

Horologix



The place to come for all your Bulle and Eureka restoration parts.

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Bulle Clock Serial Number 1491

*Restoration of Bulle Clock
Serial Number 1491*

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*Photos by kind permission of the
owner.*

The clock as delivered.

This clock is a very early model and exhibits all the characteristics of a half plate movement which will be shown later. The dial is in good condition with just a few scrapes at the twelve o'clock position. The hands are original moon design. The base is a little tired but will be revived with a little wax polish and will not need French Polishing. Note that it carries a 1mm brass band around the circumference but the label is missing.



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Side and rear views. The column looks to be solid with no major acid burns although there are some marks. Overall the clock look sto be in good original condition.

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The base as shown above is a little tired but only need to be given a bit of colour and a good wax polish.

The photo at right shows the movement which seems to be in good order other than the dirt and oil.



Coil looks to have been rewound with some cord at some time in its life, but is heavier than the original. It is also quite a light shade and shows no signs of fading as you would expect to see on protected areas of the cord. The lead out wire is also wrong and therefore we can suggest that the coil itself may have been tampered with.

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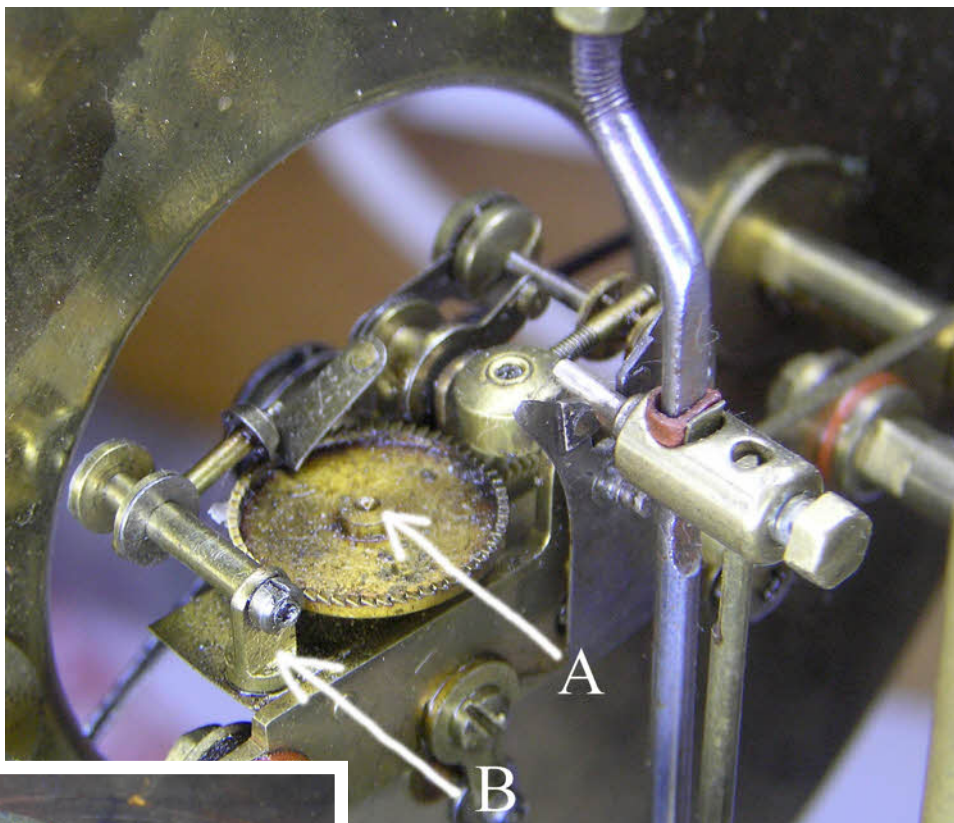
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A close up of the movement shows the early features. There is no end shake stop on top of the count wheel (A). This device which appears on later movements restricted the vertical movement of the count wheel. In these early models the minute hand would fall a long way once past 12 o'clock because it was directly connected to the count wheel by the worm wheel. Therefore a small vertical movement here meant a large movement of perhaps two or three minutes on the minute hand.

Also the gathering pawl assembly is attached by the small additional pillar on the top of the box section (B).



Below we see the inside of the battery column and other than the soldered negative lead it looks to be in a reasonable condition..



The photo above shows the bottom cover of the battery department. As can be seen it is in a sorry state from being eaten by battery acid. But I think it will be OK with a clean up and drop of paint. There is some damage to the wood around the knurled brass levelling adjuster and this will need filling and threading.

