

# F.E. Olds & Son Trumpets and Cornets

This guide contains photos from my collection, advertising, and the websites of some resellers, which detail the trumpets of the F.E. Olds & Son Company.

Frank Olds, who was born in 1861 in Medina New York to a civil war hero, began as a machinist and laborer, from the Toledo area who moved at a young age to Los Angeles where he became involved first in Bicycles and then steam automobiles – engaging in the repair of both. Some time before 1910, he began to manufacture trombones in his garage. This expanded into the band instrument company that bore his name. In 1928, Olds and his wife embarked on a lengthy cruise aboard the SS City of Los Angeles. Five days into the trip, Olds died of a massive heart attack and was buried at sea. Early the following year, the company, under son Reginald B Olds, introduced its first trumpets.

Olds was absorbed by the holding Company Chicago Musical Instruments at the end of World War II. CMI hired King designer and former York apprentice Foster Reynolds out of retirement to run the Olds plant. Reynolds helped launch the Ambassador student line and enforced rigorous quality standards for new products such as the Olds Studio models until his death at the factory in 1960.

Reynolds' apprentice Zigmant Kanstul assumed Reynolds post, but pressures from new owners for greater returns on higher volume production led to a decline in quality and Kanstul left to run Benge for King in 1972. Unable to achieve desired profit margins, or to sell the company for an inflated price in an over-supplied market, Norlin shut down Olds and auctioned off the assets in 1979.



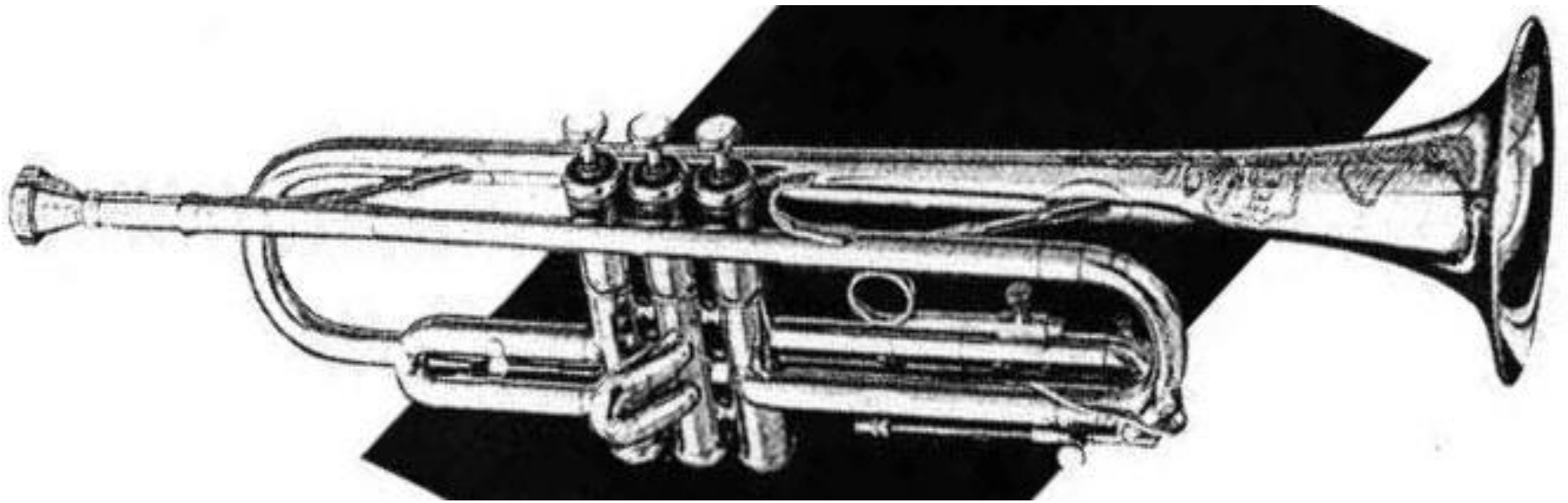
## “The Olds Trumpet”

**Years Built:** 1929 - ca. 1930

**Variants:** Military edition of the original Olds Trumpet shown

**Significant Characteristics:**

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds Standard Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1930 – 1940

**Variants:** Available in Medium, Large Medium and Large Large Medium bores

**Significant Characteristics:** Bb/A quick change by way of the under-mounted stop-rod on the tuning slide.

Catalog language continued to refer to the Standard as simply “The Olds Trumpet” in the description beneath the Standard title for many years.

