

Bulle Clock Serial Number 51540.

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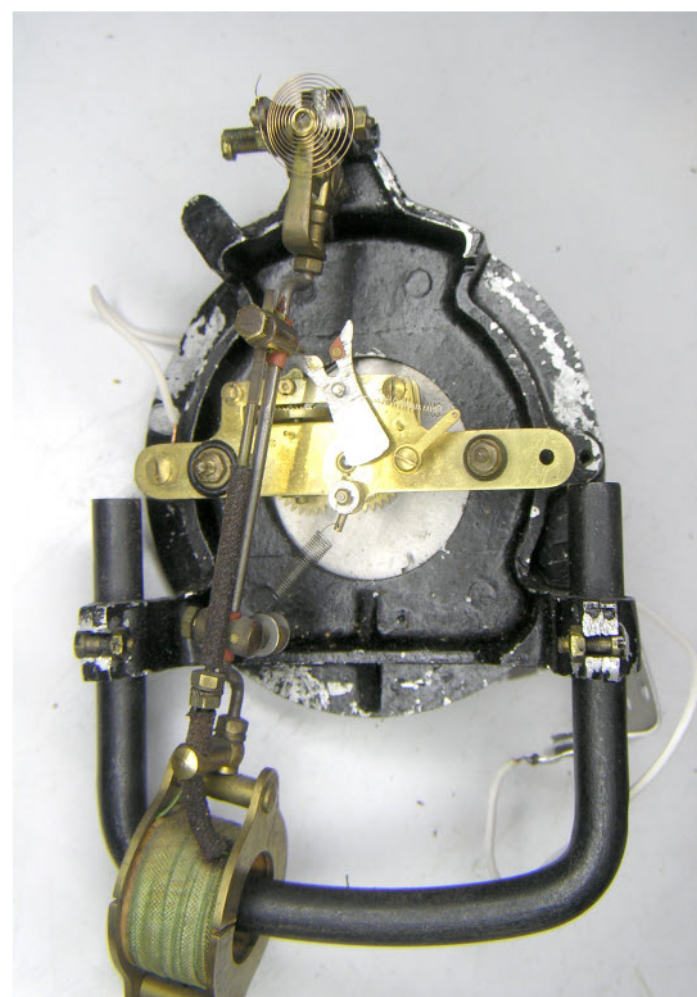
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Early Battery Clock Parts & Restoration

Bulle Clock Serial Number 51540.



Photos by kind permission of the owner.

This Bulle frame and movement is shown as delivered. It is obviously from a small enclosed wood case. The aluminium frame acts as a dial support, movement frame and magnet support. At first glance everything looks to be in reasonable order with just the usual knocks and dinks expected from a clock of this age. Note that the pendulum coil is covered in green ribbon and was never intended to be on show. This was purely a functional timepiece and not in any way decorative.

