

Henri Selmer Paris Saxophone Serial Number Chart

Updated January 2024

Version 2.1

	Start	Finish	Qty	Notes
Serie 1922				
1922*	750 - 1130		380	Bell Stamp: Serie 1922
Modele 22				
1923*	1130 - 1700		570	Bell Stamp: Modele 22.
1924*	1700 - 2900		1,200	*Estimate only, based on my photo archive, with assumed production runs in multiples of 6.
1925*	2900 - 4100		1,200	
1926*	4100 - 4500		280	
Total	1130 - 4500		3,250	
Modèle 26				
1926*	4400 - 5300		860	Bell Stamp: Modèle 26.
1927	5300 - 7280		1,810	Qty rounded to nearest 10.
1928	7280 - 8100		510	Body Numbers appear at 7k, numbers starting at 1000.
Total	4400 - 8100		3,310	Shipped 1929-1954: 60 Shipped Date unknown: 70
Modèle 28 Alto only				
1928	7060 - 8030		140	Bell Stamp: Modèle 28.
Large-Bore Era				
1928	8100 - 9310		910	No model stamp. Only Altos have a bore change.
1929	9310 - 11670		1,980	Soprano ends at 13080. Alto ends at 14000.
1930	11670 - 13660		1,660	Tenor ends at 13980. Bari ends at 14860.
1931	13660 - 14860		580	Shipped 1932-1947: 340 Shipped Date unknown: 140
Total	8100 - 14860		5,610	
Super SSS				
1931	13950 - 15630		1,260	Tenor: Pre-Super 14k-17k. No SSS Sopranos
1932	15630 - 17170		1,480	SSS on Altos from 14k, Baris from 15k, Tenors from 17k.
1933	17170 - 18600		1,420	Cigar-Cutter on Altos 14k - 19k (Tenor 17-19k non US)
1934	18600 - 18890		290	Geared Mech 17k - 19k (US only)
Total	13950 - 18890		4,580	Shipped 1935-1948: 80 Shipped Date unknown: 50
Radio Improved SSS				
1934	18890 - 20100		1,080	No Sopranos built.
1935	20100 - 20640		550	32 Baritones built: First 14 with keys on left side of bell,
1936	20850 - 23230		80	and last 18 with keys on right side.
1937	23230 - 24470		90	After 20640, known as Late Radio Improved.
Total	18890 - 24470		1,850	Shipped 1938-1942: 20 Shipped Date unknown: 30
Dorsey SSS				
1938	25590 - 27450		15	Dorseys are stamped with "SSS", but not "Radio Improved".
1939	27450 - 28690		91	Alto production roughly 107, Tenor production roughly 24.
1940	29610 - 29620		6	(numbers may change slightly if more examples show up)
Total	25620 - 29620		131	Shipped 1941-1943: 19

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This chart was produced using Selmer Paris archive records, as well as my photo archive of more than 135,000 images of Selmer Paris saxophones. It may be freely printed, shared or published. Changes from Version 1 include new findings from the recently discovered Factory Archive records.

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Balanced-Action				
1935	20630	- 21530	780	Alto starts at 20630, Tenor at 20900, Bari at 20640.
1936	21530	- 23460	1,920	No Soprano production until 31780.
1937	23460	- 25300	1,780	21.1k Alto serial number moves to back of body.
1938	25300	- 27380	1,920	22.7k Lower stack adj. screws move to back of body.
1939	27380	- 29050	1,560	26.9k Low Bb key redesigned.
1940	29050	- 29700	680	29.3k First Alto with high F#
1941	29700	- 30360	770	29926-29999 no records of production for this range
1942	30360	- 30930	610	30.1k Lower Stack Pant-guard appears
1943	30930	- 31580	550	31.3k-33k Black Pearls (early '45 to late '46)
1944	31580	- 31850	340	31.6k Tenor serial number moves to back of body.
1945	31850	- 32330	540	32.2k High F key redesigned
1946	32330	- 33250	960	
Total	20630	- 33250	12,540	Shipped 1947-1956 130 Shipped date unknown 40

