

Test Results

Intonation test on Holton Clarke model cornet in A/Bb
and Bach Stradivarius cornet

Instrument	Low B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	High C
Holton A cornet	*	*	#	#	*	*	*	#	*	b	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	#	###	#	*	*	##	*	##	#
Holton Bb “	*	*	##	#	#	#	#	#	*	*	*	*	b	*	*	*	b	*	#	#	#	*	###	###	###	##
Bach cornet	#	#	###	#	*	#	*	#	*	*	##	*	*	#	*	*	*	b	##	*	*	b	*	*	##	#

Conclusions from intonation test

I gave each instrument a numerical score based on the number and amount of pitch discrepancies. Each #, and b was given one point and ### would be given three points etc.

Holton A cornet	14
Holton Bb	23
Bach cornet	18

Now isn't that interesting. The A side of the Holton, manufactured in 1920 was the best in tune, followed closely by the modern Bach Stradivarius. The Bb side of the Holton came in a distant third. From this information, I can only conclude the following-

- Holton made a great A cornet and considering the amount technology at that time, that was a wonderful in tune instrument.
- The Bb side of the Holton took a hit. The reason for this might be that all of the conversional adjustments were done to the original A cornet and the resulting changes only affected the Bb side of the instrument.
- With all of the advancements in technology from 1920 to 1953 when my Bach cornet was built, intonation did not improve in our modern instruments. At least on the test instrument I had available.

Intonation Test

65

2

73

2

81

2

89

2

97

2