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Bulle Clock Serial Number 7421

Restoration of Bulle Clock Serial Number 7421



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Photos by kind permission of the owner. A tall movement Bulle with a 0.50 beats per second pendulum in a mahogany veneered round top case with fully glazed front door. The glass is thick and bevelled. A small rear door houses the battery. The clock looks to be complete but the case has suffered and is very dry with the finish stripped off in places. It also has a few cracks that will need attending to. The movement looks to be complete though.





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These photos above show the state of the case. Although the finish is bad and peeling the carcase and veneer look to be quite solid with just a few areas where the veneer has separated. So I will make some repairs to the worst areas, strip off the old surface and then stain and French Polish. A lot of work but I think we shall see a great improvement. In contrast to the woodwork, the dial looks to be in very good shape and will require only a wash in soapy water and the brass rim brightened with wire wool. I have made a thin brass shim template to completely cover the dial polishing the rim.





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The rear battery compartment extends into the case as a curved compartment. If it were square then it would not allow the pendulum to swing freely to the right as the magnet extends under the compartment. Notice the old wiring. It is a false economy to try and re-use this wiring as it tends to badly bent and brittle with some corrosion. I always replace it with new cloth covered wire.



These two photos show show how the negative side of the battery is connected to the frame with a piece of wire bypassing the non conductive silk suspension and providing a path to the coil via the iron pendulum rod. Later clocks employed various methods of connection but this is the earliest and simplest



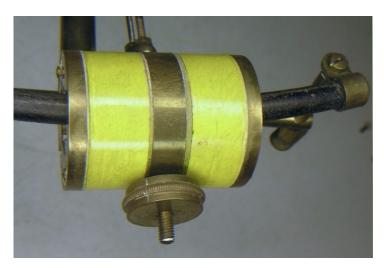


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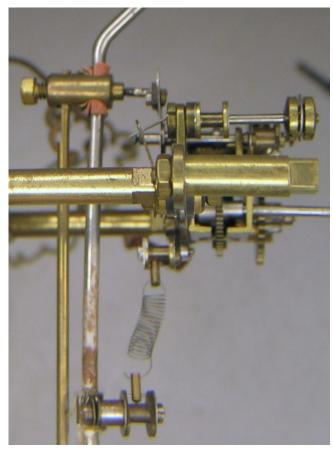


The movement has no major rust or missing parts



The pendulum rating nut is complete with no holes to try and lighten the weight





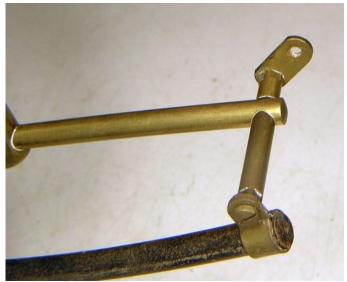
This side view of the movement shows the the method used to secure the Isochron spring. There are two bobbins, one at either end of the spring connecting to the movement at the top and the pendulum at the bottom. When disassembling a Bulle clock note that the bobbin on the movement is the smaller of the two., With the lower on being "D" shaped. Between the two steel shims.

The silver contact pin may look badly corroded but this is just tarnish and is easily removed with a soft iron rotary brush mounted in a dremel. It normally has a 1.2mm thread that allows it to be screwed into the brass housing.



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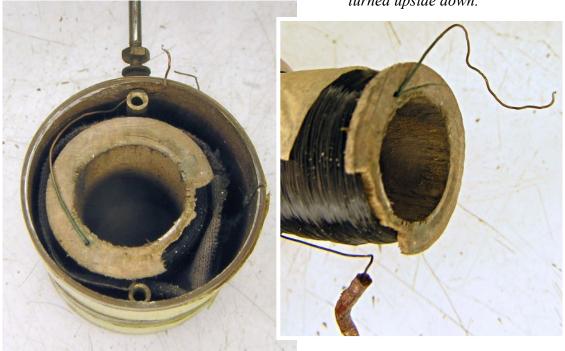
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brass washer either side to protect the wood.

Note the short extensions that carry the small brack- The underside of the case has a large oval hole covet that allows the frame to be secured into the case. ered by a swing iron plate that allows the rating nut to Some cases especially on wall mounted clocks do not be adjusted to time the clock. I have seen this particuhave these internal brackets. Instead they have ma- lar style of case with and without the hole. It is preferchine screws through the rear of the case with a large able to try and adjust the clock through the glass door which will not necessitate the clock being lifted and turned upside down.