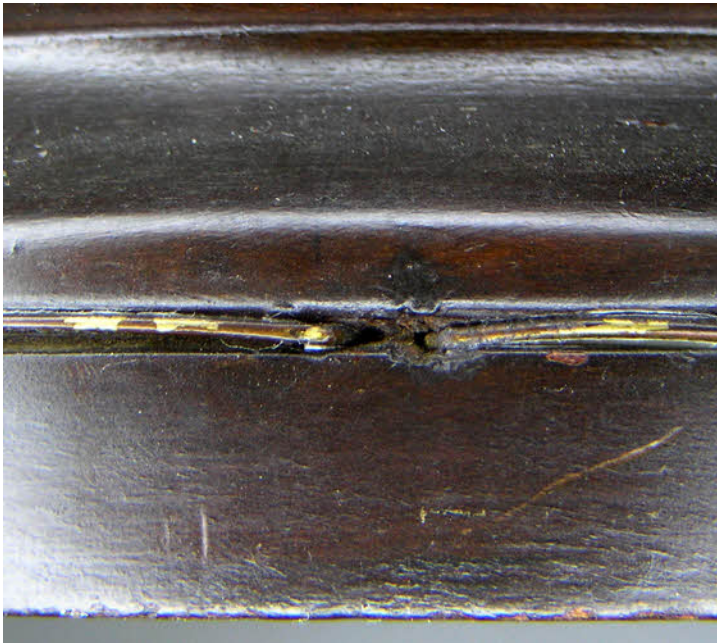
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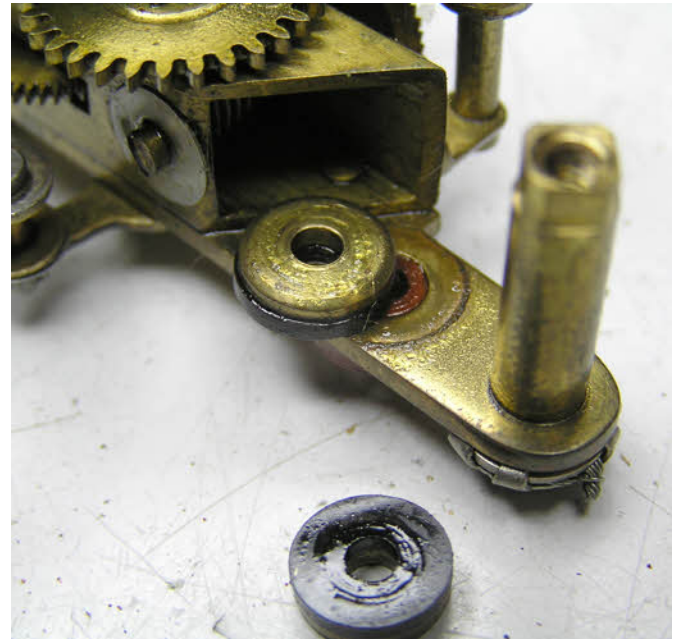
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The rear of the base shows the decorative brass wire and its method of attachment.



The movement was found to absolutely drenched in oil. The washers will need to be washed and dried, but are still usable



The coil is in a bit of a state. The first lead out from under the coil has obviously broken and has had a new hard single core wire soldered to it. We will try and replace this without damaging it further and necessitating a rewind. The coil itself is bound with modern insulation tape. The good news is that it still shows a good resistance



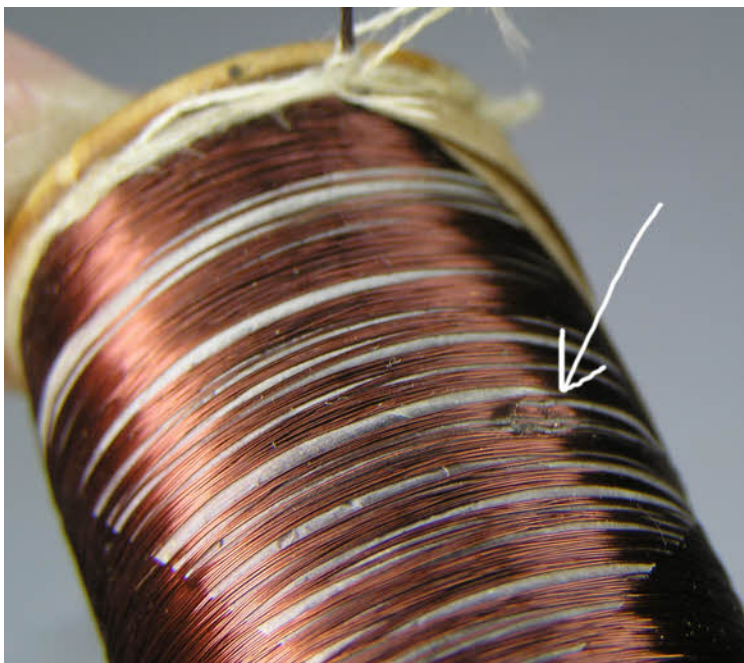
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As can be seen above the coil has a nasty dent half way along which has nearly cut through the first layer. This has been caused by screwing the steel pendulum rod too far into the coil casing. The rod should only just protrude from the cross bar by no more than one thread as seen from inside the casing.

