

BUESCHER - BUNDY

Serial Number	Year Manufactured
5,000	1905
5,020	1906 *
6,610	1907 *
7,808	1908 *
8,580<	1909 *
11,250	1910
13,685	1911 *
15,870	1912 *
18,178	1913 *
22,860	1914 *
25,103	1915 (Union Label)
28,875	1916 *
32,350	1917 *
37,540	1918 *
46,975	1919 *
61,255	1920
78,525	1921 *
99,275	1922 *
125,750	1923 *
150,250	1924 *
175,275	1925
202,350	1926 *
222,175	1927 *
235,250	1928 *
275,275	1929 *
255,250	1930
260,125	1931 *

264,025	1932 *
265,523	1933 *
267,356	1934 *
269,000	1935
272,896	1936 *
279,300	1937 *
2?4,418	1938 *
288,024	1939 *
291,000	1940
294,12?	1941 *
297,527	1942 *
303,000	1945
312,000	1948 *
316,000	1949 *
332,000	1950
337,000	1951 *
347,000	1952 *
350,000	1955
360,000	1960
381,000	1963 (Purchased by Selmer USA)
408,818	1965
520,000	1970
630,000	1975
785,000	1980
875,000	1983

** Serial numbers marked with an asterisk (*) were provided by Albert Mensinga*

The first Buescher horns (pronounced more like "Bisher" as the name was originally spelled with an umlaut over the "u") were manufactured in 1888. Serial numbers up to approximately 4000 were produced prior to the fire at the Elkhart, IN Buescher plant in 1905, when all records are believed to have been destroyed. The "TrueTone" model was one of the most popular saxophones of the 1920's and one of the few saxes of it's day with very good intonation. The TrueTone was updated in 1926 with the addition of a front F key. These saxes are mostly seen in satin silver plate but there are quite a few in gold plate. 1930 marked the introduction of the "New Aristocrat" which was also mostly done in silver. It was replaced by the "Aristocrat" and then the Aristocrat commonly known as the "Big B" Aristocrat in 1940. The "Buescher 400" was their most advanced professional entry into the

saxophone market and was the highlight of their resumption of production after WWII. They also continued to make "The Aristocrat" at the same time. What distinguished the Buescher 400 from the Aristocrat was a larger bell, silver plated key mechanism with a lacquered brass body, highly ornate raised engraving, and options of silver or gold plating for the body and key mechanism the patented "Norton" threaded gold-plated springs, and, the underslung octave key on the neckpiece. This model had slightly larger inner bore dimensions than other models of the period which gave them a bigger sound more conducive to Jazz. The "Aristocrat", on the other hand, was a decidedly "sweeter" sounding instrument, yet still very powerful. After 1960 the Aristocrat became a student model. The earlier "Top Hat and Cane" versions of the "400" are preferable to the latter, less ornate, entries. Most believe that the Buescher models made by the Selmer Co. (after they purchased Buescher in 1963) were not up to the quality of the earlier versions. After Buescher was purchased by Selmer, the "400" eventually became the "Signet" and the "Aristocrat" became the "Bundy"; same looks but drastically different bore dimensions. The original Bueschers were each "handmade" instruments, and incorporated Adolphe Sax's unique design of a parabolically curved bore design. Buescher saxes of the late 20's, thru early 50's are among the best saxophones ever made in America.

If you note any discrepancies, or have additional information concerning this company, we would appreciate it VERY much if you would pass it on to The Music Trader. Thank you!

Last modified:
September 2010

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