Super-Action

1946	33250	- 33620	80	Soprano starts at 39210, Alto starts at 33070.
1947	33620	- 34920	1,600	Tenor starts at 34060, Bari starts at 36260.
1948	34920	- 37320	2,340	35.5k Tenor bow/bell Type 2 (no B/C# bar, B foot on bell)
1949	37320	- 39650	2,470	35.8k Tenor bow/bell Type 3 (C# gap, B foot on bow band)
1950	39650	- 43300	3,360	37.9k Tenor bow/bell Type 4 (C# Gap, B foot on bell)
1951	43300	- 46340	3,090	38.6k Tenor bow/bell Type 5 (no C# gap, B foot on bell)
1952	46340	- 49880	3,490	40.1k Low A Baritone production starts.
1953	49880	- 53190	3,520	47.2k Neck shield design change.
1954	53190	- 56640	2,180	47.9k Tenor separate B/Bb guards end.
1955	56640	- 61260	170	51.2k M serial number prefix appears.
Total	33250	- 61260	23,300	Shipped 1956-1983: 1000 Shipped date unknown: 10

Mark VI

1954	54420	- 57170	1,580	Soprano starts at 68150, Alto starts at 55390.
1955	57170	- 61500	4,380	Tenor starts at 54420, Bari starts at 55290.
1956	61500	- 66550	5,420	"Mark VI" engraved on upper body, in Elkhart. (55k to 91k)
1957	66550	- 72030	5,530	61.8k M serial number replaced by M
1958	72030	- 77930	5,840	Alto Short Bow ends at 75.5k, Medium Bow 75.5k - 87.4k.
1959	77930	- 82950	4,700	79.2k Bari low C guard w 2 feet, redesigned with 3 feet.
1960	82950	- 89110	6,080	Alto Long Bow 87.4k - 136k.
1961	89110	- 95000	6,030	91.2k US "Mark VI" engraving moves to bell/bow band.
1962	95000	- 102330	7,190	95k French text removed from bell stamp.
1963	102330	- 110000	8,010	106k Low A Alto production begins.
1964	110000	- 119360	9,060	116k Side key ball joints appear on Alto. (118k on Tenor)
1965	119360	- 129390	10,130	129k Bell stamp simplified, city names removed.
1966	129390	- 138750	9,510	Alto Medium Bow 136k - 201k
1967	138750	- 150000	10,900	140k connector bands redesigned, no knurled pattern.
1968	150000	- 160200	9,980	140k Vertical "Mark VI" stamp appears - stamped in France.
1969	160200	- 171800	11,450	142k "Mark VI" stamped in bell/bow band, for US-market
1970	171800	- 183070	11,110	the ® is engraved in Elkhart after the stamp.
1971	183070	- 194300	10,920	Coloured Lacquer from 159k (pink, red, blue, bronze, black)
1972	194300	- 207210	12,670	Alto MediumShort Bow 201k+. (slightly shorter than before)
1973	207210	- 219120	12,060	Soprano continues to 325k, Alto to 241k, Tenor 239k,
1974	219120	- 232090	12,960	Bari low A to 315k, Low Bb to 388k.
1975	232090	- 241000	7,740	Sopranino SBA to 345k, M6 from 351k to 426k
Total	54420	- 241000	197,800	Shipped 1976-1990: 14,550 Shipped date unknown: 55

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Mark VII	Start	Finish	Qty	Notes
1975	239700	- 244730	4,930	Alto and Tenor only except for a small number of Soprano and Baritone examples. No Sopranino or Bass.
1976	244730	- 259780	11,570	
1977	259780	- 275930	12,370	
1978	275930	- 288980	10,680	
1979	288980	- 302650	11,410	
1980	302650	- 314920	10,740	
1981	314920	- 317880	2,020	
Total	239700	- 317880	63,750	Shipped 1981-1982: 30 Shipped date unknown: 3

