

Notes on the Trumpet Mouthpiece

What to buy, what to buy. First problem, everyone is different physically, and this has a lot to do with picking the mouth piece that will help you get the sound you want. So, professional trumpet players often have a lot of mouthpieces. Some change mouthpieces every song. Some use the mouthpiece that came with the trumpet. What you are looking for is a mouthpiece that has a great sound, great projection, great range, great flexibility, and a rim that feels just right.

Many players are disappointed when they purchase a mouthpiece that a favorite player uses. Remember everyone is different physically.

In general, smaller mouthpieces are better for playing high notes and bigger mouthpiece helps you get a big sound. The Bach mouthpiece is a well known manufacture and is the standard in the trumpet world. But every manufacturer has a different numbering system which makes it difficult to compare tone. So here are a few thoughts to help you navigate:

- Start out on a bigger mouthpiece, perhaps a 3C, to develop your sound.
- Most learning is done with traditional music, it's might be a good idea to start with that kind of mouthpiece.
- 3C or 1-1/2C seems to be appropriate for classical music.
- For Bach, the letter, as in a Bach 3-“C”, represents the cup size. A “D” would be smaller and “E” even smaller. The number, in this case a “3”, refers to the back bore rim.
- ‘Standard 7c’ Trumpet Mouthpiece is likely the mouthpiece that came with your trumpet.
- As a player grows, so does their embouchure size. A Bach

3C is an average size for adult players.

- The embouchure thickness is the thickness of your lips when the trumpet playing position. This is influenced by the thickness of your lips and how much you roll your lips inward.
- Cup Depth affects the quickness of response and tone quality.
- The cup depth is the distance between the top of the rim and the start of the throat.
- The shallower the mouthpiece, the quicker the response. Also the brighter and thinner the tone.
- Deeper cups are easier to control, but have a slower response. They sound warmer with more overtones.
- Wide diameters are more comfortable but require more muscles to control.