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Tuba mouthpieces

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In the Wiener Orchester (Viennese Orchestra) the tuba can be proud of a 150-year tradition. One cannot explain why, but over a period of 100 years (1845-1945) the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra employed exclusively tuba players born in Germany. They however, played almost always the "Wiener Tuba" (six-valve concert tuba in F, bass tuba). Consequently they made a great contribution to the famous and significant sound of the Wiener Orchester (Wiener Klangstil) together with the Viennese Horn.

Everything that I know about this topic, I have learned from Mag. Gerhard Zechmeister¹), who is a student of Prof. Leopold Kolar (a former member of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra) and who is very committed to prolong this tradition, a tradition that is increasingly threatened by the employment of foreign tuba players and the use of the Einheitstuba. In 1995 Mr. Josef Hummel (the last Viennese tuba player) retired early, which means that for the moment the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra misses the advantages of the Wiener Tuba, after this long tradition of more than 150 years.

My contribution to this topic will be a mouthpiece series that will reflect this Viennese tradition. Even if these mouthpieces will not be used for Wiener Tuba, what is far more important to me, however, is their sound, which will be further dealt with in the future²).

cup width depth/bore	D 30.0mm	E 31.0mm	F 32.0mm	G 33.2mm
standard / 7.3mm	3	3	3	3
medium / 8.0mm	3A	3A	3A	3A
deep / 8.5mm	3B	3B	3B	3B

This table shows our present range of models.

The first letter indicates the cup width (measured at a depth of 2.0mm to the inside of the cup).

The figure, which stands in second place and the second letter, which stands in third place after the figure indicate cup shape, bore and cup depth.

In this place I want to point out that the back bore is produced in a very complicated working process on a high-performance computer-controlled turning-lathe, instead of the internationally common practice of using a cylinder bit. The result is an eminent clean inner shape which can be reproduced without any loss of quality any time.

¹) More information and opinions on this topic in BRASS BULLETIN 75 III/1991
ZECHMEISTER, Mag. Gerhard: "Die Entwicklung der Wiener Konzerttuba"
(*history and development of the Viennese concert tuba*), at the 150th anniversary of the bass tuba (1835-1985)

²) Within the frame of a sponsored research project a contrabass trombone (6 valves) with the corresponding mouthpiece series has been designed and produced (series Z).
More information and opinions on this topic in BRASS BULLETIN 102 II/1998,
page 19ff and 103 III/1998, page 93ff.

An old tuba mouthpiece with remarkably good sound characteristics (Nr. 3) from our work shop was the model for those mouthpieces, that are completely designed to the last detail.

Experiences with the tuba-players Josef Mayerhofer and Mag. Gerhard Zechmeister influenced this series, as well.

The following picture shows the rim contours of the widest model series, Nr. 3

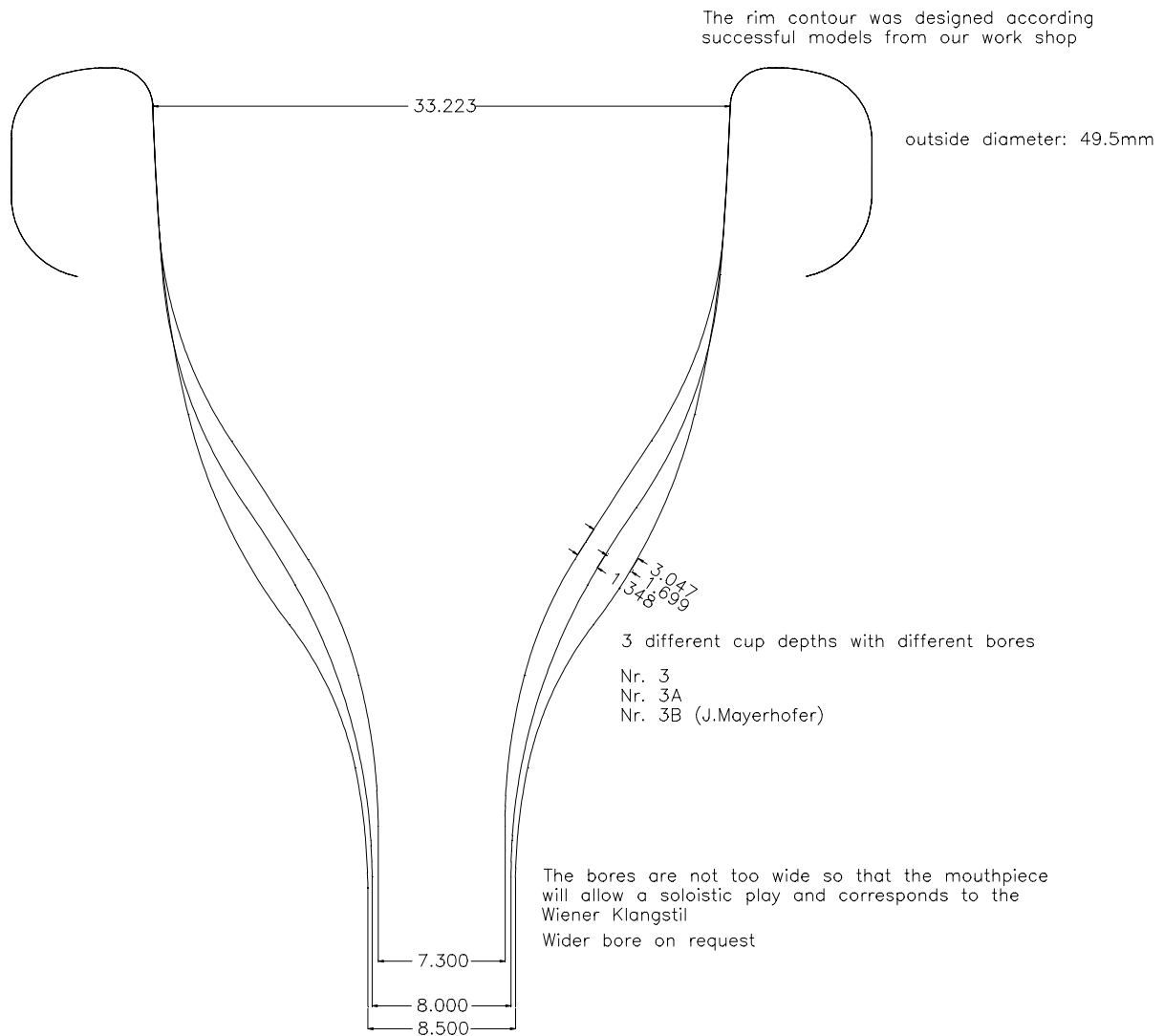


Figure 10: Tuba cup system

Technical modification subject to change without notice.