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Bulle Clock Serial Number 27993

Restoration of Bulle Clock Serial Number 27993



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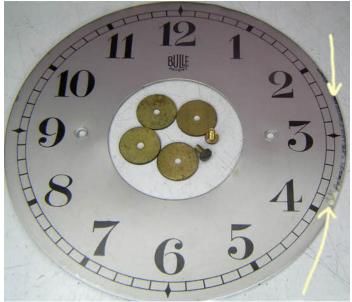


Photos by kind permission of the owner. This Bulle has a three quarter movement in a full wooden case with glass aperture for the pendulum. Unfortunately the clock has been left in the sun and the case has suffered both from bleaching and shrinkage. The shrinkage has cracked the top and separated the side such that the gap around the door has increased. The door itself is dry and bleached. I'll try to fix the top and close the crack.. I'll also try restore some colour to the top and door, and then apply some french polish. As the tops, sides and front are all different colours I will try and match the top with the front.

The bezel was only held in position with friction as the hinge pin was missing!! A new one to be made.

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The movement looks to be in good order and complete, although the dial has suffered at some point and has some corrosion on the outer edge between 2 o'clock and 4 o'clock. It is minor and will be left alone. Movements in wooden cases are sometimes difficult to line up with sufficient accuracy to aline the dial with the aperture and you will often find extra shims here and there to try and affect a good fit. In this case there are two extra spacing washers behind the dial to help push it forward into the dial pan.

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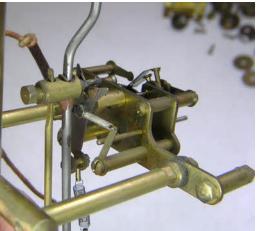
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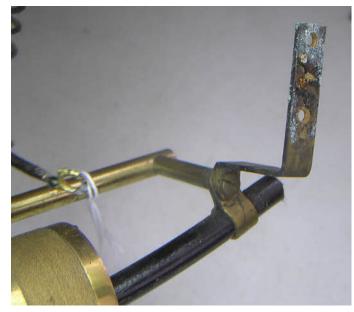
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This group of four photos shows some general views of the movement which appears to be in almost original condition although the cord is dry and brittle (as usual). It will need to be replaced.







This last photo shows one of the movement support arms that holds the movement in position in the case. It has suffered a little with corrosion but it will clean up well enough. There are still traces of black paint which was applied to hide the supports when viewing the swinging pendulum through the front glass aperture. The rating nuts can often be found with drill holes or even hollowed right out. This was an attempt to lighten the nut and therefore speed the clock up when a previous repairer hadn't cleaned and repaired the mechanism correctly. Fortunately in this case the nut has not been tampered with, which also indicates the clock was running well.

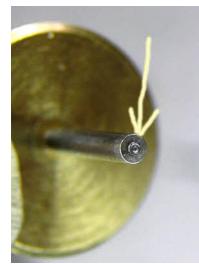


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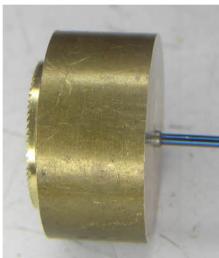


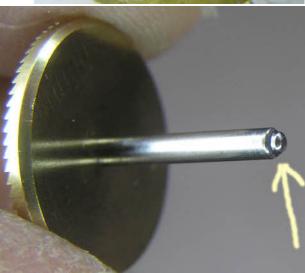
The inside of the coil casing showing the two lead out wires. One is wrapped around the top cap spacing rod while the other is led out through the casing. The wire may look frayed but it is just the loose ends after being wrapped about five times around the rod. Note that this coil is wound onto a cardboard bobbin and not a wooden one as used on earlier clocks.



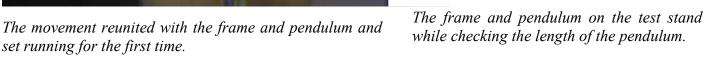
Whilst examining the parts before cleaning I noticed that the hardened nipple on the end of the count wheel was badly worn. This would mean the worm wheel would rub against the housing and create friction in the movement. The only option is to grind the nipple off, drill the end of the arbour and fit a length of blued pivot steel as shown in these photos. The nipple is then sized and polished.







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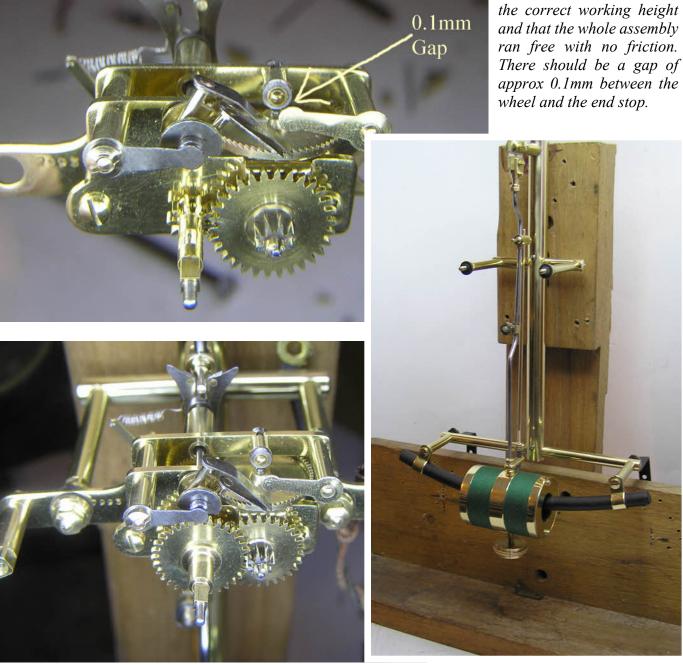


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The count wheel was then checked to see that it was at

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These photos show the case being repaired. The corner wedge is removed to allow the corner to be cleaned and glued in position. The wedge is then replaced and also glued into position. Note that a round steel bar is used to allow the clamp to apply pressure to the wedge.



This last photo on the right shows the finished repair. The joint has been pulled up and the wedge back in position holding the joint.



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The case after gluing, cleaning, staining and polishing the top. I haven't gone overboard in trying to hide the repair. I didn't want it all to look brand new.



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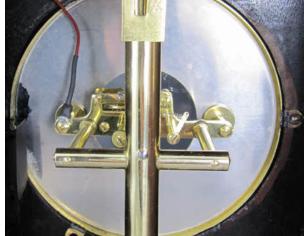
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The movement installed. Note the repair arrowed

A new hinge pin was fitted as the original was missing The case with bezel , dial, hands and movement installed.

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Rear of the dial showing spacing washers.



The bottom of the case





Restored Bulle 27993



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