

Case Study

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Looking for that special, hard-to-find mouthpiece, case, instrument, special someone? Then you've come to the right place, with the lady who can't stop shopping, Mrs. Equipment, dishing the details on gorgeous gear and affairs of the heart. Send your questions to shopping@mrequipment.ca !

Hi everybody! When Ernest asked me to do this, I thought I'd died and gone to heaven! When you love to shop as much as I do, well, what better job than shopping for other people with their money?

Dear Mrs. Equipment:

The case for my Besson Sovereign alto horn is falling apart. What ever shall I do? I've looked everywhere for a replacement to no avail. Where can I find a suitable case?

Vince, Toronto

Dear Vince:

Alto horn? How charming! You must be a very sensitive man! Ever since that unpleasantness with Besson a couple of years ago it has been difficult to find cases. The Besson website isn't much help, either, so I'd email the new owners, Buffet-Crampon at marketing@buffetcrampon.fr . That will get you to their offices in Florida which are responsible for Canada, and if you're very lucky, you may get a response from the delightfully Gallic Francois Kloc. (Don't hold your breath, though, he's terrible about returning emails!) If they can't help, try the folks who used to make the cases for Besson, Jakob Winter of Nauheim, Germany. If they can't sell you the official Besson case, they offer a nice European-style alto horn case (I LOVE the sound of that!), which you can see here : I'm sure they'll tell you how to order one- they seem awfully nice!

You could also try Hiscox cases in England. (Of course, over there, they call it a "tenor horn" and drive on the other side of the road and have a lot of different words for things like "bonnet" and "boot" and "tosser", but I'm sure you already knew that, being an alto-horn player and all!) If you want to see it, click here : I'm sure a company in a country where they have hundreds of thousands of "tenor horns" in the "boots" of their "lorries" would know how to make a good tenor horn case. Email them to find out how to get one and tell them I sent ya!

OOH, STOP THE PRESSES!! I just found out about another case company in England called Coldstream Cases! They make an absolutely fabulous tenor horn case made from Glass Reinforced Plastic, Triple Composite (glass/carbon/kevlar) and lightweight Carbon/Kevlar. Get the black one and you'll like you're carrying around Darth Vader's head! How cool(stream) is that? Have a look for yourself here.

On this side of the pond, if you'd like a real American case, try DEG Accessories-they've been making heavy-duty wood-shell cases for years. See it here . Finally, I simply can't resist the bags made by Glenn Cronkhite in California (Glenn was the original designer of the Reunion Blues bags and still makes them like they used to.) You can get them in cordura or leather (something tells me you're a leather man, Vince) in all kinds of yummy colours! And beautiful to look at! If Gucci made an alto horn gig bag, well, he wouldn't, would he? But Glenn's bags are fabulous! He has a website at www.glenncronkhite.com, but there's not much there except his philosophy and his phone number. Give him a call and he'll tell you where you can buy one.

I'm sure someone out there is going to write and tell me where to find other alto horn cases, so let's hear from you! A girl

has to have her sources, you know! Just email me at shopping@mrequipment.ca

Until next time, remember, it's not what you PLAY, it's what you PAY!