



**Instructions
for the
FAULHABER Wildlocker
Grouse Set
(Haselwild-GARNITUR)
consisting of the
Grouse Cock Double Whistle
for old and young cocks
and the
Hen Call**



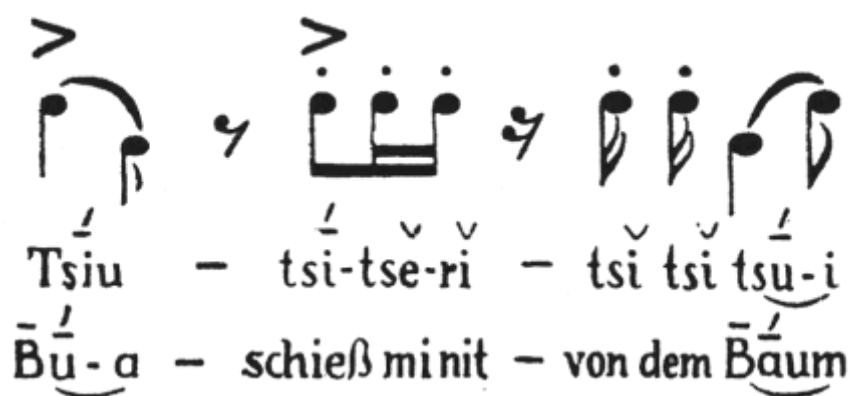
Note: These calls were designed for the European hazel grouse (*Bonasa betulina*) which is, although not identical, allied to the American ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*). We believe these calls are suitable for both birds and other grouse found in North America.

Using the calls:

Grouse cocks

The whistle of the young cock is produced with the shorter side of the whistle, the call of the old cock, which is slightly lower in tone, with the longer part. By partially covering or gliding the index finger along the middle cut-out of the whistle, various modulations of the call can be reproduced in a lifelike manner. Instead of using the finger, more experienced hunters usually press the decoy whistle against the palate and modulate the call with the lower lip. In this case, which has the advantage that both hands are free for immediate use of the gun, the middle cut-out is directed downwards. The call of the cock is clear and "dashing". "Wer ein rauhes Pfeifen beginnt, der keinen Hahn gewinnt" – this German proverb roughly says one has to whistle with sensitivity in order to succeed with hunting cocks. The main call used for luring cocks can be described in notes and writing as follows:

Main call of the cock



Tseeu – tsee-tsa-ree – tsee tsee tsu-ee

Getting the correct rhythm is of importance. The call of the young cock is used when even younger cocks want to be lured, e.g. in September when chains of flights are broken.

Grouse hens

The call of the hen can be easily reproduced on the second instrument. To create the somewhat rough call of the hen, which seems to consist of various tones audible at the same time, the hen call is put between the lips so the air can exit simultaneously through both holes. The blow should not be too strong as the sound should have a slightly hissing tone. Described in notes and writing the hen's call should sound as follows:

Call of the cock

The image shows two rows of musical notation for the call of the cock. The first row consists of a single note with a sharp accent above it, followed by a rest, then four eighth notes on a single staff, a rest, and another four eighth notes on a single staff. Below this notation is the phonetic transcription: Schi - ni ni ni ni - ni ni ni ni. The second row consists of a single note with a sharp accent above it, followed by a rest, then two eighth notes with a sharp accent above each, a rest, and two eighth notes with a sharp accent above each. Below this notation is the phonetic transcription: Schi - schischi - schischi.

Shee – pee pee pee pee – pee pee pee pee

Or

Shee – sheeshee – sheeshee

How to behave on the hunting ground

The best season to lure grouse is spring (March and April) and early fall (September and October).

Spring is in general close season for grouse. But since they are eagerly calling each other during this time, it is ideally suited to listen and learn the details of their calls. Study the tree conditions before beginning an early season, consider the undergrowth and brush factors which are not so important late in season. Learn how to spot birds before they hit the air. Good woods offer plenty of food, especially berries and forest floor pickings or, in the prairies, seeds such as sunflower, grains or goldenrod. Search out sites with abundant conifer buds and needles later in the season. Streams and other gravelly areas are especially attractive when the bird's gizzards need stones for digestion. Multitasking is a plus: Hear the whir, drop the call, eye the bird and swing up the gun (which should be as affixed to you as your arm).

Already at the beginning of August old and single cocks usually can be lured quite successfully. But prospects for success are much better in September as during this period young cocks answer eagerly to calls in the early morning between 9 and 10 o'clock, when chains have not been organized or are not formed yet. If you happen to be in the middle of a loose chain, the use of the hen call (apart from the call of the young cock) is especially recommended. Hunting with the use of calls is successful during other times of the day as well, especially after 3 o'clock in the

afternoon. You can use the calls with a good chance of success on fresh, beautiful, windless days, particularly days following rainy days, during the whole day until sundown. Beginning with sundown cocks will answer calls but won't approach any more. This is the time when predators like fox and others are following these calls as well. During the day in particular, hawks react to grouse calls.

Warm, humid days are not suitable for the use of the calls. On these days even the best hunting ground for grouse seems to be absolutely deserted. Perhaps the morning hours offer a slight chance of success.

Hunting grouse cocks is similar to hunting roebucks, except that the grouse cocks have to be treated more carefully. Grouse tend to keep their chosen habitat in fall. Usually they can be found in water ditches with dense undergrowth, but these places are well known to hunters who are well acquainted to the hunting ground.

To choose your position, you often can disregard the direction of the wind. But it is absolutely necessary to be as quiet as possible when approaching your chosen position, which should give you some cover and a field of vision for about 30 to 40 paces. Cocks usually don't like to be in open areas.

After pausing for 5 to 10 minutes to calm down cocks which might have become suspicious by your approach, you can start to use your calls. Imitate the main call of the cock 5 to 6 times as described earlier by turning your head in all directions and

pausing for a few seconds between the individual calls. The set consisting of 5 to 6 calls is to be repeated after a pause of approximately 3 minutes. If you don't get a reaction repeat after another pause of 3 minutes. Should there still be no response or should no cock approach, try a few hen calls. If you don't have any success even then, wait for 5 to 10 minutes and leave your position noiselessly.

As cocks often approach without an answer to the decoy call, it is important to watch the ground narrowly. But also the ears should be kept open, as the cock might be flying at you as well. In the first case usually a purring sound can be perceived, whereas a cock approaching from above can be heard only by the hissing sound of his wings. Cocks which respond a lot to the calls tend to avoid approaching. As with all suspicious cocks it is recommended to change your position, approach the chosen location from the opposite direction and then start the calls again. Also it can help to stop answering his calls and wait till he finally approaches out of curiosity.

Cocks are shot with small calibers (long rifle ammunition) or lead shot 3 mm. Some hunters prefer 20-gauge with lead shot and No. 4 later in the season. With lead shot the distance for shooting should not exceed 30 paces, as cocks are usually shot resistant and a wounded cock is usually lost.

Avoid all unnecessary movements when you are at your stand, especially of your hands. Grouse cocks tend to be very sensitive in this respect, even more so than the also sensitive roebuck. Particularly cigarette smokers should bear this in mind. Only dogs that know how to hold that bark should be brought to the stand.

It is of greatest importance for an expert hunter to make absolutely sure that he has a cock in front of him before shooting, as hens like to approach as well when hearing cock calls.

As grouse populations have a minority of hens and grouse in general have to be treated carefully to keep their generally diminishing populations at an even level, also the cocks should be shot only within reasonable limits. Shooting hens is to be considered unacceptable.

Good Hunting !

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