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Recommended Brass Equipment, Method Books, and Supplies

NOTE: This is NOT a comprehensive list and is only based on my own personal experiences.

Tenor Trombones

Beginner/small bore – Yamaha 354, King 606, Bach and Getzen are good beginner horns as well – be sure to keep the cost affordable! Beginner horns are good for marching band

Intermediate – Best just to go straight to the a pro/advanced line instrument, the cost is nearly the same

*If you have your heart set on buying an intermediate level horn just email me

Advanced/large bore (Concert) – Bach 42BO, Bach 42T, Conn 88H, Getzen Custom, Yamaha 682, Yamaha Xeno – the Blessing 88 series is good for a school on a budget

Advanced/small bore (Jazz) – Conn 100H, King 2B, King 2B+, King 3B

*Any small bore (about .500 bore size with 8” bell) will work just fine for jazz – many students just use their beginner horns for 1st and 2nd parts in jazz band

Tenor Trombone Mouthpieces

Beginner (small shank) – Bach 12C, Bach 11C

*Faxx also makes great CNC machined copies of the Bach mouthpieces and are very affordable...the plating is also better

Intermediate (small shank) – Bach 6.5AL, Faxx 6.5AL

Intermediate (large shank) – Bach 6.5AL, Faxx 6.5AL

Advanced (large shank) – Bach 5G, Faxx 5G, Schilke 51

Tenor Trombone Mutes

Straight – Humes & Berg Stonelined (jazz), Denis Wick or Tom Crown (concert)

*Metal mutes are preferable for concert band

Cup – Humes & Berg Stonelined (jazz), Denis Wick or Jo-Ral (concert)

*Metal mutes are preferable for concert band

Plunger – Use the “standard” size for tenor trombone – for bass trombone get a larger plunger and for trumpet get a smaller size

Bucket – You can buy these if you have the money, but playing into the stand during these passages works well also

Tenor Trombone Method Books

Beginner – Essential Elements (Book 1), Standard of Excellence (Book 1)
Beginner/Intermediate – Essential Elements (Book 2), Standard of Excellence (Book 2),
Weber (Book 2)

Intermediate – Rubank (Intermediate), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Intermediate/Advanced – Rubank (Advanced, Book 1), Pares Scales, Embouchure
Builder

Advanced – Rubank (Advanced, Book 2), Rochut Melodious Etudes for Trombone
(Book 1), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder, Arban’s Complete Method

Bass Trombones

Advanced – Bach 50B, Bach 50T3, Conn 62H, Getzen Custom, Yamaha 613H
*9.5” bell is usually preferred over the 10.5” bell

Bass Trombone Mouthpieces

Advanced – Bach 1.25G, Bach 1.5G, Schilke 59, Schilke 60

Bass Trombone Mutes

Straight – Humes & Berg Stonelined (jazz), Denis Wick (concert)
*Metal mutes are preferable for concert band

Cup – Humes & Berg Stonelined (jazz), Denis Wick (concert)
*Metal mutes are preferable for concert band

Plunger – Use the “standard” size for tenor trombone – for bass trombone get a larger
plunger and for trumpet get a smaller size

Bucket – You can buy these if you have the money, but playing into the stand during
these passages works well also

Bass Trombone Method Books

Advanced – Arban’s Complete Method, Fink Studies in Legato for Bass Trombone and
Tuba, Ostrander Melodious Etudes for Brass Trombone, Ostrander Method for Bass
Trombone, Rubank (Advanced, Book 1 and Book 2)

Trombone Slide Lubricants

Slide-O-Mix Rapid Comfort (one-step bottle), Trombotine, Yamaha Slide Oil, Superslick

Euphoniums

Beginner – Yamaha 201, any bell-front Conn, King, or Yamaha will work also, but
students should not stay on a bell-front instrument after their first year (in my opinion)

Intermediate – Yamaha 321 (highly recommended for middle school/early high school)

Advanced – Yamaha 642, Besson 967, Yamaha 968

*If you are on a tight budget a Besson 765 can also work

Euphonium Mouthpieces

Beginner (small shank) – Bach 7C, Bach 6.5AL, Faxx 6.5AL, Schilke 50

Intermediate (small shank) – Bach 6.5AL, Faxx 6.5AL, Schilke 51D

Advanced (large shank) – Bach 5G, Faxx 5G, Schilke 51D (highly recommended)

Euphonium Mutes

Seldom used by middle school and high school band programs, but if you want to purchase one Balu and Denis Wick are good brands to get

Euphonium Method Books

Beginner – Essential Elements (Book 1), Standard of Excellence (Book 1)

Beginner/Intermediate – Essential Elements (Book 2), Standard of Excellence (Book 2), Weber (Book 2)

Intermediate – Rubank (Intermediate), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Intermediate/Advanced – Rubank (Advanced, Book 1), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Advanced – Rubank (Advanced, Book 2), Rochut Melodious Etudes for Trombone (Book 1 – works well on euphonium as well), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder, Clarke Studies for Bass Clef Instruments, Arban's Complete Method

Tubas

Beginner – Any 3/4 size tuba made by Yamaha, a 4/4 size tuba is usually way too big for beginners

Intermediate – Any Yamaha model

Advanced – Cervený, Miraphone 186, Yamaha 641, VMI

Note: For middle school and high school you will be looking to purchase BBb tubas, NOT CC, Eb, or F tubas (you will most likely never purchase a CC, Eb, or F)

Tuba Mouthpieces

Beginner – Bach 24AW, Bach 25, Faxx 24AW

Intermediate – Bach 22

Advanced – Bach 12, Bach 18, Faxx 18, Conn Helleberg (highly recommended), Faxx Helleberg

Tuba Mutes

Seldom used by middle school and high school band programs, but if you want to purchase one Balu and Denis Wick are good brands to get.

