

Slovenia

»KLOPOTEC«

Klopotec is a Slovenian model and invention. Its history is more than 300 years old.

A klopotec (pronounced [klo:ˈpotɛts], Austro-Bavarian: Klapotetz) is a wooden mechanical device on a high wooden pole, similar to a windmill. It is used as a bird scarer in the vineyards of traditional wine-growing landscapes of Slovenia, Austria and Croatia. It is one of the symbols of Slovenia and Styria.

The windmill has six or eight blades driving an axis with a sail or vane that is constructed to swivel so it is always positioned perpendicular to the wind. As the axis rotates, wooden hammers are lifted off their resting position by fixed notches. As they fall back, they rhythmically impact on a wooden board. While the quality of the sound is dependent on the wood of which the hammers and sounding boards are made of, the rattle frequency depends on the number of hammers, as well as changes in wind speed.

A klopotec consists of different parts, each of which should (ideally) be made of a specific type of wood to produce a fine and melodic sound. The wood of hammers and of the board is especially important, as only the right combination enables that the device produces the ultrasound that scares the birds away.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klopotec>
(also in German and Spanish)

Here you see a Klopotec in action:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__EHIAePUxA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnIZJis0NqM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s67lpCCjErc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRLDV0IJGM>