 - Cork Grease





CASES

BE1020 - Cornet BE1020
 BE1062 - Euphonium BE1062/1065
 BE771 - Cornet Sovereign BE927/928
 BE228 - Cornet Prestige BE2028
 BE950 - Tenor Horn Sovereign BE950
 BE955 - Baritone Sovereign BE955
 BE968 - Euphonium Sovereign BE967/968
 BE2052 - Euphonium Prestige BE2051/2052
 BE982 - E♭ Tuba Sovereign BE980/981/982
 BE983 - E♭ Tuba Sovereign BE983
 BE994 - B♭ Tuba Sovereign BE994



Accessories

Cleaners
 Oils & lubricants
 Cases
 Miscellaneous
 Cardholders



CARDHOLDERS

Bugle and Cornet, lacquer
 Bugle and Cornet, bright silverplate
 Cornet and Trumpet, bright silverplate
 Multi-purpose adjustable for tenor horn, Baritone,
 Euphonium and Tuba, lacquer
 Multi-purpose adjustable for tenor horn, Baritone,
 Euphonium and Tuba, bright silverplate
 Trombone, lacquer
 Trombone, bright silverplate

MISCELLANEOUS

STD4613NEW - Reservoir for Euphonium and Tuba
 4512 - Water key stopper



SOVEREIGN CORNETS	KEY	BORE	BELL DIAMETER	BELL METAL
BE927-1-0	Bb	.460"	4 ^{3/4} "	Rose brass
BE927-2-0		11.68mm	120mm	
BE928-1-0	Bb	.465"	5"	Rose brass
BE928-2-0		11.84mm	124mm	
PRESTIGE CORNETS				
BE2028-1-0	Bb	.470"	5"	Yellow brass
BE2028-2-0		11.89mm	124mm	
SOVEREIGN TENOR HORNS				
BE950-1-0	Eb	.402"	8"	Yellow brass
BE950-2-0		10.21mm	203mm	
PRESTIGE TENOR HORNS				
BE2050-1-0	Eb	.409"	8"	Yellow brass
BE2050-2-0		10.40mm	203mm	
SOVEREIGN BARITONES				
BE955-1-0	Bb	.52"	9 ^{1/2} "	Yellow brass
BE955-2-0		13.11mm	241.3mm	
PRESTIGE BARITONES				
BE2056-1-0	Bb	.54"	9 ^{1/2} "	Yellow brass
BE2056-2-0		13.8mm	241.3mm	
SOVEREIGN EUPHONIUMS				
BE967-1-0	Bb	.59"	12"	Yellow brass
BE967-2-0		15mm	304mm	
BE968-1-0	Bb	.59"	11 ^{1/4} "	Yellow brass
BE968-2-0		15mm	284mm	
PRESTIGE EUPHONIUMS				
BE2051-1-0	Bb	.59"	11 ^{1/4} "	Yellow brass
BE2051-2-0		15mm	284mm	
BE2052-1-0	Bb	.59"	12"	Yellow brass
BE2052-2-0		15mm	304mm	
SOVEREIGN TUBAS				
BE980-1-0	EEb	.681"	17"	Yellow brass
BE980-2-0		17.3mm	431mm	
BE981-1-0	EEb	.681"	19"	Yellow brass
BE981-2-0		17.3mm	483mm	
BE982-1-0	EEb	.681"	19"	Yellow brass
BE982-2-0		17.3mm	483mm	
BE983-1-0	EEb	.681"	19"	Yellow brass
BE983-2-0		17.3mm	483mm	
BE994-1-0	BBb	.72"	19"	Yellow brass
BE994-2-0		18.3mm	483mm	
BE995-1-0	CC	.748"	19"	Yellow brass
BE995-2-0		19mm	483mm	





BESSON

Since 1837

VALVES	NUMBER OF TRIGGERS	FINGER BUTTONS	WATER KEYS	FINISHES
	1 & 3 valve slide	Mother of pearl	2	Lacquer Bright silverplate
	1 & 3 valve slide		2	Lacquer Bright silverplate
	Trigger main tuning slide & 3rd slide trigger	Black onyx	2	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Top spring model		Mother of pearl	3	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Top spring model	Main tuning slide	Black onyx	3	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel		Mother of pearl	3	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel		Black onyx	3	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel		Mother of pearl	3	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel		Mother of pearl	3	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel	Main tuning slide	Black onyx	3	Lacquer Bright silverplate
	Main tuning slide	Black onyx	3	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel		Mother of pearl	4	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel		Mother of pearl	4	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel		Mother of pearl	4	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel		Mother of pearl	4	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless Steel		Mother of pearl	4	Lacquer Bright silverplate
Stainless steel and 1 rotary - 4 pistons		Mother of pearl	4	Lacquer Bright silverplate