

Extending a Helping Hand

by Brett Getzen

In the fall of 2005, I was contacted by Mike Vax. Not a big surprise since Mike checks in with us at the factory quite a bit. This call was different. Mike was looking for our help. Some friends in I.T.G. had passed a story on to him that he thought we would be able to assist with. A group of musicians were having trouble getting instruments. Specifically a piccolo trumpet. The musicians were members of the Brandt Brass Band of Saratov, Russia. A very talented group rapidly making a name for themselves. Up until that point, the band was forced to borrow a piccolo trumpet from a neighboring town's band. Not at all an ideal situation. In an effort to alleviate this, the members of the band were able to scrape together a few hundred dollars. By no means was that enough to purchase a new piccolo. They were hoping that through contacts in I.T.G. they would be able to find a used piccolo at a reasonable price. Enter Mike Vax.



Steve Chenette (center) and members of Brandt Brass Band in Saratov, Russia shortly after receiving their new 3916 Custom piccolo trumpet.

Mike called us after he heard the tale and asked if there was anything we could do to help. Trumpet players around the U.S. had heard of the band's troubles and were donating money to the cause hoping to boost the band's buying power. Mike wanted to know if we had an old or seconds piccolo around that we could sell the band directly. We did not. After discussing the situation with my father, Tom Getzen, we came up with a better solution. Rather than selling the band an old horn, we decided to give them, free of charge, a brand new 3916 Custom Series piccolo. From our standpoint, we had been fortunate in life and this was a perfect opportunity to pass that along. At the time, Tom relayed a lesson to me that my grandfather had taught him. At some point in life, you'll have the chance to help someone else. While the time, effort, or dollar amount may not seem like much to you, to them it will mean the world. This was a perfect example of one of those situations.

Immediately, I got a hold of Mike and told him the good news. He was ecstatic and quickly passed the development on to his friends in I.T.G. The news spread fast and I was inundated with emails and phone calls thanking me for our donation. That's not the reason we did it, but they were all appreciated. As word spread of our donation, trumpeters continued to donate money to the band. The new plan was that the band could use that money to help pay for a quality recording of the band with a CD to follow. I'm personally excited for that since I have heard nothing but praise for the band's performances and I'm anxious to hear them for myself.

Soon after we decided to donate the horn, I was contacted by Mr. Gary Mortenson. He had great news. Gary had arranged for Steve Chenette, a former President of I.T.G., to deliver the horn and cash donations to the band during a visit to Russia. This was great, as it would ensure the horn made it to the band in good condition. Once the method of delivery had been established I had the piccolo prepped and shipped it to Steve. I also sent along several care kits (valve oil, cleaning cloths, etc...) for the band.

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Once the piccolo was on the way to Steve and all the arrangements had been made, the members of the Brandt Brass Band emailed me to express their thanks. They asked me to pass on their "endless thankful words to all the people who some how took part in our life and help us to work better". A few weeks later they also took the time to send me a nice Christmas greeting. I was honored that they would take the time and proud that they were so excited to receive the instrument.

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Why Are So Many Dealers Choosing Getzen?

A Family Tradition

Every Getzen instrument is backed up by four generations and more than six decades of Getzen family tradition. You can rest assured, that when you see 'Getzen' on the bell, it's much more than just a brand name to us.

No "Big Box" Sales

All new, Getzen instruments are sold exclusively through our network of music retailers. You'll never find a Getzen horn on a store shelf between the motor oil and the dog food.

Unbeatable Service

Nowadays, customer service seems to be a thing of the past. Not with us. At Getzen we believe that when a horn is sold, our job is only half done. Friendly and productive service is the key to customer satisfaction.

Dealer Exclusive Models

With the 700 Series, we provide dealers with the ability to offer their customers high quality, value priced instruments not available at the store around the corner.

Brick & Mortar Lines

We offer dealers several models in the 400 Series & Custom Series lines only available to brick and mortar stores. No online or catalog sales permitted. Allowing the smaller shops to easily compete with the warehouse giants.

American Made

Not just American designed. Low fare imports may help the bottom line, but that's all they do. Our horns are made right here in Elkhorn, WI giving us complete control over quality and cost.

When You Look At The Facts, The Answer's Clear

Blasts From the Past...

