

Clock Ticker

MAKE YOUR CLOCK TICK AGAIN

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Estimates are free when the clock is brought into the shop. Home visits are typically \$20 to \$70, depending on the distance to your location (< 5 miles to < 20 miles one way). Mileage over 20 miles are charged at \$2 per mile, total miles (e.g., 25 miles one way = \$100 roundtrip). Typically, tall or grandfather clocks remain on site (i.e., movement is brought back to the shop) especially if they have beveled glass.

Recognize that problems can be not readily observable until the clock is disassembled. If additional issues are uncovered, a revised estimate will be provided and you have the option of continuing with the repairs or canceling the work. You are encouraged under such circumstances to come into the shop and see exactly what has been discovered and needs repair. You will only be charged for the work performed and costs for parts. Typically, we do not restore cabinets until after the mechanism has been repaired and proven to work.

You know how many dollars you have to spend and how much risk you are willing to accept. You also know if you have “sentimental feelings” for your clock or if this is just a timepiece used for utility purposes. For a number of my customers, price is not a factor, only the desire to get a family heirloom operating once again.

The first service level is a “quick fix,” if possible, to get it running. It may run a long time for a minimal cost.

The second service level is having some of the repairs done, but not all of the recommended repairs or case restoration. Eventually your clock may stop and need a full overhaul or movement replacement. If a new movement is available, we will offer this choice to you. It may or may not be less than an in-shop overhaul but it will increase your chance of getting your clock back sooner. You could also opt for a conversion to a battery quartz movement.

The top service level is a full service repair. See the elements of a complete overhaul at the end. This service can provide many more years of enjoying your clock.

We will explain the benefits and risks you would be taking at each level of service. If the full repair service or movement replacement is chosen, then it comes with a one-year guarantee on labor¹. In home repairs are also guaranteed, but come with a charge for each home visit. Evidence of alteration or tampering voids this warranty. Do not spray your mechanism with WD-40 to get it going! Minor timekeeping adjustments are the owner’s responsibility.

Some clocks may be turned down for repair under certain situations. A waiver may also be requested. For example, beveled glass may be under a stress fracture and could break at any time. We use reasonable care at all times, but cannot be held responsible if something suddenly fractures. Note that clocks are often antiques, literally made in the days of the Model T Fords. Just as with an old car, if we replace the engine (e.g., mainspring) we are not guaranteeing all of the other parts such as the driveshaft (e.g., time intermediate wheel).

Pricing

The labor rate is \$70 per hour (about the same as Bubba at the local car repair garage). We often spend more time on a clock at no additional charge if we have quoted a fixed price or if it presents an interesting challenge. We encourage you to do internet searches and compare my costs to other repair shops. Labor is not taxed but parts must be taxed at 8.35%.

Services	Starting labor prices for these services. Does not include parts.
Movement Overhauls²	
Time only clock	\$70
Clock with hour strike	\$90
Clock with strike and single chime melody	\$120
Clock with strike and triple chime melody	\$150
Clock with chime tubes (Typically high-end grandfather)	\$200
Anniversary clocks ³	\$140
Cuckoo clock service	
Time & cuckoo overhaul (two-weight)	\$130
Time, cuckoo & music box overhaul (three-weight) ⁴	\$160
Estimates	
In shop	Free
In customer's home	Applicable house call charge
Special charges	
House call, including pick-up of clocks for repair.	\$20 to \$70 , depending on the distance to your location. ⁵
Cabinet restoration ⁶	\$70 per hour or as quoted
Set up a grandfather clock (after a move, or newly delivered, uncrated)	\$70 plus house call charge
Bushings ⁷	\$5.00 each

Complete Overhaul

A complete overhaul will include most, if not all of the following:

- Take the movement apart and clean it;
- Examine the parts for wear and damage, and check for correct operation;
- Case restoration as agreed;
- Repair the pinions, polish the pivots, bush worn pivot holes, clean the pivot holes, repair the mainspring ratchets, test and correct wheel meshing, and check the mainsprings;
- Replace worn strike hammer heads;
- Assemble and lubricate the movement;
- Test the movement and regulate it;
- Put the movement in the case, put it in beat;
- Adjust the strike, and make other necessary adjustments;
- Test the clock for at least two days while regulating it for correct timekeeping; and
- Notify you by phone or E-mail that the clock is ready.

Footnotes

1. Performance (i.e., accuracy) can depend on the type and age of the clock. If a mechanical clock can maintain +/- 15 minutes within an 8-day period, it is doing well, especially for spring driven clocks. Clocks with weights tend to do better since the driving force is relatively constant. Clocks are typically wound once a week and any slight corrections are done then. Some antique clocks keep amazingly accurate time. The bottom line is that if you want accuracy, buy a \$20 battery quartz clock.
2. Prices are for clocks being overhauled via ultrasonic cleaning and not needing plate separation. This typically can be done on clocks without barrel mainsprings (i.e., exposed springs). If the plates need to be separated and the clock completely overhauled, including mainsprings removed from the barrels, then there may be additional charges which will be discussed before any work commences.
3. Anniversary clocks are particularly sensitive to how they are set up in the home to bring them "in beat." There is a reason that they are called "Hitler's Revenge." You will be instructed how to do this, both verbally and in writing, but it can be a tedious challenge to set these up. We typically let these run for a week or more in the shop but we cannot guarantee a clock set up improperly.
4. Music boxes are often the weak point in cuckoo clocks. A replacement music box or a music regulator is expensive (\$100 and \$30 respectively) and requires tedious hand fitting. You will need to decide if it is worth the cost vs. a whole new clock. For family heirlooms, cost may not matter.
5. For example, under 5 miles to 20 miles one way. Mileage over 20 miles are charged at \$2 per mile, total miles (e.g., 25 miles one way = \$100 roundtrip). The exception would be if we are routinely traveling near your location for other reasons.
6. Cabinet restoration is often the most time consuming part of a repair. It is also a matter of taste as to how far to go. Valuable antiques retain a greater value if left close to the original (i.e., current condition) with only major flaws such as cracks or broken glass repaired. However, some may want it to look closer to when it was new 50 or more years ago. It is up to you.
7. A total disassembly of the clock will be needed and the prices for the movement overhaul is adjusted accordingly.