

Swiss Time

"WHERE WATCHMAKERS WORK"

86 Exchange Street
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 773-0997
www.myswisstime.com
info@myswisstime.com

Instructions for Chelsea Ship's Bell Clocks

1. Winding

Wind fully once each week at approximately the same time. The right hand winding arbor (located at 4 o'clock) is for the time-side mainspring while the left hand arbor is for the strike side mainspring. Be sure to wind both, starting with the strike side. **IF THE CLOCK HAS RUN DOWN**, it must be wound first before setting the hands. A seized minute hand is an indication that the levers are jammed. To release the levers, simply wind the clock fully on both sides then move the minute hand backwards at least 1 hour; then reset the time allowing it to strike fully at the hour and half hour.

2. Regulation

The micrometer regulator consists of a small movable wheel that sits in a slot on the face of the clock. Rotate the wheel toward the F (Fast - to the right) if clock is losing time, and toward S (Slow - to the left) if it is gaining time. Rotating the wheel one notch will change the rate approximately 4 seconds in 24 hours.

3. Setting Hands

On both of the Ship's Bell HOUR and HALF HOUR striking, a "warning" occurs at 20 minutes past the hour and 10 minutes before the hour. This means that for the ten minutes prior to each striking point, the gears and levers of the striking mechanism fall into correct position. Thus it is advisable that whenever a striking clock is to be reset, the minute hand should always be slowly rotated forward (clockwise) to the next striking point, and allow to strike the full count. THEN, the hands can be set for the correct time by rotation of the minute hand, held close to the base of the hand. Be careful not to bend the hands. NEVER FORCE HANDS. The correct striking count may not develop at the first point when moving the hands forward to the correct time, but it will pick itself up correctly at the next point. DO NOT force the hands in setting the time; should they lock at any point, merely move the minute hand backward through one striking position, and then set forwards to the correct time.

4. Adjustment of Gong Tone

The clear resonant tone of our clocks is obtained by means of a controlled strike hammer dropping on to a coiled steel gong. The clock must be in its natural upright position (12 o'clock up) to strike properly. Should the striking tone be "deadened" or "flat," or if no gong tone is heard when the strike mechanism is operating, an easy adjustment can often be made as follows. The flat deadened tone is caused by the hammer resting on, or too close to, the gong. This typically occurs only on the last stroke, or the 2nd strike in a pair, on the Ship's Bell striking clock. This fault is corrected by merely bending the hammer wire up a little, just enough to have the hammer not touch the gong coil when the hammer is at rest). Chelsea's decorative clocks provide easy access to the movement. Open the back door and follow the instructions below beginning with step #2.

Chelsea's Ship's Bell clocks have an opening in the back through which the hammer wire can be reached for adjustment. Proceed as follows:

1. At some hour point when the clock has finished striking even bells, remove the back cover-plate from the gong-adjusting opening of the Ship's Bells clock by removing three screws.
2. By lifting and dropping the hammer wire with a finger you can hear, and at the same time, see how the hammer leather resting on the gong kills the resonance of the gong tone. Adjust accordingly.

