

Horologix



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

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Bulle Clock Serial Number 2022

*Restoration of Bulle Clock
Serial Number 2022*

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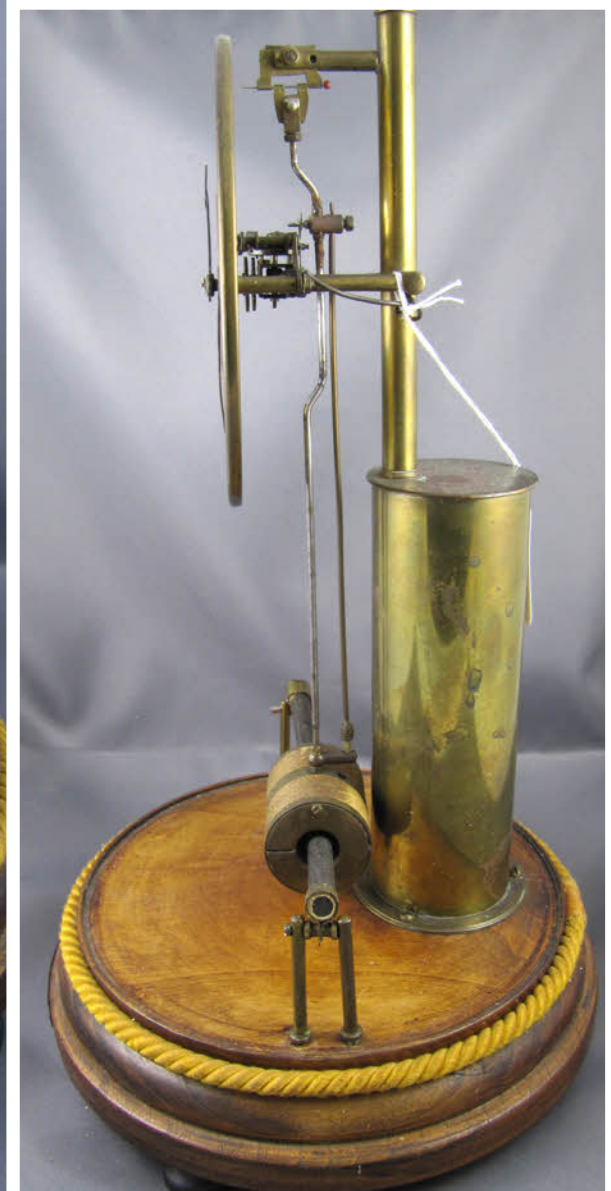
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Photos by kind permission of the owner

An early tall movement on a replacement round wood base. The dial is very crazed and fragile, but we should be able to clean the surround whilst protecting the face. The hands are original as is the cord around the coil cover.



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It's hard to see in this photo but you can make out the crazing of the face around the 9 o'clock position. It is all very fragile and will flake off easily. The dial will be put aside until the rest of the clock is restored and then some time spent carefully cleaning the brass without damaging the face.

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The base is not original and is in fact made up from two pieces of wood. It is all very warped and dry. The owner would like to keep it though as he no longer has the original and the glass dome fits this base. The whole clock it seems has recently been left to him and is therefore a family heirloom. He obviously wants to keep as much as possible of the clock as is. So I will try and restore the base as best I can. Note the standard French label on the front of the base. It has lost its definition and paint. The column is damaged with battery acid burns and has multiple holes the biggest of which is at the back and can be seen in the photo at top right.

