

The easiest-to-use  
countdown clock — EVER!



**Classroom  
Countdown  
Clock**

**Quick  
Start**

Do you time tests, quizzes, presentations, or assignments? Now it's easier than ever to track timed classroom activities with the *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock*. You can set this countdown clock with the touch of a finger! Bright LED numerals count down the minutes and seconds for all to see. As the timer counts down, it flashes from solid green to flashing green to red while playing helpful sound effects or voice prompts to let students know how much time is left to complete the task. When the timer reaches zero, it announces, "Time is up!"

Setting the time is easy and intuitive. Touch a Quick Start button on top of the clock to immediately start a 5-, 10-, 15-, 30-, 45-, or 60-minute countdown. Or, press Options to quickly customize your countdown, setting the time for alerts as well as choosing specific voice prompts and sound effects. This 3-in-1 timepiece also works as a stopwatch and as a classroom clock. Use on a desk or table, or hang on a wall for everyone to see. *Quick Start* is the perfect complement to your daily routine.

**Educational  
Insights®**



# Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock



## Quick Start Buttons

Press any of the six yellow Quick Start buttons to instantly choose a countdown time. Then press the green Start button to begin the countdown.

## Start/Pause Button

Press this green button once to begin any countdown. Press during a countdown to pause the clock. Then press again to resume countdown.

## Large, Bright Numerals

Designed to be seen clearly from the back of the classroom, these large numerals change colors and flash during the countdown.

## Volume

Choose the volume level (low, medium, or high) for sound and voice prompts or turn off sounds completely.

## On/Off Reset Button

Turn the power on and off or reset the timer by pressing this button.

## Arrow Buttons

Press the arrow keys to add or subtract time from a countdown or alert time. Use these keys to toggle through the ten sound and voice prompts, too.

## Options Button

Press this key to manually set countdown and alert times or to choose specific sounds or voice prompts.

## Mode Switch

*Quick Start* is three clocks in one. Slide the mode switch to choose countdown timer, stopwatch, or clock.



## Keyhole

The *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* has been designed with a built-in keyhole for hanging on a wall.

## Battery Compartment

The *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* can be powered by 4 C batteries (not included). See page 7 for battery instructions.

## AC Adapter Plug

The *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* can also be powered by the included AC adapter plug. Plug the adapter into the jack and then plug the power box into the outlet.

## Getting Started

Before using the *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* for the first time, install 4 C batteries (not included). See page 7 for battery instructions.

# How to Use the Countdown Timer

There are three ways to set the countdown timer.

1. Quick Start Buttons—the fastest and easiest way to get started
2. Quick Start Buttons and Arrows—the simple shortcut that allows you to quickly select a custom countdown time
3. Options and Arrows—for when you want to select all the sounds, speech, and specific alert times for a special countdown

## Using Quick Start Buttons

This is the fastest and easiest way to use the countdown timer. In just seconds you can choose from six pre-set times and set the countdown clock in motion.

Here's how:

1. Slide the MODE switch to Countdown.
2. Press one of the six yellow QUICK START buttons. Choose from the 5-, 10-, 15-, 30-, 45- or 60-minute countdown times.
3. Press the green START button to begin the countdown.

**Note:** If you need to interrupt the countdown, simply press the green START button once to pause the timer. Press it again to resume the countdown.

## What You'll See and Hear During a Countdown

For 10-, 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute countdowns, the countdown begins with "Ready, set, go!" The numerals are solid green. When 50% of the time has elapsed, a single tone chimes and a tick-tock sound effect plays. When 80% of the time has elapsed, the timer chimes twice, a tick-tock sound effect plays, and the numerals begin flashing. When 95% of the time has elapsed, the timer chimes three times, a tick-tock sound effect plays, and the numerals turn red. With fifteen seconds remaining, the timer makes "ding dong" tones and the numerals flash red. During the last five seconds, the timer chimes four times and then a voice says, "Time is up!"

For any time less than a 10-minute countdown, the alerts are limited to only one so as to not interfere with student work. When 50% of the time has elapsed, a single tone chimes and the numerals flash green. With fifteen seconds remaining, the timer makes a "ding dong" tone and the numerals flash red. During the last five seconds, the timer chimes four times and then a voice says, "Time is up!"

## Using Quick Start Buttons and Arrows

This shortcut makes it easy to select a countdown time other than the six preset times. In just a few seconds you can select a custom time and set the countdown timer in motion. This shortcut does not allow you to choose custom sound or voice prompts, or to change when the alert sounds are played.

1. Slide the MODE switch to Countdown.
2. Press the yellow QUICK START button that is closest to the time you want to set. (For example, to set a custom 35-minute countdown, start by pressing the yellow 30-minute QUICK START button.)
3. Press the right ARROW button (▶) to add minutes to the countdown time. Press the left ARROW button (◀) to subtract minutes from the countdown time. (For example, press the right ARROW (▶) until the clock shows 35:00.)
4. Press the green START button to begin the countdown.

