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# Drew’s Reviews - Spypoint Universal Game Caller

I’ve always wondered about digital callers, and having not been fox shooting for a while I decided it would be a good move to test one for [www.drewslab.co.uk](http://www.drewslab.co.uk) before offering it to our customers.

Let’s face it, we’ve all bought hunting products before only to discover that they disappoint, so I contacted my friends at Thomas Jacks to arrange a trial of their Spypoint Universal Game Caller.

I have many hunting acquaintances who say that game callers are great, but as you know some are rather expensive. Being a canny Scot from the school of make your own calls, or use calls recorded onto a mobile phone, I wondered how good this product could be at this price.

The caller unit itself is quite small and takes 4 AAA batteries, and the remote control takes 3 AAA. The unit is lightweight with a camouflage plastic outer casing. It retails for around £74.95 including one sound card, and £109.95 for the kit which includes the remote (which I think you need).

The sound card I trialled was the EU predator version for fox shooting. The calls are:

1. Female fox in rut
2. Mouse pipe
3. Bird distress
4. Rabbit distress
5. Fox Barking

I tried it out and only 2 I felt were familiar, these were calls 2 and 3. Call 4 I have tried in the past without much success. The calls last a few seconds so you need to press the remote a lot, but it is very controllable and there are volume controls on both unit and remote which work well even at distance.

Off I went to try it out. After climbing a hill on one of my shooting grounds I decided to put the caller downwind about 80 yards away from me and sit on the hilltop. I checked it was working from this distance and the wait began. I arrived about 8pm and the sun was setting at this time in April. After calling for around 10 minutes something comes running over the hill and I thought ‘yes we are on!’

I had a look with my binos and to my surprise it’s a hare bounding about as the sun goes down. At this point it’s getting cold and the wind’s getting up. Being the west of Scotland it can be chilly to say the least, but I’m wrapped up for the weather as usual.

I’m pressing call number 3 every few seconds and the westerly wind should carry the sound well behind me. My field of fire is about 120 degrees from my left to directly in front of me. My 222 is on the bi pod ready to go, and just as I turn to my left there it is, Mr Fox, 60 yards to my left and heading straight for the caller. The fox was deep rust brown in the half light.

As I get on the scope to see the fox, he is still making for the caller at a good pace. I know it’s not stopping. I squeak from my mouth, he pauses, I squeeze the trigger and it’s all over for him.

I’m impressed to say the least. First time out with the caller and got a fox. Could be luck but I am happy with the result. I check the fox and get him ready for disposal and go retrieve the caller.

I put the caller in my pocket – both the unit and remote fit easily – and as any shooter will know when you’re on foot light and small is good.

The next night I wanted to try again so off I went with a mate to check it out at a different location. This time we are night shooting with the same gun with lamp and thermal imager for spotting - great tool the thermal imager but I’ll talk about that another time.

So we park up at a spot where we spotted a fox a few weeks ago. I place the caller 100 yards away and get set up in my mates Volvo ready to go. The plan is I’ll spot with the thermal imager and use the caller, with the gun out the window, and then he will lamp the fox at the last minute. So 30 minutes go by. It’s freezing with the car window down but a beautiful night and the caller’s working great. Then I see something in the thermal.

Guess what? You guessed it, a hare running towards the caller again. I’m using calls 2 and 3 but the hare runs right past the caller and over the hill. I’m thinking 2 hares on 2 nights? Anyway, about 20 minutes of patience and what I thought was the hare just up from the caller was in fact a fox. I nudge my pal - he’s fast asleep. Next minute after a large snoring snort and the lamp being clattered about in the car, electric window down but by this time the fox is off as we watch the bushy tail head off in the lamp. Still impressed though would have been better if I had shot it!

A bit miffed it got away, but the caller is good and works well. I think I might treat myself as my calling hasn’t been the best over the years.

**PROS:**

Well it’s small, lightweight, good distance with the remote. The battery life seems good also, 2 nights use and still good. There is a range of sound cards available including 3 European ones. There’s a jack socket for an external speaker - I tried this with a small set of portable speakers which worked well but it kills the main 120DB speaker on the unit. Spypoint supply a larger external amplifier. There’s a handy red led for finding in the dark but it’s not too bright.

**CONS:**

The caller unit feels a bit plastic and the belt hook feels flimsy. The caller isn’t water proof which might be useful here in Scotland where it has been known to rain, but then there is a carrier bag to shroud it should the need arise. The remote needs to be in line of sight of the caller, but I don’t think this is necessarily bad - better where you can see it so you don’t shoot it! The calls could be a bit longer to prevent pressing the button so often

**VERDICT:**

All in all I was impressed and it’s not too expensive. I think I’ll buy one as it won’t break the bank.