

Martin Troubadour Trumpet

1930 – 1935

This ad from June 1930 shows the new Sport trumpet. They were asking readers to suggest a different model name.

MARTIN



Announcing ▶



The NEW Sport Model MARTINS
◀ Trumpet - Trombone - Cornet ▶

Distinctly modern; narrow-lined, rakish as a custom-built Sport Model automobile; wondrously graceful; in workmanship worthy of the master-artist in metal, Benvenuto Cellini; so easy blowing as to be veritably sensitive to a sigh; built of the finest French light yellow Trumpet Brass hand-hammered to fine and true a temper as to have all the ring and all the carrying power to dominate even a circus band—than, together, with all the other virtues of the world famous Martin *Handcraft* (hand-built) Line, is Martin's New Sport Model Trumpet, Trombone, and Cornet.

A DEALER OPPORTUNITY!

Here is a smashing opportunity to make Real Profits. This New Sport Model Martin is a real business stimulator; you can see, feel its points of difference, its selling qualities. It has universal appeal.

PRIZES FOR A NAME

Along with punchy advertising effort we are stimulating interest in the New Sport Model Martins by offering prizes for a name. For details, drop us a card.

MARTIN
Band Instrument Co., Elkhart, Indiana



Troubadour #9856x c.1930 (below & bell at right) is the earliest example I have recorded, and has no model name on it.

This probably holds the record for the narrowest design.



The warranty card for cornet #99905 has the Troubadour model so they must have settled on the name by late 1930. Oddly, the card for cornet #100105 is marked "Spt" for the Sport model.



The Troubadour had a 4" bell and Martin's "M" bore of 0.435".

Troubadour #9978x c.1930



Troubadour #9982x c.1930 (two below & right)



#10072x c.1930



Music Trade Review reported in 1931 that the new Troubadour trumpet was "highly praised by top notch players." They also said that "Louis Armstrong ... has just purchased a new gold Martin Troubadour and is tremendously pleased with it." At the time they were also making Troubadour model saxophones, trombones and cornets. Armstrong can be seen playing his trumpet in the 1932 short movie "A Rhapsody in Black & Blue".



#10123x c.1931 (below & top right)

The bell at right says this has a Supra Metal Bell. This was a nickel-silver bell also used on the New Master model starting in 1929. This is the only example of a Troubadour with this option and the earliest one I have found with the model name added.



#1020xx c.1931



#10226x c.1931 (below & 2nd at right)



#10264x c.1931 (below & 3rd at right)



#10279x c.1931



#10424x c.1932

In 1934 Martin said, "Note particularly the body design of the Troubadour, long, narrow, smart. Has fine intonation, brilliant voice, balance, and unrestrained volume. Built of French yellow brass; medium bore only; hand tempered. The Troubadour is a particular favorite among the younger dance men."

#10589x c.1933 (below & right)



#10798x c.1933



#11005x c.1935 (below & mouthpieces at right)



#11226x c.1935 (below & top right)



#11318x c. 1935 (the last one I have recorded)



In the 1934 catalog, the Imperial was the top trumpet model and the Troubadour was second. Cost in lacquer was \$85 and \$90 in silver plate.

The Troubadour was gone from the 1936 catalog.