

# History of the Black Forest CUCKOO CLOCK



The cuckoo clock was believed to be first invented in the 1700's, but it's worth reflecting on the economic factors of that time to truly understand the origins of the Cuckoo Clock.

Northern and Southern Germany differ in culture but also in their natural resources. In the 18th century Northern Germany was much richer in natural resources, they had a vast agricultural industry and they mined rich coal and iron deposits.

In Southern Germany however, the states were quite poor in natural resources, the alpine environment didn't harbor the right terrain or climate for agriculture or mining. They instead fostered small "cottage industries", which was a collection of individuals producing goods from home. A style of manufacturing that was revisited recently during the COVID-19 pandemic when workers were not allowed to work together in factories. **For a period of time they were making your cuckoo clocks from home!**

Cottage Industries allowed hunters and farmers to earn a regular income during the summer and during winter when it was too cold to be outside in the Alps, they could produce smaller goods indoors.

*Wood carvers used the native Linden wood to carve beautiful decorations and instruments. It's small grain and medium density was perfect for carving. As this specific wood was not too hard and not too soft and did not split or crack upon carving.*

**It was these skills, learned inside the protective walls of the alpine chalet's during winter and refined over 100's of years that kick started Southern Germany's economy.**

In the 1800's the Switzerland government supported and encouraged the timber industry to liaise with the traditional wood carvers of the area and so the early 1800's saw the beginning of the professional wood carving industry and the commercialisation of hand crafted products in the Alpine region.

Fast forward to the late 1800's and wood carving schools were founded in southern Germany and Switzerland. By this time there were Black Forest wood carvings being exhibited in major exhibitions around the world.

Wood Carving is no easy feat and often only the wealthy would adore these exquisite carvings of Black Forest animals (such as the cuckoo bird), furniture and eventually clocks in their homes.



# How to care for your CUCKOO CLOCK

## Cleaning your cuckoo clock

To keep your cuckoo clock looking bright and attractive requires only a simple cleaning practice. A soft, dry paintbrush or static dusting cloth will keep dust and dirt build up away.

Please do not use harsh chemicals anywhere on the clock, as it can damage the wood and varnish.

It is not recommended that you oil or spray ANY of the internal mechanism. This can severely damage the working parts. A can of pressurized air (or air compressor) can be used to remove dust internally.

## Regular Servicing




Just like a car, a Cuckoo Clock will need regular servicing by a professional Cuckoo Clock repairer.

A regular service done every 7-10 years will ensure your clock continues to run smoothly. The German Village Shop has contacts with Cuckoo Clock repairers all over Australia, please contact for your nearest specialist.

## Environmental factors

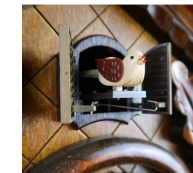
Environmental factors can affect the way your clock runs and its longevity. Warm or moist air can warp and distort wooden parts, while dust and heat may dry out oils and create wear on moving parts.

It is highly recommended to keep your clock out of areas with high humidity and extreme heat. Therefore, careful consideration must be taken if you wish to hang your clock in kitchens, wet areas and over fireplaces.

-  Cleaning is easy, a soft dry paintbrush for the externals and pressurized air for the internals. Do not use harsh chemicals.
-  Regular servicing will keep your clock working for decades. The German Village Shop can direct you to a repairer.
-  Try to keep your cuckoo clock away from areas with high humidity or extreme heat.



## Instruction Manual MECHANICAL CUCKOO CLOCK



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Setting up your Cuckoo Clock

Watch our SET UP VIDEO

or visit [www.instrutions...mechanical..](http://www.instrutions...mechanical..)



## 1. Unpacking the Clock

Your box will contain the following pieces, depending on the style of your clock. Be sure to unwrap each of the paper bundles, as they may contain pieces of your clock.



German Alpine Chalet



Cuckoo Bird Traditional



Stag Head Traditional

Head Piece

b

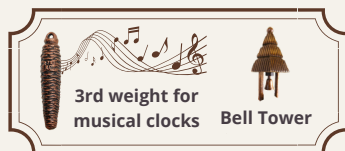
ALL clocks will have

SOME clocks will also have



Pendulum & 2x weights

+/-



3rd weight for musical clocks

Bell Tower

**a) Cuckoo Clock Case** (Traditional style or chalet)

**b) Headpiece:** Either with bird attached or separate deer head.

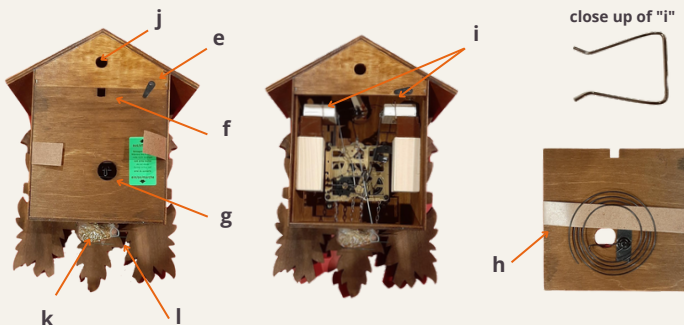
Deer head and antlers may be wrapped separately.

