



LOTUS Mouthpiece Cup Descriptions

Our cups are simply sized like clothing, ranging from XS to XL

The cup volumes can generally be described as:

XS (*Roughly equivalent to a Bach F cup*)

This is an extremely shallow cup with a laser-beam focus. For players who know how to drive such a zippy little sports car, it doesn't get any more fun than this! You can use it for the most insane gigs, like 3+ hours of Salsa playing, or other occasions when it feels alarmingly good to drill holes through people. (People who, to be fair, seem to actually want that first-row lobotomy?!)

This mouthpiece delivers sharpshooter accuracy in the upper register, so much that it actually feels like you're cheating, it shoots fire at mezzoforte and it's guaranteed to do lasting damage to any poor soul you point your bell towards!

S (*Roughly equivalent to a Bach E cup*)

You know that description, "The ultimate lead mouthpiece! Adds extra notes to your range! All with a great, big sound!"? Well, although words like "ultimate" are highly subjective, this is the absolute closest you're ever gonna find. Period. This mouthpiece produces a surprisingly rich, full-bodied tone for such a shallow cup. The sound never gets any smaller, from the highest notes in your range to low F# and fat pedal notes.

This is the kind of lead mouthpiece that other musicians actually like to listen to. Lots of shiny, sparkling light shooting out of every note, but the sound also has plenty of meat on its bones. With a wider projection than the XS, it's the better choice for playing upper-register solos, and having a fatter lead sound in general.

The real winning element with this cup is that when you play it moderately (*"respectably"*?) you can absolutely fool other players into thinking you're on a "real" mouthpiece — until you step on the gas and it

turns into a flamethrower, of course, at which point they'll usually shout expletives and excitedly ask you which mouthpiece it is!

M *(Roughly equivalent to a Bach D cup)*

This cup actually has two different purposes; sort of a split personality.

For one, it can be a lead mouthpiece for players who “can’t play lead mouthpieces”. It’s got a ‘real’ cup and is obviously not a lead piece, but it’s shallow enough to reeeeaally “cut” when you step on the gas. Great for an orchestral player who needs some more sizzle when playing something like West Side Story, or for a Jazz player who wants to tear through an army of other instruments while maintaining a fat, rich sound which doesn’t register to the listener as a “lead sound”.

Alternatively, it can be used for lead players accustomed to shallower pieces who want to add more depth to their sound, whether for soloing, or to balance out a super bright horn, without losing the necessary sparkle in the sound.

While it’s not technically a full-sized cup (*which many would consider a Bach C cup*) it does still have enough volume and depth to produce a lovely tone for general playing, even ballads. “It really is incredibly well-rounded. I’ve used it exclusively on lots of gigs and several big recordings, and I really consider it an essential tool to have on hand for many occasions.” ~Adam Rapa

Even if you normally play on larger cups, do yourself a favor: You know that at least every once in a while, there comes a time when you’d love to have the trumpet players equivalent of a “beach body” and sound like a god playing a big, shiny high note phrase that just won’t come out quite that way on your C cup... but you also don’t want to be seen as having a “cheater” mouthpiece, so the sound would need to be 100% “Classically” appropriate for everything else too. Yup. That’s this mouthpiece.

L *(Roughly equivalent to a Bach C cup)*

Perhaps the most commonly used cup volume among trumpet players everywhere, the L is perfectly suited for every type of playing. The biggest difference between this mouthpiece and similar cups from other brands is the shockingly easy access to the upper register, which makes

it possible to stay on this mouthpiece instead of switching to something shallower to play high phrases. This cup IS what everybody says they want. You CAN have it all. If you already play lead on a Bach 3C, you'll find this WAY easier. And if you're an orchestral player with even just a little bit of fear when playing any of the high excerpts on your 1 ¼ C, this is your answer.

Making your life this easy was a very time-consuming endeavor for us, but we did it! Better design, better intonation, easier upper register. And a big, fat sound from top to bottom. From the Alpine Symphony to My Funny Valentine, from a giant hall to a claustrophobia-inducing Jazz club, this is the ultimate "everyday" mouthpiece.

XL *(Roughly equivalent to a Bach B cup)*

A bigger, fatter sound than the L cup, while still maintaining the shiny, easy upper register access which cups this large are notorious for hindering. Unless you're a lead player, this could absolutely be your everyday mouthpiece. For both Classical and Jazz playing, it's just a matter of taste between this cup and the L, not a question of which one is easier. A little more sizzle or a little more fat? The XL leans more towards fat, but you can still play anything on it, apart from Lead/Commercial/Latin, unless you have a very atypical concept of sound for those genres, or you're insane — in which case, yes, it'll work.

Basically, if you've always loved the extra richness a Bach B cup vs a C cup, but you're turned off by the more difficult upper register, it's time to let go of that fear and own a mouthpiece designed for producing a monster sound with a better upper register than any cup of its kind.

* The **L** & **XL** cups are available with 2 different throat sizes: Our default size and a slightly smaller throat, for even crisper articulations and a bit more of a compact sound, which some Classical players prefer. If you want the biggest possible sound, you'll be thrilled with our normal L model. If you're willing to trade a little of that girth for some added resistance and help with articulation, try the smaller throat option. And don't worry, it has a wonderfully rich sound as well!

* That covers our range of cup depths within the realm of 'normal, bowl-shaped' mouthpieces. We also offer two different options of V-shaped cups, since they're particularly useful in certain playing situations, or in general for players who favor a super-warm sound.

LV *(V-shaped in roughly a Large cup volume)*

Not as deep as a flugelhorn or 'flumpet' cup. Useful for all types of playing with a softer, rounder sound. Smooths out "overkill" articulations and adds a lot of "weight" to the sound. Uniquely offers uncompromised, easy access to the upper register. This can easily be used as the #1 mouthpiece for Jazz players looking for a really dark, rich sound, without preventing effortless high F's and double G's when the spirit moves you. Who needs a heavy horn when you have THIS mouthpiece?

XLV *(V-shaped in roughly an Extra Large cup volume)*

This. Cup. Sounds. Enormous. Inspired by an F-trumpet cup from the 1800's, it's an XL cup in volume, starting with a bowl shape, then leading to a deep V shape. The result is a mouthpiece that's WONDERFUL for creating a warm solo sound, whether for creamy ballad playing, a more mellow Jazz sound in general, or all sorts of Classical & Baroque playing. This cup brings out the richest possible sound from your trumpet, period.

The magic of this cup is that it's nature is so warm and rich, but when you play fairly loud it will still create brilliance and a more trumpet-like sound, so you can experience a wide variety of tone colors, unlike any other mouthpiece that can create such a flugelhorn-like quality.

And as with all Lotus mouthpieces, the upper register is still in tune and easily accessible with great note-slotting. We've never experienced a mouthpiece like this before. Neither have you. If you generally feel that "bigger is better", you've absolutely got to experience this cup!

For more information about which LOTUS Mouthpiece is closest to your current one(s), read our "LOTUS Mouthpiece Comparison Chart"