

HISTORY OF AMERICAN BOY SCOUT BUGLES

USING BUGLES, HANDBOOKS, EQUIPMENT CATALOGS AND BOYS LIFE MAGAZINES

May 23, 2007 - Bruce McCrea

A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY

The instrument that American Boy Scouts call a bugle is actually not a “bugle” but a “natural trumpet” or “field trumpet.” To quote from Jari Villanueva’s excellent History of the Bugle at <http://www.tapsbugler.com/HistoryoftheBugle/HistoryoftheBugle1.html>:

“The basic difference between bugles and trumpets is found in the shape of the bell. The musical definition of a trumpet (natural trumpet) is that of a horn which has two thirds of its length in the form of a cylindrical tube - usually it is five sixths of the total length. A bugle has a conical shape through-out. We can therefore make the general assumption that a trumpet is cylindrically shaped with a cup-shaped mouthpiece, while a bugle is conical in nature with a funnel-shaped mouthpiece. The shape of the bell plus the shape of the mouthpiece produces a different quality of sound in each. The trumpet is known for its bright, strident, brash sound, while the bugle is known for its darker and mellower tone. Today, the term "bugle" can simply mean a brass instrument without valves or slides.”

In the United States, Boy Scout bugles have been modeled on the U.S. Army’s Model 1892 field trumpet. See “The Origins of the Model 1892 Bugle (M1892 Field Trumpet)” by Jack Carter at <http://www.tapsbugler.com/HistoryoftheBugle/OriginsoftheM1892page1.html> for an excellent history of bugles (field trumpets) of that design. While technically incorrect, the term “bugle” will be used here as the name for the instrument played by American Boy Scouts.

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I. HISTORY OF BUGLES SOLD BY BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

In the early years of Scouting in America, bugles and bugle calls were an important part of every Boy Scout troop. The enthusiasm of American Scouts for bugles and bugling increased through the 1910s and probably peaked in the 1920s and 1930s. In the late 1920s, BSA catalogs contained Official BSA bugles produced by three different companies, Conn, King, and Rexcraft. Since that time, the interest and enthusiasm for bugling has waned and with it, the popularity of BSA bugles.

The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910, and they published the first "American" Boy Scout Handbook in 1911. On page 361 of that handbook, in the APPENDIX - BOY SCOUT EQUIPMENT, is an illustration of a bugle and the statement: "*Bugle*. It is recommended that the standard bugle used in an army or drum corps be used. Each Patrol should purchase these from a local music store." By 1913, the statement, "Each Patrol should purchase these from a local music store." had been replaced by the statement, "These may be purchased from a local music store or National Headquarters will quote prices." BSA National Headquarters had begun selling bugles.

There were two bugles listed in early 1910s BSA catalogs. These early catalogs used the technically correct term of trumpet, not bugle. Listed were No. 1064 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET and No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET, a "higher quality instrument" than No. 1064. No. 1064 was gone from the BSA catalog by 1917, so 1917 and 1918 BSA catalogs contained only the No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET. I have no information on who manufactured these bugles.

Three significant changes occurred in 1919. First the terminology in the BSA catalog listing changed from "trumpet" to "bugle." Second, a higher quality bugle was introduced, Catalog No. 1415, so that there were once again two bugles in the catalog, No. 1065 and No. 1415. Third, the manufacture of the No. 1065 bugle was transferred to Rex International Products of Brooklyn, New York, at that time the largest producer of bugles in America, with their brand name "Rexcraft." There is strong evidence to suggest that the manufacturer of the No. 1415 bugle was C. G. Conn Ltd. of Elkhart, Indiana, a major band instrument manufacturer.

I have 3 Official BSA Bugles that show no manufacturer's name. On two of these bugles, the mouthpiece is attached to the bugle by a chain, and all three have identical inscriptions located on the side of the bugle along the tubing. I also have one Conn Official BSA bugle which is almost exactly like these bugles except for the addition of a Conn inscription on the top of the bell. This is the only Conn Official BSA bugle of this design that I have ever seen. A number of characteristics of these no-manufacturer's-name bugles are different than on King, Rexcraft, and other Conn BSA bugles. The inscription is:

LICENSED
OFFICIAL --- BUGLE
BOY SCOUTS --- OF AMERICA

The three dashes show where the wording is separated by the First Class badge. I believe these no-manufacturer's-name bugles are examples of No. 1415. The bugle illustration in the Oct. 1923 BSA catalog looks like these no-manufacturer's-name bugles.

In 1924, the BSA Supply Division apparently made the decision to hold a competition to select new official BSA bugles. The competition and its results were announced in the May, 1925, Official BSA Catalog: "Every Scout troop has at least one official bugler, and with the popular emphasis being placed on the patrol system of troop administration, many troops have an official bugler for each patrol. The increasing importance of Scout buglers, as well as the desirability of providing for uniformity of the primary accessories of a Scout's equipment, has led to the adoption of a standard official bugle for the use of our membership. The official bugle is to be made available in two grades, regulation and professional, both instruments, however, possessing the principal essentials in common. Both have been selected and approved after careful expert examination and elimination tests, and are announced to the Scout field with the guarantee of the Boy Scouts of America and of their respective manufacturers. Their purchase is recommended as a safeguard against bugles frequently offered from sources and under conditions which permit of no control over uniformity of quality, tone, and pitch, or possibility of repair or other necessary service. The arrangements made by the Boy Scouts of America permit the sale of these official bugles at prices very much lower than the same instruments, or others of equal grade, are sold through the customary retail channels." This catalog featured two new BSA bugles, the professional grade No. 1537 King Licensed Official Bugle BSA and

the regulation grade No. 1538 Rexcraft Licensed Official Bugle BSA and stated, "*Bugles No. 1065 and No. 1415 will be discontinued when present stock is exhausted. Meanwhile they represent excellent values.*" Both King and Rexcraft BSA bugles have engraved inscriptions that combine the brand name and the official BSA bugle information. The King bugle sold for \$6.00, the Rexcraft bugle sold for \$5.00, and the closeout bugles sold for \$3.50.

Apparently, Rexcraft had a large inventory of No. 1065 bugles when they became aware in 1924 of the bugle competition and the upcoming selection of the new BSA bugles. Prior to December, 1924, there were no manufacturers' ads for the No. 1065 or No. 1415 bugles in BOYS LIFE magazine. However, Rexcraft advertised their No. 1065 bugle extensively in BOYS LIFE over the six month period leading up to the introduction of the new BSA bugles, beginning with a one sixth page ad in the December, 1924, issue and ending with a half page ad in the May, 1925, issue. The price of the No. 1065 bugle in these ads was \$3.75 postpaid. There were no similar BOYS LIFE ads for the No. 1415 bugle. In the June, 1925, issue of BOYS LIFE, which must have coincided in timing with the May, 1925, BSA Catalog, there were no longer ads for the No. 1065 bugle, but there were half page ads for the new Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle and the new King Official BSA Bugle. Over the next two years, Rexcraft and King advertised their Official BSA bugles extensively in BOYS LIFE magazine and BOY SCOUT HANDBOOKS.

By the October, 1927, BSA catalog, the discontinued No. 1415 bugle was gone. However, that catalog introduced a new official BSA bugle, Catalog No. 1277, manufactured by Conn. The Conn bugle was given the top spot in the catalog's bugle listing and more lines of description than the King or the Rexcraft. The October, 1927, bugle listing:

No. 1277 CONN LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE U.S.A. "An instrument that is smarter and more trim than the average bugle. It is perfect in tone and register and only the finest of materials are used in its manufacture. Its tone is brilliant, powerful and mellow. Each one is tested before shipment to insure every detail of workmanship and tone. Key of G tuning slide to F. Silver plated mouthpiece; select brass" ... \$5.00

No. 1537 KING LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE B.S.A. "Tone quality is such that it blends perfectly with professional band instruments and its pitch is identical therewith. Key of G tuning slide to F. Silver plated seamless tubing mouthpiece attached with chain" ... \$6.00

No. 1538 REXCRAFT LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE B.S.A. "Exceptional quality, easy blowing, rich mellow tone. Selected brass; heavy nicked silver mouthpiece, attached with chain, Key of G tuning slide to F." ... \$5.00

No. 1065 BUGLE "Good quality, easy to blow, mellow tone. Key of G tuning slide to F. Mouthpiece attached with chain." ... \$3.50

Conn Official BSA bugles are different than Kings or Rexcrafts in that they have two separate inscriptions in different locations instead of a single inscription combining the brand name and BSA information. Conn BSA bugles have exactly the same Official BSA Bugle inscription on the side as the no-manufacturer's-name bugle discussed earlier. However, Conn BSA bugles also have an inscription on the top of the bell at right angles to the bugle:

CONN
MADE BY
C G CONN LTD
ELKHART, IND
USA

As stated earlier, I have one 15 inch Conn Official BSA Bugle that is very similar to the no-manufacturer's-name bugles except for that inscription. It is also similar in many ways to other Conn bugles of the 1920s. My other Conn Official BSA bugles are 16 inches long and have other significantly different characteristics.

One possible explanation is that Conn manufactured the No. 1415 BSA bugle between 1919 and 1924 and supplied it to BSA with the BSA inscription but no brand name. In 1924, Conn either didn't enter the BSA official bugle competition or was not selected. There were apparently few enough No. 1415 bugles left in stock at that point that there was no need for BOYS LIFE advertising in early 1925 like Rexcraft did. Once the closeout of the No. 1415 was completed in 1927, Conn introduced the No. 1277 Conn Official BSA Bugle, possibly enforcing a contract they had to supply bugles to BSA as a result of their production of the No. 1415 bugle. My 15 inch Conn Official BSA Bugle could either be a no-manufacturer's-name BSA bugle that was in the Conn factory and was mistakenly given the Conn inscription or one of a few Conn brand official BSA bugles produced using the old bugle design before the new model was introduced.

Over the last half of 1927 and the first half of 1928, ads for Conn, King, and Rexcraft official BSA bugles, a number of them full page, appeared regularly in BOYS LIFE and BOY SCOUT HANDBOOKS. Ads for the King Official BSA Bugle appear in March 1928 printings of the BSA handbook and the May 1928 BOYS LIFE. However, the King bugle had disappeared from the BSA catalog by Oct. 1929. The No. 1065 bugle was also gone by then, so the BSA catalog was once again down to two bugles, this time the No. 1277 Conn and the No. 1538 Rexcraft.