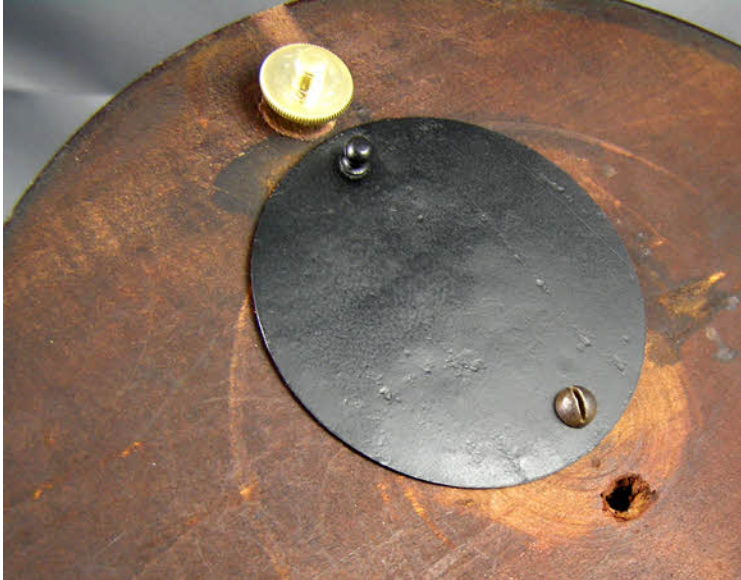
The second photo shows the brown paper sleeve used to protect the joint made with the coil and lead out wire. This particular example has the original signature of the worker who wound the coil in the early 1920's. As the coil was functioning OK, I made the decision not to touch the coil other than to replace the lead out wire coming from the side of the coil. This clock looks to be a transitional stage between the original 700 Ohm coil models that required a further 600 Ohms resistor added to the frame, and the later 1100 / 1200 Ohm models. The coil read 1300 Ohms and looks to be over wound and heavy in comparison to the normal 1100 Ohm coil. The serial number 1491 falls right on the cusp of the change and I suspect that this clock has had the coil extended rather than wasting existing stock.. I don't want to be the one to destroy a coil on , potentially so important a clock.



These two photos show the damaged levelling adjuster hole being milled out and a dowel glued in to allow a new hole to be drilled and tapped.

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The restored battery cover and levelling screw back in place.

Below is another detail photo of the movement and the “gunge” covering the whole clock. You can just make out the wear on the silver contact of the fork. Both the fibre and silver contacts will need replacing.