**Note:** If you need to interrupt the countdown, simply press the green START button to pause the countdown. Press it again when you are ready to resume.

## Using Quick Start Options and Arrows

Sometimes you need to customize your countdown with sounds, speech, and alerts that meet the needs of your classroom. Using the OPTION and ARROW keys, you can:

- Set the total time for the countdown.
- Choose the specific times you wish to hear the first three alert tones (other than the default times at 50%, 80%, and 95% of the total time).
- Select the specific phrases and sounds that play at the beginning and end of the countdown.

### STEP #1: How to Set the Total Time for the Countdown

a. Slide the MODE switch to Countdown.

b.  Press OPTIONS. A light will appear over "Total Time."

c.  Press the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to set the number of countdown **hours**.

d. Press OPTIONS to accept hours.

e.  Press the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to set the number of countdown **minutes**.

f. Press OPTIONS.

g.  Press the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to set the number of countdown **seconds**.

**Note:** The timer must be set to count down for a minimum of fifteen seconds.

### STEP #2: How to Set Specific Alert Times

a. (After STEP #1-g) Press OPTIONS. A light now appears over "Alert 1."

b.  Press the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to set the time you would like to hear the Alert 1 tone sound. Use the OPTIONS button to advance to minutes and seconds to set them or accept them as is.

c. Press OPTIONS again. The light now appears over "Alert 2."

d.  Press the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to set the time for Alert 2.

e. Press OPTIONS again. The light now appears over "Alert 3."

f.  Press the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to set the time for Alert 3. Please note that an alert cannot be set for less than fifteen seconds.

### STEP #3: How to Customize Beginning and Ending Sounds and Phrases

There are ten unique sounds and phrases to choose from to start and end your countdown.

- a. (After STEP #2-f) Press OPTIONS. A light appears over "Start Sounds" and the total time shows on the clock.
- b. Press the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to hear and choose a start sound from the sounds list.  
The start sounds include:

"Ready, (bugle plays), go!"	"Ready? Begin."	(Buzzer sound)	(Alarm clock ring)
"Begin."	"Ready, set, (trumpet), go!"	(Bell sound)	
- c. Press OPTIONS when you hear the beginning sound you want.
- d. A light appears over "End Sounds."
- e. Press the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to hear and choose an end sound from the sounds list.  
The end sounds include:

(Buzzer sound) "Time is up!"	(Bell sound) "Stop!"	(Bell sound)	
"All done."	(Buzzer sound)	(Alarm clock ring)	
- f. Press OPTIONS when you hear the ending sound you want.

Once you have made all of your custom choices, simply press the green START button to set the countdown timer in motion.

## Frequently Asked Timer Questions

### ***After using the timer, the screen went black. What happened?***

The timer will automatically shut off five minutes after the countdown time has finished. This conserves power. If the screen has turned off, simply press the ON/OFF button and *Quick Start* will power up again.

### ***What are the default settings and how can I reset them?***

*Quick Start* comes with six pre-set countdown times. The times at which the alerts sound have been predetermined. Alert 1 sounds when 50% of the time has elapsed. Alert 2 sounds when 80% of the time has elapsed. Alert 3 sounds when 95% of the time has elapsed. During the last fifteen seconds, Alert 4 sounds along with final countdown sounds. You can only change when these alert sounds play by manually resetting the timer (see "How to Set Specific Alert Times," page 4).

### ***How can I reset the timer to do exactly what it was programmed to do for the previous countdown?***

Turn the timer off and on again. You will see your previous total time displayed. Press the green START button and the clock will begin counting down, using the previous alert settings.

### ***What happens if I am interrupted during the middle of a test?***

Simply press the green START button during a countdown and the timer will pause until you press the green START button again to resume the countdown.

### ***Can I increase (or decrease) the time, even while the timer is counting down?***

Students may need more or less time than you had allotted to complete a test or activity. Press the green START button and then use the ARROW buttons (◀▶) to increase/decrease the minutes. Then press the green START button to resume.

### ***I set Quick Start for a 5-minute test but only heard one alert sound. Why?***

If the timer is set to count down ten minutes or less, no tones will sound at the 80% and 95% alert spots. There will also be no steady red light during that time period. The timer will go directly from flashing green to flashing red numerals.

### ***Can I set Quick Start for a 60-second quiz?***

You can set the time to count down one minute or less, but there will be no alert sounds until the last fifteen seconds of the countdown. Because the time is so short, the alert sounds would be too distracting.