The No. 1277 Conn and the No. 1538 Rexcraft continued to be part of BSA catalogs through the 1930s and into the early 1940s. The March, 1941, BSA catalog showed the No. 1277 Conn for \$5.50 and the No. 1538 Rexcraft for \$4.50. During WW II, the U.S. military adopted a "plastic" bugle because of a brass shortage. The plastic used to make these bugles had the brand name Tenite and was manufactured by Tennessee Eastman Corporation, a Kodak subsidiary. That plastic bugle also replaced brass official BSA bugles. The only bugle in the April 1944 BOYS LIFE and the Christmas 1945 BSA catalog is the No. 1531 Plastic Bugle. The description is "**Official Boy Scout Bugle** The same bugle now being used by the U.S. Army. Well made of plastic in an olive green finish with detachable plastic mouthpiece. Easy blowing and rich in tone. Built in Key of G with slide to F." I have never seen a plastic bugle with a BSA logo, so I imagine this bugle simply showed the manufacturer's name. Rexcraft resumed production of official BSA bugles some time in 1946, but Conn did not return to BSA bugle production after World War II. The Jan. 1, 1947 BSA Price List, the Oct. 1947 BSA catalog, and the 1948 BSA Christmas catalog include both the No. 1538 Rexcraft brass bugle and the No. 1531 plastic bugle. Soon after that, the BSA plastic bugle was phased out.

By the 1950s, Rexcraft was the only manufacturer of official BSA bugles. The No. 1538 Rexcraft brass bugle was joined in the BSA catalog in the mid-1950s by the No. 1537 Rexcraft chrome-plated bugle. In the 1970s, Rexcraft BSA bugle prices skyrocketed. Between the Winter 1971-72 catalog and the Fall 1981 catalog, the price of the No. 1538 brass bugle increased from \$13.75 to \$51.95 and the price of the No. 1538 chrome-plated bugle increased from \$18.50 to \$61.95. These much higher bugle prices, combined with the availability of used BSA bugles, probably resulted in a major drop in sales of new BSA bugles. As a result, production of the No. 1538 chrome-plated Rexcraft BSA bugle stopped between 1981 and 1984 and production of the No. 1538 brass Rexcraft BSA bugle stopped by 1987. There was no longer a bugle in BSA catalogs.

Rexcraft BSA bugles returned to BSA catalogs in 2000 and 2001. In 2000, there was No. X11910 OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BUGLE, part of the section "Scout Classics Celebrating 90 Years of Scouting," which sold for \$98.75. In 2001, there was No. Y26776 JAMBOREE OFFICIAL BUGLE in the section showing 2001 National Jamboree merchandise, nickel-plated with an embossed jamboree logo behind the bell on top of the bugle, which sold for \$165.00.

In 2006, the Boy Scouts of America reintroduced an Official BSA bugle to their catalog, No. 11705 for \$119.95. The bugle is supplied to BSA by Freeport Music Company, the seller of the

“U.S. Regulation Bugle.” In response to a June, 2006, email message, their general manager stated, “The Official Boy Scout Bugle and the U.S. Regulation are identical except that the Boy Scout Logo is on one and U.S. Regulation logo is on the other. Both Bugles are made in China.”

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF BUGLES SOLD BY BSA

I have in my collection examples of the no-manufacturer's-name Official BSA Bugle, the Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle, the King Official BSA Bugle, and the shorter (rarer) and longer (more common) Conn Official BSA Bugles. To compare some measurements of those bugles:

1. They all have bells with 4½ inch diameters except the Rexcraft, which has a 4¼ inch diameter bell. The difference in bell size between the Rexcrafts and the other bugles is very noticeable when bugles are held bell-to-bell.
2. They are all 15 inches long except the longer Conn, which is 16 inches long.
3. The “lead pipe” (the part into which the mouthpiece is inserted) is 1¼ inches long on the King and the Rexcraft, 2¼ inches long and identical in appearance on the no-manufacturer's-name and the shorter Conn, and 2 5/8 inches long on the longer Conn.

Using Boy Scout bugles, BSA equipment catalogs, and ads in BSA handbooks and BOYS LIFE magazine, I have identified the following bugles.

No. 1064 - Boy Scout Trumpet - pre-1913 to pre-1917 - This bugle was in the BSA catalog by 1913 and had disappeared from the catalog by May, 1917

No. 1065 - Boy Scout Trumpet - pre-1913 to 1918 - This bugle was in the BSA catalog by 1913. In several early catalogs, the illustration of this bugle did not match its description. The name for No. 1065 in BSA catalogs was changed from “Trumpet” to “Bugle” in 1919, the same time that Rex International Products Company took over the manufacturing of this bugle.

No. 1065 - Boy Scout Bugle - 1919 to 1928-9 - The fact that this bugle was produced by Rex International Products is documented by their BOYS LIFE magazine ads in the period December, 1924, through May, 1925. The May and Nov. 1925 BSA catalogs stated, “Bugles No. 1065 and No. 1415 will be discontinued when present stock is exhausted. Meanwhile they represent excellent values.” Bugle No. 1065 was still listed in the Oct. 1927 catalog, but had disappeared from the catalog by Oct. 1929. I have no information on the characteristics of this bugle or whether it had an engraving identifying it as a Boy Scout bugle.

No. 1415 – Boy Scout Bugle - 1919 to 1926-7 - This bugle was not in the May 1918 BSA catalog but was in the May 1919 catalog. It was described as a higher quality bugle than No. 1065. The closeout listing in the 1925 BSA catalogs stated more specifically “Heavier bell than No. 1065.” There were no BOYS LIFE ads for this bugle in the first half of 1925 similar to the Rex International ads for the No. 1065 bugle, so there is no documentation of the manufacturer. As is indicated above, the Nov. 1925 catalog stated, “Bugles No. 1065 and No. 1415 will be discontinued when present stock is exhausted. Meanwhile they represent excellent values.” Bugle No. 1415 had disappeared from the catalog by Oct. 1927. I have not yet learned if there are noticeable differences between No. 1065 and No. 1415.

As stated above, I have 3 Official BSA bugles that show no manufacturer's name. On two of these bugles, the mouthpiece is attached to the bugle by a chain, and all three have identical inscriptions located on the side of the bugle along the tubing. My 15 inch Conn Official BSA bugle is almost exactly like these bugles except for the addition of a Conn inscription on the top of the bell. This is the only Conn Official BSA bugle of this size and design that I have ever seen. The Conn and the no-manufacturer's-name bugles look alike and the lead pipes on the bugles are identical. As can be seen by the measurement chart above, these bugles have distinct differences from King, Rexcraft, and other Conn BSA bugles. The inscription is:

LICENSED
OFFICIAL --- BUGLE
BOY SCOUTS --- OF AMERICA

The three dashes show where the wording is separated by the First Class badge.

I believe these no-manufacturer's-name bugles are examples of No. 1415. They are potentially examples of No. 1065. However, Rexcraft manufactured the No. 1065 bugle, and every Rexcraft bugle I have seen has a 4¼ inch bell. These no-manufacture's-name bugles have a 4½ inch bell, and I don't believe Recraft ever produced a bugle with a 4½ inch bell.. For that reason, I don't believe they are No. 1065s. That leaves No. 1415. The bugle illustration in the Oct. 1923 BSA catalog looks like these no-manufacturer's-name bugles.

No. 1537 - KING LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE BSA - 1925 to 1928-9 - The King Official BSA bugle was introduced in early 1925 as the official BSA "professional" quality bugle. It is not in the Oct. 1923 BSA catalog, but ads for it appear in May 1925 printings of BSA handbooks, and it appears in the May and Nov. 1925 and Oct. 1927 BSA catalogs. Ads for the King bugle appear in March 1928 printings of the BSA handbook and the May 1928 BOYS LIFE, but it had disappeared from the BSA catalog by Oct. 1929. It was possible to special order a silver-plated version of the King Official BSA Bugle.

The inscription on King BSA bugles is on the bell, perpendicular to the bugle length, and states:

KING
MADE BY
THE H. N. WHITE CO.
CLEV'D. O.
LICENSED
OFFICIAL BUGLE
(First Class Badge)
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

No. 1538 - REXCRAFT LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE BSA - 1925 to 1986-7 - The Rexcraft Official BSA bugle was introduced in May-June, 1925 as the official BSA "regulation" quality bugle. As stated above, Rex International Products, the predecessor of Rexcraft, craft was the manufacturer of the No. 1065 Official Boy Scout bugle that was sold between 1919 and 1928-9. No. 1538 must have been significantly different than No. 1065, as both bugles were listed in the same 1925 BSA catalogs with No. 1065 being phased out while No. 1538 was being introduced. The ad in the June, 1925, BOYS LIFE magazine introducing this bugle states:

It is with a great deal of pride that we announce to the Scouts of this country the "Rexcraft" Official Boy Scout Bugle.

For nearly six years, we have been supplying bugles to National Boy Scout Headquarters. Realizing the vital importance played by good bugles in the joy and advancement of Scouting, and after most thorough tests, Headquarters decided to adopt our latest "Rexcraft" bugle as part of the official equipment of the Boy Scouts, if, by so doing, they could make it available to the Scout at a very much reduced price.

We have met this requirement and have been licensed to make the new "Rexcraft" \$7.50 bugle available to all Scouts as their official bugle for only \$4.25, plus postage.

It is a bugle that will meet the most exacting requirements of Scouting. In fact, it will be found worthy of the distinction its official designation has given it. Exceptional quality, easy blowing, rich tone, highly polished brass, heavily nickel-plated mouthpiece attached with chain. Key of G with tuning slide to F. It conforms absolutely with the general specifications of the U.S. Army Regulation Bugle.

Rexcraft bugle with the First Class emblem in an ebay auction had a price of \$45.90. The First Class emblem came first, so a Rexcraft with a First Class emblem should not have had a higher original price than a Rexcraft with a Tenderfoot emblem. The chrome bugle cost \$13.98 in the 1967 catalog, \$15.75 in the Winter 1969-70 catalog, \$27.75 in the 1975-6 catalog, and \$61.95 in the Fall 1981 catalog. Perhaps the Rexcraft with the First Class emblem sat in a store's inventory for several years while the price went up. More research is needed.

No. 1277 - CONN LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE USA - 1927 to early 1940s - The Conn Official BSA Bugle was likely introduced in mid-1927. It appears in the Oct. 1927 BSA catalog, the Conn ad in the January 1928 BSA handbook announces "A New! Official Scout Bugle by Conn," and the Conn ad in the March 1928 BSA Handbook states, "BOYS, Here's the new, officially licensed Conn Bugle." The bugle pictured in both of those BSA Handbook ads and in later Conn BSA bugle ads is the 16 inch Conn BSA bugle. In my opinion, that supports the hypothesis that the 15 inch Conn was a very early very rare part of Conn Official BSA Bugle production. The No. 1277 Conn official BSA bugle appeared in BSA catalogs and BOYS LIFE and BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK ads throughout the 1930s. It is included in the May 1941 BSA catalog. The only bugle in the April, 1944 BOYS LIFE and the Christmas 1945 BSA catalog is the No. 1531 Plastic Bugle, so production of brass BSA bugles by Conn and Rexcraft must have been stopped because of the WW II brass shortage some time between 1941 and 1944. The Oct. 1947 BSA catalog shows the Rexcraft brass bugle and the plastic bugle, but not the Conn. Apparently Conn production of official BSA bugles never resumed after it was shut down during WW II. It was possible to special order a silver-plated version of the Conn Official BSA Bugle

The Conn Official BSA bugle is the only Official BSA bugle which has two separate inscriptions. On the side of a Conn Official BSA bugle is:

LICENSED
OFFICIAL --- BUGLE
BOY SCOUTS --- OF AMERICA

The three dashes show where the wording is separated by the First Class badge.