Tuba Method Books

Beginner – Essential Elements (Book 1), Standard of Excellence (Book 1)

Beginner/Intermediate – Best in Class (Book 2), Essential Elements (Book 2), Standard of Excellence (Book 2)

Intermediate – Rubank (Intermediate), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Intermediate/Advanced – Rubank (Advanced, Book 1), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Advanced – Fink Studies in Legato for Bass Trombone and Tuba, Rubank (Advanced 2), Ostrander Melodious Etudes for Bass Trombone, Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder, Arban's Complete Method

Trumpets

Beginner – Yamaha

Intermediate – Yamaha

Advanced – Bach Stradivarius

Trumpet Mouthpieces

Beginner – Bach 7C, Faxx 7C

Intermediate – Bach 5C, Faxx 5C

*When a trumpet player is playing “Class B” music he/she is probably ready for a Bach 5C or Faxx 5C mouthpiece

Advanced – Bach 3C, Faxx 3C

*When a trumpet player is playing “Class A” music he/she is probably ready for a Bach 3C or Faxx 3C mouthpiece

*Your lead trumpet player(s) in jazz band may still want to keep their 5C size mouthpieces and use those (they are smaller and help endurance and brilliance in the upper register) – the above are only guidelines...some of your high school students may stay on a 5C sized mouthpiece the entire four years, others may be ready for a 3C.

Trumpet Mutes

Straight – Humes & Berg Stonelined (jazz), Denis Wick (concert)
*Metal mutes are preferable for concert band

Cup – Humes & Berg Stonelined (jazz), Denis Wick (concert)
*Metal mutes are preferable for concert band

Plunger – Get a SMALL one (close to the size of the trumpet bell)

Trumpet Method Books

Beginner – Essential Elements (Book 1), Standard of Excellence (Book 1)

Beginner/Intermediate – Essential Elements (Book 2), Standard of Excellence (Book 2)

Intermediate – My First Arban's, Rubank (Intermediate), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Intermediate/Advanced – Rubank (Advanced, Book 1), My First Arban's, Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Advanced – Rubank (Advanced 2), Arban's Complete Method, Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

French Horns

Beginner – Yamaha

Intermediate – Yamaha

Advanced – Conn 8D (highly recommended), Holton Farkas (highly recommended), Yamaha

French Horn Mouthpieces

Beginner – Holton Farkas MDC (Medium-deep cup)

Intermediate – Holton Farkas MDC (Medium-deep cup)

Advanced – Holton Farkas MDC (Medium-deep cup), Holton Farkas DC (Deep cup – works well if the MDC is too bright sounding), Schilke 29 (for very advanced players)

*The Holton Farkas MDC is a good “all-round” mouthpiece for French horn

French Horn Mutes

French horn mutes can be very pricey – there are many band directors that have a few Humes & Berg Stonelined straight mutes and just use those for all muted passages

French Horn Method Books

Beginner – Essential Elements (Book 1), Standard of Excellence (Book 1)

Beginner/Intermediate – Essential Elements (Book 2), Standard of Excellence (Book 2)

Intermediate – Rubank (Intermediate), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Intermediate/Advanced – Rubank (Advanced, Book 1), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Advanced – Rubank (Advanced 2), Pares Scales, Embouchure Builder

Recommended Valve Oils

Blue Juice (highly recommended), Al Cass, store brand oils can be used for beginners – most valve oils are decent, so you shouldn't have to worry about buying bad valve oil

Recommended Rotor Oils

Holton (inexpensive and works well), Hetman Synthetic (more pricey, but worth it if your student wants/can afford it) – most rotor oils are decent, so you shouldn't have to worry about buying bad rotor oil

Recommended Maintenance Supplies

Cleaning snake (with plastic coating over the wire), cleaning rod with cleaning patches (trombonists), tuning slide grease (Selmer is good stuff and is fairly cheap, Schilke makes good grease also), slide lubricant (trombonists - Rapid Comfort, Superslick, Trombotine, and Yamaha Slide Oil are the best), mouthpiece brush, valve or rotor oil (for tuba/euphonium and trombones with f-attachments), spray bottle with water (trombonists), valve casing brush (for euphonium, tuba, and trumpet), mouthpiece sanitizer (most band directors keep a bottle in the band room for anyone to use)

Note: This is not a “comprehensive” or “definitive” list - these are only my personal preferences – if it is not on this list it may still be good...I probably just have not heard of it or do not have personal experiences with the product. Also, my experience is limited as far as trumpet and French horn method books are concerned, so there are many more!

Note: If unsure, you can *almost* never go wrong buying a Yamaha product

Note: Beware of “store brands” such as Accent, Allora, etc. Music Reps may “talk them up” and try to get you to buy them...they are okay instruments, but you can do better!

Note: You will most likely have a few “Olds” model trombones (Ambassador, Special, Studio, Super, Recording, Opera, Custom) lying around your band room. These instruments are great! My advice: don't get rid of them because they are old. They will say “F.E. Olds” and “Los Angeles” or “Fullerton” on them. The 7.5” bells on some of the models work well for a lead jazz trombone. Beginner students will bring in Olds trombones from time to time.

*****If you are ever in a situation where you need/want to purchase something and need advice please feel free to send me an email or call – I'd be glad to help you out*****