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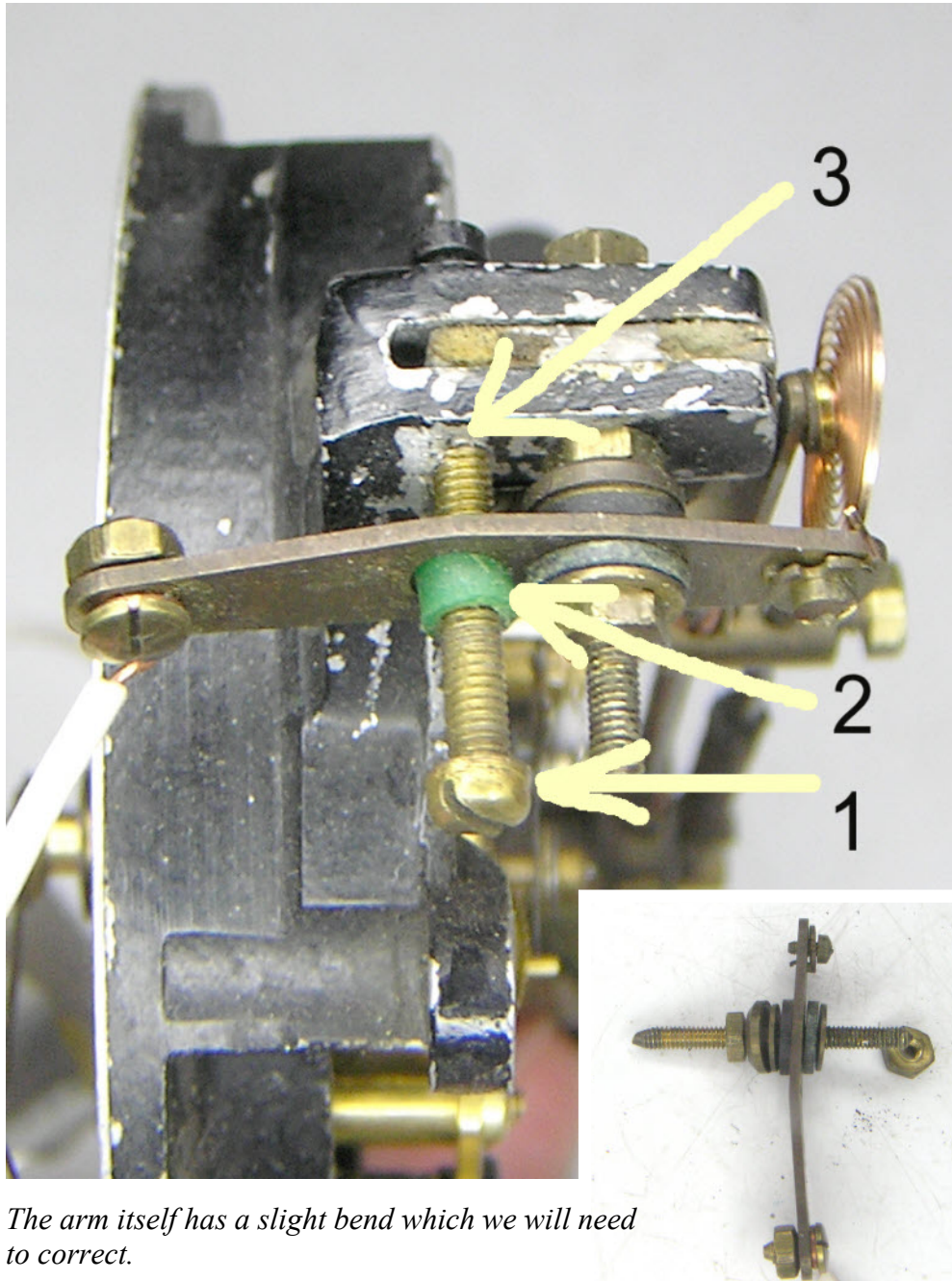
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There is a problem here though. The screw shown (1) is completely wrong. It should be a small threaded stud with an insulating stepped washer which in this case is a piece of green plastic (2). The screw is much too large and has been forced into the aluminium casting (3).

The resultant hole is now too big to accept the original 2.5mm threaded stud and we will need to think about correcting it. The whole point about this arm is that it provides a way of providing contact between the negative side of the battery and the pendulum rod. The white lead shown at left runs to the battery while the small balance spring provides the contact with the pendulum. The whole arm is then insulated from the aluminium frame by the insulating washers. The washers are also wrong in that they are formed from rubber rings.

The arm itself has a slight bend which we will need to correct.

