



# Swiss Time

"WHERE WATCHMAKERS WORK"

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## Instructions for Set-up and Setting Mechanical Time and Strike Clocks

### 1. Removing Shipping Material

Shipping material paper, foam, rubber bands, cardboard, bubble wrap, etc.... In addition to materials protecting the case, may also be found inside the clock, protecting the movement.

### 2. Choosing a Location

- A wall clock should be level while hung on a secure nail/screw driven into a stud. Level it up and down, side to side, and front to back.
- A mantle clock should be placed on a sturdy, level surface.

### 3. Winding the Clock

Turn the key until you feel a definite stop, this is fully wound. Never turn past the stop point, this will damage the mainspring. It is, however, important to wind the clock fully or it will not run properly. Keep in mind some clocks with newer mainsprings may be more difficult to wind.

### 4. Hanging the Pendulum

The pendulum is hung from the suspension spring, inside the clock. Look inside the case for its location. Gently hang the pendulum onto it. Use extreme caution the suspension spring is very thin and is easily damaged.

### 5. Checking the Strike

Make sure that the clock strikes the hour shown by the hour hand. Do this by moving the minute hand to the 12 o'clock position and count the number of strikes. If the clock strikes the correct hours skip to: setting time. If the clock strikes an hour other than what is indicated by the hour hand you will need to correct the strike by making the clock strike without advancing the time. To do this, move the minute hand from the 12 o'clock position backwards (counter clockwise) until you hear a click, this will be between the 6 and 10 o'clock positions. Next, advance the minute hand forward to the 12 o'clock position to make the clock strike again; repeat until the number of strikes matches the hour.

### 6. Setting the Time

To set the time, advance the minute hand stopping at the hour, half hour (and sometimes quarter hour) to let the clock strike. If you go too fast the clock may miss a strike sequence and will need to be corrected as mentioned in #5. **NEVER FORCE THE HANDS.**

### 7. Winding the Clock Again

If a lot of correction was needed, the strike mainspring will have partially wound down not leaving enough power reserve to run a full week. Check by winding the clock again to be sure all mainsprings are fully wound.

### 8. Starting the Clock

For mantle clocks, gently lift one side of the clock about one inch and set it back down, listen for an even tic-tock. An uneven tic-tock may indicate the surface the clock is not level. For wall clocks gently push the pendulum in one direct, listen for an even tic-tock. An uneven tic-tock could indicate the clock is not level against the wall.

### 9. Regulation

A number of factors affect the timekeeping of a clock including temperature, balance, and wear. No matter how well a clock may have been serviced, final adjustment once the clock is home is almost always necessary. The longer the pendulum, the slower the clock will run. Most pendulums have a regulating nut under the bob of the pendulum, and small adjustments should be made as necessary. Remember, moving the pendulum lower will slow the clock (lower is slower) and vice-versa. Do not alter the pendulum more than once in 24 hours. Keep a note of the amount of adjustment made and the resulting effect. Some clocks, particularly mantle clocks, have a pendulum suspension system that allows regulation without moving the case. A small key or double ended key will fit the arbor protruding through the dial near the 12 o'clock. Generally rotate the arbor clockwise to shorten the length of the pendulum, thus making the clock run faster, and vice versa. Most clocks are labeled S and F indicating slow and fast. To make the clock run slower turn towards the S (slow); turn toward the F (Fast) to make the clock run faster.



**NEVER MOVE A CLOCK WITH THE PENDULUM ATTACHED. This will put it out of beat, damage the delicate suspension spring on which the pendulum is suspended, and may even damage the escapement.**