Super Action 80

1981	317110	- 326950	8,830	Alto test runs from 300k to 316k. Full production at 317570.
1982	326950	- 339960	12,400	Tenor test runs 314k to 316k. Full production at 317110.
1983	339960	- 353410	12,740	No Sopranino or Bass
1984	353410	- 366150	12,860	Black Lacquer appears on about 120 examples.
1985	366150	- 378210	12,120	56% were engraved and 11% were silver-plated.
1986	378210	- 390570	5,190	Alto production ends at 382880.
1987	393570	- 405670	500	Tenor production ends at 382550.
1988	405670	- 419380	490	Soprano continues to 390390.
1989	419380	- 435700	410	Baritone continues to 435700.
Total	317110	- 435700	65,540	Shipped 1990-1994: 50 Shipped date unknown: 5

Super Action 80 Serie II

1986	380420	- 391760	7,880	Soprano starts at 383220.
1987	391760	- 406040	14,100	Alto starts at 380440.
1988	406040	- 421960	15,580	Tenor starts at 380420.
1989	421960	- 439330	16,370	Baritone starts at 386600.
1990	439330	- 456990	17,820	From 389k White Lacquer on roughly 530 examples.
1991	456990	- 473570	16,230	Black Lacquer on roughly 4,190 examples.
1992	473570	- 489910	15,850	56% were engraved and 8% were silver-plated.
1993	489910	- 503580	13,370	
1994	503580	- 517910	12,980	Production from 1986 to 1999 breaks down as follows:
1995	517910	- 534800	15,210	Soprano roughly 12,900 or 7% of the total.
1996	534800	- 550600	14,740	Alto roughly 120,500 or 63% of the total.
1997	550600	- 563690	11,110	Tenor roughly 52,500 or 27% of the total.
1998	563690	- 579970	10,430	Baritone roughly 5,700 or 3% of the total.
1999	579970	- 594200	8,970	
2000	594200	- 608870	5,540	Nino: 22, Sop: 340, Alt: 3640, Ten: 1010, Bar: 510, Bass: 16
2001	608870	- 625520	5,510	Nino: 25, Sop: 400, Alt: 3470, Ten: 1060, Bar: 530, Bass: 17
2002	625520	- 639970	5,640	Nino: 19, Sop: 410, Alt: 3630, Ten: 1030, Bar: 530, Bass: 23
2003	639970	- 658730	4,960	Nino: 24, Sop: 270, Alt: 3080, Ten: 1080, Bar: 490, Bass: 20
2004	658730	- 671520	5,850	Nino: 31, Sop: 290, Alt: 3680, Ten: 1280, Bar: 540, Bass: 26
2005	671520	- 686760	5,970	Nino: 19, Sop: 190, Alt: 3090, Ten: 870, Bar: 410, Bass: 19
2006	686760	- 698960	4,040	Nino: 5, Sop: 170, Alt: 2620, Ten: 840, Bar: 390, Bass: 17
2007	698960	- 711960	4,490	Nino: 17, Sop: 230, Alt: 3000, Ten: 850, Bar: 380, Bass: 13
2008	711960	- 724260	4,710	Nino: 15, Sop: 260, Alt: 3230, Ten: 880, Bar: 310, Bass: 14
2009	724260	- 732640	2,720	Nino: 9, Sop: 120, Alt: 1710, Ten: 630, Bar: 230, Bass: 25
2010	732640	- 740460	3,450	Nino: 11, Sop: 120, Alt: 2470, Ten: 690, Bar: 140, Bass: 11
2011	740460	- 749450	3,390	Nino: 18, Sop: 180, Alt: 2400, Ten: 640, Bar: 140, Bass: 15
2012	749450	- 759740	3,600	Nino: 8, Sop: 150, Alt: 2630, Ten: 660, Bar: 130, Bass: 20
Total	380420	- 759740	250,510	Super Action 80 Serie II production continues past 2012.

