

CLOCK, BAROMETER & EARLY VERGE WATCH SPECIALISTS...



THE CARE OF YOUR CLOCK

As 5 years is the working life of good quality clock oil, a clock should be checked over and serviced (cleaned) at least after this period of time. Each individual pivot has only a limited supply of oil – usually only one very small drop which is slowly fed into the bearing by means of a small countersink acting as a reservoir. When the oil thickens or runs out the reservoir needs cleaning and the oil needs replacing.

Servicing is not, as some might have you believe, merely adding oil. It is nothing less than completely dismantling, removing signs of wear, thorough cleaning, assembling, adjusting and lubricating – in the correct places and with the correct oil.

Many repairers may be proud that they have managed to get a filthy clock working again without even dismantling the movement and by simply immersing it complete, in a bucket of cleaning fluid. This is actually the worst thing to do as repairs or the removal of wear cannot be carried out. All the dirt will not have been removed and any subsequent oil applied will immediately become contaminated.

Another bad thing to do is apply clean oil on top of dirty oil, this makes the resulting treacle run out of the oil sinks and onto areas where it should not be. The clock has probably stopped because it needs the old congealed oil removing, not watering down. If this enables the clock to run it will only compound the existing problems.

Now that old clocks are valuable items there are also financial reasons for having them maintained by qualified and competent people. If the owner of a clock cannot afford to have it repaired or serviced by a reputable and qualified clockmaker then the best course of action to take is not to run the clock, it will then come to no further harm.

If you are unsure about the care of your clock or exactly what its condition is, a qualified Horologist should be only too happy to examine it and advise you.

At M C Taylor's it is our experience that advising and explaining the basics to the customer in plain English saves a lot of unnecessary time later on. It is also our policy to fully explain how to operate a clock upon collection.

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As a guide, try to adhere to the following points:

- Always remove the pendulum before transporting a clock unless there is a locking device fitted or it hangs on a silk thread.
- Always remove weights.
- Wind all the winding arbors gently but firmly as far as they will go, otherwise the movement may not run for its full duration.
- On a striking clock, never turn the hands back past the hour or half (or the quarters on a chiming clock).
- Always allow a striking or chiming clock to complete its strike or chiming sequence before advancing the hands further.
- Adjust the time by moving the minute hand only (the longer of the two).
- Try not to allow the clock to completely run down, it can jam up or get out of sequence.
- Never wind with a key that is too loose, won't go on fully or is damaged – buy a new one, they are inexpensive and they are fitted quickly.
- Listen to the tick, it is the heartbeat of the clock and should sound positive and even. As a clock wears, the tick usually gets louder. An uneven tick means the escapement should be reset or the clock is not on a level.
- Treat the clock with respect and do not expect quartz clock timekeeping.
- Try to always have the same person wind and operate the clock as they will get a 'feel' for it.
- Make sure the clock is on a firm, level surface and cannot rock with the pendulum swing.
- Avoid operating the clock in very hot, damp, dusty or draughty locations.
- Enjoy the clock, it has served countless people the time for many years and you are merely a keeper, passing through its life.

HAVE YOUR CLOCK(S) REGULARLY MAINTAINED SO THAT IT WILL SERVE YOU AND FUTURE GENERATIONS FAITHFULLY..

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