This is exactly the same inscription with identical placement, wording and lettering that appears on the no-manufacturer's-name bugles. The difference is that a Conn Bugle also has the inscription on the top of the bugle at right angles to the bugle:

CONN
MADE BY
C G CONN LTD
ELKHART, IND
USA

As is stated above, there are two distinct versions of the Conn Official BSA bugle. The most obvious difference is the size. One, which I believe is the earlier, much rarer version, is 15 inches long and the other is 16 inches long. The 15 inch Conn BSA bugle is virtually identical to my no-manufacturer's-name bugles except for the Conn inscription. That is why I believe it is part of the Conn transition from No. 1415 to No. 1277.

No. 1531 PLASTIC BUGLE - 1940s - During WW II, the U.S. military adopted a "plastic" bugle because of a brass shortage. The plastic used to make these bugles had the brand name Tenite and was manufactured by Tennessee Eastman Corporation, a Kodak subsidiary. Conn and Rexcraft brass official BSA bugles appear in the May 1941 BSA catalog and the Rexcraft bugle appears in a December, 1942, BOYS LIFE ad, but the only bugle in the April, 1944 BOYS LIFE and the Christmas 1945 BSA catalog is the No. 1531 Plastic Bugle. The description is "**Official Boy Scout Bugle** The same bugle now being used by the U.S. Army.

Well made of plastic in an olive green finish with detachable plastic mouthpiece. Easy blowing and rich in tone. Built in Key of G with slide to F." BSA must have replaced brass bugles produced by Conn and Rexcraft with plastic bugles some time in 1943 or 1944.

The Jan. 1, 1947 BSA Price List, the Oct. 1947 BSA catalog, and the 1948 BSA Christmas catalog include both the Rexcraft brass bugle and the plastic bugle. Soon after that, the BSA plastic bugle was phased out. I have never seen a plastic bugle with a BSA logo, so I imagine this bugle simply showed the manufacturer's name. I have an olive drab bugle with the inscription on the bell showing an eagle and the words:

AMAN
OFFICIAL BUGLE
MADE IN U.S.A.

I believe this is an example of the "plastic" bugle sold by the BSA but also by others.

No. X11910 OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BUGLE - 2000 - This bugle is on page SC 1 of the 2000 BSA Catalog in the section "Scout Classics Celebrating 90 Years of Scouting" As far as I can tell, this bugle is identical to the last of the earlier brass Rexcrafts except that there is not a chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece. This chain was often removed from earlier Rexcrafts, so the only way to be sure a bugle is No. X11910 is the label on the box. This bugle only appeared in the catalog that one year. The price was \$98.75, over an 800% price increase in the 32¼ years since the Sept 1967 catalog.

No. Y26776 JAMBOREE OFFICIAL BUGLE - 2001 - This bugle is on page J1 of the 2001 BSA Catalog in the section showing 2001 National Jamboree merchandise. "The official jamboree bugle is nickel-plated and in the key of G with a slide to F. Features an embossed jamboree logo behind the bell on top of the bugle." There is no chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece. Neither the bugle nor the box show a manufacturer's name, but the characteristics of the bugle and box confirm that this bugle was made by Buglecrafter/Rexcraft just like the "classic" bugle sold the year before. The price was \$165.00.

III. OTHER "BOY SCOUT" BUGLES

Boy Scouts in the United States were a major market for bugles and several companies tried to capitalize on that market by introducing BOY SCOUT model bugles. In some cases, a firm would simply take an imported bugle and add the words BOY SCOUT to the inscription. A number of these bugles are from the 1910s, before the Boy Scouts of America was able to control the use of the term "Boy Scout." The other "BOY SCOUT" bugles in my collection are:

U.S. BOY SCOUT Bugle - This bugle has U.S. and BOY SCOUT in two lines on the bell of the bugle. In the 1910s, there was a rival group to the Boy Scouts of America that also called their members Boy Scouts. This rival association was named first the American Boy Scouts and later the United States Boy Scouts. In the late 1910s, a court decision gave the Boy Scouts of America exclusive rights to the use of the name "Boy Scout" in the USA and the United States Boy Scouts were no more. This bugle is very likely a bugle of the United States Boy Scouts.

COUESNON "BOY SCOUT REGULATION" BUGLE - Couesnon was a major manufacturer of musical instruments located near Paris, France. The inscription on this bugle, in ornate lettering, is EXPOSITION UNIVERSELL DEPARIS, 1900, HORS CONCOURS, MEMBRE DU JURY, COUESNON & CIE, FOURNISSEURS DE LARMEE, 94. RUE D'ANGOULEME, PARIS, CHATEAU THEIRRY, 28, BOY SCOUT REGULATION. The words BOY SCOUT REGULATION are in a slightly different typeface than the rest of the inscription and were probably added after the bugle was imported. The number 28 is in the center of a "pineapple" or "grenade" symbol. According to historians of Couesnon instruments, that means 1928 is

the year the bugle was manufactured. By 1928, BSA was very actively protecting its rights to the term "Boy Scout" so there were probably very few of these bugles sold with the inscription BOY SCOUT REGULATION before BSA took some kind of action.

LYON & HEALY "BOY SCOUT" Bugle - This bugle has an ornate inscription. The words "Boy Scout" are etched on the bell of the bugle. Under those words is a Boy Scout in uniform and below the Boy Scout are the words Lyon & Healy Chicago.

PITT BRAND "BOY SCOUT" Bugle - This bugle has PITT BRAND and BOY SCOUT in two lines on the bell and BOHEMIA on the shaft into which the mouthpiece is inserted. This means the bugle was imported from Bohemia, which makes up much of the present Czech Republic. In the early 1900s, Bohemia had many musical instrument manufacturers that exported instruments. After World War II, these companies were merged to form Amati, which remains a major producer of musical instruments including a variety of bugles.

III. AMERICAN BOY SCOUT BUGLE MANUFACTURERS

BUESCHER - The Buescher Band Instrument Company of Elkhart, Indiana, did not produce an official BSA bugle, but they did market their M1892 bugles to Boy Scouts in ads in Boy Scout handbooks and Boys Life magazine in the 1920s. The Buescher Band Instrument Company was bought out by Selmer in 1963. Like the other U.S. band instrument companies that produced bugles for American Boy Scouts, Buescher is now part of Conn-Selmer, a subsidiary of Steinway Musical Instruments. (<http://www.steinwaymusical.com/Home.html>).

CONN - C.G.Conn Ltd was a major manufacturer of band instrument located in Elkhart, Indiana. There is an excellent history of Conn by Margaret Downie Banks at <http://www.usd.edu/~mbanks/CONTENT.html> which states that in April, 1969, the company "was sold to the Crowell-Collier MacMillan Company, known primarily as a book publishing company." Soon after that sale, "the corporate headquarters were moved out of Elkhart for the first time in its history" and "virtually all the company's historic records were deliberately destroyed." For that reason, it is difficult to find information about Conn production of BSA bugles. There is Conn bugle information along with photos on the Conn Bugle page of Christine Derksen's Conn Loyalist site at <http://www.xs4all.nl/~cderksen/ConnBugle.html>. Conn is now part of Conn-Selmer, a subsidiary of Steinway Musical Instruments.

H. N. WHITE - The H. N. White Company was another major producer of band instruments. It was located in Cleveland, Ohio. Their premium brand was "King." There is an excellent history of H.N. White by Chris Charvat at <http://www.hnwhite.com/second%20page.htm> (Link at the H.N. White Story.). Scroll down in "collection of instruments" on the left to link to his King bugle page. H.N. White Company was sold by the White family in 1965 and is now part of Conn-Selmer, a subsidiary of Steinway Musical Instruments. All the early H.N. White Company records are lost.

LYON & HEALY - The Lyon & Healy Company was another major musical instrument company of the early 1900s. Lyon & Healy is still in Chicago, but they now manufacture only harps, and they have no records of their early production. In the early 20th century, Lyon & Healy assembled some of the instruments they sold while purchasing others from companies like Holton and adding their brand name. According to an Oct. 2004 email message from Jari Villanueva, an expert on bugles and field trumpets, who has a great bugle web site at www.tapsbugler.com, "L&H made bugles in the 1920s including a model called the Scoutmaster but contracted out horns after 1930." It would be an interesting coincidence if the Lyon & Healy Boy Scout bugle was manufactured by Holton, as Holton, like Buescher, Conn and King, is now part of Steinway Musical Instruments.

REXCRAFT – Rex International Products produced bugles for the BSA beginning in 1919. The first appearance of their use of the Rexcraft brand name was in May, 1925. In several ads in BOYS LIFE in the 1920s, they claimed to be “American’s largest manufacturer of bugles.” At some point, probably about 1933, Rexcraft was bought out by Buglecrafter, another bugle manufacturer. Rexcraft’s address in their ad in the April, 1930, printing of the BSA handbook is 57 Jay Street, Brooklyn and the address in their ad in the Nov., 1932, printing of the BSA handbook is 60 York Street, Brooklyn. Perhaps this address change occurred when the company was sold.

Buglecrafter marketed bugles under the Rexcraft, Buglecrafter, and U.S. Regulation Bugle brand names. Their official BSA bugles all used the Rexcraft brand names except the 2001 National Jamboree bugle, which did not show a brand name. Buglecrafter/Rexcraft was sold in 2003. The new owner, Freeport Music Inc., markets their bugles under the brand name U.S. Regulation Bugle at <http://www.usregulationbugle.com/>. In an Oct. 2004 email message, their owner said, “We took over the Bugle Companies in January of 2003. The former manufacturers of both Rexcraft and Buglecrafter Bugles left NO RECORDS at all about their earlier productions.”

IV. BUGLE BAGS AND CORDS

There were two BSA bugle-related items that did not automatically come with a bugle but could be ordered separately from the Boy Scout catalog for a period of over 60 years, a bugle bag and a bugle cord.

The May, 1917, catalog listing:

No. 1226 BUGLE CORD "Mohair, 7 yard length with tassels. Specify color \$1.25"

No. 1235 FELT BAG FOR BUGLES "Nicely finished green felt bags of heavy material with handle for drum or bugle. 75¢"

In the Nov., 1919 catalog, the colors of the cord were listed:

No. 1226 BUGLE CORD "Mohair, 7 yard length with tassels. Colors: red, white, blue, yellow, and combination of red, white, and blue \$1.75"

In the Oct., 1932 catalog, The No. 1226 BUGLE CORD was "silk" instead of "mohair" and 75¢ instead of \$1.75.

