

Dan's Calls FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **WHAT KIND OF WOOD DO YOU RECOMMEND?** The short answer is Butternut or Sitka Spruce. I consistently get sweet hen sounds out of these two woods. Probably 85% of my calls are of these two woods. If you don't have a preference, I say get a Butternut long box. It's a rich medium brown and I am confident of getting the sound I want from this wood.
- **WHAT ARE YOUR LIDS MADE OF?** Eastern Redcedar.... Neil Cost recommended it and it works well for lids. "If it isn't broke, don't fix it."
- **WHAT IS THE BEST SOUNDING WOOD FOR A BOX CALL?** Trick question. The plain answer is that there isn't just one best sounding wood. Many woods can be tuned to sound like a hen turkey. Some take more effort than others. I prefer indigenous North American woods, but some exotics are good. I would put the following woods at the top of my list: Sitka Spruce, Butternut, Mahogany, Poplar, Bald Cypress, and Alaskan Yellow Cedar.
- **DO EASTERN HEN TURKEYS SOUND DIFFERENT FROM HENS OF OTHER SUBSPECIES?** Nope. Not in my opinion. True, there is a lot of variability amongst hens in a region, but I propose that an average eastern hen sounds like an average Merriam's hen. It logically follows, then, that box calls that work in the west should work in the east. And I believe that is the case. I'm way out here in Washington State and my calls work well on my local Merriams, Rios and hybrids. However, most of the calls I make go to hunters in the eastern and southern states who are hunting call-wise Eastern turkeys. Those guys like my calls and apparently so do their gobblers.
- **DO YOUR CALLS STAY IN TUNE?** Yes. In 10 years of box call making, I have yet to have returned because the sound changed. Neil Cost said that his boxes tend to stay in tune and the lid sort of marries itself to the box call lip. Box calls last a good while, especially if you don't sit on them, and are typically handed down to the next generation. I expect my calls to be calling gobblers long after I'm gone and I intend to hang around another forty years or so.
- **DO YOU GUARANTEE YOUR CALLS?** Yes. If you get a call and it's not to your liking you may return it for refund, repair or exchange. I want all my customers to be satisfied and I sure don't want any bad sounding calls out there with my name on them.
- **WHAT DO YOUR CALLS COST?** \$175 plus \$8 shipping. Total \$183. Your personal check is my preferred method of payment. But money orders, PayPal and even cash money works.
- **ISN'T THAT KIND OF EXPENSIVE?** Yes. But I think you get what you pay for, especially when it comes to box calls. I believe there is no one equipment purchase that will improve your hunting success like a custom box call. It doesn't need to be a Dan's custom call, for there are many good call makers. But a serious turkey hunter should have a custom box call. It is worth the expense, in my opinion.

- **LONG BOX CALLS ARE ONLY USED FOR LOCATING, RIGHT?** No, Nein, Nyet. Not a true statement. It is a commonly held notion, even among experienced turkey hunters, that long boxes are meant for locating gobblers and then you should put it away and break out another kind of call for the close work. Even the late great Neil Cost, originator of this boat paddle design that I emulate, was of this very opinion. But I am on a mission to dispel that fallacious myth. Long boxes can do it all, and do it well. The long boxes I make have a sweet realistic yelp as well as clucks, purrs, cuts and other useful sounds to round out your turkey vocabulary. You can be clear or raspy, soft or loud. You can sound like several different hens and maybe even a jake if the situation calls for it. That versatility pays big dividends in the woods. To prove that point, I call all of my birds the entire way in with the long box. As an example, in the 2009 spring season I called in 32 longbeards and 28 jakes using only the long box.
- **HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO RECEIVE A CALL?** That depends on the time of year. A couple of weeks to several months. I generally make calls to fill orders and don't usually have calls on the shelf ready to go. Having said that, if you have an urgent request I can usually make that happen. I prefer to not hurry the tuning process.
- **HOW MANY CALLS DO YOU MAKE PER YEAR?** I am limiting my call making to thirty calls per year. That is all I feel I can handle and still keep the sound quality and woodworking quality where I think it should be. At fifteen hours per call, thirty calls keeps me busy all winter.
- **WHAT IS INCLUDED WHEN I BUY A CALL?** You get a long box call, personalized to you, signed by me and numbered and guaranteed. You also get chalk, a presentation card and a custom made case which can be attached to your vest or jacket.
- **WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE CASE?** A long box, by its very nature, is more cumbersome than other calls. And perhaps a bit more fragile than some. To carry it in a vest pocket is not the best option because it can be damaged and it may make noises as you move about. I say a long box needs a dedicated case. And I provide one with each call. They constructed of fabric-backed vinyl and are custom made by me to protect the call from physical harm, keep it dry, keep it quiet, and keep it readily available at your finger tips. It can be worn on the belt or attached to the vest or jacket with safety pins which are included. The cases are also available in my **OTHER PRODUCTS** section.
- **WILL YOUR CALLS MAKE THAT KEE-KEE SOUND?** About half of my calls will kee-kee on at least one side. It's not something I can do at will. It just happens. If you are a fall hunter and need that capability, please request it.