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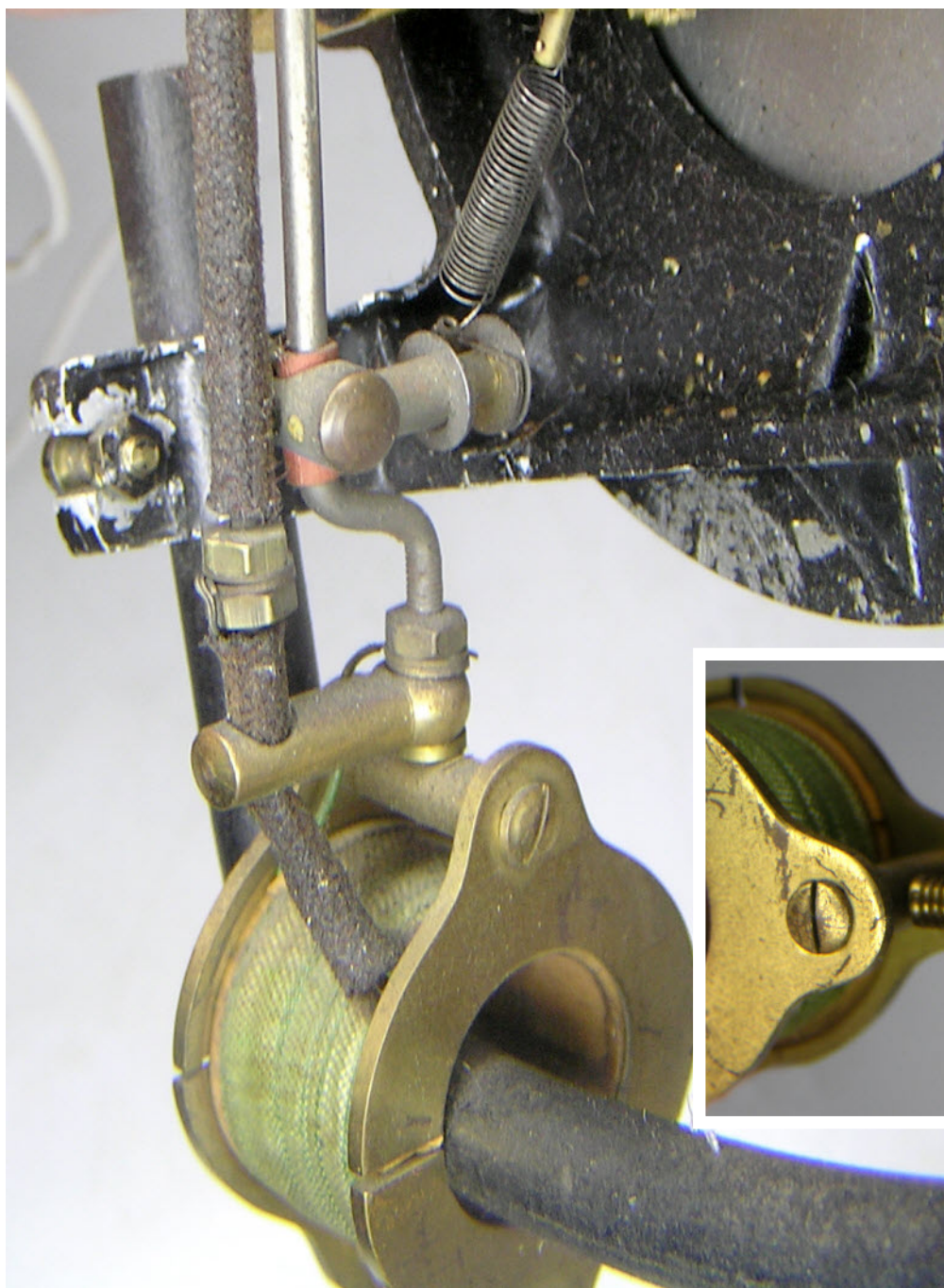
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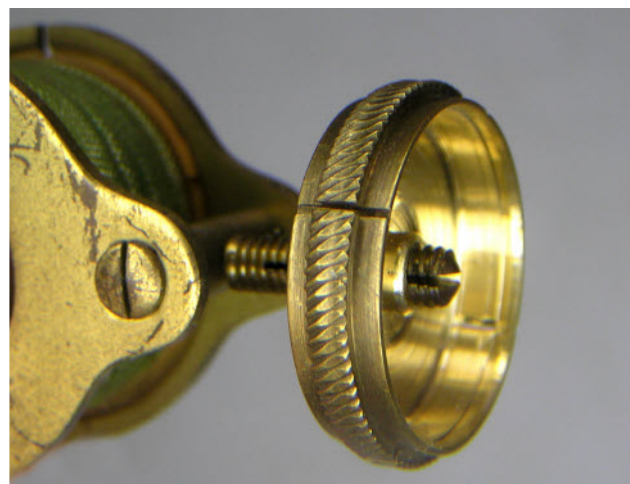
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The pendulum looks to be complete and in good condition. Note the method of securing the magnet. The arm is clamped in position with a small nut and bolt. The problem with this is that the the whole pendulum has to be removed before the magnet can be released. It wont matter in this case as the whole clock id being stripped down for repairs and cleaning.. This photo shows the condition of the rating



nut. It has been hollowed out so that is is lighter. So there might be a problem elsewhere. This will need to be repaired

