Page 1 Restored Bulle 255595



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Bulle Clock Serial Number 255595

Restoration of Bulle Clock Serial Number 255595

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Photos by kind permission of the owner.

This is an interesting clock. It is a Striking Bulle with a 1/2 second pendulum. The striking mechanism can be seen clearly at the right hand side of the movement with the additional rack. snail. hour & minute wheel modto the main ifications movement. This version strikes on a gong although there is no difference in the mechanism to a bell striking version also in the workshop at the same time.

It's interesting that the strike mechanism is completely separate from the main movement and can be removed and tested very easily. But I am surprised that the small motor is still driven by the same 1.5v battery used for the main movement. The early batteries though were bigger and had move capacity and would still have lasted at least 6 months. If a modern "D" cell is too small to last long then the battery carrier will need to be modified to accept 2 or three cells in parallel. But so far my testing indicates at least 3 months running can be achieved with a good "D" cell.

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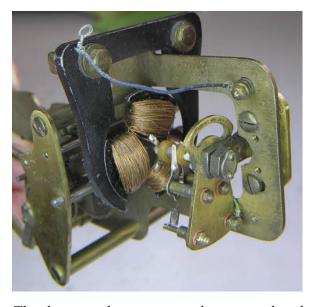


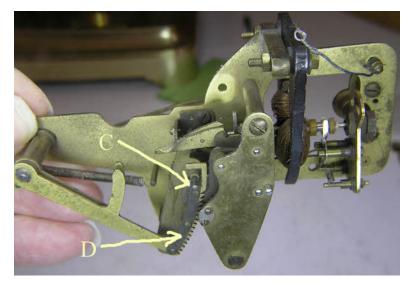
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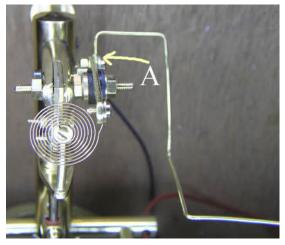
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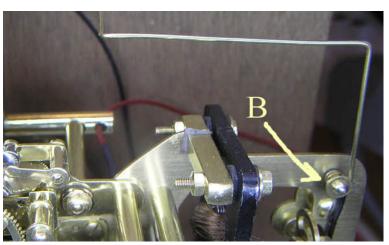






The three windings were each measured and averaged between 10 and 15 Ohm resistance. One side of the motor is directly connected to the negative terminal of the battery through a fixed brass wire which runs from an insulated post on the striking mechanism B) to the insulated negative carrier at the top of the movement frame A) (as shown below). The other side of the motor is connected to the positive terminal through the silver rack pin as shown at C) in the photo on the left. When the silver pin is in contact with the silver strip on the rack D) then the motor runs. When completed the pin falls in the slot and disengages.





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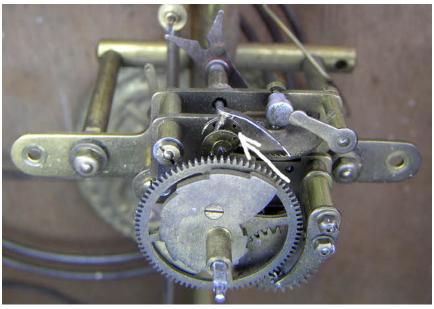




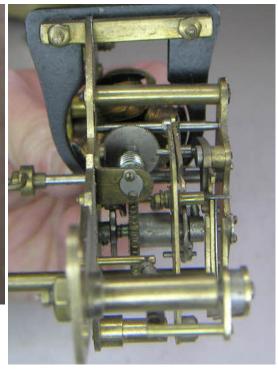
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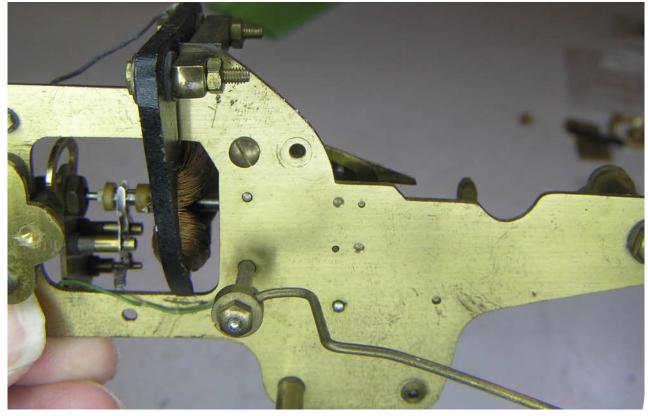
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The plastic bag that came with the movement contained some parts including the missing pawl shown above.





Rear view of the strike mechanism

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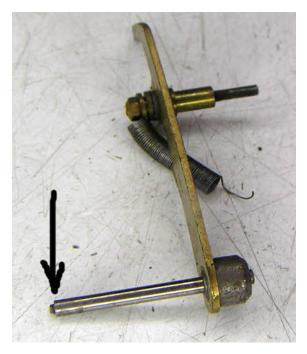


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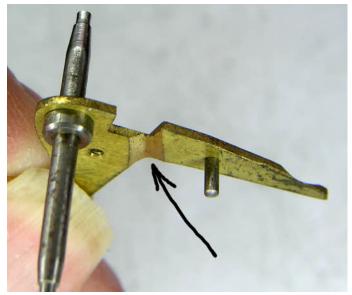
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The rack arbour was snapped and the thread missing, as seen in these two photos above. A new one will be made and threaded with a new nut.



