Congratulations on your "new" antique clock.

About Clocks Pricing

The age of these clocks varies from 30 to over 100 years. On average they are 50 years old. The pricing varies significantly according to type, style, age and function:

- Battery and electric clocks are very inexpensive, yet they keep the most reliable time.
- The fit, wood species and finish of the cabinet can vary considerably and thus, the price. Most people do not buy expensive clocks to keep time but as a display piece or work of craftsmanship. There are exceptions as noted later.
- Original American brand name clocks such as Seth Thomas, Ansonia, New Haven, Waterbury, Sessions, Gilbert, Ingraham, etc. command the highest prices.
- Westminster or "triple chime" clocks are more desirable.
- Original American, German, French, Austrian or English clockworks are the most expensive. After the 1950's there were many knock-offs made with brand names such as Waltham and even Seth Thomas. Korean such as the 31 day clocks are inexpensive and often have beautiful cases.

Warrantee

Antique clocks are finicky. If they get moved or bumped, they can stop working. A one-hundred-year old spring can suddenly break, especially if it has been over wound. Weight driven clocks such as grandfather clocks tend to keep more accurate time since they are driven by a constant force and not by springs that varying in tension as they unwind. The bottom line is that if you want an accurate and reliable timepiece; buy a $20 modern battery or electric clock.

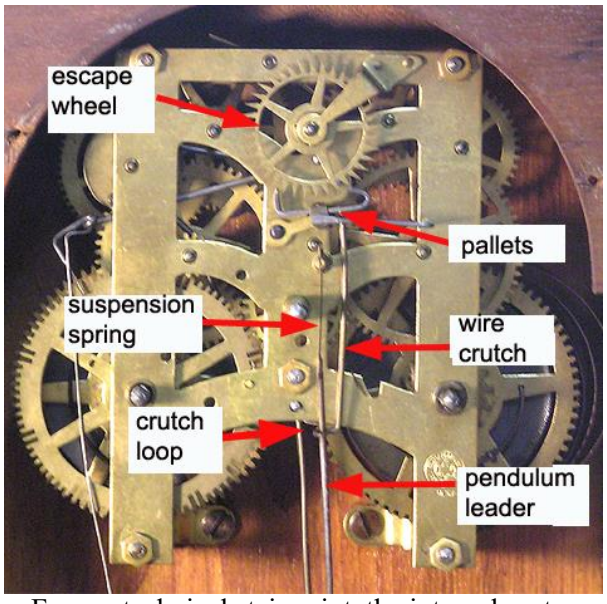
Some clocks keep amazingly accurate time: gaining or loosing less than 15 minutes over an entire week. Others gain or lose this amount each day and would it cost several times their value to extensively refurbish their clockworks to make them more accurate. But if you want a piece of turn-of-the-century Americana craftsmanship or an eye-catching clock, then antique clocks are the way to go.

Clock Ticker tests its clocks for several days before they leave the shop. We will instruct you on setting the clock up, but if it does not work months or years later, there may be other issues involved. There is no "lifetime guarantee" on clocks made by a generation long since dead.

That said, we want you to be satisfied as it leaves the shop. Clocks costing over $100 are warranted for the first twelve months. We will fix it if it stops working. We do not, however, warrantee for breakage outside our control such as broken glass, original antique mainsprings or damaged cases due to dropping, etc. You must have the original receipt and any obvious damage should be noted on it at the time of purchase. For clocks under $100, they are only warranted to operate at the time of sale and for the first 30 days. They are general reasonable working condition for their age (i.e., no broken springs or missing parts).

Putting Your Clock "In Beat"

Clocks hate to be moved once they are set up. Setting up a clock often requires that the clock must be adjusted by putting it back in beat, especially if the surface has a different level from the earlier location. "In beat" means that it has a rhythmical, even tone in the tick-tock. You can hear the difference if you tilt a wall or mantle clock from one side to the other until the tone changes. When a clock is out of beat, either it won't run at all, or it will run for a bit and then stop.



From a technical stainpoint, the internal parts must line up properly relative to pull of gravity so the the pendulum (the thing that swings) ricks back and forth evenly. The picture above illustrates these basic componets in a typical mechanical clock. Your clock has these compoents but they may look substaintially different.

Clock-Ticker repairs clocks so that the clock is approximately level (or vertical in the case of a wall clock) when it is in beat. But old clocks are temperamental and may need slight adjustment in their new home. Not all tables are perfectly level and if it has been moved with the pendulum attached, the internals may have shifted or bent. It does not take much. **ALWAYS REMOVE THE PENDULUM WHEN MOVING A CLOCK!!**

There are two ways to put a clock in beat. The first, and simplest, is to tilt the clock sideways, one way or the other, and listen for the beat to even out. When the beat is even, prop the clock to stay tilted that way. The old-time trick was to use a stack of nickels under the feet but today there are plastic wedges available from Clock Ticker. For wall clocks this adjustment process is especially easy since you just leave it in the best position against the wall. Now it will run, but if it has been knocked way out of beat, it may look funny tilted.

The second way is to adjust the internals such that they line up properly when the clock is level. How to do this can get very complicated depending on the specific type of clock. It would be best to call Clock Ticker for assistance.

The bottom line is to produce a rhythmic sound and not be concerned by how level the case is. The exception is, of course, if the clock needs to be tilted to the point that it is noticeable.

Repair and Restoration Service by Clock Ticker

If we agree to work on your clock and do not fix it, you pay nothing for the repair other than a small service charge, typically less than $70 even if we have spent hours on your clock. If we work on it, there is never a diagnosis fee. If we need to order special parts such as new glass and clock parts such as springs, then you are obligated to pay for these. Most of the cost of a repair is associated with the labor so replacement part costs are generally modest. Before we start we will give you an estimate of what it will take and an agreement as to how detailed the restoration should proceed.

In the case of refinishing a cabinet, we will do a workmanlike job and if you are not satisfied, we can re-negotiate, but recognize that cabinet refinishing is an art and "art is in the eyes of the beholder." What we would consider an excellent job, you may consider inadequate and vice versa. It is important to view our past work and mutually set expectations.

Services

- Cleaning & Oiling
- Re-bushing plates
- Replacing of broken internals including springs
- Replacing glass
- Putting a clock in beat
- Cutting antique keys to fit original locks
- Replacing non-functioning battery units
- Converting mechanical clocks to battery units
- Stripping off old finishes
- Filling in damaged areas
- Staining /Painting /Polishing
- Repairing or replacing veneers
- Fitting replacement wood or inlays

What we do not do

- Work on watches.
- Work on electric clocks (there are some exceptions for clocks 60+ years old)

In general, we will not work on priceless family heirlooms and on extremely rare and expensive clocks retailing for thousands of dollars. There is a shared responsibility: we agree to work on your clock and you have choice of either using Clock Ticker or going to a specialist and possibly wait much longer and pay considerably more than what we would charge. We can refer you to such individuals.

In addition, certain parts such as beveled glass panels are extremely expensive and hard to replace. These parts can break from unseen flaws during restoration. We will not work on clocks with such parts without a release.

With respect to cabinet restoration, if the cabinet is very old and unique, restoration may actually decrease the resale value, if it is already in reasonably good shape considering the age or is a very rare collector piece. There is a balance between restoration and originality. Similar principles apply to antique guns and furniture. Sometimes it is more about how a clock looks than if it keeps accurate time!

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