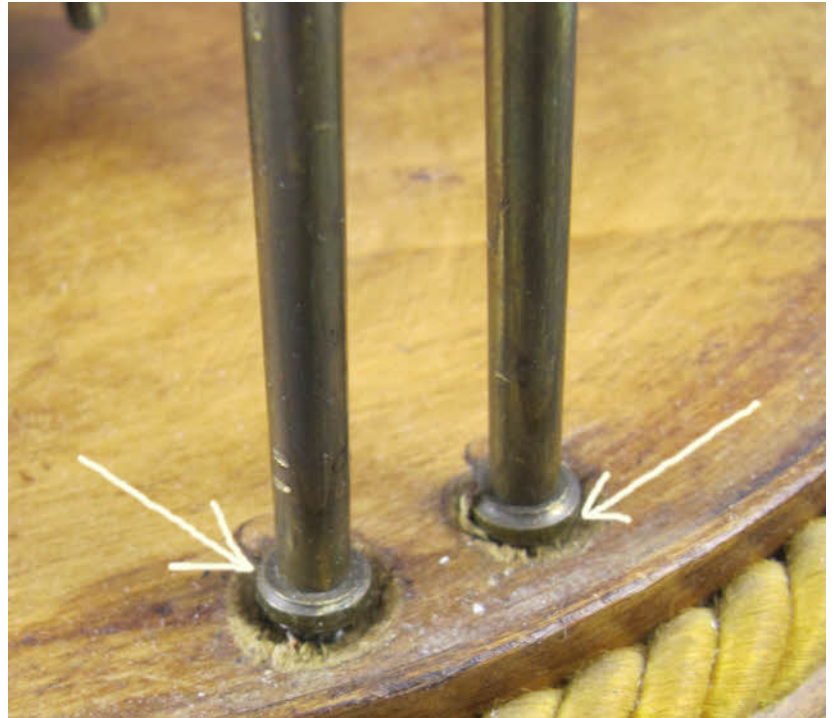
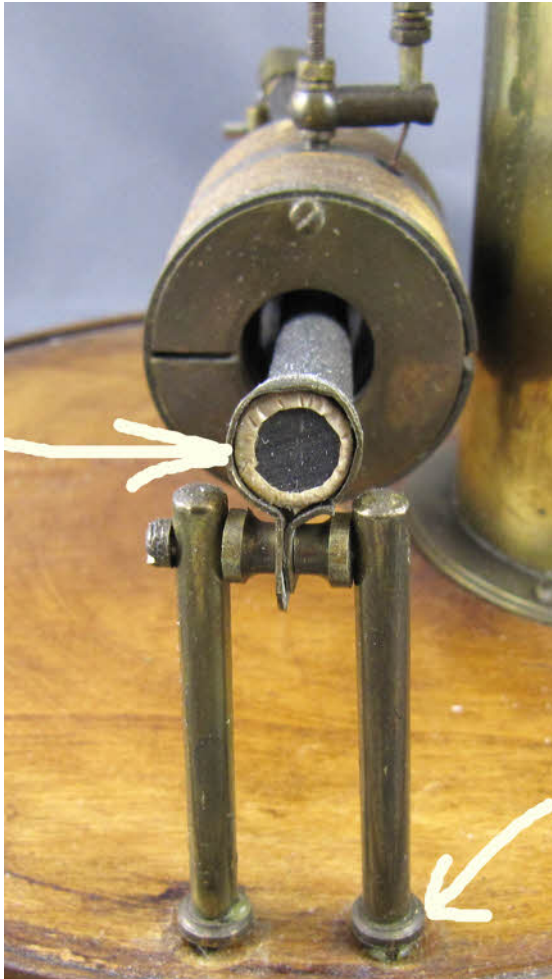
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The photo above shows the packing inside the supports as they are too large to grip the magnet tightly. These will need replacing. The second arrow shows the badly drilled holes for the support pillars. Further detail is shown in the photo at left. You can also see where two holes had been misplaced and filled. I'll have to do something with these.

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The photo above shows the misshapen hole for the battery holder. There is also no cover.



This group of photos shows the base after the column has been removed. The arrows show the two part base and how it has been glued together. Unfortunately the lower parts has warped slightly leaving a larger gap in places at the join.



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When the column was removed this “battery holder” was found inside. It was also damaged by acid burns. In the photo at top right you can see the colour the base was originally stained.

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The magnet supports had the collars glued in place. Why? The magnet clamps are shown here in more details. They are badly damaged and cracked and will be replaced.. Also note the replacement securing screw which looks to be from a platform in a carriage clock. A new one will be made.



The top of the column has also been badly attacked by battery acid. I think I will have to replace this and the column as they are both weakened and an eye sore.

