The Repairist

PLEASE READ IN FULL. THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN CREATED FOR YOUR BENEFIT AND PROVIDES YOU WITH SOME INFORMATION TO HELP UNDERSTAND YOUR CLOCK AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS.

A mechanical clock IS NOT the same as a modern digital device, it needs patience and understanding, especially pendulum clocks, every clock is designed and made to work on a specific axis. It is not always possible just to place or hang a mechanical clock and it ticks away. Some clocks are more forgiving than others, there are tolerances finer than a human hair in a mechanical movement, and if the clock isn't level, straight or setup properly….it will not work correctly following a clean, service, repair.

Instructions for key wound Pendulum Clocks, Balance Wheel & Platform Escapement Clocks.

Regardless of price or value your mechanical clock is a finely engineered precision mechanism, it needs patience (often a lot), consistency, understanding and care, for it to continue to function over the years. A mechanical clock is RARELY precise, it will lose or gain time which is not only dictated by its mechanism but also by wear over its lifetime, temperature differences, air pressure, dust, vibrations, to name a few. All materials contract and expand in different climates and this affects the performance of a clock movement. Your clock will need regular time adjustment and if you do not wish to wind it set the hands to 13h50 to give it a happy face. In this precision time sensitive digital age, mechanical clocks are more decorative and sentimental interior items and I call them 'Time Approximators'.

Clock Cleaning and Servicing, Polishing.

A service is firstly a check of a clock movements health and function, once assessed it will then be disassembled cleaned and any work carried out if required. A clean of the movement it is NOT a polish of the movement, few movements are polished shiny and it is usually movements that are on view. Many movements were lacquered at the time of manufacture and much of the brown marks and stains on a movement are discoloured lacquer which is not detrimental to the time pieces function. If an area of lacquer is deemed 'unstable' it will be removed and it may or may not be re-lacquered. This may render a component of the clock a different colour to the rest of the movement, again, this is not detrimental to the timepieces function. The most important detail of a clock movement is that it is clean, lubricated with the correct lubricants and in good health. If movement is to be polished this will be a pre-discussed separate exercise.

A mechanical Pendulum clock has basic needs

If your clock is a pendulum clock and gains time do not move the hands anti-clockwise (backwards), pause the pendulum for a while and then restart it when the time showing has passed and advance the hands to the correct time.

If your clock has a rear pendulum and unwinds and stops do not turn the clock and open it to restart it, wind the clock and then lift/tilt the clock gently on one side 1 or 2cm until you hear the clock ticking again.
When your clock is returned to you it will need continued regulating in its new environment, this can take several weeks and patience to get right, if your clock is moved again it will likely need regulating again. Please read below to execute this.

1. To be settled straight (surface clock) or hung straight (wall clock).
2. In the case of a round face clock, the clock face must be straight, this can be easy to twist when winding fully throwing the beat of the clock out. When you wind a round faced clock hold the clock with your other hand, holding the face and winding slowly until you feel resistance.
3. When you wind your clock hold the clock with your other hand so it doesn't move on the surface, floor or wall.
4. To be wound regularly.
5. To be serviced occasionally, this doesn't always mean a full service.