The warning piece has a very pronounced groove in the arm but there is nothing in the vicinity that could have caused it. It may have been done deliberately but I cannot see a reason why.



The hammer lift arbour. The wheel is driven by the worm wheel on the motor arbour.

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Another view of the hammer lift arbour.



inoiner view of the nummer lift aroour.



The motor arbour. (above and left) The steel ratchet wheel is redundant as the ratchet pawl has been disconnected and removed This is the same on three striking mechanisms I have seen. I guess it was originally there to make sure the motor could not be reversed. But may have worn to quickly and became ineffective.



The photo on the right shows the broken fork arbour and the extra parts needed to hold the intermediate motion wheel that carries the half hour and hour lifting pins.

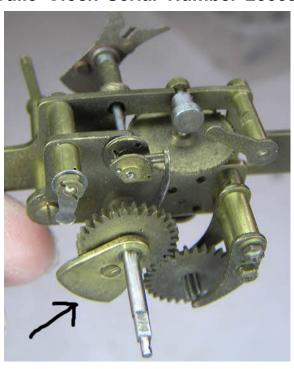
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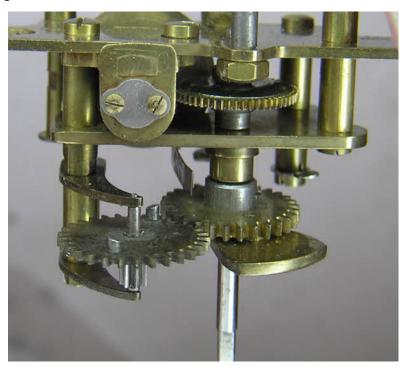


The rack arm has a second extension at the rear which falls onto this brass section for half hour striking. It limits the fall of the rack so that the hammer strikes only once.

The photo on the right shows the two pillars that support the intermediate wheel. These pillars in conjunction with the small plates allow the intermediate wheel to be depthed in any position with the centre arbour.

The small washer shown is a spacer between the centre arbour and the half hour section arrowed above.

The two scratch marks seem to be markers for lining up the the intermediate wheel.



The view from below showing the intermediate motion wheel.



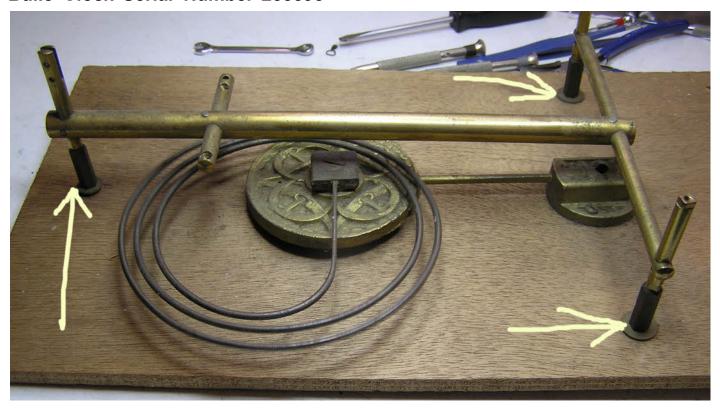
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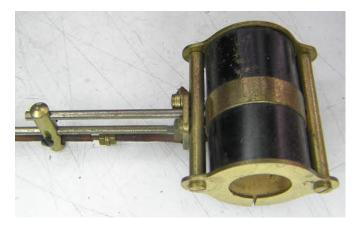


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These extensions do not look original being of hexagonal section and space the frame well away from the back board and gong frame.



These last two photos show the coil assembly. All the parts look original and untouched. The coil gives a respectable 1200 Ohms resistance.



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This group of photos above show the damaged arbour and new replacement.







Above and left are photos showing the broken fork arbour and its new replacement.

The last photo shows the new parts made for the top frame pendulum assembly. All were missing.