Getzen Gazette November, 1963



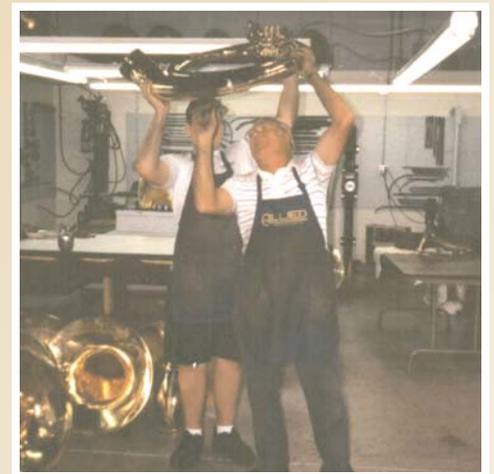
Employees survey the damage to the building the day after the fire that destroyed most of the manufacturing and office space.

Getzen Gazette June, 1984



Colleagues in Music: Mike Vax (left) and Fred Radke reunite for their first album.

Getzen Gazette May, 1994



Bob Getzen (r) and grandson Brett Getzen work together on a sousaphone in the Allied Music repair department.



More Brandt Brass Band

As a “thank you” for our donation of the piccolo trumpet to Brandt Brass, Steve Chenette sent us several photographs and two videos. The photographs show the band receiving the piccolo and rehearsing. The videos are from two Russian television news programs discussing the band and their new trumpet. Many of the photos and both videos (including translations) are now online at www.Getzen.com.

Improving From Start to “Finish”

At Getzen, we pride ourselves on our industry leading quality and we are constantly striving to find ways to improve our products even more. In that effort, we have made two key advancements in our production.



Ultrasonic tanks leave the horn's surface perfectly clean and ready for lacquer or plate.

First is a new, cutting edge, aqueous ultra sonic cleaning system. This process uses a combination of special cleaning solutions and ultrasonic tanks to remove oils and other surface contaminants left behind during manufacturing. The process leaves the surface clean and prepared for lacquering or plating. A clean surface is key to bright plating as well as preventing acid bleeds and other lacquer defects.

The second advancement is an all new silver plating system. Our constant strive for improvement led us to create a new



A new bath, upgraded equipment, and improved processes provide the finest silver plating available.

solution and implement new plating methods. Together, this provides a stronger, more durable bond with a brighter, richer silver finish.



Matching the Outside With the Inside

The American Heritage Field Trumpet has served to show the proper respect to American's veterans. Now a new case will also reflect those strong feelings of patriotism. The case features the same great protection in a lightweight package as before, but in red, white, and blue colors. Contact your local Getzen dealer or Bugles Across America for more information.

New Production Videos @ Getzen.com

Once again we have added two new videos to the “Inside Getzen” section of our website. The new clips demonstrate piston liners being inserted and expanded into piston blanks. This brings our virtual factory tour up to 8 downloadable clips including demonstrations of tube drawing, lacquering, and bell spinning to name a few. Visit www.Getzen.com today and click on the “Inside Getzen” link to check out all the videos for yourself.



What Does a Trombone Leadpipe Do For You?

by **Christan Griego**

Everyone knows that trombones have a bell and a handslide. What a lot of players don't realize is that all trombones also have a leadpipe. However, the majority of leadpipes are fixed (soldered) into the handslide. This is because most manufacturers do not want to offer options to the customer. To the manufacturer, options mean building more complex components with additional parts. This adds time and money to the construction of the horn. On the contrary, at Getzen we believe in offering the player a wide variety of options. These options are all intended to better fit each instrument to each specific player.

Getzen offers a large number of trombones featuring three interchangeable leadpipes included as standard equipment with the instrument. In fact, every Getzen Custom Series trombone model is designed with the added flexibility of interchangeable leadpipes. This flexibility gives the player more control over response and timbre by custom fitting the leadpipe to their specific playing needs.