At some point in the 20s or 30s, the white color option for the bugle cord was dropped and "yellow" was renamed "gold." White can't have been a popular color. I have never seen a white BSA bugle cord.

At some point between the Winter 1971-2 catalog and the Fall-Winter 1975-6 catalog, the single color bugle cords were dropped from the catalog and the only option was the red-white-blue combination.

The bugle bag and cord were still in the 1977 BSA catalog but were gone by 1981.

BSA Bugles on ebay sometimes have the green bag with them and less frequently have a cord with them. The single color cords were probably not as popular and are therefore rarer now. Besides two Red, White, and Blue cords, I have a Gold cord and a Red cord, but not Blue or White.

V. CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF APPEARANCES OF BUGLES, BUGLE BAGS, AND BUGLE CORDS IN BSA EQUIPMENT CATALOGS AND ADS IN BOY SCOUT HANDBOOKS AND BOYS LIFE MAGAZINES

This is an attempt to list chronologically the information on bugles, bugle bags, and bugle cords from BSA equipment catalogs and ads in Boy Scout handbooks and Boys Life magazines. Mouthpieces are also listed in most of the catalogs and fifes and drums appear in every catalog through 1947. Early catalogs are often titled THE SCOUT ADMINISTRATOR EQUIPMENT NUMBER or THE LOCAL COUNCIL EXCHANGE EQUIPMENT NUMBER. The ad listings include both bugle ads and band instrument ads by bugle manufacturers. Additional information would be appreciated.

AUGUST 1911 BSA HANDBOOK

Page 361 in the BOY SCOUT EQUIPMENT appendix has an illustration of a bugle and the statement:

"Bugle. It is recommended that the standard bugle used in an army or drum corps be used. Each Patrol should purchase these from a local music store."

1913 BSA CATALOG

No. 1064 Boy Scout Trumpet "Key of G with F crook and tuning slide. Two turns; brass. \$3.00"

The illustration shows a bugle with a wider than typical space between the upper and lower tubing and a vertical bar between the upper and lower tubing near the back end.

No. 1065 Boy Scout Trumpet "Same but higher quality instrument with 2 mouth-pieces, one attached with chain: brass. \$4.00" - The illustration shows a bugle that looks like the no-brand-name BSA bugles with a mouthpiece chain that is connected to the bugle at a strange place

SEPT. 1913 BSA HANDBOOK

Page 361 in the BOY SCOUT EQUIPMENT appendix has the same illustration of a bugle as the 1911 handbook and the statement:

"Bugle. It is recommended that the standard bugle used in an army or drum corps be used.

These may be purchased from a local music store or National Headquarters will quote prices." The phrase "National Headquarters will quote prices" must have been added between 1911 and 1913. That is when BSA got into the business of selling bugles. I have not yet discovered when the first "Official Boy Scout Bugle" was sold.

MAY 1917 BSA CATALOG - PAGE 92

No. 1064 was gone

No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET "An instrument of good quality; easy to blow and with mellow tone. Key of G with tuning slide to F. Mouthpiece attached with chain. Two turns, brass."

The illustration is the one that was used for the No. 1064 bugle in the 1913 catalog. There is no chain. Did they keep the wrong illustration? The price was \$5.00 and it was "Given for 9 subscriptions to BOY'S LIFE."

No. 1226 BUGLE CORD "Mohair, 7 yard length with tassels. Specify color \$1.25"

No. 1235 FELT BAG FOR BUGLES "Nicely finished green felt bags of heavy material with handle for drum or bugle. 75¢"

May, 1917 BOYS LIFE

Boy Scout bugler on cover

Page 31 = \$4.50 Bugles for Boy Scouts ... J.W. YORK & SONS Grand Rapids, Michigan

Page 43 - BUGLE for BOY SCOUTS Only \$5.00. The easiest blowing regulation Bugle for Boy Scouts, in brass at \$5. Thousands of Wurlitzer Bugles used by the United States Army - Rudolph Wurlitzer Company

DEC. 1917 BSA CATALOG

The layout, illustrations, and descriptions on page 95 are exactly the same as in the May and December, 1917, catalogs. The price of the No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET had returned to \$5.00. The price of the No. 1226 BUGLE CORD remained at \$1.50.

MAY 1918 BSA CATALOG

The layout, illustrations, and descriptions on page 64 in Dec., 1917, are exactly the same as on page 92 in May, 1917. However the price of the No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET increased to \$6.00 and the price of the No. 1226 BUGLE CORD increased to \$1.50.

August, 1919 BOYS LIFE

Page 51 - C.G.Conn Ltd, Elkhart IN, ad for "The Little Trumpet for Scouts with one valve."

Page 52 - Blorite Instrument House, Naperville IL, ad for U.S. Army & Navy Bugle "Now made especially for Bugle Corps and Boy Scouts" \$3.65 prepaid

Page 62 - Morgan Mfg. Co., Chicago, "Manufacturers of American Instruments for Americans" ad for Army Bugle - "Regulation Army Field Trumpet" for \$4.40 postpaid

NOV. 1919 BSA CATALOG

The terminology was changed from "Trumpet" to "Bugle" and the price of a bugle had decreased dramatically

No. 1065 BUGLE had exactly the same description as the No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET two years earlier: "An instrument of good quality; easy to blow and with mellow tone. Key of G with tuning slide to F. Mouthpiece attached with chain. Two turns, brass. ... \$3.50"

"Given for four \$2.00 subscriptions to BOY'S LIFE and 50¢"

No. 1415 "BUGLE better quality than above ... \$5.50"

The illustration is of a typical BSA bugle but does not show a chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece.

No. 1226 BUGLE CORD was \$1.75 and was described as "Mohair, 7 yard length with tassels. Colors: red, white, blue, yellow, and combination of red, white, and blue."

No. 1235 FELT BAG FOR BUGLES was described as "Nicely finished green felt bag of heavy material" and was still 75¢

May, 1923 BOYS LIFE

Page 36 - 1/6 page Conn ad "For Scout Bands and Drum Corps" illustrating "The Bugle for Scouts" with a single vertical valve

OCT. 1923 BSA CATALOG

The wording is shorter than in the 191 catalog and some prices had changed. The bugle illustration is different and shows a bugle that could easily be the no-brand-name "Licensed by BSA" bugle, with a chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece. The option of obtaining a bugle using BOY'S LIFE subscriptions was gone and there was the statement, "*Bugle Prices will be higher when present stock is exhausted.*"

No. 1065 BUGLE "Good quality; easy to blow; with mellow tone. Key of G, tuning slide to F. Mouthpiece attached with chain. ... \$3.50"

No. 1415 "BUGLE better quality ... \$4.50"

Bugle Prices will be higher when present stock is exhausted.

No. 1226 BUGLE CORD "Mohair, 7 yard length with tassels. Colors: red, white, blue, yellow, and combination of red, white, and blue... \$1.25"

No. 1235 FELT BAG FOR BUGLES ... \$1.00

June, 1924 BOYS LIFE

Page 61 - "Send only \$1.00 for this Real Regulation U.S. Army Bugle." In the fine print, "When it arrives, pay \$3.25, our special bargain price being only \$4.25." Dixie Music House, Chicago.

August, 1924 BOYS LIFE

Page 48 - Quarter page Lyon & Healy instrument ad - No mention of a Boy Scout bugle

November, 1924

Page 19 - Full page Conn Band Instruments ad with no mention of a bugle. This is consistent with other Conn Boys Life ads in 1924 that do not mention a bugle.

December, 1924 BOYS LIFE

Page 77 - 1/6 page Rex International ad

"SCOUTS ATTENTION!

ANSWER THIS BUGLE CALL SAVE \$1.25

\$5.00 STANDARD BUGLE FOR BOY SCOUTS FOR ONLY \$3.75

This magnificent, highly polished Brass "Standard" Bugle is of regulation Army type especially designed and adapted for Boy Scouts and is BUGLE No. 1065 USED BY SUPPLY DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS.

If you are a member of the Boy Scouts of America, we will mail you PREPAID, this beautiful regulation-slide G-F bugle for ONLY \$3.75!

BE THE MOST POPULAR SCOUT IN TOWN! SEIZE THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY – ACT NOW!

Simply fill in the attached coupon and mail to us with your check or money order for \$3.75.

Satisfaction is guaranteed or money refunded.

We sell exclusively America's "Standard" bugles manufactured in America for Americans solely by the Rex International Products Co., Inc, of Brooklyn who supplies the bugles for National Headquarters Supply Division."

The coupon is addressed to "STANDARD BUGLE CORP., 59 Jay St., Brooklyn, N.Y." That is the same address as in later Rexcraft ads.

There are illustrations of a bugle with chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece and of a Scout bugler in camp playing the SCOUT'S CALL. The illustrations are so small that no inscription appears on the bugle.

There is no Rex International bugle ad in the August, Oct., or Nov., 1924 Boys Life. I do not have the Sept., 1924 issue, but I believe the Dec., 1924 BOYS LIFE is very likely the first appearance of this ad and the identification of Rex International as the manufacturer of the No. 1065 bugle.

January, 1925 BOYS LIFE

Page 55 - The exact same ad that was on page 77 of the December, 1924 BOYS LIFE

February, 1925 BOYS LIFE

Page 3 – Quarter page Rex International Ad, part of a group of 4 ads from “firms that make and sell your official equipment” congratulating BSA on its 15th anniversary

“EVERY SCOUT A BUGLER IS OUR MOTTO.

Celebrate Your 15th Anniversary on the Clear, Broadcasting Notes OF THE STANDARD BUGLE.

Every troop, patrol, and SCOUT should own a STANDARD for every occasion.

The STANDARD is a bugle that we have made for the National Headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America for the past five years.

Highly polished, strongly built, easy to blow, in key of G, with slide to F, nicked mouthpiece attached.

BE PREPARED with a No. 1065 STANDARD bugle for the following:

1. Well developed lungs.
2. Bugle Corps.
3. Merit badge.
4. Radio contests.
5. Camps and hikes
6. All those wonderful Boy Scout Parades.

BE SURE you get a No. 1065 Standard Bugle when you get one, because it must be in tone and pitch with those of all the other Scouts.

If your local dealer cannot give you a STANDARD, then order of Supply Dept. or nearest Scout Headquarters, or send us only \$3.75, and we will mail you one prepaid anywhere in U.S.A.

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

SEND NOW

REX INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTS CO, Inc., Dept. BL 225, 57 JAY STREET, BROOKLYN,
NEW YORK

Page 56 - Quarter page Conn ad - No mention of a bugle

April, 1925 BOYS LIFE

Page 35 - Full page Conn Band Instrument ad - again no mention of a bugle

May, 1925 BOYS LIFE

Page 38 - Half page Rex International ad - First use in BSA ads of the brand name Rexcraft -
Last attempt to sell No. 1065 before new Rexcraft Official BSA bugle was introduced

REXCRAFT STANDARD BUGLES

EVERY SCOUT should have a *Rexcraft Standard Bugle* (Your No. 1065) HAVE YOU ONE?

