

# *Sam Neyt*

## *Fine European game calls*

### **FT3-MANUAL-ENGLISH.**

#### ***Guarantees:***

Lifelong unconditional guarantee for the original owner. If you break the call, if your dog chews on it, it doesn't matter, we will repair it. If you would send the call back, please include this guarantee page and, from a hygienic point of view, clean the mouthpiece well of this instrument. The only thing you will ever have to pay again with this call is the shipping rate when we send it back to you.

Within 4 weeks of reception of this call you should be able to call in the European carrion crow ( *Corvus corone corone* ) or hooded crow ( *Corvus cornix* ) and the jackdaw ( *Corvus monedula* ). If you can not do this you can send the call back to us. We 'll give you a full refund minus the shipping/packaging rate that you paid.

Magpies ( *Pica pica* ) will also come to this call but please note that they do not come in such a consistent way like the carrion crows and jackdaws do. For every 100 carrion crows you will call in, you will be able to call 8 magpies as we have learned.

## **Extra help and service:**

Together with this call there is an instructional video which is included in the sale. If this manual and the instructional video are not sufficient for you we gladly like to help you out by email. Please mail to [info@sam-neyt.com](mailto:info@sam-neyt.com) for any further assistance.

## **Introduction**

Congratulations with your FT3 crow call! It is the third generation of European crow calls and features a virtually bullet proof ABS mouthpiece, a triple coated finish for extra durability, a multi-layered freezeproof reed and is made out of some of the finest woods in the world for instrument building.

Many of the techniques which are explained here have never been published before, you will be amazed by the results, made in Belgium, Europe.

## **Training tips**

If you are a novice in crow calling, please don't start practising directly on the crows in your neighbourhood, you will only "train" them to you and your call. Start practising indoors until you hear that you are able to call the "crow-notes" very well.

Crows are very intelligent animals that will easily see that they are fooled if you do not follow this advice. Result is that they will not come back. So please, don't start outdoors and follow the instructions carefully if you are determined to succeed with this instrument.

Use this manual in combination with the instructional video, do it step by step, don't go too fast and keep on trying until you hear you got it right. This is especially important with the basic blowing technique described in the next chapter.

If your technique is ok after a while and you go outside to test it on the crows, please do so from a car with an open window or, if you are out in the field, in a complete camouflage outfit, so also the hands and face should be covered. A crow that sees you is very hard, nearly impossible, to call in. Experience has learned that, when you are calling from a car, crows do not seem to have the same hesitation to come in.

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## **General callingtechnique**

### **Calling basics.**

If you just blow into this crow call you will hear a high sound that does not seem to be a crow at all. This is typical for all crow calls. You should not just blow into it but you should “gargle” into it, a deep, guttural sound coming from the body, not from the throat.. Another translation for this gargling would be “throat clearing” or, imagine blowing the sound “grrrr grrrr “ into the call.

If you would like to hear this sound please listen to the instructional video. Here you can hear what sound you get if you just blow the call and the sound it makes when you use the “ garglingtechnique “ As long as you hear a sound which is too high you are doing it the wrong way. You simply will hear it if you do it right and when you talk your first crow talk!

Please note, this special technique can take several hours to master, you should practise a lot and please, don't drive your wife or kids mad while doing this.

### Finishing the call.

Finishing the call is quite simple. You should, just before stopping the gargling technique, put your fingers in front of the exhaust end of the call, a few centimeters off the call itself.

You should finish the call with the same hand that you use for holding it.

The fact you hold your fingers in front of the call just before you stop blowing the call will result in an intonation/articulation that real crows also use in communication with one another.

### The European crow's vocabulary.

The tuning of the call and this vocabulary are based on the conversations of carrion crows and hooded crows which have exactly the same voice. Typical is that, with the right calls, you will also be able to communicate with jackdaws and magpies.

The first basic call you will have to learn is the basis **“hello-call”**. It is an informal kind of call which is used between two adult carrion crows to salute one another. It goes like a steady and easy “Craaa Craaaa” with the emphasis on the “a” in a soft kind of way. The hello call is ideal to begin a calling session with. Please start softly with calling. Your instrument is tuned to call in crows up to more than 500 meters distance. If you use it full volume in the beginning you will scare every crow that is located less than 100 meters from you.

If you get no reaction from the crows within 30 seconds you can switch to the so called **“panic-call”**. This call works like a red cloth on the classic bull. Slowly start with it and increase the volume when crows do not respond. Lower the volume if they are getting closer. The panic call is best compared to the sound that a crow makes when she is taken by a predator. It helps to think “help” in the place of the crow. The more frantic it sounds the better. You can finish the call

much faster and more aggressive then compared with the hello call. As long as you see crows circling around you, you should not stop calling.

If you use the call in combination with shooting/hunting, immediately restart calling after you shot at them. Often the calling distracts the crows from the shooting and you can call them back 2, sometimes even 3 times.

Another interesting sound to make is the so called **“come back-call”**. Often used directly after the birds have been shot at. You should call it firm, like “Cra Cra”, shorter and much faster then the hello call.

Also interesting to mention is the **“fight call”**, a call which is used when, e.g., a bird of prey, cat or fox is detected. It sounds like “Craaaaaaw Craaaaaaw”, a longer and fiercer call then the come back call. An ideal call to use in spring in combination with a stuffed fox or plastic bird of prey.