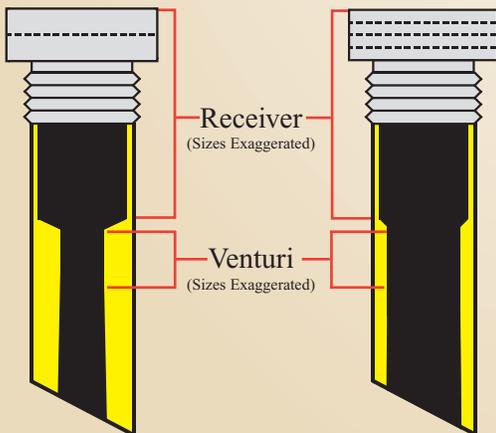
The Getzen Custom Series line of jazz, tenor, and bass trombones were derived from the industry leading Edwards Instrument line. Edwards trombones were the first to provide interchangeable leadpipes as a standard feature with their instruments nearly two decades ago. The interchangeable leadpipe system fit perfectly with the modular design of Edwards trombones. In essence, the Edwards design allowed players to custom build a trombone for themselves in an affordable and timely way by simply choosing the components that worked best for them. Over time, the Edwards technology made its way into the Getzen line. Now, three brass leadpipes are included with all Getzen Custom Series trombones as well as with Eterna bass trombones.

Many players do not understand the basics of the interchangeable leadpipe system. Why are they used? What are the differences between the three? How do players properly choose which leadpipe is right for their situation? To answer these questions, you must understand the physical characteristics of the leadpipe and why it is built the way it is. There are only three parts to a Getzen leadpipe, but each is crucial to the overall performance of the trombone.

1) Receiver

Simply put, the receiver accepts and connects the mouthpiece to the horn. Great care is taken to ensure the proper fit between the mouthpiece and receiver. The fit is crucial because it allows for proper vibration transfers into the instrument. An incorrect fit would result in not only an annoying "buzz", but also in a less efficient blow caused by air leaks between the mouthpiece and receiver tube.

The receiver also has an external portion known as the threaded nut. It serves two purposes. First, the threaded portion screws into the handslide and "fixes" the pipe to the horn eliminating any vibration or buzzing. The threaded nut is also used to denote the different sizes of the leadpipes. Each receiver nut has either one, two, or three decorative cut lines in the knurling. This tells the player if they are looking at the smallest, medium, or largest size pipe.



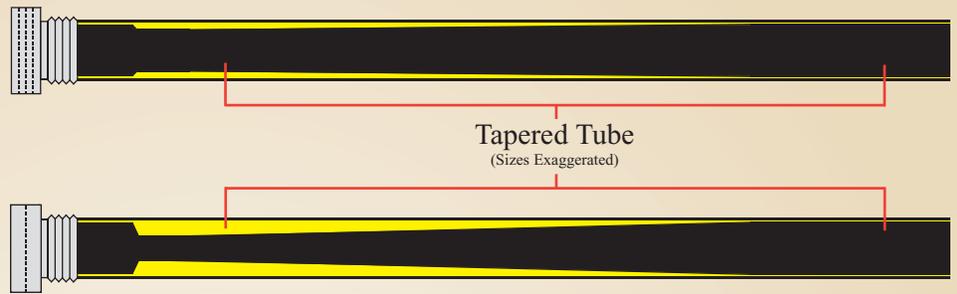
2) Venturi

The venturi is the smallest diameter section of tubing after the receiver section. Since the diameter at the end of the leadpipe is the same for all three sizes, the initial diameter of the venturi dictates the rate of taper over the length of the leadpipe. With a smaller venturi, the rate of taper will be faster from start to finish in order to match the bore of the instrument. On the flip side, a leadpipe with a larger venturi will have a slower rate of taper into the instrument. The venturi is what gives the player the feeling of compression or something to push against to start a note. Think of the venturi as acting like your mouthpiece throat. If the venturi is too large for a player the horn will feel woofy and lack clarity. If the leadpipe is too small the instrument can back up and feel tight. The three venturi sizes we have chosen to use are the result of many years of development and experience with thousands of players.

3) Tapered Tube

The tapered section of tubing within the leadpipe determines the sound characteristics of the leadpipe. Generally speaking, a faster taper will produce a more compact sound. A slower taper will create a broader sound and resonate with more width near the player's face. As previously mentioned, it is easy to distinguish which leadpipe is which based on the cut lines in the receiver's threaded nut.

When selecting an instrument, it is very important to find a compression level in your instrument that is right for you. When testing an instrument or trying to find the right leadpipe, you should be thinking of this compression. Compression within the instrument should be right at the chops. If compression develops too far into the instrument, you will have to correct it by tensing your chops in an effort to get clarity back into your sound. This will make any articulations much more difficult as you battle against yourself and the horn. If there is too much compression, it will begin to back up into your throat. You may feel a tightening in your throat because of this, which can/will cause tightness in your sound.



