



**Instructions
for the
FAULHABER
Stag/Elk Call
(HIRSCHRUF)**

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The FAULHABER – Stag/Elk call

is an amplifier, like all similar instruments used for this purpose. The beginner should therefore learn to “sing” the various calls described in the following lines, without using the stag-call itself, preferably under supervision of a person well acquainted with stag-calls himself. Once the calls are mastered the final touch can only be given in the hunting ground. All calls heard in nature should therefore be memorized and afterwards imitated in the hut – not outside in the open or sitting on a bench in front of your hut. Only if the calls stand up to the hardest critics the first tests should be made in the wood. Once arrived at this point don't hesitate and perfect your calls in conversations with answering stags, thereby learning step by step to imitate the calls in a way becoming more and more true to nature.

After the rutting season don't just put your stag call into the drawer and forget it until the next season begins, but keep on practising, preferably with equally inclined friends, till all the various calls can be sounded properly at the first go.

The FAULHABER stag call consists of three collapsible pieces, weighing only 100 g, at a fully extended length of 47 cm and owing to the material chosen for its perfect resonance enables an easy and powerful but lifelike amplification without great efforts. The call is unbreakable and weatherproof, needs no covers for protection and its handling is easy.

Extending the call

1. Put the index finger into the blowing aperture and pull the part with the mouthpiece till it fits in the middle cone.
2. Grip the part with the mouthpiece and with it pull out the middle piece till it fits the third cone. Do not apply undue force!

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Pushing the call together

1. Slightly turn the middle part and push it into the wide cone.
2. Applying slight pressure on the middle ring, fit the two parts together.
3. Turn the part with the mouth-piece and push it into the other parts. Push in the mouth-piece.

The groove under the mouth-piece and the ring at the end of the conus can be used to fix a string.

Use of the stag-call in the hunting ground

The success in the use of the stag call does not only require the perfect handling of the instrument but first of all it is necessary to understand the meaning of the various calls as the answer and the good results depend thereupon.

Disregarding exceptions the older stag has a lower voice. Instead of “oo” as intoned by younger stags the older stags will sound like “oh” or “ö”. Furthermore older stags are less communicative. At the end of the rutting season younger stags may have a hoarse therefore lower voice as well. Be careful.

The brief listing of the most important stag calls can be found on the last page.

The stag call handled by an expert is a valuable help hunting rutting stags. It gives the hunter an advantage over hunters without stag calls, as they can accomplish tasks impossible to attain otherwise.

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During the rutting season there are always days when not one stag can be heard. By using the stag-call in the vicinity of places known to be frequented by deer for up to two hours at 15 minute intervals, imitating a middling stag, it is possible to get answers from one or the other stag. As the bellow of a stag is contagious to others a lively rutting-concert can be started. This can be achieved even by inexperienced hunters, if he imitates with patience, perseverance and without haste the call of a “searching” stag (type 1) taking care to repeat the call at the correct times with the correct intervals.

Upon receiving an answer he has to be able to distinguish whether it is a searching stag or one accompanied by its herd, as the procedure will be different in each of the two cases.

If the calls are answered by a searching stag within reach of the call (type 8), the hunter tries a few calls (type 8). In the immediate vicinity of a stag this call is produced by holding one’s nose with the index and middle finger. At a greater distance the same tone is produced using the instrument as an amplifier.

If the distance is too great and the calls most likely cannot be heard anymore, the instrument is used to imitate a “prime” stag standing near its herd, making the searching stag believe a herd and therefore hinds are nearby.

In this as in all other cases the calls should not be imitated with a too strong voice. It should sound like a slightly younger stag than the stag one is after and be therefore slightly higher in pitch.

If the imitation is well executed and good wind provided, the stag will approach most likely. To attract a “searching” stag is obviously the easiest task for a hunter using the stag-call, especially if a damaged or quarrelsome stag or a “killer” roaming from rutting place to rutting place answers.

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A completely different reaction of the hunter using a stag-call is called for if a “prime” stag standing near its herd answers (type 4).

This stag has two basic forms of bellowing. Essentially one call is much longer than that of a searching stag; he is obviously fully conscious of his power and his properties, even comfortable (type 4). He uses this call if he is not irritated. If he is enraged or irritated by secondary stags, he will use a shorter and rougher call (type 5) and in-between he will use the “dispersing” call (type 3).

The so called “cry of victory” is nothing but a more powerful, rougher call of the abovementioned type 5, which the stag will use after fighting off a rival or getting rid of a cumbersome secondary stag.

