

ABOUT YOUR BALANCE WHEEL CLOCK

SET UP. When you get your clock home, insure that the clock is secure and level.

WINDING THE CLOCK. SPRINGS STORE A LOT OF ENERGY and have been known to break, even when brand new. When winding the clock each week, be sure to ease the key back into the ratchet before starting another winding turn. Don't let the key snap back into the ratchet – it may overcome the ratchet mechanism and cause painful problems. You may wind the spring(s) until they are tight.

WHAT MAKES IT TICK. Your clock gets its power from springs that drive the wheels that cause the clock to run (and strike, for 2-train clocks, and chime, for 3-train clocks). The springs get their power from you when you wind them with the key. Your clock has one, two or three springs; one that drives the time mechanism, perhaps another one that drives the strike mechanism to count the hours, and perhaps another one that drives the quarter hour chime melody. The time spring drives a series of wheels (gears) ending in the escape wheel. In your clock, a hairspring and balance wheel regulate the rate at which escape wheel turns.

CONTROLLING THE RATE. The rate was set in the shop but may need to be adjusted slightly after you get it home. Please contact the shop if it is not keeping good time.

SETTING THE TIME. To set the time, move the minute hand **CLOCKWISE** (pausing at each chiming or striking point to let the mechanism go through its strike (or chime) cycle, if so equipped). In general, you should never move the minute hand on a striking or chiming clock counterclockwise, especially not across a strike or chiming point. If you do, you may bend a lever in the chime or strike mechanism and you will have to return the clock to the shop for repair.

SYNCHRONIZING THE HOUR STRIKE WITH TIME. If you find that your clock's strike count is not synchronized with the correct time, you may move the HOUR hand to match the hour just struck. The hour hand is free to slip on its shaft. Be careful not to let the hour and minute hands get crossed, which will stop the clock.

MAINTENANCE. Your clock should be serviced every four to five years to prevent dirt build up in the bushings and to prevent the clock from running dry.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.



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