

## **For Sale: 1960's Hirsbrunner BBb Tuba (Model HBS193)**

**Description** -- Four-rotary-valve front-action BBb "Kaiser" tuba in raw brass finish. Factory specs are bore 20.5 mm (0.807"), bell diameter 480 mm (18.9"), and height 1120 mm (44.1"). This instrument is in excellent condition and has been well maintained. The valves function smoothly, the tuning slides are free, and the first valve kicker works properly. (The photos show two kicker return springs. I very much doubt those return springs are original. I suspect someone added them in order to augment the existing return spring. I play the instrument without the kicker. I prefer to operate the first valve slide with left hand from above.) There are no kinks nor creases. There is one dent, ½" x ¼", shallow, beneath the fourth valve actuating rod (see photo). The instrument comes up to a gleaming shine upon expense of some elbow grease. Using "Zephyr PRO 40" (a product designed to polish and preserve tractor-trailer bumpers), the shine lasts at least six months. I use Hetman synthetic lubricants.

**History** – Herr Peter Hirsbrunner informed me that this instrument was manufactured in the early 1960's and sold to a German town band. When the band returned the tuba to the factory in the 1980's for servicing, the factory replaced the original valves with the composite brass-and-plastic valves that Hirsbrunner was offering at that time. The instrument was then sold to Mr Floyd Cooley (principal tuba, San Francisco Symphony). Mr Cooley told me that he used it for a while but preferred CC tuba, so he sold it to a gentleman on the West Coast. Then it was sold to another gentleman on the West Coast, who took it to a professional repair shop for complete overhaul. The repair shop removed the composite valves and casings, **installed a brand-new Meinschmidt bronze valve cluster**, and reworked the valve mechanism so that all valves rotate same direction (counterclockwise from front) when actuated. I am the fifth owner, having purchased the horn about five years ago. The workmanship is impeccable – one cannot tell that the horn was ever disassembled, nor that the valve cluster was replaced twice.

**Voice** -- This HBS193 and a prototype Meinl-Weston F tuba (Model FR-5) have been my preferred orchestra horns for some years. This Hirsbrunner has a soloistic voice, with quick response, easy blow, excellent presence, phenomenal projection, and a robust low end. There are no intonational quirks. The timbre is remarkably consistent note-to-note. The instrument has a resonant voice without being "dark". Wonderful vibration against my belly when playing it. Please note that Mr Daniel Ridder recorded a "sound check" on a different HBS193 (i.e., not mine) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKSI6iptOqs>

**Extras** -- There is an original hard case in good condition, including built-in wheels, an ample interior storage bag, and special rubber bands that I installed to automatically tuck those two annoying retaining straps into the case when closing the case. Horn comes with two main tuning slides, one about 1" longer than the other. There is also a spare third valve slide that adds four half-tones (rather than three) when the third valve is depressed.

**Price** -- \$13,000 payable by certified check. This is a firm price. I am in no rush to sell. Feel free to play-test it here for as long as you like. There will be no returns once you leave the house with it (after having paid in full). We serve High Sierra coffee here – [highsierracoffee.com](http://highsierracoffee.com) – the best!

**Shipping** – Located in Hackettstown, NJ. In light of the problems with shipping tubas that people seem to be having recently, local pickup is preferred. As an incentive for local pickup, I will give the buyer a Wenger tuba stand (holds five upright tubas) in excellent condition and worth more than \$1100. If long distance transport is necessary, buyer must make all the packing and shipping arrangements and buyer pays for packing, shipping, and insurance. I encourage you to visit and try-before-you-buy.

**Communication** -- I am unable to text and do not have enough posts on Tuba Forum to respond to PMs, so please use email at [proscientific@verizon.net](mailto:proscientific@verizon.net) for an initial conversation. Once we have the basics of an agreement worked out via email, some phone conversations would be welcome.