We have supplied the NATIONAL HDQRS. OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA and the
GIRL SCOUTS INC., exclusively for almost 6 YEARS

BE PREPARED WITH A REXCRAFT STANDARD *for*

Camps and Hikes

Bugle Corps

Merit Badge for Bugling

Bugler of your Patrol

Development of Lungs

For Parade Work

Easy to learn

Easy to blow

Easy to buy

You can obtain YOUR REXCRAFT STANDARD from your nearest supply station, local dealer,
Boy Scout National Headquarters, or direct from your manufacturer.

ATTENTION! SCOUTMASTERS

Why not form a Bugle Corps in your Troop? Just imagine your troop drilling and marching to the
accompaniment of bugles. This will be a wonderful sight for any occasion.

DEALERS TAKE NOTICE:

For your convenience the following leading jobbers carry REXCRAFT BUGLES in stock:

...

"Springtime is Bugletime." A live Scout is always prepared, are you?

REX INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTS CO., 57 JAY STREET (Dept. BL), BROOKLYN, N.Y.

(America's largest manufacturer of bugles)

MAY 1925 PRINTING BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK

Rexcraft, Inc. (Formerly Rex International Products Co., Inc., America's Largest Bugle
Manufacturer) full page bugle ad on page 481 - "the best bugle in the world, the new
REXCRAFT \$7.50 Bugle, which is now your "REXCRAFT" Official Boy Scout Bugle for only
\$4.25 plus postage. ... Be sure that the Official Boy Scout Seal with the name "REXCRAFT" is
engraved on the bell of each bugle."

H.N. White full page ad for King bugle on page 501 with heading "The King Bugle adopted as
Official by Boy Scouts" and text "The King bugle was recently adopted by the Department of
Scout Supplies as the official quality bugle for The Boy Scouts of America. Exhaustive tests
and comparisons with all other makes were made - the King coming out far ahead of all. The
same quality that goes into King Band Instruments and has made then America's foremost
high grade musical instruments, is found in this bugle"

While Conn was later a major suppliers of BSA bugles, the quarter page Conn band instruments
ad on page 504 contains no mention of a bugle.

MAY 1925 BSA CATALOG

A photo of the bugle section in this catalog in an ebay auction listing shows that it is identical to
the bugle section in the NOV 1925 BSA CATALOG. The bugle section announced, "The
increasing importance of Scout buglers, as well as the desirability of providing for uniformity of
the primary accessories of a Scout's equipment, has led to the adoption of a standard official
bugle for the use of our membership. The official bugle is to be made available in two grades,
regulation and professional, both instruments, however, possessing the principal essentials in

common." After describing the tests that were undertaken to make the selection, the catalog featured two new bugles, the professional grade catalog No 1537 King Licensed Official Bugle BSA and the regulation grade catalog No. 1538 Rexcraft Licensed Official Bugle BSA and stated, "Bugles No. 1065 and No. 1415 will be discontinued when present stock is exhausted. Meanwhile they represent excellent values."

No. 1537 King Licensed Official Bugle BSA "This instrument will fulfill all the requirements of special Scout bugle corps, and of Scout buglers playing in conjunction with bands. Its tone quality is such that it blends perfectly with professional band instruments. and its pitch is identical therewith." ... \$6.00

No. 1538 Rexcraft Licensed Official Bugle BSA "In recent official tests, this bugle was ranked ahead of instruments of much higher cost. For all regulation requirements it will be found worthy of the distinction which its official designation has given it." ... \$5.00

No. 1065 Bugle "Good quality, easy to blow, mellow tone" ... \$3.50

No. 1415 Bugle "Heavier bell than No. 1065" ... \$3.50.

The No. 1226 BUGLE CORD and No. 1235 FELT BAG FOR BUGLES had the same descriptions and prices as in the 1923 catalog.

June, 1925, BOYS LIFE - In the May, 1925, BOYS LIFE, Rexcraft had a half page ad for their No. 1065 bugle. In the June, 1925, BOYS LIFE, both Rexcraft and King had half page ads for their new Official BSA bugles.

Page 38 – Half page Rexcraft ad

Oh, Look! The New Rexcraft (Trade Mark) Official Bugle

This bugle has been licensed and endorsed by the Boy Scouts of America as OFFICIAL.

It is with a great deal of pride that we announce to the Scouts of this country the "Rexcraft" Official Boy Scout Bugle.

For nearly six years, we have been supplying bugles to National Boy Scout Headquarters. Realizing the vital importance played by good bugles in the joy and advancement of Scouting, and after most thorough tests, Headquarters decided to adopt our latest "Rexcraft" bugle as part of the official equipment of the Boy Scouts, if, by so doing, they could make it available to the Scout at a very much reduced price.

We have met this requirement and have been licensed to make the new "Rexcraft" \$7.50 bugle available to all Scouts as their official bugle for only \$4.25, plus postage.

It is a bugle that will meet the most exacting requirements of Scouting. In fact, it will be found worthy of the distinction its official designation has given it. Exceptional quality, easy blowing, rich tone, highly polished brass, heavily nickel-plated mouthpiece attached with chain. Key of G with tuning slide to F. It conforms absolutely with the general specifications of the U.S.

Army Regulation Bugle.

Under the patrol system, each patrol should have its own bugler.

National and municipal events are occurring daily. Let your community know what Scouting stands for by having your troop march down Main Street, fully equipped with "Rexcraft" Official Bugles. Your Bugle Corps will be the hit of the parade.

Be prepared! Your troop and community need you as a bugler and you will be mighty proud to own a "Rexcraft."

If your Music Dealer or local Scout Outfitter is not yet supplied, order directly of National Scout Headquarters.

REX INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTS COMPANY, 57 JAY STREET, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

(America's largest manufacturer of bugles)

Page 42 – Half page King ad

The KING Bugle adopted as official by Boy Scouts

The KING BUGLE was recently adopted by the Department of Scout Supplies as the official quality Bugle for the Boy Scouts of America. Exhaustive tests and comparisons with all other makes were made – the King coming out far ahead of all. The same quality that goes into King Band Instruments and which has made them America's foremost high grade musical

instruments is found in this bugle. During the war, the government used thousands of King Bugles, all of them giving wonderful service and satisfaction. They are made of the finest French trumpet brass - sturdily built and well braced to stand up under hard service. Strictly a high quality musical instrument throughout and entirely different from the cheap inferior commercial types. King bugles are true musical instruments, due to the scientific proportions embodied in them. The same research and acoustical investigations employed in building King Trumpets, Saxophones, Trombones, and other wind instruments are used in making King bugles. They are easier to play, more perfect in tune, have a better quality of tone than any other bugle made. They are built to the U.S. Government specifications - in the Key of G with slide to Key of F. More rapid progress in bugling can be made on a King because it is properly designed. It will be easier to earn your Merit Badge for Bugling with a King than any other kind. Get a King bugle today - before the camping season opens - the music dealer in your city who sells King band instruments will have them or the Department of Scout Supplies at the Boy Scout Headquarters in New York. If no local dealer has the King, write directly to the factory. Send in the coupon below for prices and complete description of the King bugle. If you are interested in any other instrument such as the trumpet, saxophone, trombone, etc., state which one and we'll send you the latest King catalog.

THE H. N. WHITE CO., 5220-64 Superior Ave., Cleveland, O.

July, 1925 BOYS LIFE

Page 49 - 1/12 page Conn ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 51 - 1/12 page Rexcraft bugle ad with content similar to their June ad

Page 53 - 1/3 page King bugle ad with content similar to their June ad

August, 1925 BOYS LIFE

Page 49 - 1/3 page King bugle ad identical to their July ad

Sept., 1925 BOYS LIFE - no bugle ads

Oct., 1925 BOYS LIFE

Page 46 - 1/3 page new King bugle ad

New paragraphs:

In selecting the official professional quality Bugle from the number of samples submitted, the Supply Department of the Boy Scouts of America requested Band Master R. E. McGeary, First Battalion, N.M., N.Y., to test the samples rigidly for ease of blowing, tone quality, pitch, and general suitability.

The following extracts are taken from Band Master McGeary's report: **"It will be apparent from the foregoing that I found instrument No. 4 (the King Bugle) to be far and away the best instrument of those tested. It is absolutely true international pitch, and its tone quality is such that it blends perfectly with professional band instruments."**

Nov. 1925 BOYS LIFE

Page 48 - 1/3 page ad for King bugles and band instruments with similar content to earlier King ads

NOV. 1925 BSA CATALOG

The bugle section on page 33 is the same as is listed above for the May, 1925 BSA catalog

Dec. 1925 BOYS LIFE

Page 51 - Full page two color Rexcraft BSA bugle ad with illustration of bugle and inscription and of box and a price of \$5.00

Page 59 - Full page King band instrument ad with King Boy Scout bugle included at a price of \$6.00

Jan., 1926 BOYS LIFE

Page 38 - 1/3 page King band instrument ad with BSA bugle included

Page 50 - ¼ page Rexcraft bugle ad - new illustrations and some new content

April, 1926 BOYS LIFE

Page 37 - Full page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 45 - ¾ page Rexcraft BSA bugle ad with some new content and illustrations

Page 65 - 1/3 page King BSA bugle ad with some new content and illustrations

May, 1926 BOYS LIFE

Page 39 - ¾ page Rexcraft BSA bugle ad with some new content and illustrations

Page 59 - 1/3 page King BSA bugle ad with some new content and illustrations

Page 65 - Quarter page Buescher saxophone ad with no mention of a bugle

JULY 1926 PRINTING BSA HANDBOOK

All ads are different than in 1925 handbook.

Rexcraft, Inc. full page ad for Official Rexcraft Bugle Licensed and Authorized for the use of "The Boy Scouts of America" on page 495

H.N. White Co. full page ad for "The 'King' Licensed Official Boy Scout Bugle" on page 507

Half page Conn band instruments ad on page 504 that contains no mention of a bugle.

July, 1926 BOYS LIFE

Page 29 - Full page King BSA bugle ad - new illustrations - Bugle could be ordered directly from the factory for \$6.00 postpaid.

