Horn-Shipping Guidelines

Shipping horns is a safe and easy way to transport our valuable instruments for repair, trial and buying/selling purposes. Both FedEx and UPS send packages the size and weight of horns regularly. Both methods are reliable.

The following guidelines may be helpful in preparing the horn for shipping:

MATERIALS NEEDED:
• Sturdy box (U-haul makes an "Extra-large" box, which is a bit tight for an 8-D size case, and a "Wardrobe box" which is very roomy, requiring more filling materials);
• Filling material, such as Styrofoam peanuts or discs;
• Padding material, such as bubble wrap:
• Good packaging tape.

1. If the case is in good condition and fits the horn well enough to offer some impact protection, ship the horn inside the case. Remove all mouthpieces, mutes, oils, etc. from the case. You may want to fill up some loose spots between the horn and case with some Styrofoam peanuts or bubble wrap to ensure a tight-yet-cushioned fit inside the case. If the case is unhelpful to the protection of the horn, use a soft case or wrap the horn in a large sturdy plastic bag.

2. Place shipping and return addresses inside the case, or attached to the handle, in case it gets separated from the box.
3. Wrap the outside of the case (or bag) with bubble wrap and tape it.
4. The case-and-horn unit should ideally be cushioned inside the box with 2-3" of filling material. If the fit is too tight, try a bigger box, or use only as much filling as seems sufficient.
5. Tape securely.

If you are in a hurry, FedEx is less expensive for 1- or 2-day delivery. If you are on a budget, however, UPS has 3- and 5-day delivery available, both less expensive than FedEx. Both companies also have pick-up service for a small fee. The total cost generally ranges between $30-130 for domestic delivery, including pickup and insurance.

If you pack well and use good materials, you can rest assured that the horn has as good a chance of arriving unscathed as if you hand-carried it yourself.