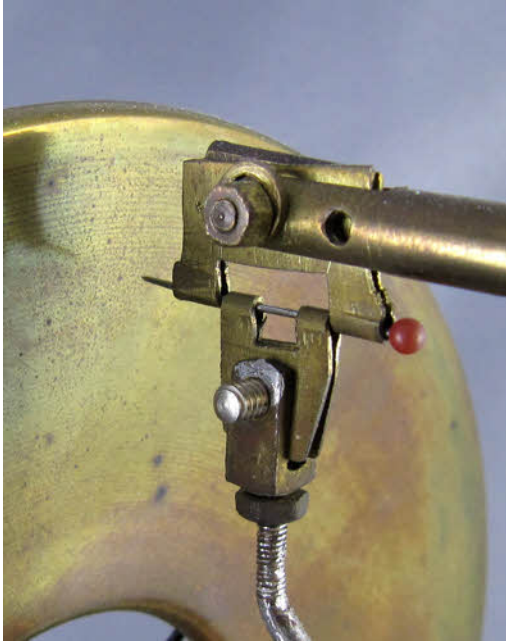
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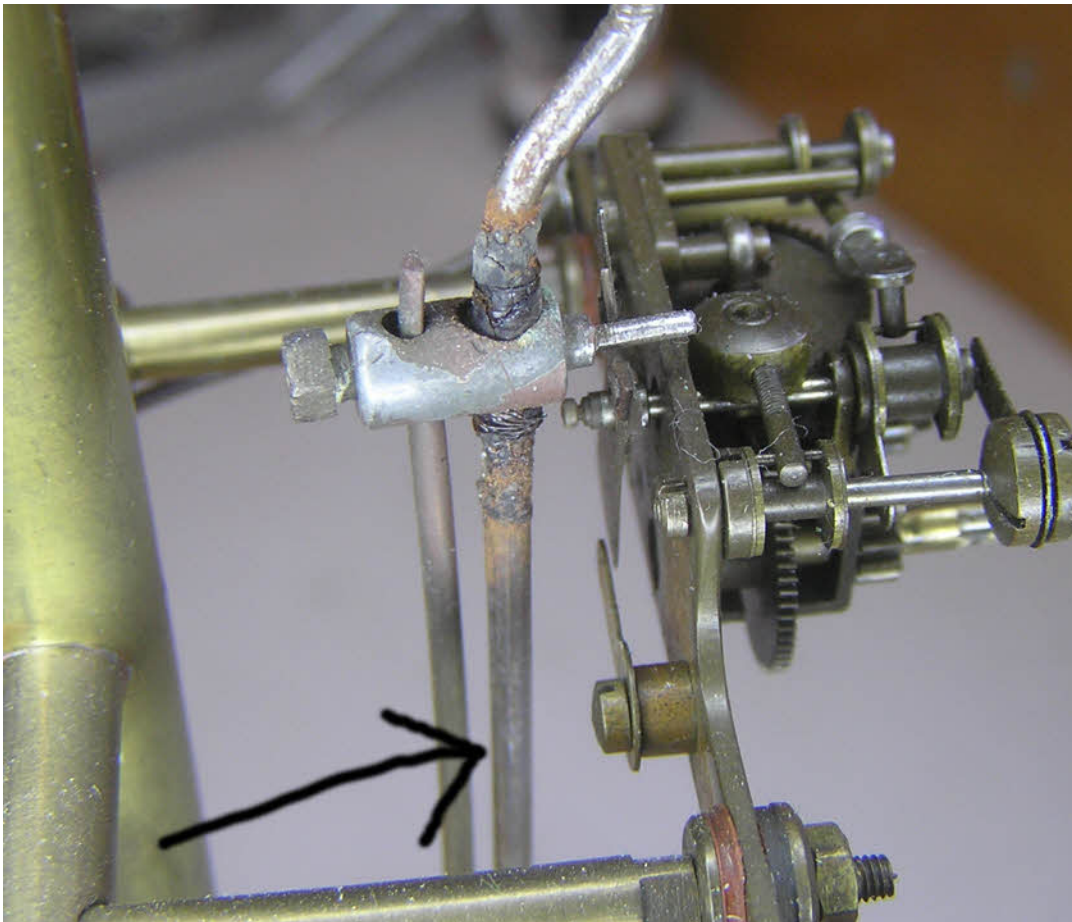
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These two photos show the novel method of pendulum suspension. Whether it worked or not is debatable but it certainly would have made the pendulum too long and therefore the clock much too slow. I doubt if it could have been regulated. All of the screws and nuts will need replacing.



This photo shows the badly corroded contact pin assembly and the missing isochron spring bobbins, both on the pendulum and the back of the movement. All of the brackets, screws, plate, washers, bobbins and "T" pieces will need to be manufactured.