Catalog Graphic



## The Olds Military Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1930 – 1937/8

**Variants:** Available in Small, Medium and Large Medium bores

**Significant Characteristics:** Hammered finish on the entire bell.

Photo from Robb Stewart



## The Olds Symphony Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1930 – before 1932

**Variants:** Available in M-SYM and Symphony (large) bores

**Significant Characteristics:** The Martin large bore offering.

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds No. 31 Super Trumpet

**Years Built:** by 1932 - before WWII

**Variants:** Only one bore size – not specified in the catalog

**Significant Characteristics:** Nickel “Tone Ring” applied to the bell flare at the rim.

Photo from Robb Stewart



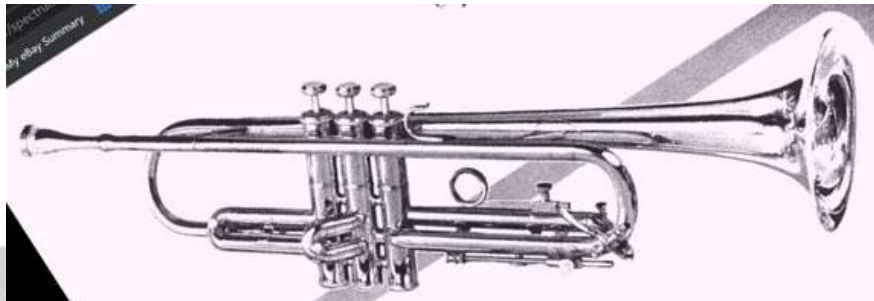
## The Olds French Model Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1932

**Variants:** Available in French bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:** Thumb saddle for first is elevated and bell finish is hammered like the Military Model.