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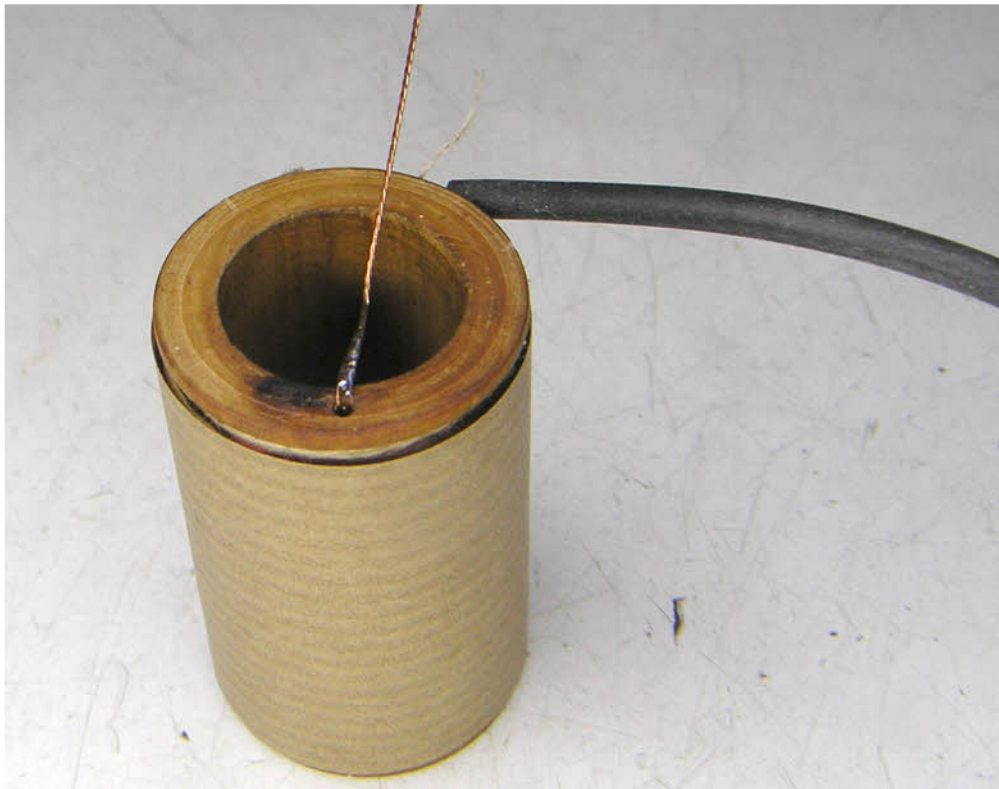
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This photo shows the sort of corrosion that can occur with the brass on these battery clocks. There was no damage to the wood around the magnet support pillar and yet we see this corrosion? It may be from some old brass polish that was not cleaned off correctly.



The repaired coil and new lead out wire.



The polished base with new label and decorative brass stringing.

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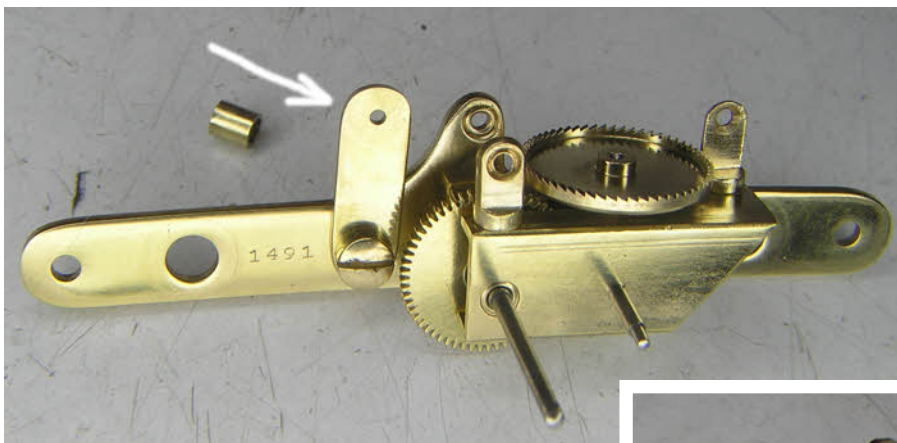
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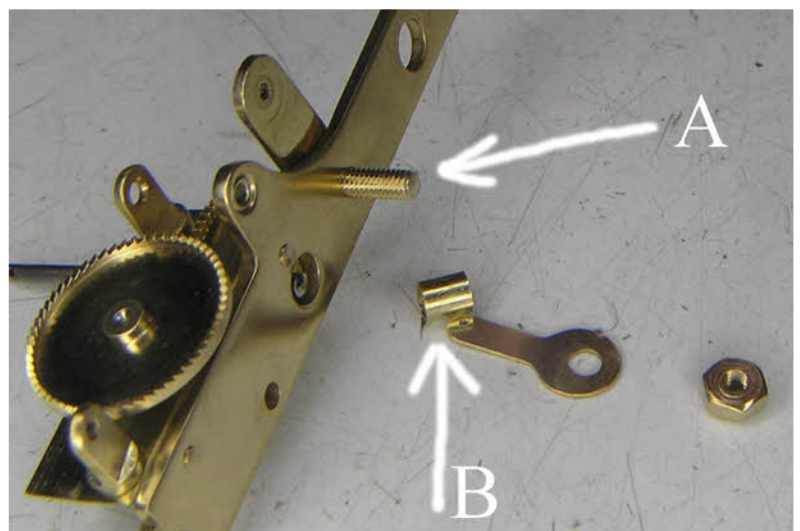


The coil rewound with new cord and back in place with the column and base.



