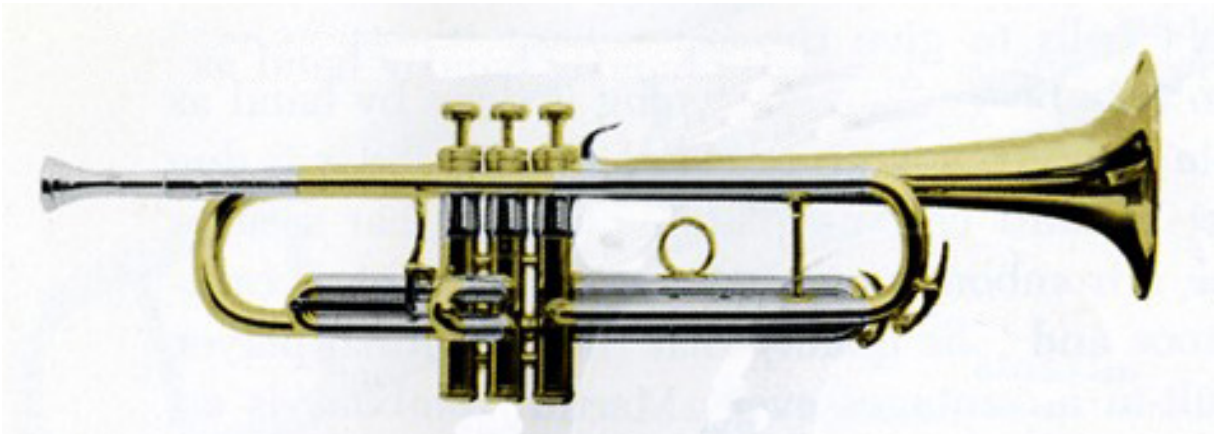


Martin Band Instrument Co.
Magna Trumpet
Elkhart, Indiana
1964 – c.1971

When Wurlitzer took over Martin in 1964, they introduced the Magna model trumpet. This appears to be a rebranding of the TU05 Custom Committee shown below from the 1962 catalog. The origins of this design come from Reynold Schilke. Trumpeter Wallace Roney said, "I met Mr. Schilke through John Faddis. Mr. Schilke was going to fix my Martin Magna. He stopped me and said, "Let me see who made this horn." Then he said, "Ah yes, this is mine, [one of] the ones I made, not the other guys." (meaning Leblanc) He proceeded to show me step by step how he made the horn with a cornet leadpipe, tapered tuning slide, and a fast taper in the bell tail to the flair. And believe me, in 1981, he was still extremely proud of those horns (the Martins from 1940-1965)."



Below is one of the earliest examples found with #2198xx and no RMC marking. It also has the TU05 marking on the lead pipe and the only design change is the adjustable third slide ring and stop rod. These have a 0.460" bore and a 4-7/8" rose brass bell. This one also has a star above the serial number and a really beautiful custom engraving. (author's photos)





Soon after this, Wurlitzer changed to a 700000 serial number sequence.

Magna Trumpet in C #702xxx c.1964



#704xxx in Bb c.1965



#7048xx c.1965



#711xxx c.1966



#7126xx c.1967, Wurlitzer model 3400



#7175xx c.1968



After Martin was sold to Leblanc in 1971, they developed a new Magna trumpet with Mic Gillett, a famous lead trumpet player for the Tower of Power. Mic said that these were made from old Committee specifications combined with a new 6" bell and a 0.470" bore. Martin ended up making about fifty of these with his name on the bell as well as two experimental models with a large 0.484" bore from a valve trombone. These had such a big sound that they did not blend well and were sold to Bill Ortiz of Santana. Another internet source says that they made 42 of the ML and 6 of the L bore. These were designed by Larry Ramirez of Leblanc, who also worked on the new Committee.

Mic Gillett



Larry Ramirez



Magna #95xx from 1972 and used by Mic from 1972 – 1974. This prototype used some Benge parts combined with the Martin bell.





Martin called this the T3-468A Deluxe



Just look at how big that bell is! Some of these trumpets have a star above the serial number. One source said that this indicates the 0.460" bore and another that it indicates a lightweight bell. Schilke says that he had nothing to do with the instruments made under Leblanc and that they messed up his designs.

The Magna name is not used after this time.