Photo from Robb Stewart



## The Olds No. 11 Special Trumpet

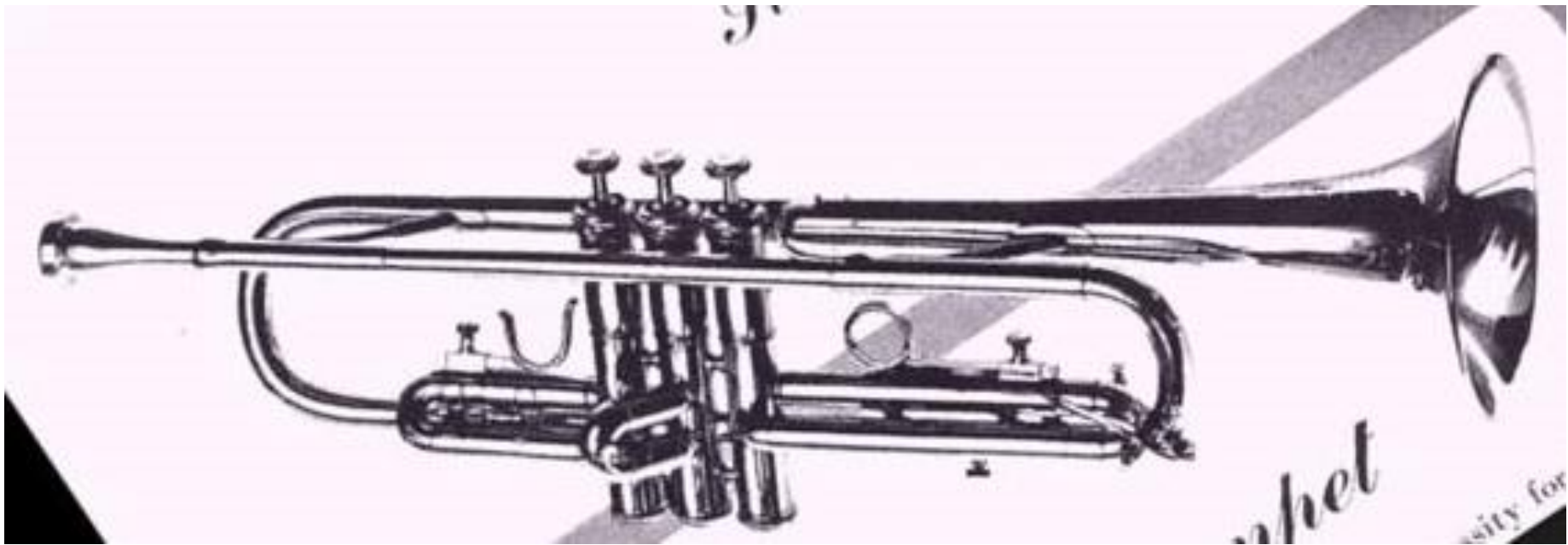
**Years Built:** 1940 - WWII

**Variants:** Both receiver and receiverless.

**Significant Characteristics:** According to the 1941 catalog, the Special line was created as a budget alternative to the Standard and premium Super lines.

Receiverless photo from Quality Brass, graphic showing receiver from the 1941 catalog





## The Olds Standard Trumpet

**Years Built:** ca. 1940 – 1941, 1946 – 1947

**Variants:** Believed to be Medium-Large and a Larger bore

Catalogs do not mention if multiple bores remain available. This may have changed across WWII.

**Significant Characteristics:** Stop-rod for Bb/A quick-change has been deleted from the design.

Catalog Graphic



## The Olds No. 41/R-10 (Super) Recording Trumpet

**Years Built:** before 1941 - 1979

**Variants:** 1941 built with integral receiver shown. Bore listed as .460 in 1970.

**Significant Characteristics:** Model designation changed to R-10 circa 1950 and also R-5 in the 1960s. Nickel “tone ring” on bell flair at rim. Second valve is offset to the left.

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds No. 11 Special Trumpet

**Years Built:** post-WWII – 1957/61

**Variants:** Medium-Large bore only listed in 1962 catalog.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Photo from Quality Brass



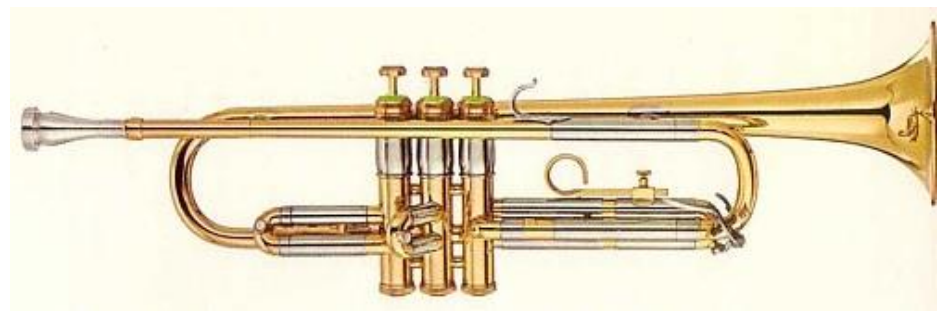
## The Olds S-10 Super Trumpet

**Years Built:** before WWII – 1970/72

**Variants:** Medium-Large .460 bore only listed in catalog.

**Significant Characteristics:** “Tone Ring” applied to the bell flare at the rim.

Catalog image →





## The Olds T-10 Studio Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1948 - 1965

**Variants:**

**Significant Characteristics:** Bell flare section is cupro-nickel while the stem is brass.



## The Olds A-10 Ambassador Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1949 - 1979

**Variants:** Available some years in C or Eb also. .460 ML bore only for Bb models.

**Significant Characteristics:** Built as a student line.

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds M-10 Mendez Model Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1952 – 1970/72

**Variants:** Also dubbed M-5 in the 1960s when all of the -10s are -5s. Medium-Large .460 bore.

**Significant Characteristics:** To satisfy Mendez, the valves had to be buffed down to leak. It is unclear how many production units share this trait.