Page 52 - 1/12 page Rexcraft bugle ad - Bugle could be ordered for \$5.00

August, 1926 BOYS LIFE

Page 35 - Full page King BSA bugle ad - different photo and text than the July ad

Page 42 - 6½ by 5 Buescher Saxophone ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 50 - 2¼ by 2¼ Conn band instruments ad with no mention of a bugle

Sept., 1926 BOYS LIFE

Page 27 - Full page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 54 - Half page King BSA bugle ad - different photo and text than the July or August ad

Page 63 - Quarter page Rexcraft BSA bugle ad

Nov., 1926 BOYS LIFE

Page 3 - Full page Buescher band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 41 - Full page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 63 - Quarter page Lyon & Healy band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 73 - 1/3 page King band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 75 - Quarter page Rexcraft BSA bugle ad - same as Sept. 1926 ad

Dec., 1926 BOYS LIFE

Page 3 - Full page Rexcraft ad including:

"BE PREPARED to enter the next REXCRAFT PRIZE BUGLING CONTEST which may be held in your district. You MUST own a REXCRAFT OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BUGLE to qualify. Many honors come to a CHAMPION BUGLER."

Page 7, as part of a 3 page Scouting Christmas gifts section - No. 1537 "King" Official Bugle and No. 1538 "Rexcraft" Official Bugle are shown.

Page 50 - Full page King band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 93 - ¼ page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

MARCH 1927 PRINTING BSA HANDBOOK

all ads are different than 1925 and 1926 printings

Half page Conn bugle ad on page 483, but the bugle pictured is the American Legion herald bugle model, not an M1892 model, and there is no mention of Conn being an Official Boy Scout bugle

Rexcraft Inc. full page ad stating "BOYS THIS Rexcraft BOY SCOUT BUGLE IS OFFICIAL" on page 487

Buescher Band Instrument Co. full page ad on page 491 listing the Bugling merit badge requirements and stating, "To learn these calls quickly and deliver them right you must have a Bugle that is right. There is nothing to equal the Buescher Regulation Army Bugle for Scout work." This is not an Official Boy Scout bugle.

H.N. White Co, full page ad for "KING BUGLES 'Far and away the best'" on page 495

July 1927 BOYS LIFE - no bugle ads

Page 50 - 1/8 page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

OCT. 1927 BSA CATALOG

There are 4 bugles listed. The Conn was added and the No. 1415 must have sold out. In order, the bugles are:

No. 1277 CONN LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE U.S.A. "An instrument that is smarter and more trim than the average bugle. It is perfect in tone and register and only the finest of materials are used in its manufacture. Its tone is brilliant, powerful and mellow. Each one is tested before shipment to insure every detail of workmanship and tone. Key of G tuning slide to F. Silver plated mouthpiece; select brass" ... \$5.00

No. 1537 KING LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE B.S.A. "Tone quality is such that it blends perfectly with professional band instruments and its pitch is identical therewith. Key of G tuning slide to F. Silver plated seamless tubing mouthpiece attached with chain" ... \$6.00

No. 1538 REXCRAFT LICENSED OFFICIAL BUGLE B.S.A. "Exceptional quality, easy blowing, rich mellow tone. Selected brass; heavy nicked silver mouthpiece, attached with chain, Key of G tuning slide to F." ... \$5.00

No. 1065 BUGLE "Good quality, easy to blow, mellow tone. Key of G tuning slide to F. Mouthpiece attached with chain." ... \$3.50

The No. 1226 BUGLE CORD and No. 1235 FELT BAG FOR BUGLES had the same descriptions and prices as in the 1923 AND 1925 catalogs.

Page from Nov., 1927 BOYS LIFE

Page 2 (inside front cover) - Full page two color Conn band instrument ad featuring the Conn Scout bugle

January, 1928 BOYS LIFE

Page 44 - Quarter page King band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 49 - Quarter page Conn BSA bugle ad

Back cover - Full page Buescher band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

JANUARY 1928 PRINTING BSA HANDBOOK

all ads are different than 1925 and 1926 printings

Full page Conn bugle ad on page 613 announcing "A New! Official Scout Bugle by Conn"

H.N. White Co, full page ad for King Band Instruments on page 621 - No mention of a bugle

Buescher Band Instrument Co. full page ad on page 631 identical to that in the March, 1927, handbook, listing the Bugling merit badge requirements and stating, "To learn these calls quickly and deliver them right you must have a Bugle that is right. There is nothing to equal the Buescher Regulation Army Bugle for Scout work." This is not an Official Boy Scout bugle.

No Rexcraft ad

MARCH 1928 5TH PRINTING BSA HANDBOOK (Bicycle Tires ad on back cover - 646 pages)
C. G. Conn Ltd. full page "BOYS, Here's the new, officially licensed Conn Bugle" ad on page 622

Full page H.N. White ad stating "'King Bugle Best' Says Expert" and picturing a Scout planning a bugle on page 626 (another still different King bugle ad)

No Rexcraft ad

MARCH 1928 5TH PRINTING BSA HANDBOOK (Scout emblem on back cover - 638 pages) The bugle ads are the same as in the fifth printing but on different pages.

Full page Conn bugle ad on page 621 instead of page 622.

Full page H.N. White ad for King bugle on page 635 instead of page 626.

No Rexcraft ad

April, 1928 BOYS LIFE

Page 47 - Half page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 58 - Quarter page Buescher saxophone instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 61 - Quarter page King band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

May, 1928 BOYS LIFE

Page 49 - Half page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 53 - Quarter page Buescher saxophone instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 60 - 2¼ by 2½ King BSA bugle ad

Page 61 - Quarter page Kellogg's Corn Flakes ad with an illustration of a Scout with a bugle

Sept., 1928 BOYS LIFE

Page 55 - Quarter page Kellogg's Corn Flakes ad with an illustration of a Scout with a bugle

Page 57 - Quarter page Buescher band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 64 - 2¼ by 4 Rexcraft BSA bugle ad

Sept., 1928 BOYS LIFE

Page 55 - Quarter page Kellogg's Corn Flakes ad with an illustration of a Scout with a bugle

Page 57 - Quarter page Buescher band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 64 - 2¼ by 4 Rexcraft BSA bugle ad

Oct., 1928 BOYS LIFE

Page 49 - Half page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 53 - 2¼ by 4 Rexcraft BSA bugle ad

Page 56 - Quarter page Buescher band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 58 - 2¼ by 3¼ ad for Keystone State Parade Bugle produced by H. A. Weymann & Sons, Philadelphia, "The new American-made long model Bugle, especially designed for Boy Scout and American Legion musical units." "8 in. long, built in G with slide to F"

Jan., 1929 BOYS LIFE

Page 30 - Quarter page Buescher band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Page 37 - Half page Conn band instrument ad showing the Conn Official Scout Bugle

Page 50 - 2 ½ by 4 Rexcraft BSA bugle ad

Jan., 1929 8TH PRINTING BSA HANDBOOK

Full page Conn ad on page 623 encouraging troops to form Drum & Bugle Corps and listing the Conn official BSA bugle

Full page Buescher bugle ad on page 634 with a photo of a Scout playing a bugle, and "Roland Jones, whose picture is shown in this advertisement, is a member of Troop No. 4, Oneida, New York. He has brought honor and distinction to his Troop by winning the state

championship, which was open to all Boy Scout buglers throughout the state of New York. *In this contest Roland used a Buescher True Tone Regulation Army Bugle – the same bugle he learned to play on – and it made him the most popular Boy Scout Bugler in New York. No Bugle can equal the Buescher Regulation Army Bugle for Scout work. It has a beautiful, rich, penetrating tone of unlimited volume, and is exceptionally easy to blow. It is built in key of G with slide to F. It costs only \$6. ...*" It is interesting that the \$6 price was higher than the price of any official BSA bugle.

March, 1929 BOYS LIFE

Page 41 - Half page Buescher band instrument ad with a section on Buescher bugles, the same photo that was in their ad in the January 1929 handbook, and "Roland Jones, whose picture is shown here, is another State Champion. He is a member of Troop No. 4, Boy Scouts of America, Oneida, N.Y. and won the State Championship for Boy Scout Buglers. He uses a Buescher True Tone Regulation Army Bugle – the same bugle he learned to play on – and it made him the most popular Boy Scout Bugler in New York.

No Bugle can equal the Buescher Regulation Army Bugle. It has a beautiful, rich, penetrating tone of unlimited volume, and is exceptionally easy to blow. It is built in key of G with slide to F."

Page 49 - Half page Conn band instrument ad showing the Conn BSA bugle

Page 55 - 2 ½ by 4 Rexcraft BSA bugle ad

June, 1929 BOYS LIFE

Page 58 - Half page Conn band instrument ad showing the Conn BSA bugle

Page 63 - 1/12 page Rexcraft bugle ad

July, 1929 BOYS LIFE - no bugle ads

Page 38 - Half page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

Sept., 1929 BOYS LIFE - no bugle ads

Page 42 - Half page Conn band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

OCT. 1929 BSA CATALOG

Only two bugles are listed. The No. 1065 must have sold out by then and H.N. White must have stopped producing King Official BSA bugles.

"Conn" Official Bugle "An instrument that is smarter and more trim than the average bugle. It is perfect in tone and register and only the finest of materials are used in its manufacture. Its tone is brilliant, powerful and mellow. ... No. 1277 ... \$5.00

"Rexcraft" Official Bugle "For all regulation requirements, it will be found worthy of the distinction which its official designation has given it. Exceptional quality, easy blowing, rich mellow tone." ... No. 1538 ... \$5.00

The No. 1226 BUGLE CORD and No. 1235 FELT BAG FOR BUGLES had the same descriptions and prices as in the 1923, 1925, and 1927 catalogs.

Dec., 1929 BOYS LIFE

Page 35 - Half page Conn band instrument ad showing the Conn BSA bugle

Page 72 - BSA Equipment ad - bugle description the same as the Conn description in the Oct., 1929, BSA catalog, No. 1277 Conn and No. 1538 Rexcraft both sell for \$5.00

Feb, 1930 BOYS LIFE

Page 49 - Half page Conn band instrument ad showing the Conn BSA bugle

Page 53 - Quarter page Buescher band instrument ad with no mention of a bugle

APRIL 1930 PRINTING BSA HANDBOOK

Full page Conn Official Scout Bugle included in Conn Band Instruments ad on page 633

Half page Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle ad on page 637 Address is 57 Jay Street, Brooklyn Bugle No. 1277 (the Conn) included without mention of brand name in OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT EQUIPMENT on page 644.

March 1930 BOYS LIFE

Page 35 - "Official Boy Scout Equipment for March" shows a bugle that matches the 16 inch Conns in my collection and has the same description as the Conn description in the Oct 1929 BSA catalog. Both the Conn and the Rexcraft are listed with the same \$5 price.

Page 47 - Half page Conn band instrument ad showing the Conn BSA bugle

Page 53 - Quarter page Buescher Band Instrument ad - no mention of a bugle

Back Cover - A full page color Kellogg's Corn Flakes ad featuring a Boy Scout bugler holding his bugle in one hand and a box of Kellogg's Corn Flakes in his other hand, the music for Mess Call, and the statement "First call for breakfast."

July 1930 BOYS LIFE

Cover shows three Boy Scouts playing bugles in front of a group of Scouts

Page 34 - Half page Conn band instrument ad showing the Conn BSA bugle

Page 53 - 2½ by 2 Rexcraft BSA bugle ad. The price is still \$5.

