

Contact Peter Smith
Telephone 01454-880825

Or Mobile 07969-773480
Email peter_smith@horologix.com

Bulle Clock Serial Number 284391

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Photos by kind permission of the owner.

This little clockette looks to be in perfect condition. The case is a four glass model which has been chrome plated. The condition is excellent with no wear on the chrome at all. I would suspect that it has been re-chromed at some point in recent years. The dial is also in good condition with no obvious signs of wear or damage. These chrome examples are unusual in that not all of the parts have been plated. You will notice later that some screws. nuts and other small components have been left as unplated brass. The glass shows no chips or cracks although they are rather short in the frame which tends to leave them to rattle around when being handled.





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The underside shows clearly that the whole case has definitely been re-chromed. The battery holder and wiring are also new..

Overall it looks as though this clock has been completely restored in the last ten years or so. Consequently there are no signs of battery acid or any other damage.

To start dismantling the case we need to remove the two nuts hidden up under the top of the case. These are a little difficult to get at and require no little amount of patience and care to undo.

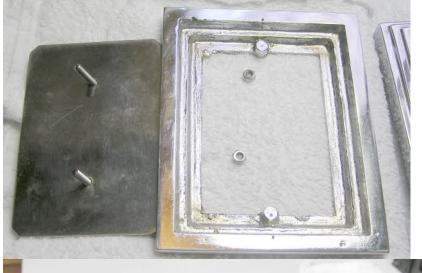


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Once the nuts are removed we see that the top is actually two parts. The top plate and top frame..



In the photo below we can now see how the wiring reaches the top of the movement. It comes through a hole in the bottom plate, up along the right hand side door pillar, through a hole in the top frame plate. It then leads across the top of the clock and down behind the movement frame. It may be tidy but it is pain to reassemble. Note how the top of the movement frame protrudes through the plate.

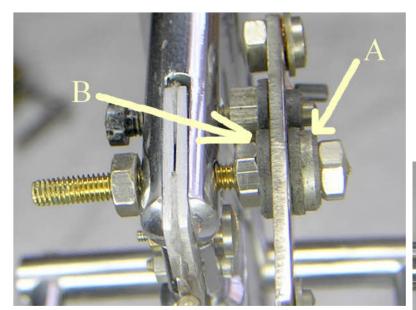
The depth of the intrusion is adjusted by screwing up or down the large chromed nut at the base of the movement frame. The cap shown at the left of the photo, is left loose to fall and cover the nut.





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This photo shows the top of the movement frame and the assembly which receives the negative wire from the battery. At point "A" you can see a disc washer which should have an equivalent at "B". This will have to be replaced.

The photo on the right right shows the attempt at repairing the suspension. This will also be replaced.



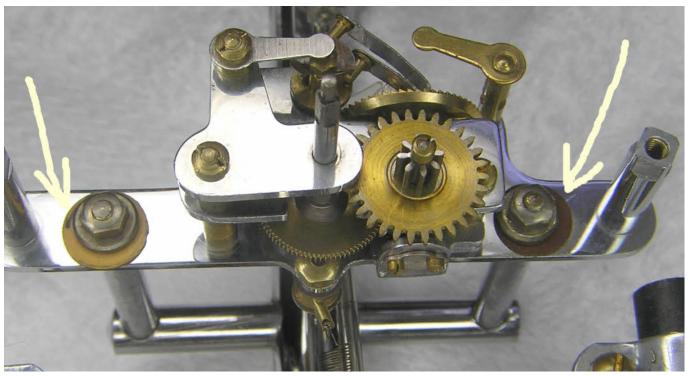
This last photo shows the movement and the odd but original mix of chromed and brass parts. Note also that the fork is in good condition and made from a clear form of plastic and only has the silver contact. There is no need for a fibre insulation piece on the right side of the fork. There has been much conjecture on the shape of the silver piece. Some believe it is "S" shaped so that it can be turned upside down to present a new face after wear. But it will not fit upside down. It is that shape to reach the centre arbour for electrical contact, with a tail to counter balance the top. The contact spring is misshaped and is missing a loop end.