**c) Pendulum**

**d) Weights:** Two for all mechanical without music or three for mechanical with music.

*Note. Chalet style will not have head pieces.*

## 2. Removing the Shipping Packaging



## 2. Removing the Shipping Packaging continued...

Carefully lay the clock face down on a soft surface. Locate the metal latch(s) covering the back plate (see item **e**), rotate these latches out of the way.

Pry open the back of the clock, by sticking a small screwdriver or pencil through the smallest hole at the top of the back plate (see item **f**). DO NOT put your finger or any tool in the bottom hole (item **g**) this can damage the mechanism.

On the reverse side of the back plate, will be a metal spiral (the gong), carefully remove the paper strip (item **h**) and set back plate aside. Be sure not to bend or adjust the position of the gong.

Now look inside the clock, at the top on either side you will notice two white rectangles, these are the bellows. On each bellow is a U-shaped metal clip, often copper in colour (see item **i**). Remove these clips.

DO NOT touch or bend any other wires or clock pieces.

You may choose to keep these clips in a safe place, just in case you wish to pack away or transport the clock in future.

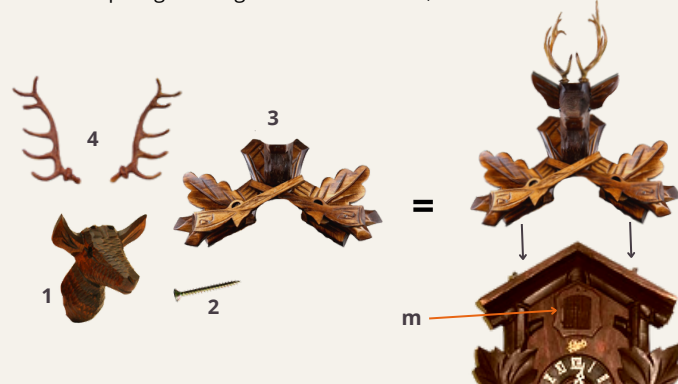
Replace back plate into position, and rotate metal latches to secure back plate.

## 3. Attaching Head Piece (if applicable)

If your clock is a Traditional or Station style, you will need to attach the headpiece.

If your head piece contains a Deer head (**1**), remove screw (**2**) from reverse of Deer, and screw through pre-drilled hole in the middle of the headpiece (**3**). Stick antlers (**4**) into the holes in the top of the head, with antler tips pointing inward.

Locate the two screws on the reverse of the headpiece and the two u-shaped metal prongs on the face of the clock roof. Slide the screws into the metal prongs and tighten from the back, with a small screwdriver.



## 4. Hanging the Clock.

### Wall mount

Place an upward slanted nail or screw into the wall, making sure that it is supported by either **stud-beam** or **plug** appropriate for your wall type.

We recommend at least 50mm for 8-day mechanical clocks.

### Hanging height

If you wish to have the full 1-day or 8-day movement, you will need space for weights to drop the entire length of the chain.

The recommended height for:

- 1-day clock chain is 180cm from the floor to the base of the clock,
- 8-day clocks require 195cm from the floor to the base of the clock

Hang the clock on the nail/screw via the topmost hole on the reverse of the clock (**j**).

### Chains

Now untwist the wire and open bag holding the chains at the bottom of the clock. Remove wire and loosen any kinks in the chain.

### Weights & pendulum

Hook each weight onto the hook at the end of each chain (**k**). Hang pendulum onto wire stirrup (**l**) protruding from the bottom of the clock.

### Cuckoo Bird Door

In front of the Cuckoo Bird door, is a small wire latch (**m**) rotate this wire latch out of the way of the door.

## 5. Starting the Clock

With the clock hanging perfectly straight on the wall, gently tap the pendulum sideways to start it swinging. If the clock is hanging correctly and straight the pendulum should make an **even tick-tock sound**, adjust the straightness of the clock until the ticking on both sides is equal.

## 6. Setting the time

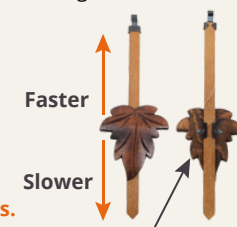
To set the time, turn the long hand (minute hand) clockwise. **Wait for the Cuckoo and music to finish** before continuing. Alternatively, switch off the cuckoo call manually (see Night Shut-Off) before moving minute hand.

### Time regulation

Test the speed of your clock over 24 hours.

Move the decorative leaf on your pendulum staff to adjust the speed. Move it **down to slow down** time or **up the staff to speed up** the time.

**TIP: 2 mm of movement = 10 mins over 24 hours.**



Once speed is correct, flatten clasp on the back to hold in place

### Night Shut-Off

The Cuckoo call and music can be manually turned off using the lever on the side. Move the lever **UP to silence** the cuckoo call and music.