



Instructions for the

FAULHABER Wildlocker Crow Set

Crow Call and the Tawny Owl Call

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Combining the crow call and the tawny owl call will enable you to hunt crows the same way as hunting from an owl hut would. Just as the eagle owl on the hut serves as an optical lure, the tawny owl call accomplishes the same in acoustic form.

Use the two instruments according to the enclosed instruction leaflets. It goes without saying that hunting this way requires extremely carefully selected cover as well as the vicinity of perching trees. Upon reaching your cover, keep quiet for about 10 minutes and then sound the rest call. If this call does not produce the desired results, a change of position is recommended. If crows answered and approached, providing a chance to shoot, wait app. 20 minutes to use the tawny owl call for a series of calls. This will attract the crows again and provide another chance to shoot.

If a crow circles overhead, use the tawny owl call again, even if the crow keeps on circling. This “pathfinder crow” will start to make a racket in order to attract other crows.

Should no crows appear, wait for 5 minutes before using the tawny owl call again followed by the crow’s signal call another 2 to 3 minutes later.

Hunting this way, while using the calls sparingly, guarantees good sport. Results are best on cloudy days as crows are not attracted easily on sunny days. You can use the calls all throughout the year but springtime is to be preferred. After all, one spring crow is more valuable than five autumn crows.

Crow Call

Any careful observer will notice that the dun crow (*Corvus cornix* L.), which is so harmful to any hunting ground, does not produce a stereotypical call (as birds

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like partridge, quails or buzzards do) but rather uses a proper **language** to communicate. On initial observation, the call is easily mistaken as a mere "crah" sound, which may have given this bird its common name. Whoever listens carefully, however, will realize that the crow in flight uses another call as the resting crow, just as a crow calling out a warning sounds differently from one using an alarming call. And there is a wide range of nuances to be found in between, which are difficult to differentiate but may be disregarded in this context.

Efforts at hunting crows using calls have been somewhat imperfect thus far. This is due to the absence of a proper call and a lack of knowledge regarding the language used by crows. There are two "expressions" in their language which are relevant to the hunter: The resting call, which is thought to mean "being here is good" and the signalling call, which conveys a message like "Come! There is an adversary here, which we need to fight off together!" Both calls can be heard frequently within the hunter's domain. The first can be heard as the crow rests leisurely on a tree top, sharing the joy with a jovially sounding "craah". The signalling call can be heard if one of the crows spots a buzzard, an owl or a hawk and serves to summon fellow crows in order to fight off the intruder together.

The resting call

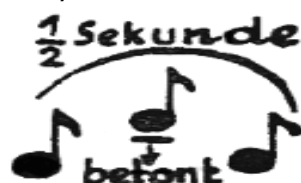
The call sounds like a long drawn-out "craah". The tone lasts for about 1 ½ seconds in a constant pitch and slightly weakens towards the end, dropping to a lower pitch. It may be repeated two to three times with intervals of 3, 5 up to 10 seconds in between, before pausing for 5-10 minutes. Keep the instrument tightly in your fist while blowing and make sure to clear your mouth of any saliva before playing. **Always blow with a dry mouth!**

If crows can be spotted wandering around on open fields, the resting call can be used from a well-covered position. The crows often approach the source of the call, especially if there are tall trees in the immediate vicinity. In most cases the crows will **not circle** overhead but rather sit down in one of the trees, as they assume there is no immediate danger.

The signalling call

The main impression of this call is also the iconic "craah" sound but with a modulation starting with a lower pre-tone, growing stronger and higher in pitch before dropping back to the starting pitch. The emphasis lies on the louder middle tone.

The instrument is held tightly in a fist and then blown briefly and softly in the beginning. The flow of air is then increased, producing a tone with a higher pitch, which is then softened briefly before coming to a full stop. The entire call lasts little longer than half a second, with the strong, high-pitched middle-tone being the main focus.



This call can be played three times, with intervals lasting 3-5 seconds in between, before pausing for a while.

Warning: Do not sound the signalling call with an emphasis on the last tone.

Such a call closely resembles the crow's warning call and will cause them to retreat immediately without making a noise. They will start calling out again from a greater distance. This call, in the language of the crows, basically means "Run! Save yourself, if you can!"

