



D. Marlin Watkins



Limbhanger Lodge Summitville, Ohio



**Fiddle Box Calls
Fiddle Paddle Calls
Trumpet Calls**



D. Marlin Watkins Custom Call Maker

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Biography

Turkey call making is my hobby and the contents of this brochure represent the various calls I make. First and foremost, I'm a turkey hunter. As long as God will permit, you will find me in the turkey woods both Spring and Fall.

Because I spend 70-90 days a year in the turkey woods, I test all of my calls on real birds and have a good understanding of which calls produce the best results.



As much as I love the Spring woods, I may be even happier in the Fall when I am running my turkey dogs and hunting in different states. What this has done for me as a call maker is teach me the turkeys total vocabulary. Many people are never exposed to the diversity of the turkey talk you hear in the Fall and Winter. We hear the same thing in the Spring, but not often enough to understand its purpose.

I attempt to design into my calls what I hear in both the Spring and Fall. Sometimes the vast tonal differences are beyond the ability of the call and different calls need to be used. Another factor in the design has to do with the surroundings your hunting in. Is it winter foliage as in early Spring or are the trees well leaved out? My own personal experience has been to go higher in pitch during the early Spring and late Fall and go deeper when the foliage is heavy. By saying this, I'm talking of locating a bird in the Spring, or getting a well scattered flock back to a point where you can tone it down and harvest one.

I like to work with people to satisfy their personal likes in a call, and if for any reason they are not, a full refund is available.

There are many great call makers in this country. When I first started making calls, I made checkered boxes with tapered sides and conventional paddle calls, all of which are great turkey instruments. Two years ago I developed the Fiddle Call. I have a walnut fiddle paddle that I have carried since the Spring of 2007. This call is now retired (Nov. 2008) and it has 36 kill dates inscribed in the sound chamber. I did not carry it exclusively, but it became my "go to" turkey call on many hunts, both Spring and Fall. Its greatest attributes are its ability to go from adult hen to

young gobbler to adult gobbler depending on how you run it. This is what I try to put into all of my calls, except for the high pitched locator paddles. I've found that with the fiddle call design, I can develop a call that produces a wide variety of turkey tones. I strive to make all of my calls to run easily. Most people run boxes and paddles with too much grip. A very light touch is the secret to running these calls. Your touch should be so light that the call is nearly falling out of your hands. Box calls can be run by moving your arm, but much better results are accomplished if some movement is added from the wrist. With paddle calls, all of the movement needs to come from the wrist. If your arm is moving, the sound quality will be affected. These calls will all produce a wide range of turkey talk. They can yelp both loudly and softly. They will cluck, purr, cutt and gobble. Most times we call to turkeys with too much volume. If a Spring turkey will gobble at your footsteps in the leaves at 200 yards, he can hear the most subtle sounds you make on your call. This is the reason that I strive to make a paddle call that is versatile in its range of volume. Most of my turkeys are killed with a paddle call all the way to the gun. Boxes are a popular choice for others because of their ability to reach all ranges of volume.

Fiddle Box



These calls are made from a variety of woods, both local and exotic.

The sides of the call are curved, which is the reason behind its unique tonal quality. The body is a one-piece design, hollowed out, and then tuned with a knife. The bottom is mortised to the call body. Designs are then wood burned for that extra aesthetic appeal.

This call can be high pitched, or low enough to suffice for gobbler talk, depending on your needs.

These calls are naturally raspy, which adds to their realism in the woods.

Fiddle Paddle



These calls are also made from a variety of woods. The sides are curved to replicate a musical instrument. My personal preference is a cedar lidded call for Spring hunting and hardwood lid for the Fall. This changes, however, when hunting Fall gobblers. I then carry a cedar lid call that is tuned to a deeper pitch to imitate gobbler talk.

Each call is meticulously tuned and many never end up on the work bench. Designs are burned on the call for that extra aesthetic appeal. The location of the design on the call is based on the type and grain of the wood.

Trumpet Calls



I make a wide variety of Trumpets and Jordan Yelpers. These calls can range from simple hunting calls to fancy calls containing exotic materials such as ivory and snakewood. None of this changes the tonal quality of the call.

Mouth pieces can be supplied from ivory to a Delrin type material. Because of my Fall hunting, I also have a limited supply of trumpets available with wingbone mouth pieces.

Trumpets are a deadly tool in the woods, both Spring and Fall. They can be designed from high pitched and clear, to deep and raspy. Trumpets should not be bought by the faint of heart. It takes considerable practice to master these calls. However, the end result is well worth the time invested.