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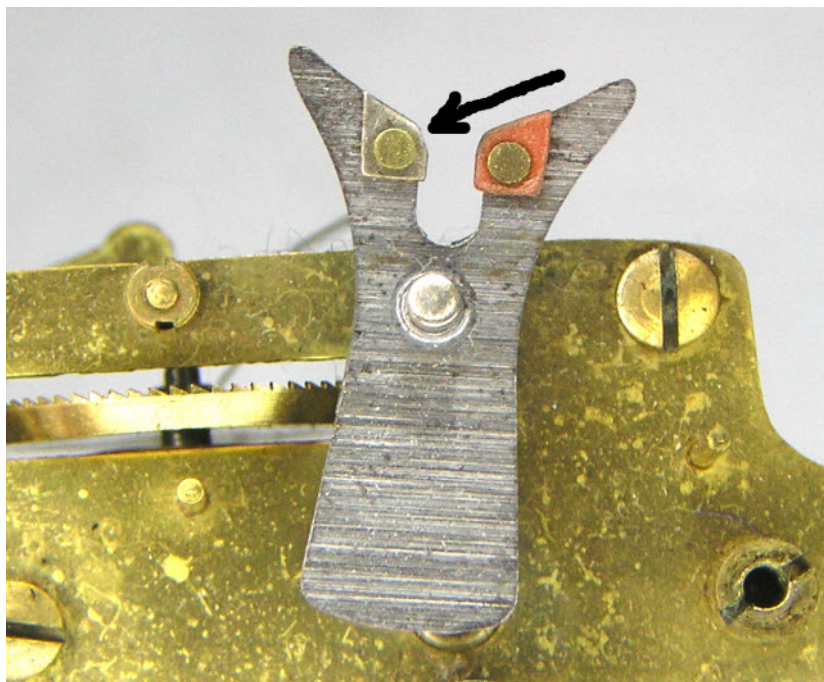
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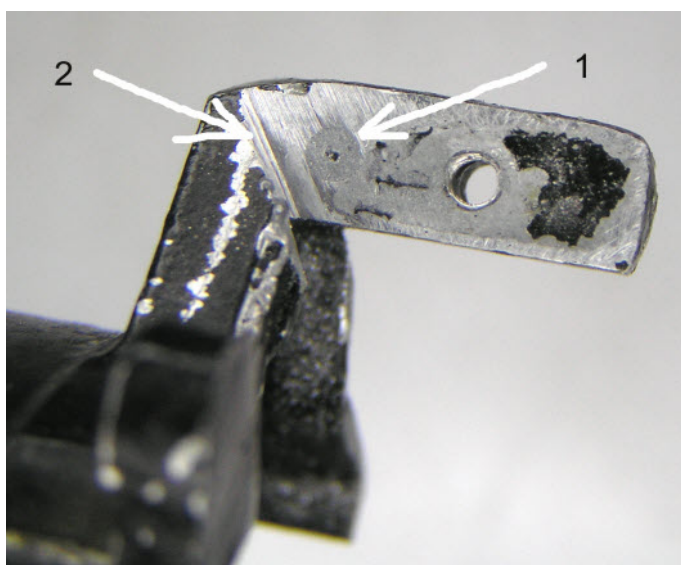
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As is so often the case there is a good amount of wear on the silver contact of the fork. This will be replaced. The fibre side though looks to be OK so I'll leave that and check it out in testing later.



The second photo shows the new stud and insulating washer ready to be fitted.



This last photo shows the damaged hole filled with aluminium epoxy ready for drilling and tapping 2.5mm. The shoulder has also been relieved to accept the stud. I think the arm was originally on the opposite side but there must be a reason why it was on this side, and as I haven't got the case I will leave it here. This aluminium epoxy is excellent stuff and allows filling drilling and tapping. We should end up with a threaded hole as good as new.

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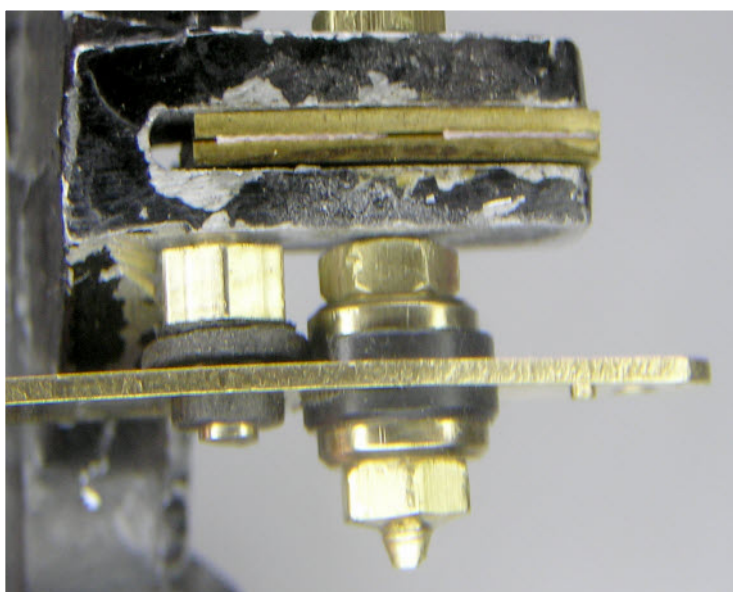
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The stud in position with the new insulating washer.