Henri Selmer Paris Serial Number / Model Saxophone Chart

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	Start	Finish	Qty	Notes
Super Action 80 Serie III - Soprano only				
1993	475340	- 504840	630	Soprano only
1994	504840	- 519100	1,220	Removeable neck appears - curved and straight.
1995	519100	- 534250	1,510	92% were lacquered, 60% lacquered and engraved.
1996	534250	- 548630	260	340 Silver plated, 22 gold plated.
Total	475340	- 548630	3,640	Shipped date unknown: 20

Serie III

1996	537110	- 549730	1,140	Soprano: 1060, Tenor: 80
1997	549730	- 567700	3,640	Soprano: 1010, Tenor: 2630
1998	567700	- 579340	3,230	Soprano: 1120, Alto: 10, Tenor: 2100
1999	579340	- 595290	4,320	Soprano: 1070, Alto: 1320, Tenor: 1930
2000	595290	- 608930	8,090	Soprano: 1020, Alto: 5230, Tenor: 1840
2001	608930	- 625260	7,410	Soprano: 900, Alto: 4950, Tenor: 1560
2002	625260	- 640380	7,920	Soprano: 1130, Alto: 5220, Tenor: 1560
2003	640380	- 656890	7,050	Soprano: 1110, Alto: 3840, Tenor: 2110
2004	656890	- 671290	5,370	Soprano: 1030, Alto: 2960, Tenor: 1380
2005	671290	- 686680	3,910	Soprano: 610, Alto: 2390, Tenor: 910
2006	686680	- 698830	3,620	Soprano: 520, Alto: 2260, Tenor: 840
2007	698830	- 712370	4,090	Soprano: 650, Alto: 2580, Tenor: 860, Baritone: 1
2008	712370	- 722320	3,630	Soprano: 710, Alto: 1970, Tenor: 880, Baritone: 70
2009	722320	- 730940	2,390	Soprano: 530, Alto: 1130, Tenor: 520, Baritone: 210
2010	730940	- 740000	3,140	Soprano: 560, Alto: 1760, Tenor: 630, Baritone: 190
2011	740000	- 748750	3,210	Soprano: 540, Alto: 1820, Tenor: 690, Baritone: 160
2012	748750	- 757670	2,820	Soprano: 530, Alto: 1650, Tenor: 510, Baritone: 130
Total	537110	- 757670	74,980	Serie III production continues past 2012.

Serie III Millenium

2000	599590	- 609300	140	Alto only - silver plated body with lacquered keywork. Each instrument carries a sequential Limited Edition number.
2001	609300	- 614410	300	
Total	599590	- 614410	440	

Super Action 80 II Bird Series

2009/10	711860	- 731390	600	Firebird - All Alto with Gold Lacquer
2011/12	724300	- 743350	160	Dragonbird - All Alto with Gold Lacquer

Serie III Bird Series

2009	712380	- 734430	580	Firebird - All Alto with Gold Lacquer
2011/12	738720	- 767060	530	Dragonbird - 160 Soprano, 260 Alto, 110 Tenor

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	Start	Finish	Qty	Notes
Reference 36				
2000	597670	- 609060	260	All gold lacquer except for 1 example of antiqued lacquer.
2001	609060	- 625370	440	All gold lacquer except for 3 examples of antiqued lacquer.
2002	625370	- 641140	560	All gold lacquer
2003	641140	- 656000	330	All gold lacquer
2004	656000	- 671350	220	All gold lacquer except for 31 antiqued.
2005	671350	- 685820	220	All gold lacquer except for 41 antiqued.
2006	685820	- 694120	240	All gold lacquer except for 26 antiqued.
2007	694120	- 709500	300	All gold lacquer except for 31 antiqued.
2008	709500	- 721450	340	All gold lacquer except for 40 antiqued.
2009	721450	- 728440	150	All gold lacquer except for 23 antiqued.
2010	728440	- 734040	150	All gold lacquer except for 26 antiqued.
2011	734040	- 739480	120	All gold lacquer except for 27 antiqued.
2012	739480	- 750000	100	All gold lacquer, except for 24 antiqued and 1 silver-plated.
Total	597670	- 750000	3,430	Reference 36 production continues past 2012.