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds O-12 Opera Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1958/60 – 1970/72

**Variants:** .468 bore. O-112 fanfare model also available in the early years

**Significant Characteristics:** Large bore model

Photo from Quality Brass





## The Olds L-10 Special Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1958/62 – 1979

**Variants:** .460 ML bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:** Brass body and lead pipe, nickel trim, cupro-nickel bell stem fused to rose brass bell flare.

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds P-10 Custom Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1963/66 – 1970/72

**Variants:** Also available as C-10, D-10, and E-10 high-pitch trumpets, and F-10 alto trumpet.

In 1966 a Custom-kit model with interchangeable bells was offered. Bb and C in .460 ML bore, D and Eb in .437 bore, and F alto in .468 bore.

**Significant Characteristics:** The thumb saddle does not appear in catalog illustrations and may have been added to this example.

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds T-10 Studio Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1966 - 1970/72

**Variants:** .460 ML bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:** All brass construction.

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds Pinto Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1971/73 – before 1977

**Variants:** Also sold as Reynolds Ranger

**Significant Characteristics:** all plastic valve body with interchangeable pistons.

Photo from Quality Brass



# The Olds S-12 Super Ultra Sonic Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1971/73 - 1979

**Variants:** .460 bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Photo from Quality Brass



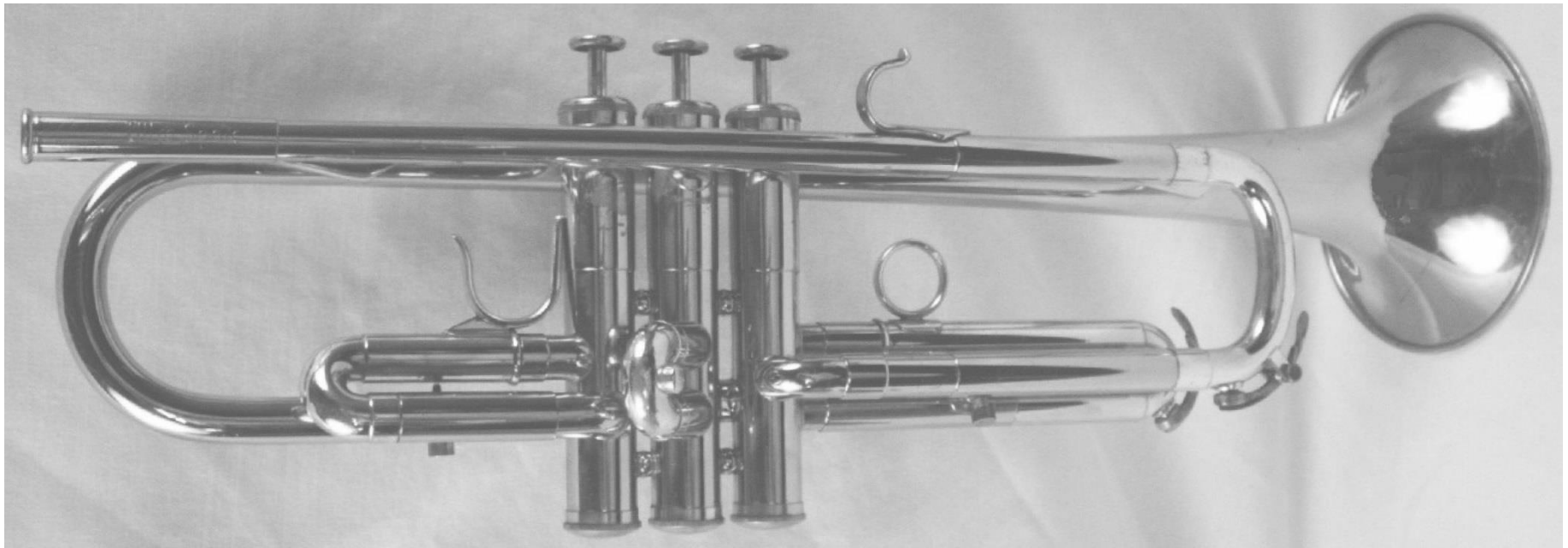
## The Olds M-12 Mendez Ultra Sonic Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1971/73 -