Last but not least we also mention the **“alarm call”**. This call is three times “Cra Cra Cra “. If a crow calls the alarm call it means that she has detected you and that she ( or he? ) is warning the others. If you hear the alarm call when you blow your crow call it means that it is a crow that already knows you and your instrument. This is most likely to happen during the summer months when crows have stopped migrating and when you always try to call in the same crows.

## **Other tips and tricks**

If you want to call in carrion crows, jackdaws and magpies, just for fun, and not for shooting, you can call them in from a car with an open window. For some reason crows do not seem to be scared of a car, probably because they have learned it means no danger to them.

For shooting in the field or woods it is very important that you are in a complete camouflage outfit, also the hands and face should be covered, and that you remain absolutely still.

Only move when the crow is within shooting distance. Crows can detect movement very fast and much faster than e.g. ducks or pigeons.

Please note the structure of the field when you are calling. “sound pollution”, like a highway or a tractor that is working on the field, limits the carrying power of the call. Also crops and other vegetation can play an important role in crow calling as these tend to dampen the sound in the field.

We once saw a group of carrion crows that we wanted to call in and we stalked within 300 meters of the group when we started calling, we were hidden behind a large hedgerow. We couldn't call the crows in. When we hid ourselves in the ditch behind the hedgerow ( in the direction of the crows ) we called the whole group in. In other words, a small difference in distance can have a large effect in calling, always check your surrounding for soundpollution.

If you would have a day with mist/fog it is very likely to be an ideal day for calling in crows and jackdaws and especially carrion crows. They do not seem to see well in misty conditions but they do react often extremely well to the crow call then. This has most likely to do with the fact that it is then that there is a lot of moisture in the air which guides the sound much further then usual and that there is no wind which is also very good for calling in general. Be extremely carefull when shooting in mist, not only because your sight is limited but also because the crows make often no sound whatsoever when they are approaching you.

Normally crows call back when you call them. The most aggressive sounds they make during spring probably because of mating instincts. Carrion crows and jackdaws normally will circle around you and will make a lot of noise, especially when using the “panic call”.

Young crows, in late summer, often come in without making any sounds, this has most likely to do with the fact that their vocal cords are not fully grown by then.

Magpies often ( also with the panic call ) do come in quite close ( when you are in a camouflage-outfit and remain completely still ) and often will place themselves in a tree or branch not too far from where you are calling. This is typical for magpies their reaction to this call. It is therefore interesting to call close to a tree, if there are no trees

nearby chances are that they will directly fly into the tree under which you are hidden.

If you hear the magpies calling to your call don't stop calling , chances are that they will come in a little later.

Generally it is much easier to call in carrion crows and jackdaws in comparison to magpies. The latter simply does not react in such a consistent way compared to our crows.

### **Tips and tricks for shooting ( when legal ).**

If you shoot a carrion crow while calling the “panic call” it is very important not to stop the calling. Your instrument its mouthpiece is made out of unbreakable high end ABS-plastic, so you can bite on it when reloading and keep on calling. If you do this this way you will notice that your calling is not that good compared to when you would use it with your hands but the sound it generates the is often quite enough to distract the crows from the shooting. If you can shoot and remain between shots as motionless as possible you sometimes can shoot several crows from a single group. Crows in general have more fear from seeing a man or his movement then from a gunshot.

If crows do decide to leave you after you have shot at them you can try the come back call in a firm and decisive way to convince them that everything is ok and that they should come back. Sometimes this trick works, sometimes it doesn't.

Sometimes crows are just lazy. When you call the panic call, and especially during the warmer months, sometimes you can hear at some distance the crows responding but they have no intention in coming to your call. It helps when you walk towards the crows to get closer and then try again. Often they do come in when you are closer. If you hear the alarm call it has no use trying it again.

Sometimes crows are also hesitant to come in for some reason. It helps to have a dead crow with you that you throw towards these crows. The trick is being able to throw the dead crow without being

detected by the live ones. This trick works well for carrion crows and jackdaws .

Another good trick when corvids are hesitant to come in is to use your FT3 crow call in combination with our MDX-call ( magpie in distress-call ). The MDX has a higher and softer pitch and sometimes the change in sound brings them in closer. The MDX is also excellent for close range corvid calling when doing the run and gun technique ( = no decoys and only calling ). Be not surprised if suddenly a fox or feral cat comes in when using the MDX, it is also a very good and a typical predator call.

Although tuned originally for magpies, the MDX works just as good for carrion and hooded crows, jackdaws and even sometimes jays. The MDX is tuned to half the volume of the FT3 and is an extra tool for the specialised European corvid hunter

## **Conclusion.**

So, here you have it, the basics I use for calling and shooting crows. I seldom use decoys for crow shooting because I like to travel light and walk a lot when using these calling techniques, I also shoot often for small periods of time so this way is perfect for me. It helps when there is already some vegetation in the fields and woods ( spring and summer months ) to hide in when shooting this way. If you want to shoot this way in the winter it helps to travel by car first in your shooting fields with a pair of binoculars and detect the crows. Afterwards you can stalk them, using every possible cover there still is, if at all possible off course.

With a slight wind in your favour or with no wind at all you should be able to call in these crows up to 500 meters with your instrument, especially when there is no more vegetation or sound pollution around that limits the carrying power of your instrument.

Decoys can play an important role though when crow shooting and especially during the migration periods. It is up to you off course how and when to use this instrument.

Whatever your experiences with carrion crows, magpies and jackdaws will be, I am always interested in your results and experiences. Feel



free to mail me at any time in this matter. Good luck and good shooting !

Kind regards,

*Sam Neyt*