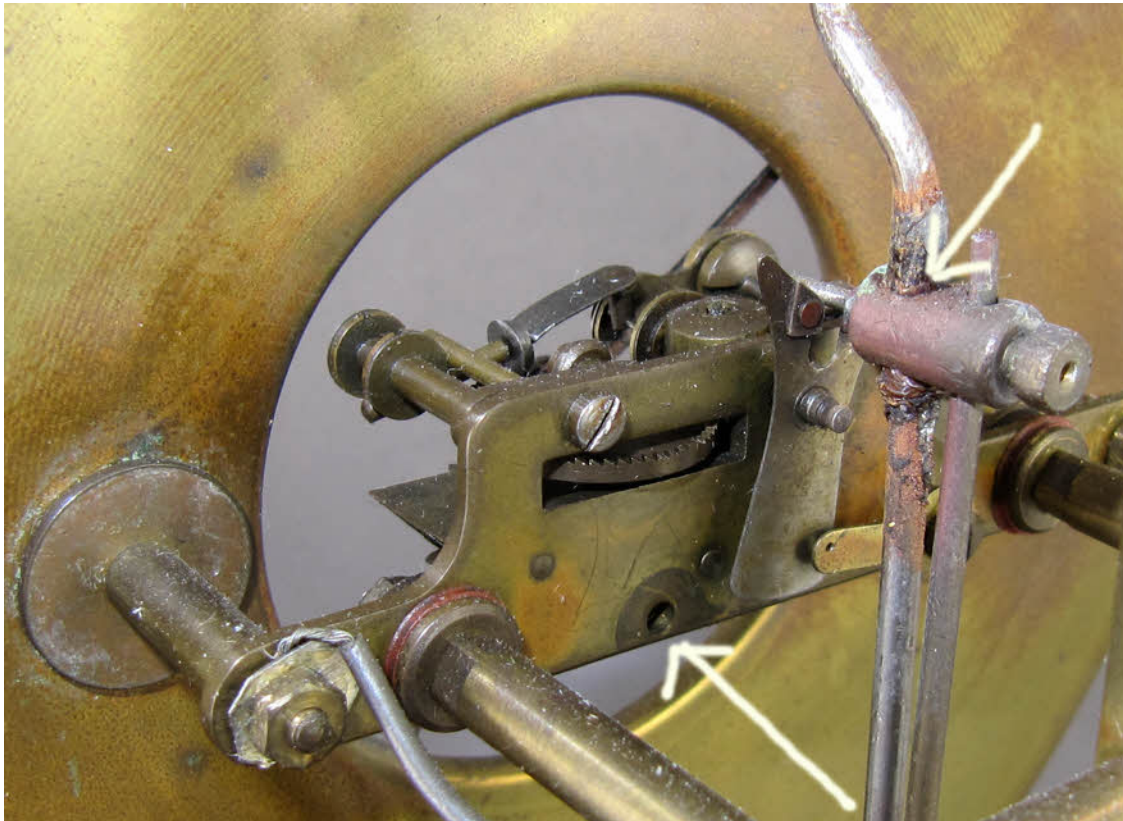
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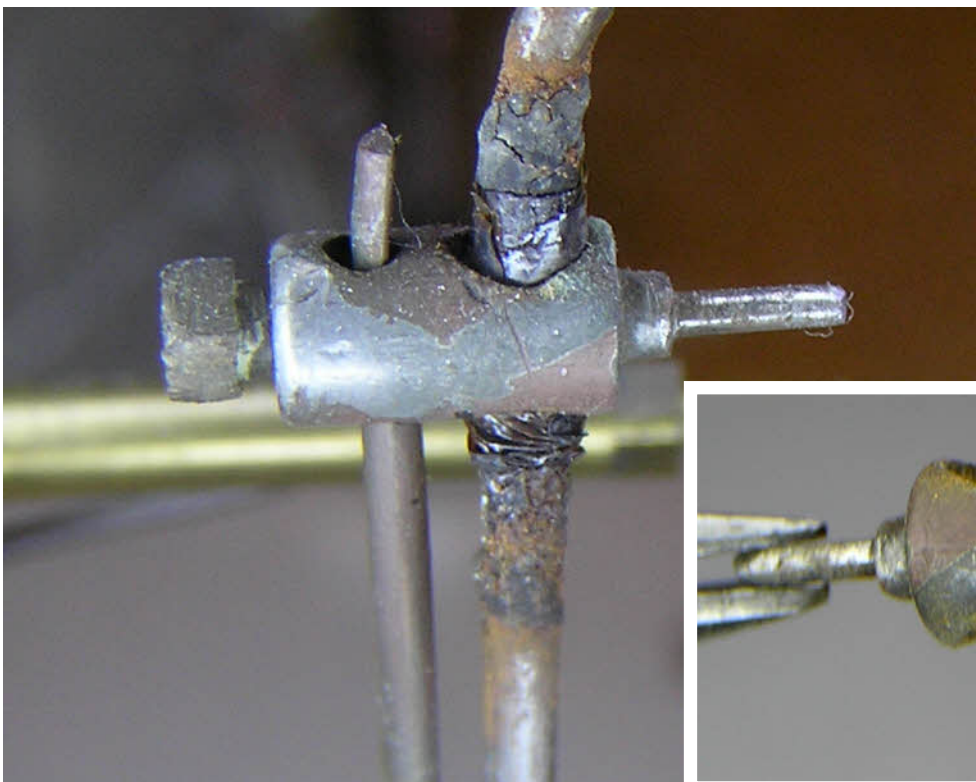
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Another shot of the corrosion and missing isochron assembly.



These photos show that the silver contact pin has been soldered in place. It seems from the corrosion that it was soldered in place while still in place in the clock. Hence all the burning and corrosion. Below is the contact pin assembly showing the excess solder.



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I have included this photo at left to show that the top frame has been soldered in place at an angle. The arrow shows the direction of the lean. It would not have made much difference to the running of the clock but it does show the errors in manufacture. Hopefully I will be able to get it a little straighter when I solder all the new parts back together.

Below is the coil cover. Note the bare wire running through the cover. This would have caused major issues by shorting out the coil. The cord is brittle and in very bad condition. It will be replaced.