The remains of the rating nut and the new insert ready for fixing. The insert has been turned for a push fit with a bored centre to fit over the remains of the threaded centre. The last photo shows the insert in place and turned back. Being a push fit all it needed was a small amount of Loctite 603 to retain it in position.



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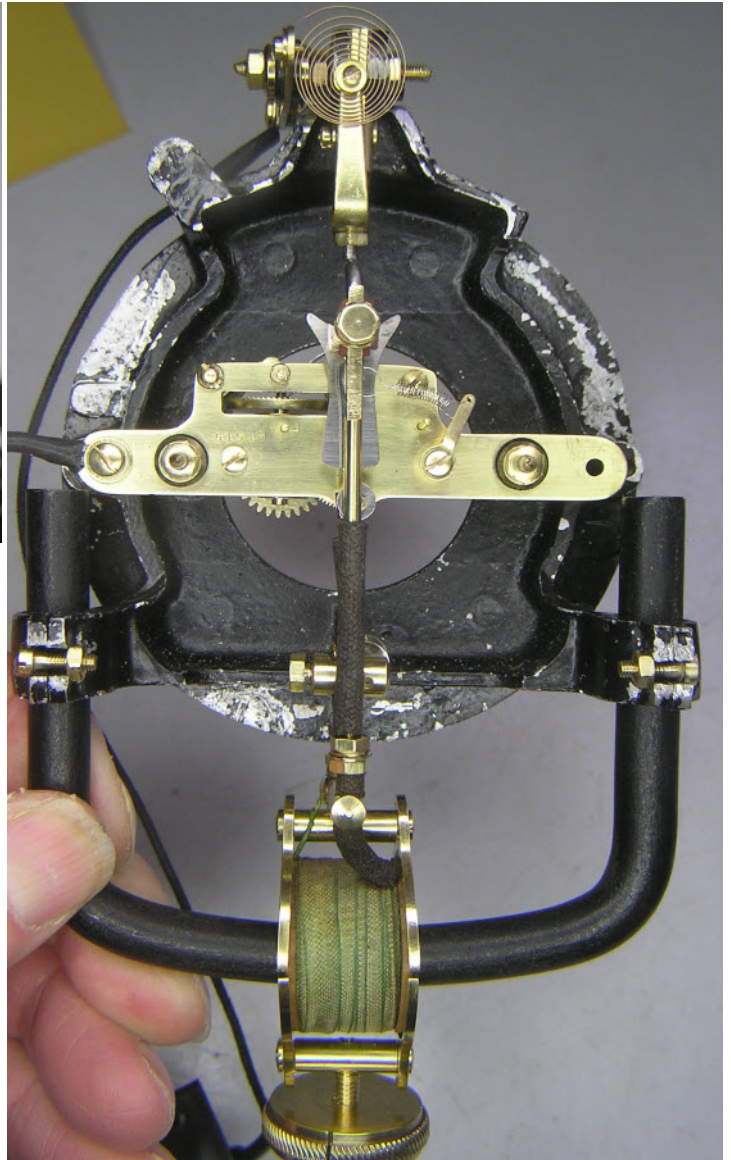
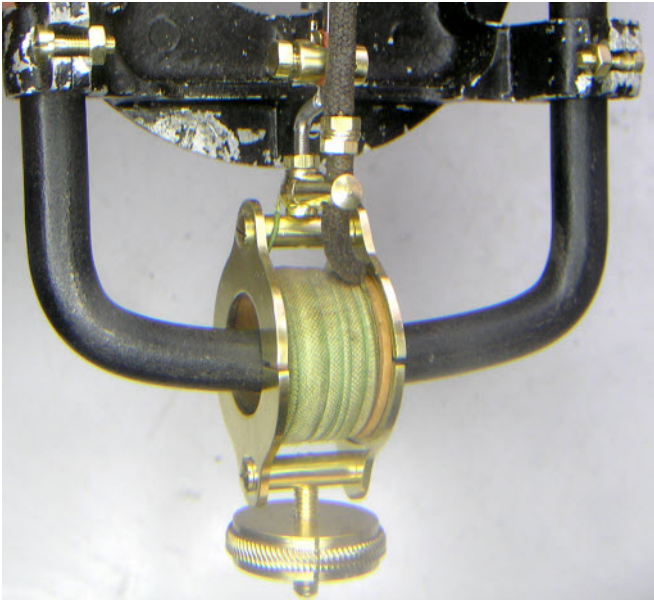
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The finished clock.

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