

## ABOUT YOUR PENDULUM CLOCK

**SET UP.** When you get your clock home, insure that the clock is secure and level, and then carefully hang the pendulum bob on the hook at the end of the pendulum rod. Gently start it swinging side to side. With a mantel clock, you can start the pendulum swinging by lifting up one side of the clock about one inch and letting it back down.

**REMEMBER TO REMOVE THE PENDULUM BOB WHENEVER YOU MOVE THE CLOCK.**

**WINDING THE CLOCK.**

**Spring Driven:** 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.

**Weight Driven with chains:** THE WEIGHTS ARE HEAVY and can damage the clock or floor if allowed to fall. When raising the weights each week, you may gently stabilize the bottom of the weight shell with one hand as you raise the weight with the chain in the other hand. **DO NOT LIFT THE WEIGHT ENOUGH TO DISCONNECT IT FROM THE CHAIN.** Avoid raising the weights too high... do not raise them past the point that you can see the tops of the weights.

**Weight Driven with cable:** THE WEIGHTS ARE HEAVY and can damage the clock or floor if allowed to fall. When raising the weights each week, be sure to ease the crank back into the ratchet before starting another winding turn. Don't let the crank snap back – it may overcome the ratchet mechanism and cause painful problems. Avoid raising the weights too high... do not raise them past the point that you can see the tops of the weights.

**WHAT MAKES IT TICK.** Your clock gets its power from springs or weights that drive the wheels that cause the clock to run (and strike, for 2-train clocks, and chime, for 3-train clocks). The springs or weights get their power from you when you wind the spring with the key or raise the weights. Your clock has one, two or three springs (weights); 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 (weight) drives a series of wheels (gears) ending in the escape wheel. In your clock, a pendulum regulates the rate at which escape wheel turns. Your clock was adjusted in the shop to run when it is perfectly level. If it is not level when you set it up at home, it will not operate properly and the clock will stop frequently or not run at all. You can tell if the clock is level by listening to the "beat" of the clock. The beat sound should be even. That is tick...tock... tick...tock. Not TICK.tock...TICK.tock...TICK.tock or tick...TOCK.tick...TOCK.tick. If the tick and tock are even, the clock is level. If they are not, then you must raise one side of the clock with a shim such as a thin piece of wood or in the case of a wall clock, you must move the bottom of the clock to the right or left to put the clock "in beat."

**CONTROLLING THE RATE.** The length of the pendulum controls how fast or slow the clock runs. The rate was set in the shop but may need to be adjusted slightly when you get it home. If the clock is running fast, turn the regulating nut on the bottom of the pendulum rod **DOWN** to make the pendulum longer and slow the clock. Make sure that the pendulum bob goes down with, and rests on, the rating nut – the bob is sometimes “sticky.” If it is running slow, turn the nut **UP** to make the pendulum shorter and speed up the clock. It may take several weeks of fine-tuning to adjust the clock to the proper setting but once it is set, it will not have to be adjusted again. Your clock may have a small adjusting arbor or thumbwheel through the dial for making fine adjustments.

**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 chiming or striking 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. An easy method of setting the time is to wait until the clock is at the current time and start the pendulum swinging.

**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. Your clock may have a wire or cord than hangs vertically below the movement that will manually advance the strike.

**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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**Erik N. Funk**  
hillcountryclockrepair.com  
hillcountryclockrepair@gmail.com

1467 Lake Ridge Road  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830.258.6093 / 703.906.4272

[HillCountryClockRepair.com](http://HillCountryClockRepair.com)