## How to Use Quick Start as a Stopwatch

You'll find many ways to use *Quick Start* as a stopwatch. See how long it takes the class to clean up for recess. Or time science experiments or physical education activities. Here's how:

1. Slide the MODE switch to Stopwatch.
2. Press the green START button. The stopwatch will begin counting up from 00:00:00.
3. Press the green START button to stop the stopwatch. You can also pause it with a single press and resume the stopwatch with another press.
4. To reset the stopwatch, press the green START button twice (double press) to start over from 00:00:00.

## How to Use Quick Start as a Clock

The bright numerals and simple design of *Quick Start* make it a perfect classroom clock. It fits easily on a desk or shelf or hangs from the wall. Here's how to set the clock:

1. Slide the MODE switch to Clock.
2. Press OPTIONS.
3. Use the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to set the hour (see Figure 1).
4. Press OPTIONS to accept the hour and advance to minutes.
5. Use the left and right ARROW buttons (◀▶) to set the minutes (see Figure 2).
6. Press OPTIONS to accept the minutes.
7. You have now set the time. You cannot set the seconds in Clock Mode.

Figure 1



Figure 2



**Note:** Pressing OPTIONS tells the clock to accept the change. If you do not press OPTIONS, then after 90 seconds, the hours (or minutes) will revert to the previous time.

## Using Quick Start at School and at Home

The *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* is a great tool for school and home. Use it at school to time quizzes, lessons, speeches, reports, and various activities. Use it at home to monitor homework time, music practice, even television time.

**Testing Hints** Before beginning a test, explain the alert system to your students. Explain how this system of sounds and colored numerals will help them pace themselves during the test. When the first alert sounds, 50% of the total time remains. Students should be halfway through the test if they are to stay on track. Some students may find that they need to speed up, while others may realize that they can slow down and spend more time on each question.

**Monitor Time at Learning Centers** *Quick Start* is a great way to monitor times at learning centers. If students are to pass through four centers in an hour, set the alert times for fifteen minute intervals. When an alert sounds, students rotate to the next station. If you use only three centers, the final alert might signal students to stop work and begin cleaning up.

**Oral Reports and Other Speeches** Use *Quick Start* to pace students during oral reports and other classroom speeches. Just set the countdown timer for five or ten minutes, turn off the sound, and let the colored numerals count down the time remaining.

**Science Experiments** Precise timing devices are very useful during science experiments and activities. *Quick Start* is also a great kitchen timer.

**Sustained Silent Reading Time** Many teachers and parents assign thirty minutes a day to sustained silent reading. Use the *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* timer (at school or home) to time this activity. This allows a child to note the time independently without frequently asking how much time is remaining. Using the *Quick Start* buttons on top of the clock make it easy for even young children to use the countdown timer on their own.

**Time-Out Timer** *Quick Start* is also an effective way to monitor time-out sessions.

**Stopwatch Fun** Use the stopwatch feature to see how quickly students can walk the track, clean up for recess, complete a series of sit-ups, and so on. It's always fun to see how long your students can stand on one leg or how long it takes them to write the multiplication tables.

## CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

Clean *Quick Start* with a damp or dry cloth—do not immerse or spray any liquid on the clock.

## BATTERY INSTRUCTIONS

When display dims or is blank, replace the old battery with 4 new C batteries. To replace, carefully open the battery compartment door (located on the back of the unit) by using a coin or screwdriver to remove the screw from the battery compartment. Install four (4) fresh C batteries in the battery compartment, carefully following the diagram showing correct battery installation. This diagram is found inside the battery compartment.

- Do not use rechargeable batteries.
- Do not mix old and new batteries.
- Do not mix different types of batteries: alkaline, standard (carbon zinc) or rechargeable (nickel-cadmium) batteries.
- Non-rechargeable batteries are not to be recharged.
- Rechargeable batteries are to be removed from the product before being charged.
- Rechargeable batteries are only to be charged under adult supervision.
- Only batteries of the same or equivalent type as recommended are to be used.
- Batteries are to be inserted with the correct polarity.
- Exhausted batteries are to be removed from the product.
- The supply terminals are not to be short-circuited.

### Operating Your *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* with the Adapter

With the optional AC adapter, your *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* can run indefinitely without batteries. Follow these steps for using the adapter with your *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock*:

1. Plug the end of the adapter cord into the AC adapter jack located on the back near the bottom of the *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock*.
  - The AC adapter should be examined regularly for damage to the cord, plug, enclosure, and other parts. In the event of such damage, do not use the AC adapter until the damage has been repaired.
  - Disconnect the *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* from the AC adapter before cleaning.
  - The AC adapter unit is not a toy.
2. Carefully plug the adapter body into an electrical outlet.
  - The *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* must not be connected to more than the recommended number of power supplies.
  - The *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* is not suitable for children under three (3) years of age.

It is strongly recommended that you keep the *Quick Start Classroom Countdown Clock* plugged in whenever possible to conserve battery power.