Spelled out in letters the calls could be written as follows: Signalling call: "Créeo"; Warning call: "Creoé".

Behaviour on the hunting ground

Hunting crows requires effort, understanding and endurance. Hunting from huts and using calls from absolute cover can ease the process. If one is spotted while sneaking up, even from a great distance, sneaking around to another spot while under cover is necessary before sending calls out from a different angle, following an extended pause. Provided enough coverage, especially from an overhead view, make sure everything else is under cover as well: hound, backpack, coat etc. It is just as important to leave no discarded cans, pieces of paper or bottles out in the open after breakfast. Now, start a first attempt using 3-4 series of the resting call. If a crow appears in a tree without circling overhead before, don't hesitate to fire a shot.

If the resting call yields no success, follow up with the signalling call after waiting for about 10 minutes. Usually this will prompt a crow to approach and circle above the call-out spot. Upon vanishing silently, the other crows will follow, first creating immense racket circling above the caller. Then, after a while, the crows will sit down in the tree tops. Following the first shot stay still, as there might be a good chance for a second shot, more so if the struck crow screeches while falling or if a crow is hopping around on the ground. In these cases, it is often possible to take a second shot.

It is, under any circumstances, vitally important **not** to sound another crow call, as long as the crows are circling above the caller or in the immediate vicinity. This will cause all crows to **retreat immediately**, as crows never call out from the ground in the woods. If there is another call from this spot, the cover is blown! If the crows start circling higher and higher, it indicates that they realized something unusual is going on. Any additional calls at this point would be counterproductive, except for the call of the tawny owl which may actually serve to improve the situation.

The hunt using calls works best from spots, which are usually visited by crows frequently. This includes tall trees on the edge of the woods or near the water.

The presence of tall trees is absolutely necessary for a successful hunt.

If crows appear in a nearby part of the woods, sneaking up usually is fruitless. In such cases, the call of the tawny owl can be put to good use as well.

The crow call is best suited for use from an eagle owl hut. If the crows stay in the distance following the first shot, creating a racket but not approaching, the signalling call can be used to get them to leave this position. **Such situations provide great opportunities to study the crow's call carefully.** These opportunities should never be missed, as no instructions, however detailed, can ever replace the value of closely observing the actual bird.

The best-suited weapon for the hunt using the call is a Floberg gun with long-rifle-rounds, which provides a longer effective range with a more quiet firing sound as compared to using lead shot. The close season is a good time to use the crow call, as it is the time when those crows are being shot, which are about to

nest in the region. If used correctly, the call will work throughout the entire year. Using the call of the tawny owl in combination with the crow's call is highly recommended, as it may provide valuable aide in difficult situations.

Tawny Owl Call

The tawny owl, like the eagle owl, is hated by all daylight birds from the tit to the buzzard if it turns up anywhere during daytime. Upon hearing a tawny owls call especially larger daylight birds like jay birds, magpies, crows etc. will approach to pick on it. The success of this call is based on this phenomenon.

The tawny owl's call is varied and modulated from the simple "koovit" to "koo-oo-vit" to a fading low after-tone. The first note is held for about a quarter of a second, rises by blowing harder into the instrument and breaks off abruptly. The first note can be lowered distinctly and then raised abruptly by blowing hard into the instrument. The various double notes can be repeated at will but as with all artificial calls should be used sparingly.

Blow with a dry mouth, swallow all saliva before using your instrument.



Make sure to be well under cover and blow a series of 5 to 6 double tones and wait. After 5 to 10 minutes the series can be repeated. Almost all the birds reacting to the call will approach silently. The jay birds converge silently from the tree tops. The magpie usually sits on a high tree (perching tree) in the vicinity and approaches with a rasping call. Crows also approach silently at first but give a call after some minutes. Goshawks and sparrow hawks are often overseen as they normally approach like shadows. Both will not approach if crows are nearby as they are molested in the same way by birds like the tawny owl itself.

Birds which are already shot and lying on the ground should be left to themselves as after a shot the other birds often give a "concert" Staying covered you will be able to shoot again as jay birds and crows will make themselves heard in the perching trees.

Use a small bore rifle when hunting crows.

The **FAULHABER** calls cannot be disassembled. This ensures a constant pitch.

Sole Manufacturer, patented and trade mark protected.

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