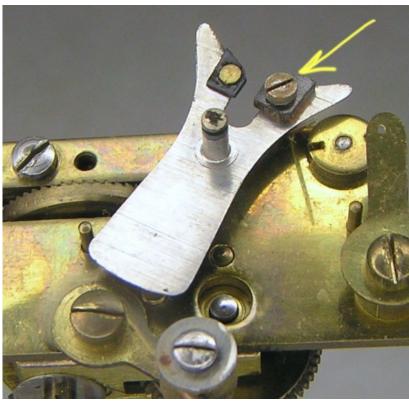
The coil bobbin is damaged but the coil looks OK. I checked the resistance and it reads a good 1100 Ohms. So other than tidying it up and cleaning the single core lead out wires, I will leave it as is.

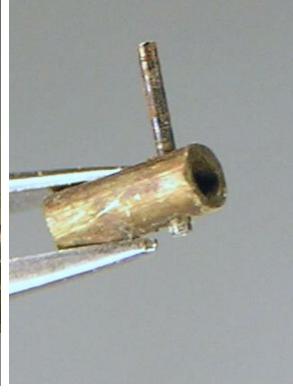




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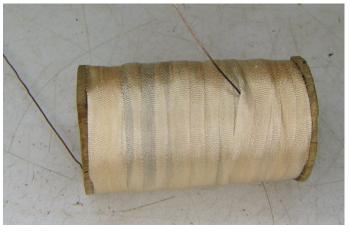


The fork has had an interesting life by the look of it! A screw holds the insulating contact in place. A bit heavy handed but it must of worked because there are signs of wear on the fibre. The silver contact is heavily worn so both will be replaced.

This photo above shows that one of the Isochron "T" pieces needs repairing as the steel pin is in the wrong end and very loose.



This looks to be a spring [in from a French clock. Why it is here is a mystery. There is a perfectly good pendulum stop pin to its lower right.

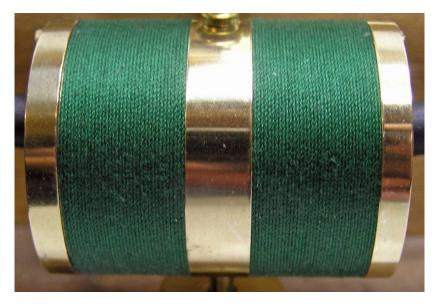


The coil after a clean up and binding with silk ribbon.



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The coil cover cleaned and rewound with green cord. The photo to the right shows the pendulum back in place with the new silver contact wire in place





Above is the movement restored and back in place. Note the contact pin position between the new silver and fibre contacts.

To the right is the magnet, frame and pendulum secured a test stand ready for proving the function of the magnet and coil.





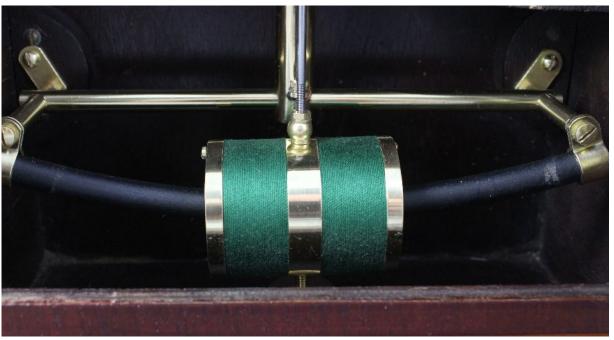
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The photo on the left shows the case after gluing the various fractures and lifted veneer. A stain has then been applied followed by a sealer and abut four coats of French Polish. The photo above shows the cleaned dial back in place with the restored hands and replacement collet.



The frame back in place in the case.

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The finished clock back together and on test. There was a small piece of the door missing as can be seen at the top of the curve, but I decided against trying to repair this as it is not a major issue and does not detract from the overall appeal of the clock. In fact I think it adds a little history to it.

These particular cases with the large glass doors are inherently a bit fragile as the surround is very narrow and yet two large hinges are required to secure it to the case. The case itself is very narrow at the point of attachment and is frequently damaged around the hinges.

It is always prudent to be aware of their fragility and handle them carefully when adjusting the hands.

This case was also very dry which didn't help.



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Two side views of the finished case. I must admit I love the horizontal figuring that has come through once the polish was cut back.



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The rear of the case. Note the small brass levelling foot to the rear. The two rear "Bun" feet have a lower profile than the two front feet to allow the levelling screw more active height.



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The finished Clock