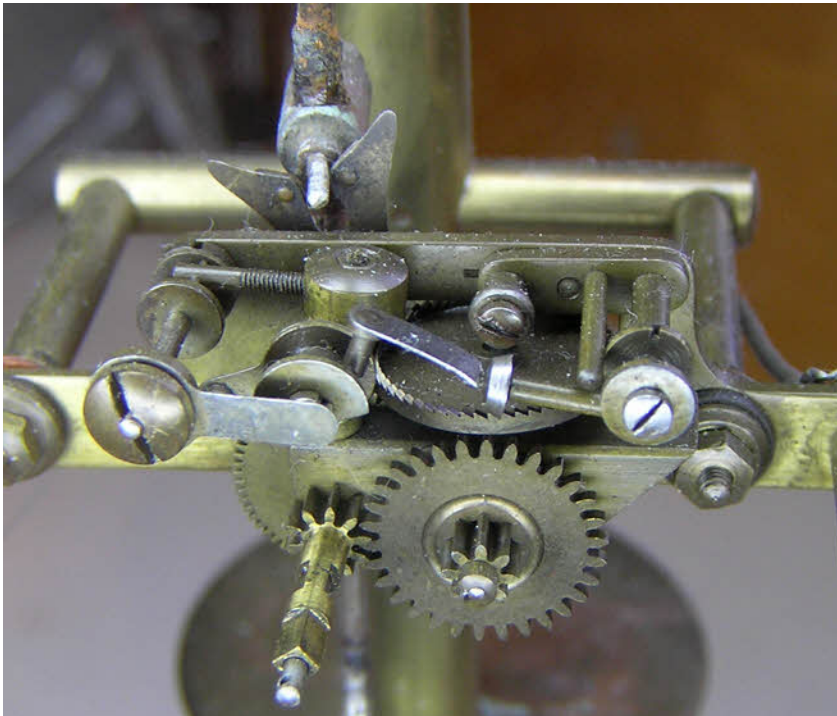
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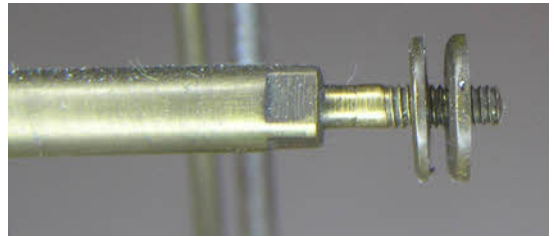
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The majority of the movement looks to be OK with no major damage.



The movement support pillars seem to have extra spacing washers. These will be removed.



The original rating nut is missing and has a minute replacement. A new one will be made.



On the left is the brass coil connecting rod which has a damaged thread. This will be repaired.



This last photo shows the damage to the steel pendulum rod where the contact pin assembly was heated when soldering the silver pin. It will easily clean up .

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The screw which holds the top block of the suspension has been filed down to suite the "map pin" suspension. Another turning job.



Although the lead out wires from the coil have been hacked about and new wire added to them the coil itself is still in good condition with its original binding and reads a about 720 Ohms. This clock is one of the earlier type with the lower resistance coils. These were found to be too low and the Bulle factory had to add a resistor to the frame to make up the total resistance nearer to the later 1100 ohms. This clock has a hole in the frame where the resistor once sat, but as with many other parts it is missing and will need to be made.



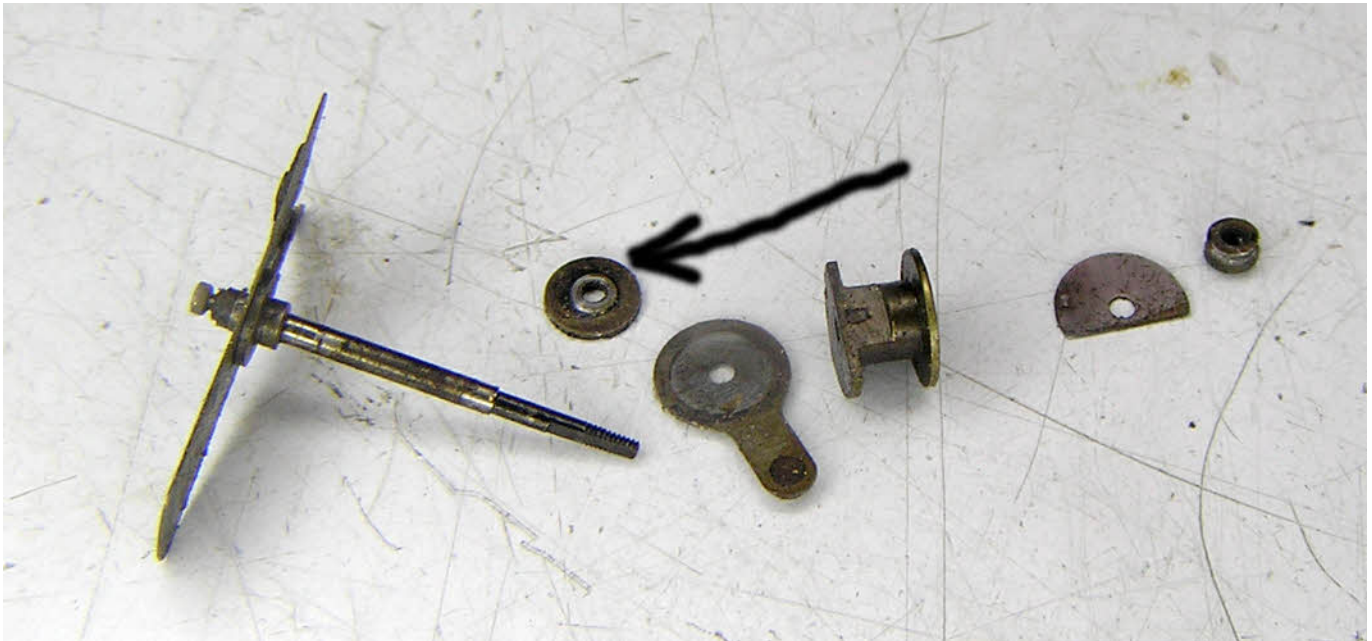
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The fork arbour removed from the movement. Note the small collar and washer arrowed. This is an early feature. On later clocks this was replaced by a collar only.



