

GEAR REVIEWS YOU CAN TRUST

# Field Test

[ Head to Head ]

## Clean Slates

The mission: Find out which of these new calls can really talk turkey by PHILIP BOURJAILY



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#### TESTED THIS MONTH

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| TURKEY CALLS             | 78 |
| SPINNERBAITS             | 80 |
| PORTABLE OUTBOARD MOTORS | 82 |
| STOEGER P350 MAGNUM      | 83 |



## FieldTest ● Slate calls

### 1 Lohman Heirloom Slate (\$23)

**DESCRIPTION** Slate in an American ash pot with a purpleheart striker.

**SOUND** Fairly low and raspy, it's not as loud as some, but it's realistic.

**COMMENTS** A traditional-style call that mimics turkeys especially well at lower volumes.

**HITS** Very natural soft sounds.

**MISSES** You can't crank up the volume.

**CONTACT** 877-956-5746; kolpin.com

### 2 Cody Drop Dead Woodsman (\$75)

**DESCRIPTION** Slate in a walnut pot with an oak bottom and a hickory striker.

**SOUND** Medium-high pitch, warm and realistic, with a good range from high to low.

**COMMENTS** The surface seems to grab the peg, making it easy to run quietly.

**HITS** Looks good, makes a range of sounds.

**MISSES** The most expensive call of the bunch.

**CONTACT** 717-362-8413; codyturkeycalls.com

### 3 M.A.D. Heavy Metal (\$23)

**DESCRIPTION** Aluminum pot, crystal surface, graphite and purpleheart strikers.

**SOUND** Very high pitched with wood striker, higher with graphite; raspy, almost shrill.

**COMMENTS** Loudness and high pitch means it can reach out and touch distant birds.

**HITS** Great sounds at any volume.

**MISSES** It's ugly; the metal glints in the sun.

**CONTACT** 877-956-5746; kolpin.com

### 4 Primos Jackpot (\$30)

**DESCRIPTION** A smaller glass call set in a wooden pot with a hardwood striker.

**SOUND** Sharp, high pitched, with some rasp.

**COMMENTS** It's not as loud as the Heavy Metal, but you can feel pressure on your eardrums when you crank the volume.

**HITS** Attractive, sounds as good as it looks.

**MISSES** I wish its volume setting went to 11.

**CONTACT** 800-523-2395; primos.com

## THE TEST

A friction call needs to sound good at high volume for the days you have to beat them over the head *and* soft for the days when they need sweet-talking. I took my calls outside and tape-recorded them at a distance of 20 yards. Starting at the edges where the pitch is high and working my way to the lower-pitched center of the call, I made loud and soft calls, then played them back and rated their sound at low and high volumes. —P.B.







#### 5 Roberts Brothers Hunter (\$50)

**DESCRIPTION** Glass call in a composite wooden pot with slate set in the bottom; hardwood, purpleheart, and aluminum strikers.

**SOUND** The glass makes very authentic turkey noises, and the slate makes softer tones.

**COMMENTS** It looks cool, and with its two surfaces and three strikers, it produces the widest range of turkey talk out of all the calls tested.

**HITS** Gives you a flock of different birds.

**MISSES** Lacks a loud, grating sound.

**CONTACT** 770-536-7374; robertsbrothers-turkeycalls.com

#### 6 H.S. Strut Double Strike (\$29)

**DESCRIPTION** Glass with a plastic pot and a rosewood striker.

**SOUND** High pitched and scratchy.

**COMMENTS** The Double Strike is loud and sharp enough to make you wince, which is what you want in a long-range call. It also sounds good at low volumes. I found it to be a very easy call to cluck and purr with.

**HITS** Great for attracting distant toms.

**MISSES** The directional sound ports seem a little gimmicky.

**CONTACT** 800-728-0321; hunterspec.com

#### 7 Knight & Hale Pocket Puppy (\$15)

**DESCRIPTION** Ceramic "Sla-tek" surface and plastic pot, hickory striker with a plastic top.

**SOUND** High pitched and clear, with some raspy sweet spots.

**COMMENTS** The Pocket Puppy has the upper-level tone that turkeys often respond to, ranging from high to very high. It's a call to have when the turkeys want to hear a clear yelp.

**HITS** Small and inexpensive but with excellent sound, this would make a great call for kids.

**MISSES** Not particularly versatile in its range.

**CONTACT** 800-500-9357; www.knightand-hale.com

#### 8 Quaker Boy X-Pot (\$22)

**DESCRIPTION** Copper top with its center roughened over a plastic pot.

**SOUND** High and clear on the outside edges of the pot, raspier and deeper in the center.

**COMMENTS** Designed for beginners, the copper-topped, plastic-bottomed X-Pot has a textured area in the center. It made good, clear sounds with a little practice.

**HITS** It produces a nice, high-low *kee-yuk*.

**MISSES** There were definite dead spots.

**CONTACT** 800-544-1600; quakerboygame-calls.com