**Variants:** .460 bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Catalog image



## The Olds P-12 Custom Ultra Sonic Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1971/73 -

**Variants:** .460 ML bore P-12. Also available as P-12L .468 large bore, and C-12 and E-12D high pitch trumpets also in unusually large .460 bore.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Advertising image



## The Olds V-102 Super Star Trumpet

**Years Built:** 1974/77 - 1979

**Variants:** .460 ML bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Photo from Quality Brass





## The Olds P-13T Clark Terry Trumpet

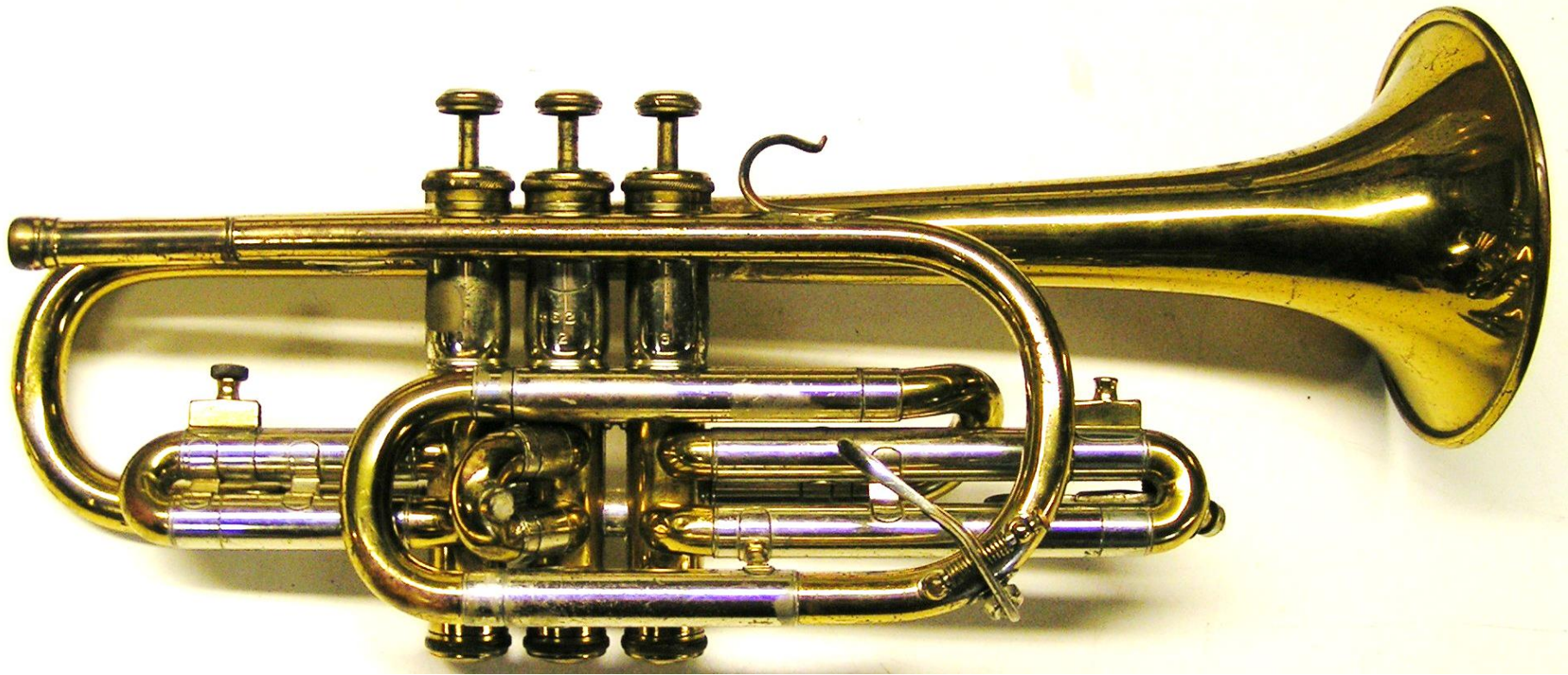
**Years Built:** 1974/77 - 1979

**Variants:** .460 ML bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Catalog image

# CORNETS



## The Olds Standard Cornet

**Years Built:** ca. 1930 – WWII

**Variants:** Available in Medium, Large Medium and Large Bores.

**Significant Characteristics:**



## The Military Cornet

**Years Built:** ca. 1932 – 1937/8

**Variants:** Available in Small, Medium, Large Medium and Large bores.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Catalog graphic



