

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. Your electric movement **does not** require any internal maintenance.



Batteries and terminals




Only use good quality batteries such as Duracell, as they will last longer and are the less likely to leak.

In the event that a battery does leak and cause some corrosion. You can carefully remove the residual acid on the battery terminals, by using a fine sandpaper.

Environmental factors

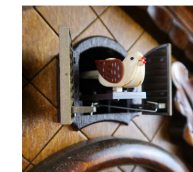
Environmental factors can affect the way your clock runs and its longevity. Warm or moist air can warp and distort wooden parts, while dust and extreme heat may cause create wear on electrical parts.

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. Do not use harsh chemicals anywhere on the clock.
-  Your clock does not require any servicing, but make sure you use good quality batteries and check for leakages.
-  Try to keep your cuckoo clock away from areas with high humidity or extreme heat.



Instruction Manual QUARTZ BATTERY CUCKOO CLOCK



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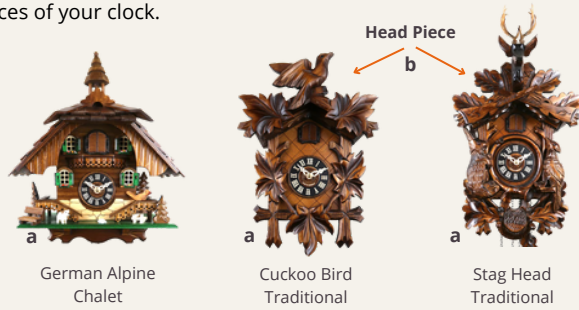
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Setting up your Cuckoo Clock

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

ALL clocks will have

SOME clocks will also have



+/-



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

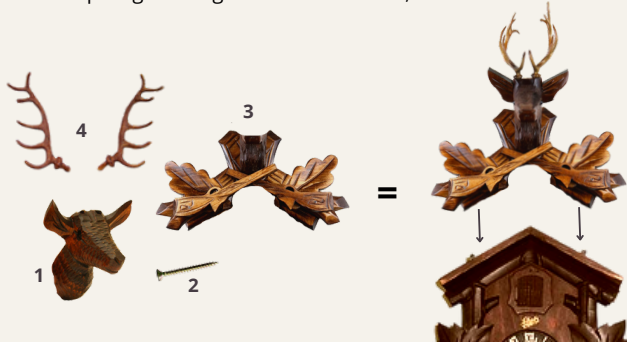
d) Weights: Two for all Quartz Cuckoo Clocks

Note. Chalet style will not have head pieces.

2. 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.



3. Inserting your batteries

3.1 Align your hands.

The hands must be set to 12 o'clock before inserting any batteries. Move the minute hand clockwise around until the time reads exactly 12. You will hear a slight click at every hour.

3.2 Remove the back-plate

Turn the clock over. Locate the 1 or two metal clips (c) holding the back-plate. Rotate these clips out of the way.

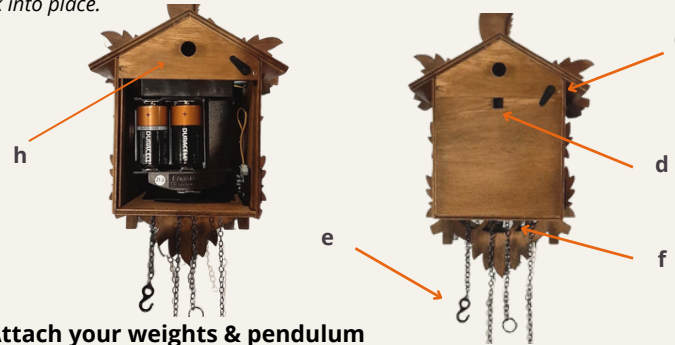
Next, insert a pen, screwdriver or skewer into the small hole (d) and lever the back-plate away from the clock.

3.3 Insert your batteries

Your clock will require 2x C Size batteries, (or 3x C Size if the clock is musical). Place these batteries in the terminal, making sure they are completely pushed in and the + end is towards the top on **both** batteries.

3.4 Replace the back-plate

and rotate the metal clip(s) back into place. *Note: If the back-plate is a little stuck, use your skewer/screwdriver to lever it back into place.*



3. Attach your weights & pendulum

Release the chains from the plastic bag at the bottom of your clock.

Hook each weight onto the hook at the end of each chain (e). Hang pendulum onto plastic stirrup (f) protruding from the bottom of the clock, behind chains.

4. Set your time

Rotate the minute hand clockwise until the desired time is reached, pausing and waiting until the cuckoo finishes its call on each hour.

You can also use the on/off switch (g) to switch the cuckoo call off. This will allow you to rotate the hands without having to wait for the call.

*Note: **Never** wind your hands anti-clockwise. This will disrupt the sync between the time and the cuckoo.*

6. Hanging your clock

Locate the hole at the top of your clock (h). This is where you will hang your clock from. Screw a button head screw (plasterboard anchor or plug and screw) into your wall leaving 5-10 mm screw exposed for the clock to hang on. - It is not recommended to hang on a picture frame hook.

Helpful Hints & Troubleshooting

Replacing flat batteries / Resetting clock.

Take out batteries. Wind minute hand until the clock reads exactly 12 o'clock (listen for the hour click). Insert new batteries. Wind the hands clockwise until desired time is reached.

Changing time for Daylight Savings:

Quartz clocks cannot be wound anticlockwise, if you need to change the time forward 11 hours for daylight savings, we recommend turning the clock sound off first (g). Follow step 4 to set the time.

Cuckoo is not cuckoo-ing correct amount of times:

The batteries may be going flat or someone has wound the hands backwards. Reset clock using instructions stated above if problem still persists, replace batteries.

If new batteries does not fix problem, your hands may have come loose. Follow instructions below on how to fix loose hands.

Cuckoo bird comes out of door but does not go back in:

Batteries may be going flat, reset clock using instructions stated above if problem still persists, replace batteries.

Hands are loose:

Make sure hands are at correct time, then push hands back towards the clock to tighten.

If the time and cuckoo are out of sync after tightening hands. The hands can be removed and replaced back at the correct time. Remove the hands by carefully but firmly pulling hands away from the clock and replacing back at the correct time by pushing back onto the hands shaft.

No Cuckoo or music sounds:

Check switch on side of clock that it is set to 'on' and volume is turned up. Room may be too dark for clock to operate with light sensor, check this by placing in a light area or using a torch on the light sensor (i)

Time is wrong:

Reset clock using instructions above and change your time with minute hand.

