

Ludwig Musical Instruments

St Louis – Chicago - Elkhart

There were several Ludwig names in the musical instrument business. Brass instruments can be found under the following names.

Ludwig Music House – St Louis, Missouri

- 1876 Alexander Leo Ludwig (1853-?) started a musical instrument business in St Louis (Saxophone.org).
- 1884 Ludwig music at 703 Market St, St Louis (directory).
- 1890 Ludwig music was now at 514 Walnut St (directory).
- 1900 Alexander Ludwig, music dealer. Charles Grohe, clerk in music store (census).
- 1904 Ludwig retired and sold to business partner Charles Grohe (1868-1948) (Saxophone.org).
- 1920 Charles E. Grohe, music dealer, born in Austria (census).
- 1920s Ludwig Music House was selling stencils of Conn & Buescher saxophones (Saxophone.org).
- 1937 Photo 2 is a Ludwig Standard mellophone with serial number R54xx. This would imply a stencil made by Windsor, a division of Buescher, in 1937.
- 1940 Charles E. Grohe, owner of music store (census).

Brass instruments found are marked “Ludwig Standard St Louis Mo.” and date to the 1930s and 1940s (photos 1-4 from Horn-u-copia.net).

- 1948 Ludwig Standard trumpet #31448 was a stencil made by Harry Pedler & Sons of Elkhart.
- 1954 Ludwig Standard trumpet #54923 was made by Pedler.

Ludwig & Ludwig – Chicago & Elkhart

- 1909 Ludwig & Ludwig was founded in Chicago by William F. Ludwig (1879-1973) and brother Theobald (1888-1917) (Edmund Bowles in Grove’s Dictionary of Music).
- 1913 William Ludwig patented a pedal timpani with brother-in-law Robert Danly (Bowles).
- 1922 Ludwig & Ludwig at 1611 N. Lincoln St, Chicago (*MTR*).
- 1927 William Ludwig contracted with the William Frank Co to make G/D bugles with a horizontal piston valve (WFL Jr letter, 1995).



- 1929 Conn announced that they had purchased Ludwig & Ludwig and combined them with Leedy Mfg in Elkhart, Indiana. William (photo 5, p.1) would remain as the manager (*Music Trade Review*, Oct 1).
- 1931 Ludwig & Ludwig, 1611-27 N. Lincoln St, Chicago (dir).
- 1937 William Ludwig resigned from Conn and started the WFL Drum Co in Chicago on Damien Ave (Ludwig-Drums.com).
- 1938 William F. Ludwig Jr joined the company (L-D.com)
- 1943 William F. Jr was a partner in WFL Drum Co and married Cathryn White, daughter of HN White (*International Musician*).
- 1951 Conn combined their companies to form Leedy & Ludwig (L-D.com).
- 1955 WFL bought the Ludwig name from Conn and formed the Ludwig Drum Co (L-D.com).
- 1958 Ludwig Drum Co registered the Ludwig name trademark. They are at 1728-42 N. Damien Ave, Chicago. The first use of the name was in 1908 (trademark records).
- 1968 The name changed to Ludwig Industries (L-D.com).
- 1972 William F. Ludwig II became company president (L-D.com)
- 1981 Ludwig Industries was sold to Selmer (L-D.com).
- 1984 Ludwig moved to Monroe, NC (L-D.com).

Examples Found:

Ludwig Professional single-valve bugles have serial fonts and valve caps matching Pan American from just before WWII. This matches with Conn being involved since 1929.

Leedy & Ludwig / Elkhart single-valve bugles also match Pan American and serial numbers start after 175000 so seem to line up with the Conn formation c.1950.

Ludwig Classic / Chicago: These 2 valve bugles have serial numbers matching Holton from the early 1960s and fit with the Ludwig name registered in 1958. #376393 baritone had a Holton case and #401442 soprano had a Getzen case. Both of these companies could have been involved.

Instruments here are from auction photos or Horn-u-copia.net.