## The Olds No. 30 Super Cornet

**Years Built:** by 1932 – ca. 1970

**Variants:** Medium-Large bore listed in 1962 catalog as only size.

**Significant Characteristics:** Nickel “tone ring” on bell flare at rim.

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds No. 10 Special Cornet

**Years Built:** after 1932/before 1941 - WWII

**Variants:**

**Significant Characteristics:**

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds No. 40 Recording Cornet

**Years Built:** after 1932/before 1941 – ca. 1970

**Variants:**

**Significant Characteristics:** Second valve is offset to the left. Lead pipe enters first valve.

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds L-5 Special Cornet

**Years Built:** WWII - 1979

**Variants:** .468 bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Photo from Quality Brass



## The Olds Studio Cornet

**Years Built:** 1948 - 1965

**Variants:**

**Significant Characteristics:** Bell flare section is cupro-nickel while the stem is brass.





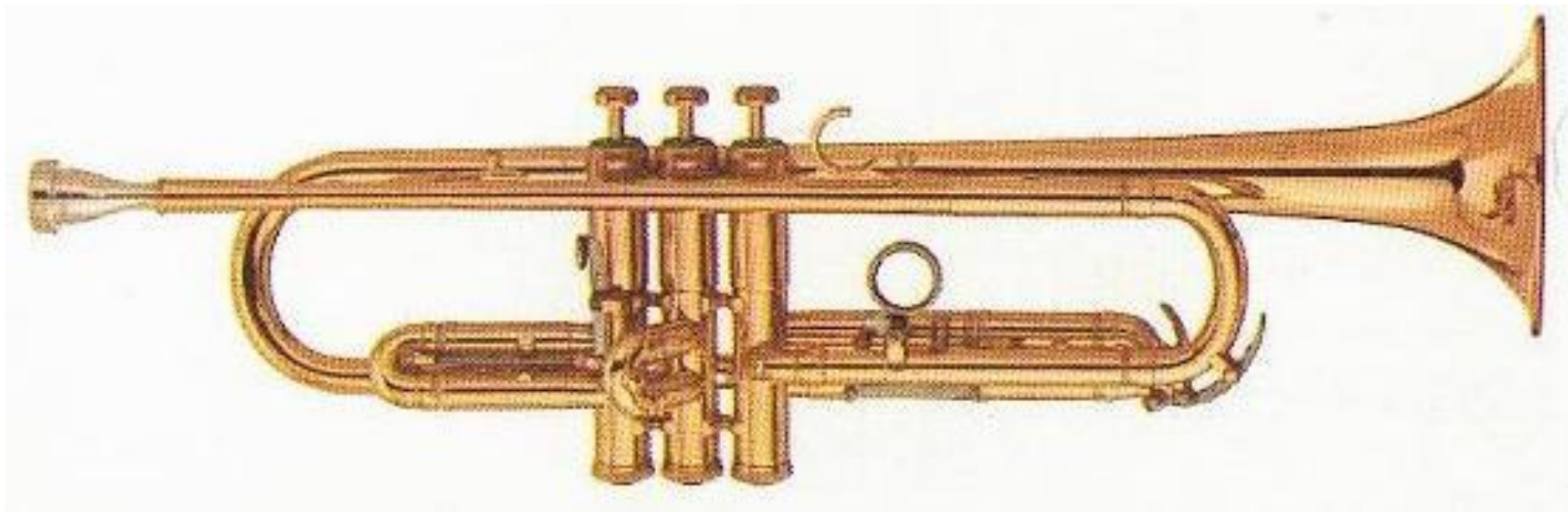