The movement showing the early method of attaching the damper arm. The screw extended through the plate where it was used (A) to attach the silver contact spring assembly utilising a spacer (B).

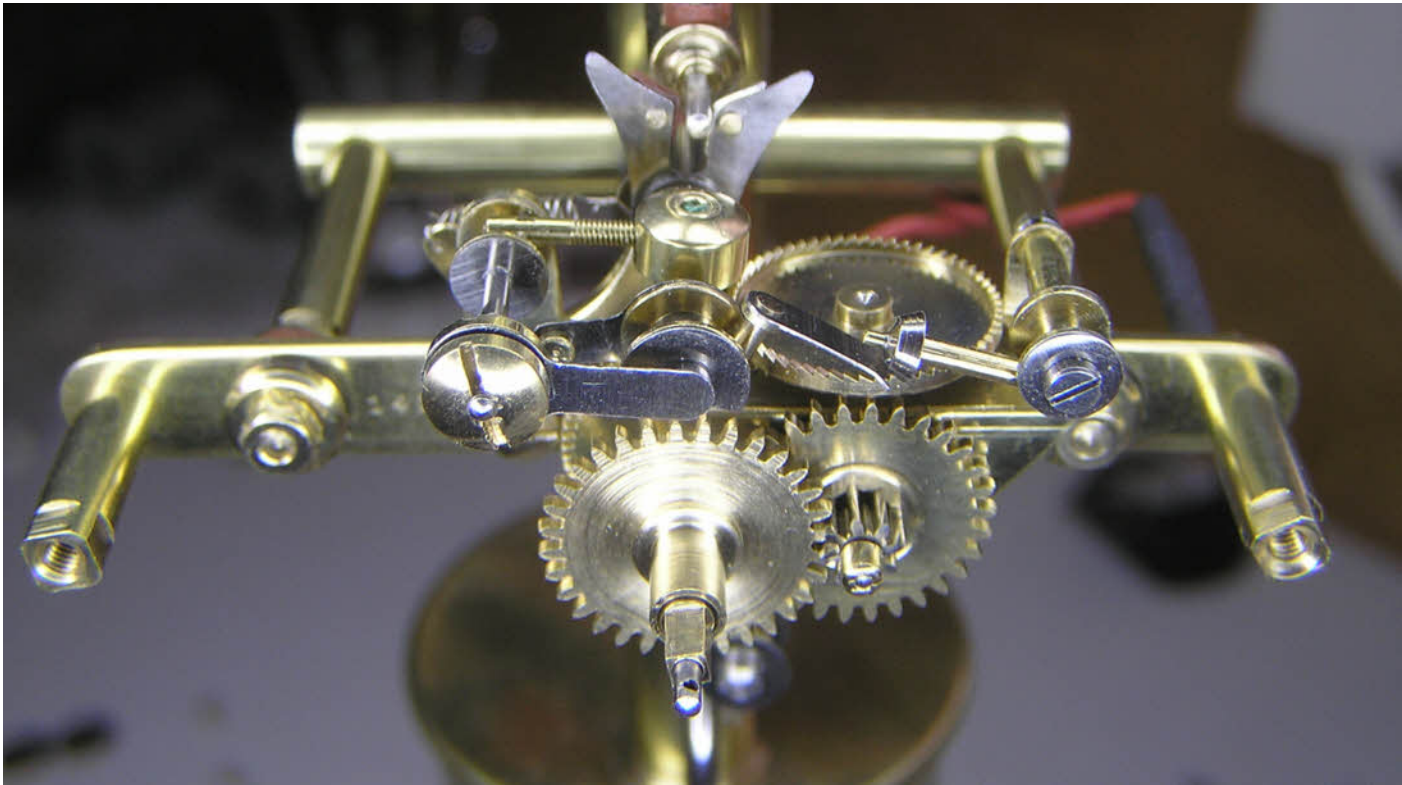
Below left we see the cleaned and dried insulating washer. The red and black colour scheme is not unusual on these early clocks.



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The cleaned movement with new fork contacts back in place.



Finished base and coil.

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The finished clock.

*A nice early clock with what may be
an example of a 600 to 1100 Ohm
transitional type coil.*