The column, cap and frame disassembled. The last photo shows the new column cap being turned up.

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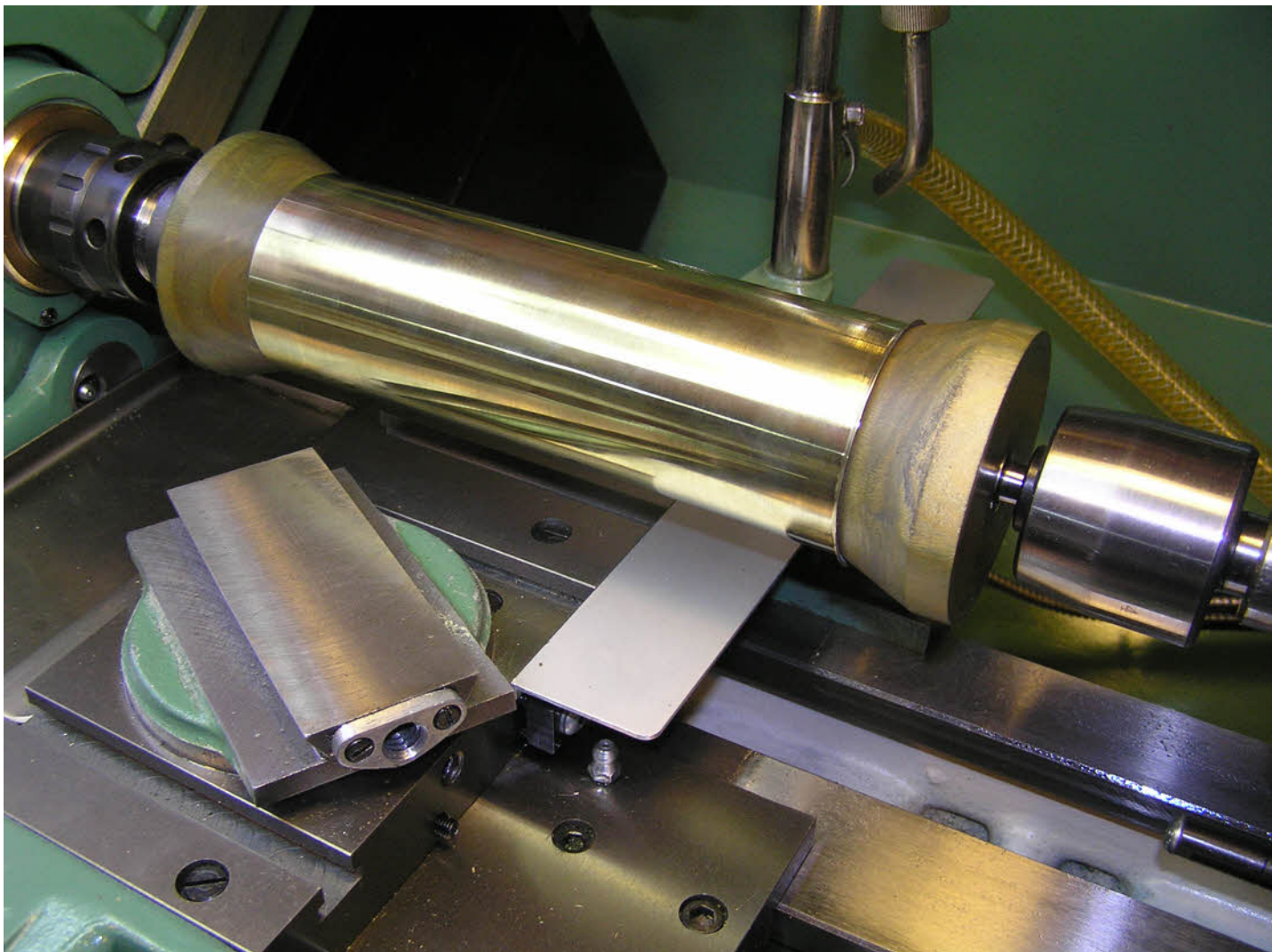
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I made up these holders to carry the new tube in the lathe so that it could be machined and polished as shown below. They are made from pear wood. One was made to fit the revolving centre for the tail stock. The wood gave off a lovely aroma when being made. I kept the shavings in a box and it still provides a lingering fragrance.



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The column and base finished and back together. Note the new resistor in place at the top of the column. The two insert photos are of another one I built for another clock. The only difference is in the method of securing it to the frame. It has a loop of brass which secures it around the frame while on this clock it is secured through a hole in the frame.