If the answering stag has been identified as a “prime” one standing near his herd and he is not too close, the best thing to do is to approach as near and as quick as possible. This naturally is the most difficult but the most rewarding form of hunting for a hunter using the stag-call and only if all finesses of stag calls can be mastered and the intricacies of the correct approach can be tackled a successful hunt can be accomplished. Every single error can lead to the point where the stag is frightened away for the whole rutting season, as he is very sensitive of intrusion in his territory.

Even well versed and experienced hunters will decide upon this procedure only if the stag in question is an old and wily animal, whose appearance after dusk and disappearance before first light in the morning has been established by extensive observation.

Once the hunter using stag-calls has decided on this “approach” he should attack his task

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– obviously using all existing cover – without taking heed of dry leaves or rotting wood, masking these sounds by the occasional bell of an approaching stag (searching middling stag, type 1). The call should not be too strong and not yet irritated, as the “prime” stag might decide in the end to set caution above courage and disappear with his herd. The right “dosage” of calls will ensure the proper answers, enabling the hunter to pinpoint the exact location of the stag. The nearer the hunter approaches the more careful he has to watch his surroundings for secondary stags and hinds as their flight would scare off the stag as well. If, despite all caution, another deer is scared off nothing is lost yet if the hunter sounds the “dispersing” call. The prime stag will assume a secondary stag trying to drive off a hind, raising his jealousy to the pitch and he will approach directly and immediately. Nevertheless it is always advisable to advance only a few paces at a time and watch the surroundings. This comes as close to the normal approach of a stag especially if one rattles the foliage occasionally with one’s stick. It goes without saying that favourable winds are the most important prerequisite for a successful hunt. In this way one has to approach the prime stag as near as possible – 50 or 60 paces – as this jealous “pasha” will leave his herd but for a short time and a very short distance. Once this near, rest in a place which gives free shooting in the direction of the stag of about 20 paces and is reasonably covered. A brush, trunk etc. covering the lower body half must suffice. Do not cover behind a tree, as it will encumber your shooting angles.

It is from here that the prime stag has to be irritated so much that he decides to chase the intruder off. From call to call the irritation will mount, hitting brushes and undergrowth with your stick will imitate the furious movement of the stags antlers, until finally the utterly excited stag will be made to appear.

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The stag will appear at the woods edge for a brief moment only to muster his rival. Picking up the target and shooting has to be one. A telescopic sight at such a short distance would only impair one’s accuracy and should be removed beforehand.

A hunter unable to call a prime stag at short distance, imitate all calls, movements, the hitting of the foliage by the stags antlers etc. perfectly, should leave his hands of this most attractive form of hunting stags.

A frequent and simple form of imitation is a “grumble” (type 6) used to stop a moving stag therefore giving a chance to aim and shoot at an unmoving target.

In any case should the person in the hunters company use the call immediately, producing a loud call. This will stop a missed or injured stag, giving another good opportunity to shoot.

Using the stag-call can lead to a slowed down retreat of the irritated stag, making him stop frequently and giving the chance of overtaking the herd and having another go. In most cases the person in the company of the hunter will have to do the work giving the hunter the opportunity to profit from the situation.

Generally speaking the pre-rutting period is the best time to hunt with the stag call, as during this time stronger stags are still roaming around looking for hinds in heat or aiming for their rutting posts.

The main-rutting season obviously offers good chances but one should be careful as many young stags will be attracted by the calls while they are roaming around.

The post-rutting season is again quite interesting as some rutting stags will continue to search for hinds in heat. In this period a close watch of the surroundings is advisable as even strong stags will approach in absolute silence. It is obvious that during the whole

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rutting season damaged and “killer”-stags will answer the calls due to their aggressiveness; the stag-calls therefore have their place in preservation as well.

The best hours to use the stag calls are during the early morning hours and the evening after 5 o’ clock, as well as the morning hours after 9 o’ clock when stags will begin to graze again. During the rutting season the call can be used with success at all hours of the day.

General information

It should be stated that as when using other lures, the use of the stag call from raised hides is recommended as it gives independence from the vagaries of winds. Using the stag call the further surrounding should be observed closely as not only the selected stag can approach but other stags might be attracted as well and can approach silently.

Once again it has to be stressed that the stag call should be used moderately and sensibly. It should be realized that the use of the stag call will attract the attention of all deer within hearing distance. Bad imitations of stag calls and frequent use will scare off hinds and successively stags. This is the reason why in some hunting grounds stag calls are discredited due to their inappropriate use in the past.

Explication of signs

— long

⤿ short

⤿ „vibrato“ oft he voice, descending

↗ ascending tone

ˆ accented

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