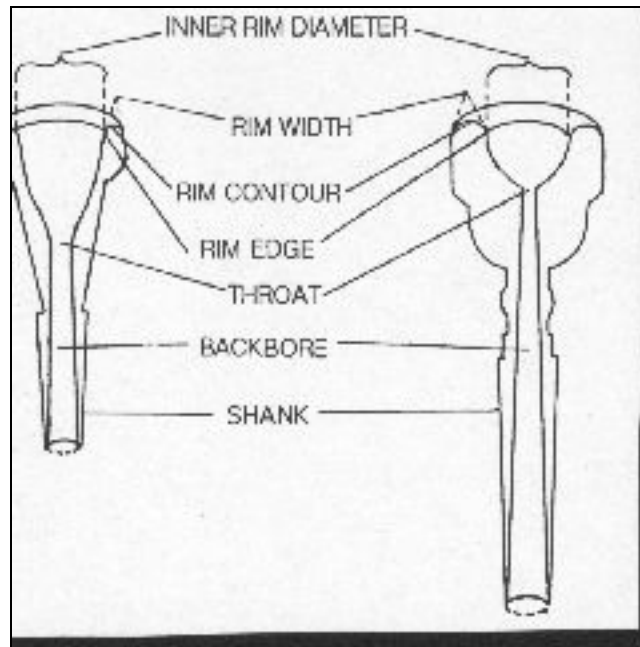


Parts of the Mouthpiece and Mouthpiece Care



from A Complete Guide to Brass
by Scott Whitener, p. 12

The parts of the mouthpiece are shown in the figure above. The mouthpiece should be cleaned at least monthly with a mouthpiece brush and warm water with a mild detergent. Clean the cup, bore, backbore, and the rim, being careful not to scratch the silver or gold plating on the rim. It is recommended that the mouthpiece be stored in a mouthpiece pouch to avoid scratching or denting the rim. If the rim becomes damaged and the plating is scratched or worn, immediately purchase a new mouthpiece or get the old one replated. Beneath the plating, most mouthpieces are brass. Repeated contact of the lips on the exposed raw brass can cause minor irritation, sores and even more serious complications. If the opening of the shank is damaged in such a way that the opening is no longer round, the air flow can be adversely altered. Have it rounded out at your local repair shop, or, purchase a center punch or a nail setting tool from your local hardware store and carefully round it out yourself. Again, care should be taken as to not scratch or dent the mouthpiece. If your mouthpiece is stuck in the horn, use a special mouthpiece pulling tool ONLY. This may require a quick trip to the local repair shop. NEVER use a pliers or similar tool from the garage to remove a stuck mouthpiece (on any other part of your horn for that matter).