OCT. 1932 BSA CATALOG

Page 23 of that catalog shows two Official Bugles, No. 1277 "Conn" for \$5.00 and No. 1538 "Rexcraft" for \$4.00. The price of the Rexcraft had come down. The description above both bugles is the description of the Conn in the 1929 catalog. The illustration which is labeled "Nos. 1277 and 1538" is a good illustration of the 16 inch Conn bugle.

The No. 1226 BUGLE CORD was "silk" instead of "mohair" and 75¢ instead of \$1.75.

The 1235 BUGLE BAG was still \$1.00.

NOV. 1932 PRINTING BSA HANDBOOK

Conn Official Scout Bugle included in full page Conn Band Instruments ad on page 625 (Different ad than in 1930)

Quarter page Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle ad on page 634 Address is 60 York Street, Brooklyn Bugle No. 1277 (the Conn) included without mention of brand name in OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT EQUIPMENT on page 646.

NOV. 1933 BSA CATALOG

Page 20 of that catalog shows two Official Bugles, No. 1277 "Conn" for \$5.00 and No. 1538 "Rexcraft" for \$4.50. The price of the Rexcraft had changed again. The description above both bugles is the same as the description of the Conn in the 1929 catalog. There is a photo of a bugle labeled 1538 grouped with two drums, a fife, and bugle accessories.

The No. 1226 BUGLE CORD was still 75¢ and the 1235 BUGLE BAG was still \$1.00.

NOV. 1934 BSA CATALOG

The bugle listing on page 20 of that catalog is very similar to the listing in the Nov., 1933 catalog. The only difference is that the No. 1226 BUGLE CORD had gone up in price from 75¢ to 85¢.

MAY, 1935 BOYS LIFE

Front Cover – Boy Scout bugler at upcoming National Jamboree

NOV. 1935 BSA CATALOG

On page 30, the description is the same, the No. 1277 Conn is \$5.00, the No. 1538 Rexcraft is \$3.95 (another change), the No 1226 Bugle Cord, silk, is 85¢ and the No. 1235 Bugle Bag is \$1.00.

NOV. 1937 BSA CATALOG

On page 32, the description was changed to "Perfect in tone and register, and only the finest of materials are used in their manufacture. The tone is brilliant, powerful, and mellow." The No. 1277 Conn was still \$5.00 and the No. 1538 Rexcraft was still \$3.95. The No. 1226 Bugle Cord, silk and the No. 1235 Bugle Bag are in the photo, but no prices are given.

FEB. 1938 BOYS LIFE

Page 88 - 4¾ by 3¼ Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle ad "19 YRS. THE OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BUGLE. YOU'RE ALWAYS IN FRONT WITH A REXCRAFT. This official bugle is made in American by Americans with the Best of American materials. ... Be Prepared to enter the Rexcraft prize bugling contest conducted by your Council."

MAY, 1938 BSA CATALOG

On page 46, the Conn bugle No. 1277 is illustrated, but the Rexcraft bugle No. 1538 is listed first. The description above the Rexcraft listing is "Easy blowing and rich in tone. A well-made regulation model instrument, of heavy brass with nickel-plated mouthpiece. ... Complete with instruction book." The description above the Conn bugle is "Heavier gauge brass with silver plated professional trumpet mouthpiece." The prices were the same, the No. 1277 Conn at \$5.00 and the No. 1538 Rexcraft at \$3.95. The No. 1226 Bugle Cords and the No. 1235 Bugle Bag are shown in a separate photo, listed, and priced. No. 1226 Bugle Cords were "Brightly colored silk cords and tassels. Available in following colors: Blue, Red, Gold, and Red, White, and Blue" for 75¢. The No. 1235 Bugle Bag was \$1.25.

NOV. 1938 BOYS LIFE

Page 47 – 1½ by 3¼ Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle ad

NOV. 1939 BSA CATALOG

On page 46, the information and prices are exactly the same as in the May 1938 catalog. The illustrations are also the same as in the May 1938 catalog, but they are significantly larger and both illustrations include catalog numbers.

MAY, 1941 BSA CATALOG

On page 46, the information and illustrations are exactly the same as in the Nov 1939 catalog although they are located at a different place on the page. The No. 1277 Conn was \$5.50 and the No. 1538 Rexcraft was \$4.50. The prices of the Bugle Bag and Bugle Cords had not +changed.

Feb. 1942 BOYS LIFE

Page 37 - 2½ by 4¾ Rexcraft Official BSA Bugle ad "FOR 23 YRS. THE OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BUGLE. YOU'RE ALWAYS UP IN FRONT WITH A REXCRAFT. This official bugle is made in American by Americans with the Best of American materials. Every bit of workmanship is designed to give you boys the quality of tone a professional expects. Any boy can easily learn to blow this bugle and become a member of a bugle corps or even the Troop bugler. Only five notes to learn. A free instruction book with each bugle."

Dec. 1942 BOYS LIFE

Page 38 "A good Scout gets good Accessories" National Supply ad had a bugle section which includes a photo and the statement: "A call to adventure! This smart easy-blowing instrument has a clear, rich tone. Complete with instruction book."

No. 1538 "Rexcraft" make ... \$5.00

No. 1236 Bugle Cord, Silk ... \$1.00

No. 1235 Bugle Bag \$1.50

There was no Conn bugle listed.

April, 1944 BOYS LIFE

Page 35 - "SPRINGTIME ... Equipment Renewal Time" ad lists one bugle, the plastic bugle: "OFFICIAL BUGLE - A duplicate of the regulation Army Bugle. Well made instrument of khaki plastic, with plastic mouthpiece. Built in Key of G with slide to F. No. 1531 \$6.75"

1945 BSA CHRISTMAS CATALOG

Once again, the only bugle listed is the plastic bugle, "Official Boy Scout Bugle The same bugle now being used by the U.S. Army. Well made of plastic in an olive green finish with detachable plastic mouthpiece. Easy blowing and rich in tone. Built in Key of G with slide to F."

JANUARY 1, 1947 BSA PRICE LIST - page 12

1538 Bugle - Regulation; Brass	\$9.95
1531 Bugle - Regulation; Plastic	\$5.95
1235 Bugle Bag - Felt	\$1.50
1226 Bugle Cord - Blue, Red, Gold and Red - White - and Blue	\$1.75
1538A Bugle Mouthpiece - for Metal Bugle	\$.85
1531A Bugle Mouthpiece - for Plastic Bugle	\$.65

The 1538 Rexcraft brass bugle was back. The No. 1277 Conn BSA bugle did not return to BSA catalogs after World War II.

OCT. 1947 BSA CATALOG

On page 32, there is the same brass bugle that is in the January price list, the No. 1538 Rexcraft which sold for \$9.95. The description is "This easy blowing regulation instrument is made of heavy brass, polished to a rich sheen. Nickel-plated mouthpiece has chain attachment. Slide is easily removed. Has rings for tassels and cords, and Official Seal imprinted above bell."

There is also No. 1531 Plastic Bugle similar to above for \$5.95.

The No. 1266 Bugle Cords were "Cords with tassels. State color: Blue, Red, Gold, Red-White-Blue" for \$1.75, and the No. 1235 Bugle Bag was \$1.50.

1948 "HERE'S WISHING EVERY ONE OF YOU A MERRY SCOUTING CHRISTMAS" BSA CATALOG

This is a 12 page color catalog. On page 10 is "Official Bugle" "Easy blowing instrument of heavy brass with nickelplated mouthpiece. Key of G, slide to F."

No. 1538 \$9.95

No. 1531 Plastic Bugle \$5.95

1951 "SCOUT GIFTS HAVE THAT PLEASING WAY OF SAYING MERRY CHRISTMAS" BSA CATALOG

This is a 6 ¼" x 9" 20 page catalog in red, black, and white. On page 8 is the "Official Brass Bugle" No. 1538 for \$9.95. There are no accessories listed except the mouthpiece. The illustration shows the inscription on the side of the bugle with the First Class badge.

1953 "SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH SCOUT GIFTS" BSA CATALOG

This is a 6" x 9" 24 page catalog in red, black, and white. On page 5 is the "Official Brass Bugle" No. 1538 for \$9.95. No. 1226 Bugle Cord was \$2.25 and No. 1235 Bugle Bag was \$1.95. The illustration, which is different than in the 1951 catalog, again shows the inscription on the side of the bugle with the First Class badge. The bugle is on the bugle bag and the bugle cord next to it is pictured in a single light color with no mention of color options.

SPRING AND SUMMER 1957

This catalog is in green, black, and white. On page 9 is the "Official Brass Bugle" with the same illustration as in 1953. "Brass bugle, key from G, slide to F. Also in tarnish-free, chrome-plate.

No. 1538 Brass Bugle \$10.50

No. 1537	Chrome Plated	\$12.95
No. 1226	Bugle Cord	\$1.95
No. 1235	Bugle Bag	\$2.15

SPRING AND SUMMER 1958 BSA CATALOG

This is a 6" x 9" 24 page catalog in yellow, black, and white. On page 5 is the "Official Brass Bugle" with the same illustration as in 1953 in a slightly different format. "Brass bugle has a key from G to F. Chromed mouthpiece attached to linked chain. With emblem. Bugle also available in tarnish-free, chrome-plated model. Bugle course included.

No. 1538	Brass Bugle	\$9.95
No. 1537	Chrome Plated	\$12.95
No. 1235	Bugle Bag	\$2.15
No. 1226A	Blue Cord	\$1.95
No. 1226B	Gold Cord	\$1.95
No. 1226C	Red Cord	\$1.95
No. 1226D	Red, White, and Blue Cord	\$1.95

CHRISTMAS, 1960. BSA CATALOG

This is a 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" 24 page catalog in red, black, and white. On page 8, a small illustration shows a bugle with the older style mouthpiece and a chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece, a bugle bag, a single color (gold?) bugle cord, and an extra mouthpiece.

OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BRASS BUGLE - Brass bugle in key of **G**, with slide to **F**. Also available in tarnish-free chrome plated model. Basic bugle course is included with each.

No. 1538	Brass Bugle	\$9.95
No. 1537	Chrome-Plated Bugle	\$12.95
No. 1235	Bugle Bag	\$2.15
No. 1226	Bugle Cord in gold, blue, red, or combination	\$1.95

1961 BSA CATALOG

This is a 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" 24 page catalog in red, black, and white. On page 9, a bugle is illustrated with the inscription on the side and showing a First Class badge, the older style mouthpiece, and a chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece. The bugle bag is shown but not the cords.

OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BRASS BUGLE - Brass bugle in key of G, with slide to F. Also in tarnish-free chrome plated model. Basic bugle course is included.