When testing leadpipes you should play a lyrical etude that covers most registers. This allows you to get a better feel for the leadpipe across a wide spectrum. It also gives you the chance to better study the sound differences between each pipe. You will also want to try a scale and a more articulate work that covers most registers. This is a great way to study how the leadpipe effects the articulation. All the while, you should be paying close attention to what you are experiencing with each leadpipe. Some differences are dramatic while others may be more minor and hard to notice right away. It is important to note that every player is different. The best sounding and most comfortable leadpipe should always be chosen, regardless the specifications of the leadpipe or what size one's colleagues may prefer. Allowing a player's preconceived notions to come into play may prevent him/her from choosing the leadpipe that fits best. Therefore, it is imperative that an individual "blind test" each leadpipe in the beginning. This creates an open mind and prevents a biased opinion from the start. It can also be very helpful to do a blind play test for someone else. Let them listen to an etude and scale on each leadpipe without knowing which is which. Get their input and opinions from the bell end.

Once all of this is done, you can put the information together to find the leadpipe that gives you the best compression, tone, and feel. Keep that leadpipe in the instrument. While experimentation is never a bad thing, you will generally not need to retest or change leadpipes unless you make a change to your mouthpiece. If that is the case, the same technique should be used to find the right pipe again.

The purpose of these leadpipes is to properly match the instrument to you as the player. While working with musicians as I have over the years, I have found that making a small change close to the face will result in a large change to both sound and overall response. Each person has his/her own resonating characteristics that make the matching of the horn to the player necessary. Everything from oral cavity, chest cavity, dental structure, and overall height/weight will determine how much air volume each player has and how that air works for them. An individual may be over 6 feet tall, but if they are not efficient with their air they may need a smaller diameter venturi on their personal leadpipe in order to give them the best compression, articulation, and sound.

At Getzen and Edwards, we know it is important to find the perfect instrument for you. An instrument that not only matches your playing style, expectations, and needs, but one that matches you physically. Matching your mouthpiece and personal playing characteristics to the leadpipe can give you a much better overall playing experience. Getzen has made the conscious decision to let you decide what is best for you. We want to help you find the perfect instrument for your playing style.

So what does all of this mean to you? It means that you now have the knowledge and tools to find a better instrument. One that can work with you instead of against. Finding a great instrument is not only important to you, it is also important to us at Getzen. We strive daily to provide you with that instrument. Why limit yourself musically? Give yourself the tool to do the job and find the enjoyment of a great instrument resonating with you.

About the Author

Christian Griego studied music performance at Texas Tech. under the tutelage of Don Lucas. He has worked as the Director of Development & Marketing at Edwards Instrument Company for the past 8 years. In that time he has fit thousands of trumpet and trombone players to their instruments. Some of which are: Joe Alessi, Dave Taylor, Mark Lawrence, Leonard Candelaria, and Christian Scott. Christian also owns Griego Mouthpieces which produces trombone and tuba mouthpieces.

Fast forward to March of this year. Steve Chenette made his way to Russia with the piccolo and donations in tow. He emailed me from Saratov to tell me how excited the members of the band were upon his arrival. In fact, they couldn't wait to try the horn. Instead, they spent nearly a week playing and practicing on it so they could use it in a concert shortly after the "official" presentation. After having the 3916 for a few days, Oleg Abramov emailed me to pass on their feelings. "Our trumpeters now behave like children," Oleg said. "Everyone is trying to play it and they are always discussing it." He went on to say, "Thanks a lot for the wonderful gift! We haven't had such a trumpet until this in Saratov! So I think now it's the most beautiful treasure in musical Saratov." When asked how the players felt about the horn Oleg said, "Our piccolo player, Nikolay Khudoshin, is very delighted with the instrument. It's very beautiful, has reach and a wonderful sound. It reacts on every breath you put into it!" "As our guys are joking," Oleg wrote, "we have a beautiful blond, but we haven't chosen her name yet. An enormous huge Thank You! If you'll need something someday you must remember that you have 13 friends in Saratov, Russia that have close relations with one of your girls." You cannot imagine my sense of pride. Knowing that not only



Nikolay Khudoshin (l) and Ivan Koroban (r) 'fight' over who gets to play the piccolo next.

were we able to help, but that the piccolo was met with such high regard. That, after all, is the most important thing. In July, Oleg Abramov contacted me to say that Nikolay Khudoshin enjoys the piccolo more with each practice. He went on to say that they have chosen music for their upcoming recording. The band will be performing Mozart's The Night Queen's Aria from The Magic Flute. I'm sure I'm not the only one anxiously awaiting its release.

