



PERFECT TIMING
WATCH & CLOCK REPAIRS
106 Mississauga Street East
Orillia, Ontario L3V 1V7

TIPS TO SET UP AND RUN SPRING WOUND CLOCKS

WINDING:

Make sure clock is FULLY wound. There is no such thing as “overwinding” or “winding too tight”!
If the clock does not run when fully wound, it may need to be serviced, see a clockmaker.

CHOOSING A LOCATION:

The clock must sit on flat surface with no vibrations. Mantles and free-standing shelves are best. China cabinets, buffets and pianos are not a good idea. The vibrations from the doors, drawers and sounds will affect the swing of the pendulum and thus running of the clock. Wall clocks should not be on a wall next to a door, especially sliding patio doors, as the vibrations can affect the swing of the pendulum.

LEVELING:

The clock should be level, side to side and front to back. (if the clock has a pendulum)

Side to side: Most importantly, listen to how the clock ticks. The tick should be an even “tick-tick”, not “tick-tock”. To hear the difference, gently raise one side and then the other of the clock and listen to the change in rhythm. If the ticking sounds even, you can assume the clock is level. Ticking evenly is more important than dead level. Make sure the clock doesn’t rock! If it does, shim or adjust to steady it.

Front to back: if the clock is leaning too far forward or back, the pendulum and its leader can rub on the case or the movement which can cause the clock to stop or not keep accurate time.

SETTING THE TIME:

Being a mechanical device, the accuracy can vary up to one minute per day. This means it may be out by as much as 7 min per week and still be within acceptable standards. Simply reset the time weekly using the minute hand. Be careful not to catch or drag the hour hand along with the minute hand as you move it.

German clocks: If you need to reset the time by hours, you may turn the hands forward as much as you need without stopping, until you reach 12:00. Then you must allow the clock to strike and chime, allowing the strike mechanism to disengage, then continue to the correct time. The clock will then take a full hour to self- correct the chime.

American made mantle or wall clocks: must be allowed to finish striking every hour and half hour when you set the time. If your American clock gets “out of sync” (strike does not match time), this is easily corrected by matching the hour hand to the number of strikes. Eg. If the clock shows 2 o’clock, but strikes 3 times, move just the hour hand to show 3 o’clock to match the strike. Now move the minute hand (as you normally would to set the time) to 4 o’clock to confirm. The clock should now strike 4 times. Next set the time to “real” time in your usual way. If the strike goes out of sync by half an hour move the minute hand past the half hour and hour before the strike can finish.

REGULATING

Timekeeping may vary slightly between our shop and your home, depending on environmental conditions. To regulate a pendulum clock, you must raise or lower the “bob” on the pendulum. This is commonly done by means of the nut at the base of the pendulum. To make the clock run faster: raise the bob; to make the clock run slower: lower the bob. We suggest adjusting only once a week, and to keep a record of any adjustments. Some clocks don’t have adjustable pendulums, but have adjustments on the dial or “face” of the clock. Again +/-1 min per day is expected on most clocks, so typically, resetting the time with the hands is simpler.

***Please do not hesitate to call us with any questions concerning your clock.
Remember to plan for servicing every 4-5 years***

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