Setting up and care for your clock

1. Open the door of the case (front or rear) to allow access to fit the pendulum.
2. Suspend the pendulum from the pendulum hanger carefully, ensuring the correct side of the pendulum is facing outwards.
3. ***Winding the clock***. Fully wind all the keyholes weekly. Each spring should be wound until definite resistance is felt. It is not possible to overwind a clock, if a clock stops it is because the spring is not lubricated, the spring is broken or there is a malfunction in the clock mechanism.
A fully wound clock will run for a time period dependent on the type of mechanism. If the clock stops within this period the most likely cause is either that clock is out of 'beat' or it is not fully wound.
4. Check the 'beat' of the clock by swinging the pendulum so that the clock ticks, the clock should have an even-sounding 'tick-tock'. That is, the pendulum disc travels an equal distance either side of an imaginary centre line.
5. ***Setting the clock hands.*** Trigger the hour chime by moving the minute hand (long hand) clockwise to the XII (12) position, the number struck by the clock must be the same as the number at which the hour hand (short hand) is set. If this is not the case on most clocks it is possible to gently move the hour hand to the corresponding hour that was struck by the clock, do this by holding the centre of the hand and turning.
a. ***Striking Clocks*** (two winding holes). Set your clock my moving the minute hand clockwise to the desired time. The clock will now strike once on the half hour and the number indicated by the hour hand on the hour. The left keyhole is for winding the strike, the right keyhole is for the time.
b. ***Chiming Clocks*** (There winding holes). Set your clock my moving the minute hand clockwise to the desired time. The clock will now progressively increase the chimes every quarter and strike the hour on the hour. The left keyhole is for winding the strike, the right for the chime and the centre for the time.

Note. The minute hand can be moved rapidly in a clockwise (forward) direction to correct the time. The clock should automatically adjust the strike/chime sequence during the following hour.
6. ***Regulating the clock.*** If the clock is running fast, turn the regulating nut below the pendulum disc to the left, anti-clockwise on the thread, making the pendulum swing slower. If the clock is running slow turn the nut to the right, clockwise on the thread, making the pendulum swing faster, remember for the pendulum **SPEED-UP** and **SLOW-DOWN**. One turn on a regulating nut corresponds approximately to a time difference of one minute per day. Make small incremental turns of the regulating nut, checking the time keeping for 24 hours between each adjustment. With patience it is possible to achieve an accuracy of +/-5 to 10 minutes per week. It can take several weeks to adjust a clock in a new environment.
7. Some clocks are fitted with strike/chime silencers, this can be used to switch the strike/chime off. It can also be switched on when advancing the clock.

Often the cause of a pendulum clock stopping is movement due to home cleaning or dusting. The best way to keep a clock and its surrounding area is a feather duster, thus eliminating unnecessary movement of the clock.

In a normal domestic environment it is recommended that a mechanical clock is checked/serviced every 5-6 years.

PLEASE OBSERVE THE BASICS

HANGING STRAIGHT (WALL CLOCK)
LEVEL SURFACE (SURFACE CLOCK)
REGULARLY WOUND
DOOR CLOSED (TO PREVENT DUST BUILD UP ON MOVEMENT)
MOVE GENTLY
IF MOVED/TRANSPORTED REMOVE THE PENDULUM; IF YOU CANNOT REMOVE THE PENDULUM TILT THE CLOCK BACKWARDS TO PREVENT THE PENDULUM FROM SWINGING FREELY.

Balance Wheel & Platform Escapement Clocks.

Balance wheel & Platform Escapement Clocks are less 'temperamental' than pendulum clocks, an unlevel surface won't interfere with the movement as much as a pendulum clock but over time it can create uneven wear on the movement, therefore where possible place your clock on a level surface. You might need to make an adjustment to your clock, if this is the case move the small lever on the platform escapement at the top of your clock in very small increments in the required direction to either slow down or speed up your clock. Clocks are marked either S/F (Slow or Fast), or R/A (Retard or Advance in French). Slow is usually to the left and Fast to the right.

ALL CLOCKS

Wind slowly and confidently until you feel resistance and stop immediately, DO NOT try and force the winder further. It is good practice to wind an 8 day clock each weekend counting 10 winds each time, however this can vary from clock to clock.

PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH YOUR CLOCK!

NB. Your clock has been returned to you in a functioning state, it should be set on a level surface or straight and flat on the wall, we will advise you of the clocks care when it is returned. If the clock is interfered with or adjusted in other ways this can impede its function which we are not responsible for and correction of this will be chargeable.

Interesting Fact: If you have a clock with Roman numerals on the face you will notice the number 4 is represented as IIII and not IV. One theory is because the most revered God in Roman mythology was Jupiter. Her name was spelt IV in Roman and it was felt it was disrespectful to put the first letters of her name upside down on a dial. It also creates an equal balance to the opposing VIII.