No. 1538	Brass Bugle	\$9.95
No. 1537	Chrome-Plated Bugle	\$12.95
No. 1235	Bugle Bag	\$2.15
No. 1226	Bugle Cord in gold, blue, red, or combination	\$1.95

SEPT. 1962 BSA PRICE LIST

This is a small 64 page booklet. The bugle section is included in GENERAL EQUIPMENT on page 26. It includes:

1537	Bugle - Chrome plated	\$12.95
1538	Bugle - Regulation brass	\$9.95
1235	Bugle Bag - Felt	\$2.25
1226A	Bugle Cord - Blue	\$1.95
1226B	Bugle Cord - Gold	\$1.95
1226C	Bugle Cord - Red	\$1.95
1226D	Bugle Cord - Red, white, and blue	\$1.95

SPRING AND SUMMER 1963 BSA CATALOG

This is a 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" 32 page catalog in green, black, and white. On page 22 is the "Official Brass Bugle" with the same illustration as in the 1953 catalog except that the background is solid green.

OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BRASS BUGLE - Brass bugle in key of G, with slide to F. Also in tarnish-free chrome plated model. Basic bugle course is included.

No. 1538	Brass Bugle	\$9.95
No. 1537	Chromed Bugle	\$12.95
No. 1235	Bugle Bag	\$2.15
No. 1226	Bugle Cord in gold, blue, red, or combination	\$1.95

JAN. 1964 BSA PRICE LIST

This is a small 64 page booklet. The bugle section is included in GENERAL EQUIPMENT on page 26. It includes:

1537	Bugle - Chrome plated	\$12.95
1538	Bugle - Regulation brass	\$9.95
1235	Bugle Bag - Felt	\$2.25
1226A	Bugle Cord - Blue	\$1.95
1226B	Bugle Cord - Gold	\$1.95
1226C	Bugle Cord - Red	\$1.95
1226D	Bugle Cord - Red, white, and blue	\$1.95

WINTER 1966-67 BSA CATALOG

This is a 9" x 11" color 16 page catalog. On page 3 is a photo of a brass bugle and a red bugle cord laying next to each other on a bugle bag. The description is:

BOY SCOUT BUGLE - Bugle in key of G has slide to change to F. Chromed mouthpiece is attached to chain. Bugle Course included. Choose brass or chrome plate.

1538	Brass bugle	\$10.98
1537	Chrome plated	\$13.98
1235	Bugle bag	\$2.25
1226	Bugle cord - gold, blue, red, or combination	\$1.95

SEPT. 1967 BSA PRICE LIST

This is a small 64 page booklet. The bugle section is included in GENERAL EQUIPMENT on page 26. It includes:

1537	Bugle - Chrome plated	\$13.98
1538	Bugle - Regulation brass	\$10.98
1235	Bugle Bag - Felt	\$2.25
1226A	Bugle Cord - Blue	\$1.95
1226B	Bugle Cord - Gold	\$1.95
1226C	Bugle Cord - Red	\$1.95
1226D	Bugle Cord - Red, white, and blue	\$1.95

WINTER 1969-70 BSA CATALOG

This is a full color catalog. Page 8 shows a photo of a brass bugle with a red cord labeled 26.

The listing is:

26 BOY SCOUT BUGLE. – Bugle in key of **G** has slide to change to **F**. Chromed mouthpiece is attached to a linked chain. Bugle available in brass or chrome-plated.

No. 1538	Brass bugle	\$11.98
No. 1537	Chrome-Plated Bugle	\$15.75
No. 1235	Bugle Bag	\$2.25
No. 1226	Bugle Cord in gold, blue, red, or comb. of red, white, blue	\$2.35

WINTER 1971-72 BSA CATALOG

This is a full color catalog. Page 2 shows a photo of a brass bugle with a red cord labeled 9.

The listing is:

9. BUGLE. – In gleaming brass or chrome-plated finish. Slide changes key from F to G. Chromes mouthpiece attached to bugle by sturdy link chain.

BRASS BUGLE No. 1538	\$13.75
CHROME-PLATED BUGLE No. 1537	\$18.50
BUGLE BAG No. 1235	\$2.50
BUGLE CORD. Gold, blue, red, or red-white-blue combination No. 1226	\$2.10

FALL-WINTER 1975-76 BSA CATALOG

This is a full color catalog. Page 8 shows a photo of a chrome bugle labeled 25 with a red, white, and blue cord labeled 26. The listing is:

25 BUGLE. Slide changes key from F to G. Link chain attaches chromed mouthpiece to bugle. 2 finishes.

No. 1537 Chrome-Plated Bugle	\$27.75
No. 1538 Brass bugle	\$21.00
No. 1235 Felt Bugle Bag (not shown)	\$2.80
26 BUGLE CORD. Red-white-blue. No. 1226D	\$2.35

AUG. 1977 BSA PRICE LIST

This is a small 56 page booklet. The bugle section is included in GENERAL EQUIPMENT on page 23. It includes:

1537 Bugle - Chrome plated	\$27.75
1538 Bugle - Regulation brass	\$22.95
1235 Bugle Bag - Felt	\$3.50
1226D Bugle Cord - Red, white, and blue	\$2.55

1978 BSA CATALOG

The bugles are on page 45 with a color photo showing the chrome-plated and brass bugles, both with chains connecting the bugle and mouthpiece.

Chrome-Plated Bugle. R1537	\$37.50 (an increase of over 33% in one year)
Brass Bugle. R1538	\$27.95
Felt Bugle Bag. R1235	\$3.95
Bugle Cord. Red-white-blue	\$2.95

FALL 1981 BSA CATALOG

The listing on page 13 includes a photo of a brass Rexcraft with the newer style mouthpiece and a chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece.

“REGULATION BRASS BUGLE. This’ll wake up even the sleepest Scout. Slide changes key from F to G. Chain mouthpiece attachment. K1538..... \$51.95”

Following Items Not Shown

CHROME-PLATED BUGLE. Same features as above K1537\$61.95”

Listed along with the bugles is a mouthpiece but no Bag or Cord

FALL/WINTER 1984-5 BSA CATALOG

The listing on page 3 includes a photo of a brass Rexcraft with the newer style mouthpiece and a chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece that is very similar to the one in the 1981 catalog.

“REGULATION BRASS BUGLE. This will get them up at camp! Expertly crafted musical instrument. Slide changes the key from F to G. Chain mouthpiece attachment. F1538..... \$55.95”

Listed along with the bugles is a mouthpiece. There is no chrome-plated bugle.

SPRING/SUMMER 1985 BSA CATALOG

The listing on page 3 is identical to the previous catalog except that the price is \$59.95.

FALL/WINTER 1986-7 BSA CATALOG

The listing on page 10 includes the same photo of a brass Rexcraft with the newer style mouthpiece and a chain connecting the bugle and mouthpiece that is in the 1984-5 catalog. "REGULATION BRASS BUGLE. Expertly crafted musical instrument. Slide changes key from F to G. Chain mouthpiece attachment. Limited supply. H1538..... \$55.95" Listed along with the bugles is a mouthpiece. I imagine the statement "Limited supply" meant that BSA was getting out of the bugle business.

2000 BSA CATALOG

The listing is on page SC 1 in the section "Scout Classics Celebrating 90 Years of Scouting" No. X11910 OFFICIAL BOY SCOUT BUGLE - As far as I can tell, this bugle is identical to the last of the earlier Rexcraft brass bugles. The only difference is the label on the box. This bugle only appeared in the BSA catalog that one year. The price was \$98.75.

2001 BSA CATALOG

The listing is on page J1 of the 2001 BSA Catalog in the section showing 2001 National Jamboree merchandise.

No. Y26776 JAMBOREE OFFICIAL BUGLE - "The official jamboree bugle is nickel-plated and in the key of G with a slide to F. Features an embossed jamboree logo behind the bell on top of the bugle." There is no manufacturer's name on the bugle or box, but the characteristics of the bugle and box confirm that this bugle was made by Buglecraft/Rexcraft just like the "classic" bugle sold the year before. The price was \$165.00.

VI. BOY SCOUT BUGLES IN PRIZE CATALOGS

The use of Boy Scout bugles as premiums has a long history. In the 1917 BSA catalogs, the No. 1065 BOY SCOUT TRUMPET was "Given for 9 subscriptions to BOY'S LIFE." Two years later, in 1919, the No. 1065 BUGLE was "Given for four \$2.00 subscriptions to BOY'S LIFE and 50¢." By the 1923 catalog, the BOY'S LIFE option for obtaining a bugle was gone.

Four later prize premium catalogs that include BSA bugles are:

Libby, McNeil, & Libby, Chicago - *How to Get BOY SCOUT UNIFORM and EQUIPMENT FREE with Libby Milk Labels* - "This catalog conforms in arrangement with the official scout catalog, with 1934 new low prices, subject to the regulations of the Boy Scouts of America. Each article listed in the official catalog is available under the Libby plan, except certain ones (badges and other insignia of scout membership or rank) which are prohibited." There are 28 pages. Page 21 includes fifes, drums, and bugles. The bugle listings are:

No. 1277 "Conn" Official Bugle	1000 large labels or 2000 small labels
No. 1277A Extra Nickel Silver Mouthpiece	120 large labels or 240 small labels
No. 1226 Bugle Cord and Bag - Cord	150 large labels or 300 small labels
No. 1235 Felt Bugle Bag	200 large labels or 400 small labels
No. 1538 "Rexcraft" Official Bugle	800 large labels or 1600 small labels
No. 1538A Extra Nickered Silver Mouthpiece	120 large labels or 240 small labels

Crowell Publishing Co. Springfield, Ohio - Book of Prizes No. 7 - Not dated, but appears to be from the 1930s. These prizes were in addition to sales commissions.

Page 10 is the "Official Boy Scout Equipment" page. Item No. 255 is a Rexcraft Bugle. It cost 100 Gold Certificates. A boy could obtain a Gold Certificate by selling 15 "Collier's" subscriptions, 5 "Woman's Home Companion" subscriptions, or 2 "The American Magazines" subscriptions.

Octagon Soap products, Silver Cow Evaporated Milk and other Bordon premium milks, Kirkman Soap Products, Obelisk Flour, Luzianne Coffee and Tea, and Health Club Baking powder - circa 1939-40 - The certificate in the brochure worth 10 extra coupons expired Dec. 31, 1940.

The No. S-1538 Bugle, which was the Rexcraft, cost 825 coupons. Most items contained one coupon, a few had two or three, and a 24 pound bag of flour had 12.

Free Scout Equipment from Post Cereals and Heinz Products - Catalog with red, white, and black cover expired Sept. 30, 1957, and catalog with yellow, black, and white cover expired Nov. 30, 1959. On page 8 of the earlier catalog, the No. 1538 Brass Bugle cost 2100 points. There is no illustration. On page 5 of the later catalog, the No. 1538 Brass Bugle is illustrated and cost 1990 points. A boy received 1 point for a Heinz label. A silverware coupon from a Post cereal box was worth 1 or 2 points depending on the size of the package.