## The Olds A-5 ambassador Cornet

**Years Built:** 1949 - 1979

**Variants:** "Medium-Large" .468 bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Photo from Quality Brass



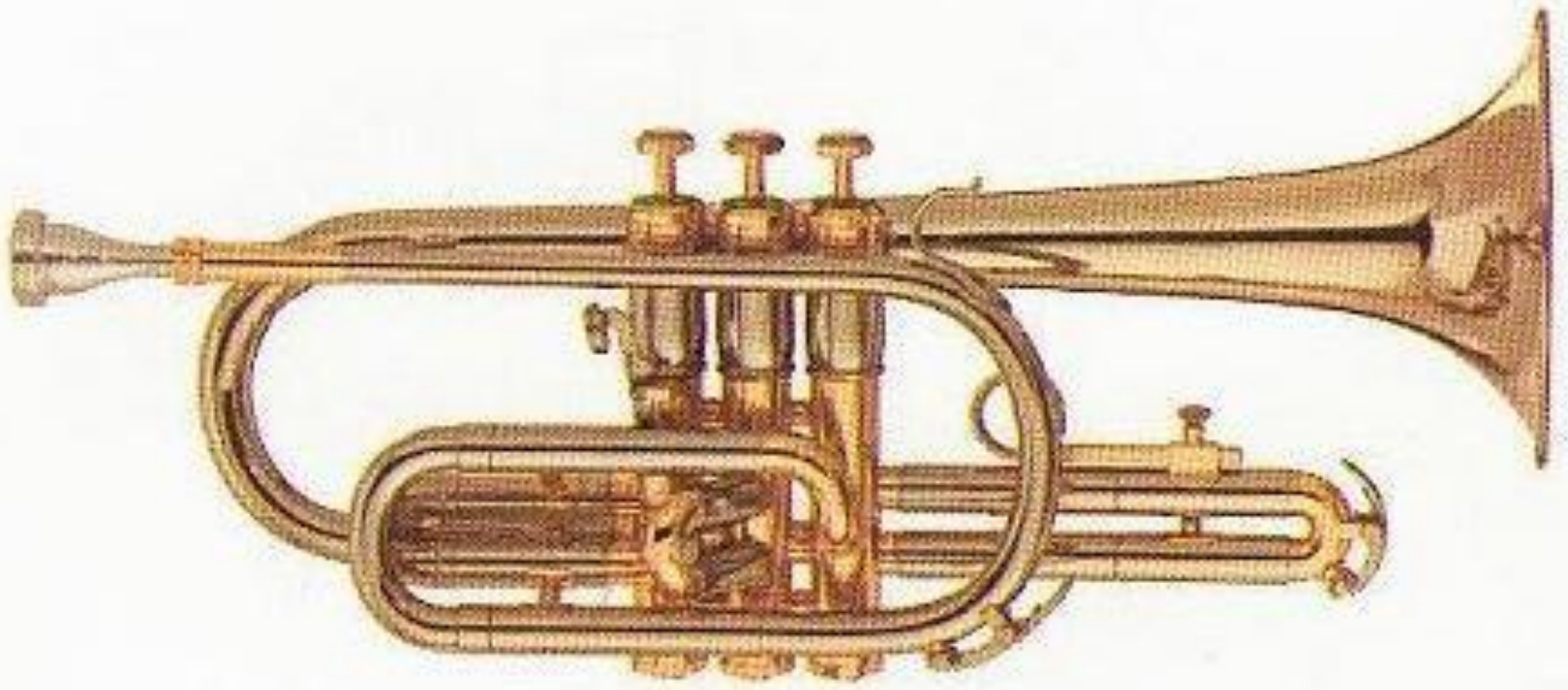
## The Olds M-5 Mendez Cornet

**Years Built:** 1952 - 1979

**Variants:** Large bore model only.

**Significant Characteristics:** According to catalogs, the cornet looks just like the trumpet

Catalog graphic



## The Olds O-5 Opera Cornet

**Years Built:** 1966 – circa 1970

**Variants:** Extra Large bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:**

Catalog graphic



## The Olds V-52 Super Star Cornet

**Years Built:** 1974/77 - 1979

**Variants:** .468 bore only.

**Significant Characteristics:** Under-wrapped tuning slide similar to King Master Model.

Catalog image