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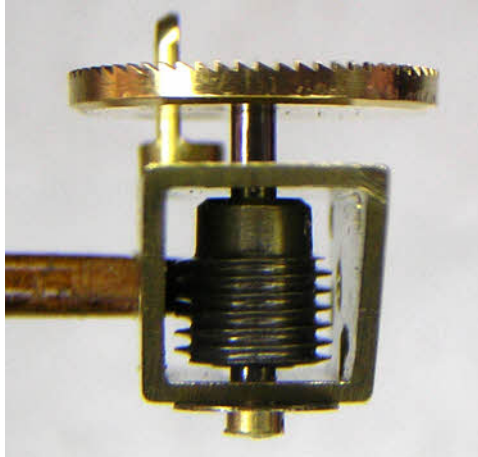
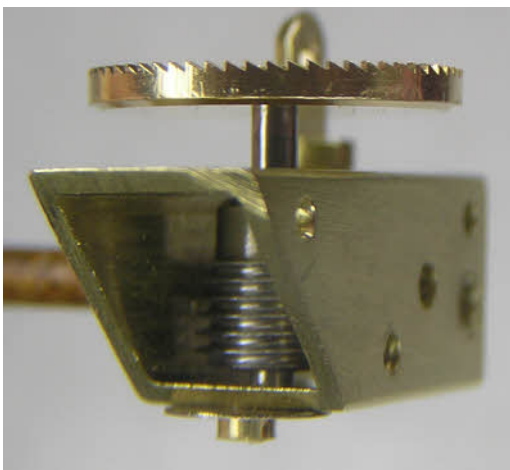
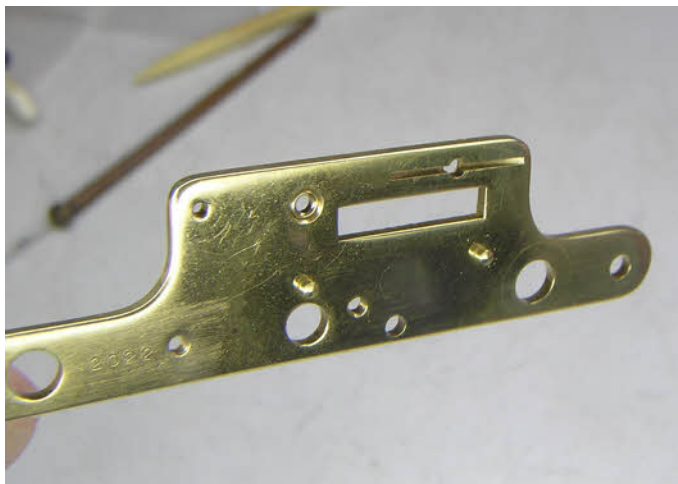
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The base has been cleaned, stained and french polished. The photo at top left shows the new French label. The underside of the base needed a cover to keep the battery in place, so I thought it would be nice to use the damaged column cap which I replaced along with the column.



This photo shows the difference between the original and replacement magnet brackets. I happened to find a couple in the parts box.



These last three photos show the main movement plate and square tube that is so indicative of early Bulle movements. The worm is held inside the tube with a end shake plate screwed to the underside. The tube is then secured to the frame by one screw after being located on the two stubs protruding from the main plate

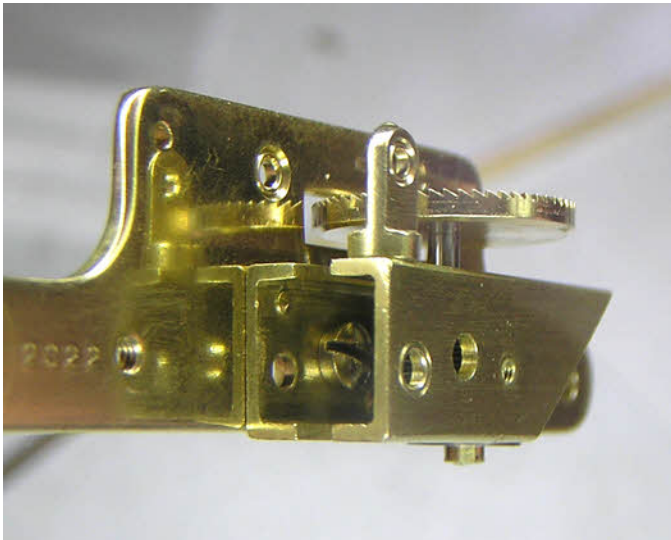
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The tube secured to the main plate with the single screw shown inside the tube.



The replacement magnet brackets.



The rebound coil cover.



The new rating nut.