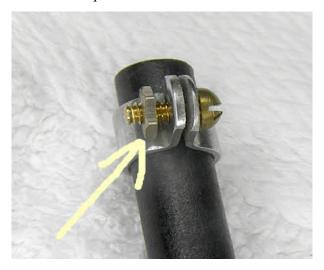


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This photo shows the movement and how it is attached to the frame. The two washers arrowed are not original and are two thin to provide a guaranteed electrical insulation between the frame and movement. These will have to be replaced.





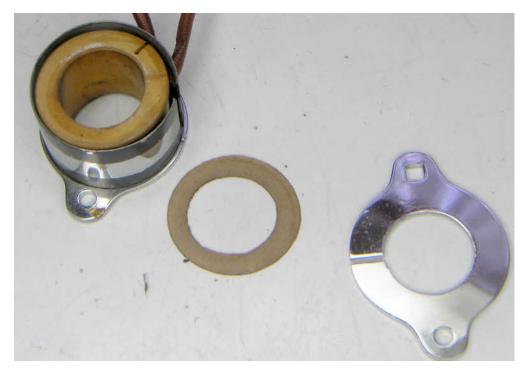
The magnet clamps have small nuts behind them which are not original. The screws pass through the clamp and tighten up within the frame. So the nuts in this case are purely acting as spacers with will push the magnet further to the front of the clock. Why they are here I have no idea. The magnet and pendulum coil alignment are better without them. They will be removed. The last photo shows the decorative magnet collars. The last photo shows that decorative magnet collars which have been glued in place. These collars can be quite thin and easily bent so I suspect that they may have been weakened when the clock was last repaired. It will leave them in place.





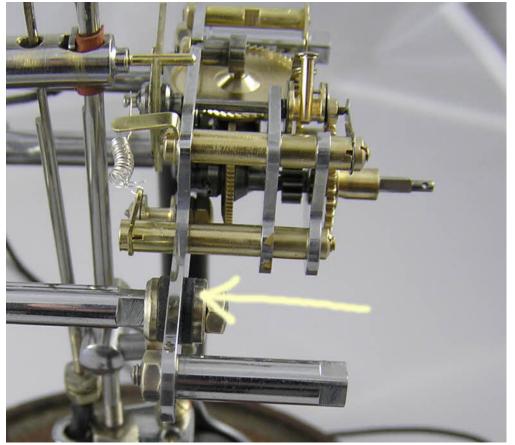
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The coil halfway disassembled. Note the paper washer to provide extra thickness to the assembly so that the screws would pull up tight and clamp the coil between the chromed end plates.

The coil proved to be in good condition with a solid reading of 1200 Ohms. But the insulation on the lead out wires is cracked and brittle. This will be replaced.



The movement being refitted to the frame. Note the new insulating washers in place. The frame and movement are checked at this point to make sure that they are electrically insulated.



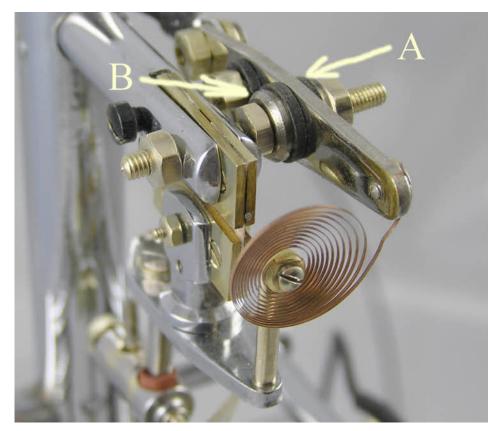


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The restored and cleaned movement back in place.



The negative battery wire assembly back in place with the new disc washer.

If the frame of the clock is not positioned correctly by adjustment of the large nut at the base of the frame then this assembly may touch the top plate and cause a short.





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The clock reassembled on an old Bulle base for testing. Once the clock is back in its four glass case it is nigh on impossible to reach the parts if testing shows up any issues. So I had an old oak base from a similar clock which is now utilised as a test stand.

It doesn't look quite so impressive on this base as it does in its four glass!!

See next pages!





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The rear of the completed clock



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