All in all, this was a very rewarding experience for the company as a whole and for me personally. It was great to see the trumpet world come together to help their brothers in need. I am just glad that we could have a small part in the effort. Hopefully the piccolo will serve the band for years to come. I wish them and everyone who helped them continued success in all of their future endeavors.

For more on the presentation, including photos and video clips, visit the Getzen Gazette section of www.Getzen.com

A Visit From Bugles Across America

As a part of their 2006 convention near Chicago, several members of Bugles Across America visited the Getzen Company for a tour and a luncheon. B.A.A. is an organization dedicated to providing volunteer buglers to sound Taps at military funerals. Several of their members were instrumental in the development of the Getzen American Heritage Field Trumpet. For more information on Bugles Across America visit www.BuglesAcrossAmerica.org.

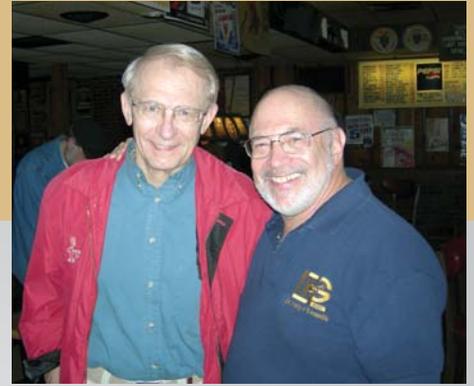




Once again, Getzen proudly displayed the full line during the 2006 Musik Messe in Frankfurt, Germany. Long time fans and first time Getzen buyers visited the booth during the 4 day event.



University of Wisconsin marching band director **Mike Lekrone** visits with **Mike Vax** after a jazz performance in Madison, WI this past May.



Dave Allison worked with the Brea High School Marching Band during a clinic sponsored by Getzen and Pecknel Music. Dave is a well regarded player/clinician and has worked closely with Pecknel all over South Carolina.

Tom Getzen (front left) treated Swiss distributor **Peter Marcandella** (far right) along with Getzen's **Dave Surber** (rear center) and **Brett Getzen** (far left) to dinner at Claudia's in Sachsenhausen, Frankfurt. All four were sure to thank owner, **Eisa-Mohammed Solaimaukehel** (front right) for another fantastic dinner.



Featured Custom Series Dealer



A & G Music of Oakland, CA is this issues featured Custom Series dealer. A & G carries a wide variety of Getzen products including the new 3001MV Mike Vax model trumpet.

For more information on A & G Music visit them online as www.agmusic.com or call 800-727-3822.

Jack Long shows off his new custom made 900 Eterna Classic. The trumpet was presented to Mr. Long to celebrate the 50th anniversary of **Long & McQuade Musical Instruments** in Canada. The trumpet featured hand engraving, custom etchings, and a gold trim kit. As Mr. Long put it, "I can't think of a gift I would have appreciated as much."



In Frankfurt, **Tom Getzen** gladly welcomed **Haim Attias** from Getzen's Israeli distributor Hamusica Musical Instruments. Haim wanted to learn more about Custom Series trumpets to meet the growing demand in Israel for quality instruments.

The Getzen Company, Incorporated & Trumpet Lovers Everywhere

Present

THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY

Nickel Silver

Fighting out of Elkhorn, WI

The
Champion

"Soft Skin
Kid"

VS.

The
Challenger

Monel Alloy

Hailing from parts unknown

"Smooth
Lightning"

The first fight ended with Monel falling early in round one. Now Nickel "Smooth Lightning" Silver wants more.

Rematches are being held in band rooms and concert halls across the country. Don't miss a chance to see the Champ in action for yourself.

For a full recap of the fight number one, visit the Getzen Gazette section of our website. Or email info@getzen.com to request your own print copy today.

www.Getzen.com