The new Isochron pendulum bracket assembly

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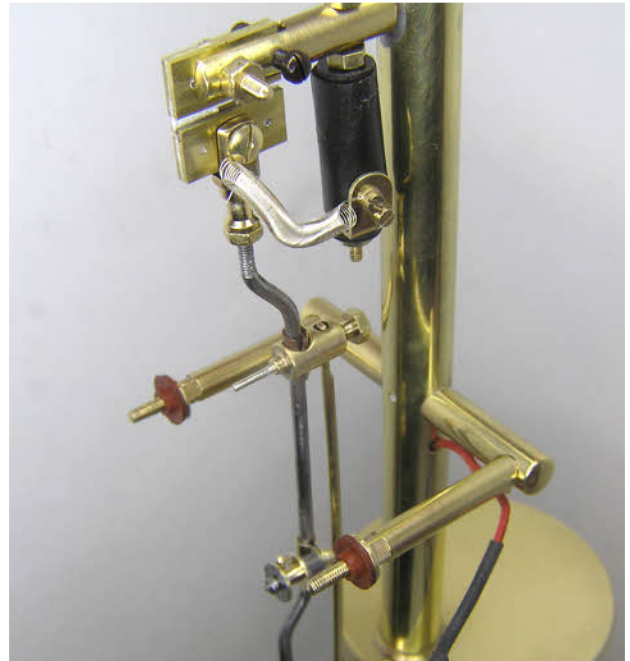
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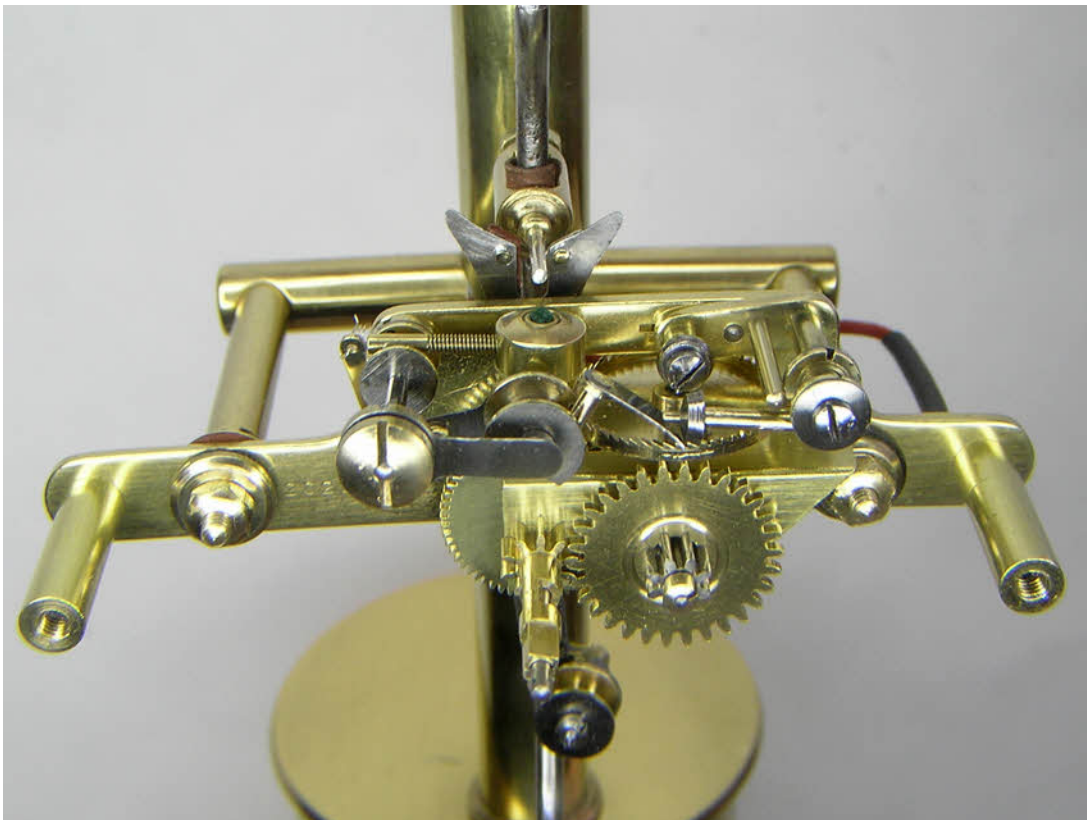
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The new column cap.



The new resistor and contact wire in place with support arms ready for the movement



The finished movement back in place.

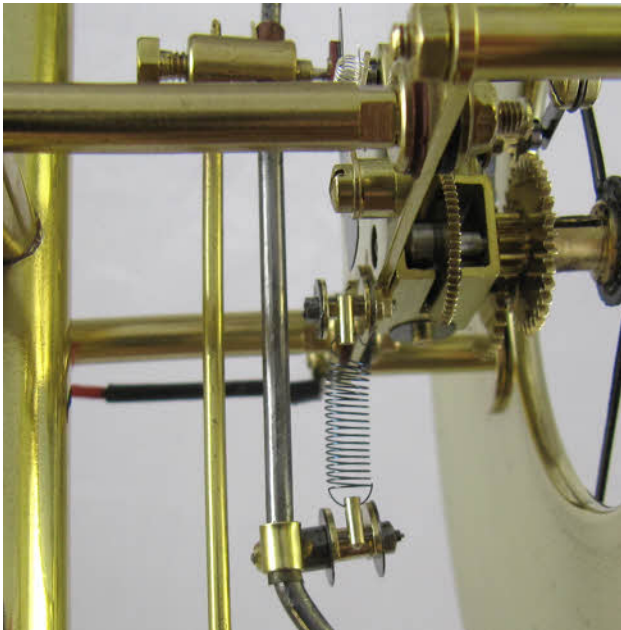
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The Isochron spring in place between the two new bracket assemblies

The dial with cleaned brass.



The finished clock from the rear

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The finished clock