Reference 54 (excluding Bird Series)

2000	598190	- 609100	250	All Tenor
2001	609100	- 624260	730	All Tenor
2002	624260	- 640360	1,200	All Tenor except for 1 Alto
2003	640360	- 655810	1,760	Alto: 1100, Tenor: 660
2004	655810	- 673210	3,540	Alto: 2860, Tenor: 680
2005	673210	- 686670	2,120	Alto: 1290, Tenor: 830 (Bird Series listed below)
2006	686670	- 695180	1,190	Alto: 710, Tenor: 480
2007	695180	- 711640	1,860	Alto: 1140, Tenor: 720
2008	711640	- 721640	1,900	Alto: 1260, Tenor: 640
2009	721640	- 730660	1,010	Alto: 580, Tenor: 430
2010	730660	- 738370	1,310	Alto: 890, Tenor: 420
2011	738370	- 748540	1,500	Alto: 1000, Tenor: 500
2012	748540	- 758080	1,960	Alto: 1300, Tenor; 660
Total	598190	- 758080	20,330	Reference 54 production continues past 2012.

Reference Bird Series

2005/6	661590	- 692640	805	Hummingbird - 125 Collector, 680 Standard - Alto only
2006/7	685010	- 704980	1320	Kookaburra - 430 Col (Alto & Tenor) , 890 Std - Alto only
2007/8	701500	- 715200	890	Flamingo - All with no F#: Col 200 A, 150 T R36. Std 540 A
2009/10	713700	- 733800	420	Firebird - Alto 110 no F#, 170 with F#. Tenor 130 R54 no F#
2011/12	738800	- 764000	650	Dragonbird - Medium Gold Lacquer 400 Alto, 250 Tenor

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Selmer ADOLPHE Saxophone Serial Number Chart

1931 to 1944

Background

With full on-site access to the Selmer Paris archives, Douglas has spent the last eight years studying more than one million original records in order to develop a more accurate knowledge of Selmer Paris production information.

Process

Shipping data from the archives were entered into a database. The earliest Selmer Adolphe archive records are from early 1931. Research covers the full period of sales from 1931 to 1944, but primary production seems to have been from 1931 to 1936.

Selmer Adolphe saxophones were listed in the month they were sold, rather than in serial number order. The records became more confused during the war years, with small groups of records appearing on seemingly random pages in various places in the books.

The records were sorted, analyzed and organized into the most intelligible groupings possible. Many serial numbers were missing and it is not known if the missing instruments were built and not recorded, or whether they were not built at all. So far, five of the missing serial numbers have been observed.

Results

The Selmer Adolphe instruments were not shipped in perfect serial number order. This means that this chart is not 100% accurate for any particular instrument, but it does give a reasonable outline of the total production timeline.

There is some serial number duplication. For example, five Baritones in the 170 to 199 serial number range are all duplicated, but from 200 and on they have unique numbers.

Roughly 70% of all Selmer Adolphe saxophones were sold to Ben Davis, the British Selmer Paris distributor, about 15% were sold through Selmer Paris and the rest were shipped to individual retailers, mostly in France, Germany and Spain.

Most of the instruments were shipped in bare brass or Permgold lacquer finish, with roughly 80 silver plate and 30 nickel plate finish.

Note: The production chart is roughly 80% accurate in terms of production year. Many earlier examples were sold in later years. Production during the war years appears to have been a matter of using up existing parts to get the instrument finished if at all possible. Several Selmer Adolphe Altos were assembled with leftover Cigar-Cutter octave mechanisms. Sales in 1937-1940 and 1942-1944 were instruments within the production range of other years.

About the researcher

Douglas Pipher is a Canadian saxophonist, collector and researcher who has spent the last several years studying Selmer instruments with the goal of learning through primary research. He is working on a series of publications in order to help bring accurate Selmer history to light. This document may be freely shared, provided that it is identified as "Douglas Pipher's Selmer Adolphe Saxophone Serial Number Chart." For further information, Douglas can be reached at: douglas@selmerhistory.com

Production by Year

	Start	Finish	Qty
1931	100	249	102
1932	250	625	313
1933	626	1039	428
1934	1040	1199	140
1935	1200	1259	46
1936	1260	1344	66
1937	-	-	6
1938	-	-	0
1939	-	-	0
1940	-	-	4
1941	1345	1355	36
1942	-	-	4
1943	-	-	1
1944	-	-	1

Qty by Type

Sopranino	2
Soprano Straight	12
Soprano Curved	3
Alto	501
Tenor	495
Baritone	134
Total	1147

Additional known instruments not listed in archives

Alto	2
Tenor	3