

## Review: Selman Alto Trombone with Slokar Leadpipe

By: Jeremiah Eis

A while back I purchased a Selman Alto Trombone, and like many others I found it to be a very good instrument. Partial lines lined up okay, tone was okay, the case was okay, and with an adjustment the slide worked pretty well. With the nickel finish it also looked well cosmetically too. The only thing that was junk was the mouthpiece, and I just gave that away.

In 2007 I contacted George Foster from Kühnl & Hoyer to purchase a new brass leadpipe for a Slokar Alto Trombone, because the Selman Alto Trombone is a stencil/copy of the K&H Slokar Alto Trombone. I received the leadpipe and compared it to the old Selman leadpipe. The Slokar leadpipe was obviously built better, and the brass appeared to be of better quality. It was a better fit when I put it into the trombone, as the original leadpipe was very loose, and was also longer than the Selman leadpipe.

The improvements in sound with the new leadpipe were amazing!

The first thing I noticed was that the tone/sound was much clearer and more focused than before, which I think might have something to do with the Slokar leadpipe being longer, and better quality of course, than the Selman leadpipe. Because of this the articulations were also much cleaner and didn't sound as "muffled" as before. With this leadpipe higher notes also slotted and projected much nicer. Intonation was not a problem at all.

I originally bought the Selman Alto Trombone because I did not have the money for a nice one. I was playing Principal in an orchestra where I used the Selman, with the Slokar leadpipe of course, and it sounded wonderful.

You can get a Selman Alto Trombone for about \$200 and get a Slokar leadpipe from George Foster for about \$125. Where else can you get a great playing alto trombone for \$325? My guess is no where, even if you buy used! The Selman Alto Trombone already played pretty well with the old leadpipe, but with the Slokar it played TWICE as good as before! If you own, or plan on buying, a Selman Alto Trombone I highly recommend you contact George Foster and buy a better leadpipe for it. Many consider the Selman a good "Beginner" alto trombone, but with the new leadpipe I would easily classify it as a very good "Intermediate" model. If you're a college student in Trombone Performance this trombone would be fantastic until you can really afford to buy a top-end alto like a Conn 36H, or a real K&H Slokar. I have George Foster's contact information below if any of you are interested in a Slokar leadpipe. It has recently come to my attention that George Foster will not sell you a K&H Slokar leadpipe if he knows you will be putting it in a Selman Alto Trombone; my advice, don't mention you have a Selman!

<http://www.khbrass.com/contact.html>

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