



The Quality and Spirit of Switzerland

Loetscher clocks are a piece of Switzerland because of the materials within and because of the stories they tell.

Locally Sourced Swiss Materials and Craftsmen: The stones, the sand, and the linden wood are sourced locally, from nearby Loetscher's home town of Brienz. Brienz is a cozy little Alpine village located right in the heart of Switzerland, sitting at the northern shore of the breathtakingly beautiful Lake Brienz. This peaceful, idyllic hamlet of just over 2,000 souls has developed a reputation over the centuries for its artisans in the woodworking industry. These gifted craftsmen are admired across the continent for consistently producing the highest quality woodcarving. Not surprisingly, Brienz boasts a world-renowned woodcarving school.

Swiss Culture and Stories: The world-famous stories of Heidi the charming orphan and Barry the legendary rescue dog are intertwined with depictions of other Swiss culture, architecture, native wildlife, and traditions.

Exclusively sold in the USA by the California Clock Company.

This unique, almost 100 year old manufacturer is now distributed exclusively by the California Clock Company in the US. This is the only Genuine Swiss Chalet Cuckoo Clock. We have been impressed with their world famous mastery of this art, exquisite attention to detail, and almost 100 year tradition of manufacturing these timepieces in Switzerland. There are no Minimum Order Quantities on Loetscher Cuckoo Clocks so that you have the opportunity to give them a try!





Heidi – a story goes around the world

Featured in many of our Cuckoos

The Heidi stories have become one of the best-known works of Swiss literature, having been translated into nearly 50 languages worldwide as well as about 25 film or television productions.

In 1881, Swiss author Johanna Spyri published a children's story in two parts centered on the life of a young Swiss girl—an orphan—who is sent to live with her grandfather, an embittered and alienated old man, in a small town in the Alps.

Heidi's intelligence and genuine cheerfulness moves her grandfather and eventually helps him to reconnect to life and his fellow villagers. Her unaffected charm also moved countless readers, becoming one of the top 30 best-selling books ever written worldwide. Because Heidi is such a compelling character and because the landscape she traverses is so spectacular, the stories naturally lend themselves to film adaptation. Consequently, numerous movies, both live-action and animation, have been produced over the last several decades and watched by audiences around the world.





Barry – the legendary St. Bernard

Featured in many of our Cuckoos

Barry, the most famous rescue dog in the world, is credited with saving 40 people and remains a legend 200 years later.

Barry's heroism resonated with a great many Swiss people and consequently, his body was put on exhibit at the Natural History Museum in Berne, Switzerland. To this day, visitors can come and get a look at this inspirational dog. [The Fondation Barry](#) was established with the mission to maintain the original breeding of the 'Grand St. Bernard'—Barry's breed. Over the years people began to breed the 'Grand St. Bernards' with others to alter certain features, and the result has been what we know today as the common St. Bernard. Barry and the rest of the 'Grand St. Bernards' were actually smaller than today's better-known cousin and had shorter hair.

Barry was born in 1800 and lived as a rescue dog at the hospice on the Great St. Bernard Pass, which is situated almost 2500 metres above sea level. The hospice has been run since the 11th century by Augustinian canons. Crossing the pass used to be dangerous at any time of year, and the canons and their servants would rescue people who had got lost or become trapped in snow. As time went by, the canons began to take dogs with them when they went out looking for travelers. As a result of this collaboration between man and canine, over 2000 people were saved from death over the course of 200 years. Barry is said to have helped in the rescue of 40 people, and was legendary even during his lifetime. Learn More about Barry [here](#).



Preparing to Celebrate a 100 Year Legacy

PREMIUM

★ QUALITY ★

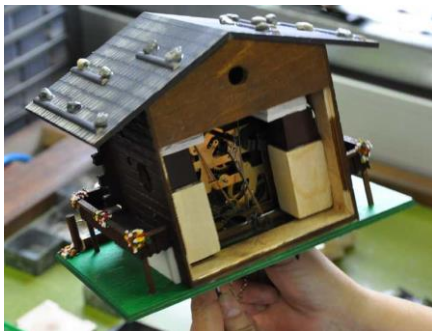
Loetscher built their first clock in 1920, and they're deeply gratified to say that the same loving care and craftsmanship that went into their first clock, still goes into every Loetscher cuckoo clock built today, making each one a truly timeless timepiece. Loetscher is also proud to say that they're the only genuine Swiss chalet cuckoo clock maker in existence today.

Loetscher AG operates two facilities in different parts of Switzerland that have specific duties in the manufacturing of the clocks. All of the initial steps involved in building the clocks are done in the woodworking facility in Brienz, a small village in central Switzerland in the canton of Berne. Their woodworking artisans take linden wood that has been aged several years (to ensure it won't warp or crack in humid or dry environments) and hand-carve every chalet and all the figurines that adorn them. This initial process takes time, and it's the most costly way to build clocks, but it's what distinguishes Loetscher from the rest.

The finished clock bodies are then brought to their assembly plant in Kreuzlingen, by the lake of Constance, where the clockworks, music boxes and gears that enable the figurines to move are assembled and positioned into the clocks. And then finally, the weights and pendulums are added, completing the last steps of assembly.



How Loetscher Clocks are Made



The linden trees in and around Brienz produce wood that is ideal for carving the intricate and beautiful designs found on Loetscher clocks because it is soft, has minimal grain and is not nearly as dense as other types of wood. Because of these highly desirable characteristics, linden wood is considered a premium type of wood and thus relatively more expensive than others. The wood is aged for several years before Loetscher's craftsmen begin to work it. The aging process ensures that Loetscher's clocks won't warp or crack in either humid or drier environments. This is a time-consuming and costly process, but it's this commitment to quality and passion for doing things the right way that distinguishes Loetscher from the rest. Once the wood is properly aged, Loetscher's craftsmen lovingly carve the wood into various sections of a chalet house. And then, one by one, Loetscher's Brienz artisans put the chalet together by hand. Every chalet's rooftop is carved from a single piece of wood. After the chalet is built, we begin the process of decorating it. We start by painstakingly searching the fields and streams around Brienz, as well as the banks of beautiful Lake Brienz, for just the right rocks that would resemble boulders, and place them around the waterwheel. Then we collect sand from the shores of Lake Brienz, and sift through it patiently to find just the right particles for creating Loetscher's finely featured geranium arrangements. Once done, we hand-paint the geraniums. It is this commitment to authenticity and sourcing the materials locally that makes all Loetscher's cuckoo clocks truly rare masterpieces. Once the construction of the chalets is completed they're sent to Loetscher's facility in Faellanden. Here the chalets are fitted with clockworks, cuckoo pipes, weights and pendulums. This is a very delicate procedure that requires the expertise of a master clock maker. At this point we have a genuine Swiss chalet cuckoo clock that is ready to be exhaustively tested. For a period of several weeks the clocks are closely monitored to make certain they operate flawlessly. Once a clock passes this test, it is ready to be called a Loetscher.

[Link to photos](#)