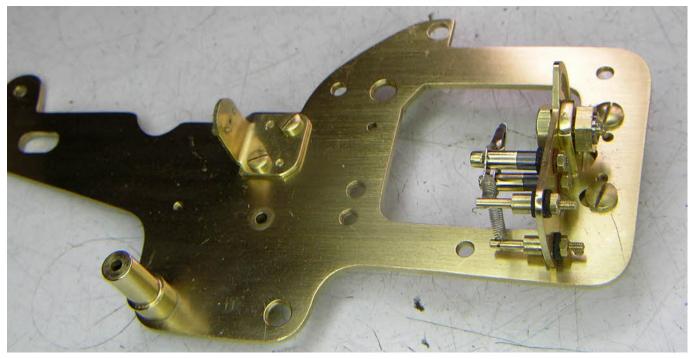
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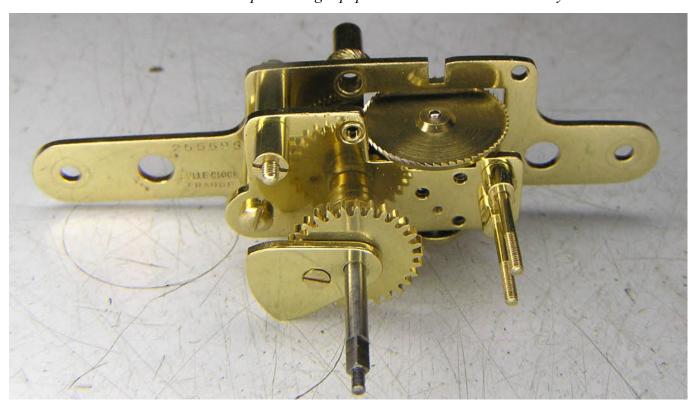


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The cleaned motor plate being repopulated with the motor assembly.



The movement starting reassembly

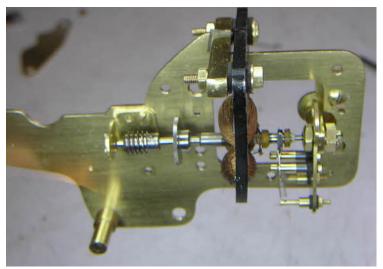
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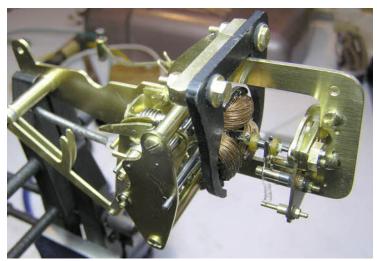




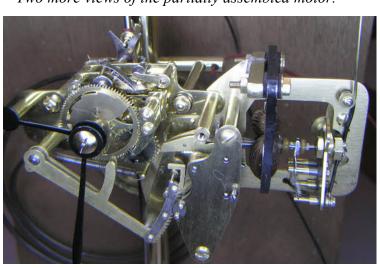
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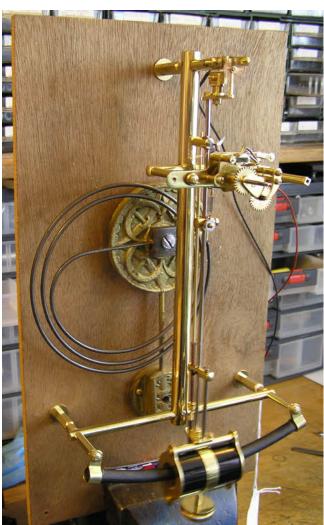
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Two more views of the partially assembled motor.





The movement, pendulum, frame and gong reassembled for testing. The clock can be run purely as a timepiece without the strike motor.

The photo on the left shows the motor and movement re-united.

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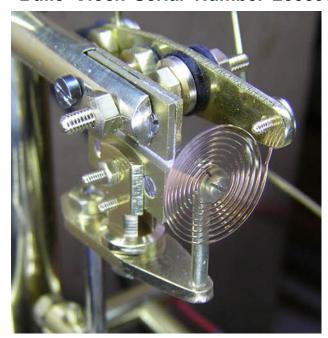


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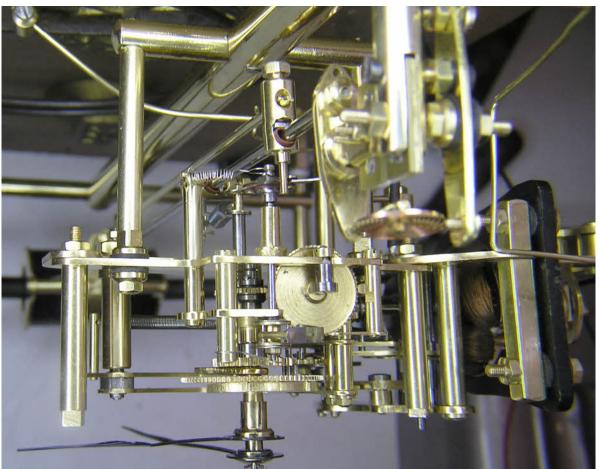
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The top frame and pendulum assembly with new nuts and washers.



View looking down the on clock. It may look complicated remember but that the both movement and striking assembly can easily be separated for testing.

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The clock nearly completed. The case is a replacement but is exactly the type in which this particular striking movement was originally housed in. See the 1925 Bulle catalogue, page 13, type B9. The only problem is the missing bottom section which housed the battery and hands. A new pair of hands is being manufactured and I will add a photo of the completed clock when they are ready.

The owner intends to have the case restored at a later date

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These last two pages of photos were added to show the refurbished case that has also had the battery compartment added to the base. The design and measurements for this were kindly provided by a collector in Europe who happened to have the exact same model. Note the method of door hinging to allow insertion of the battery. There is plenty of room in here for the old flag cell type of 1.5v battery.

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The completed clock in restored case and with new hands made to the original design.