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Thinking about repairing that clock yourself?  
My advise is to never do anything to your clock unless you're absolutely sure that it will be an effective repair and not violate the integrity of the clock. This is the very reason Horologist's exist.

Both clocks and watches will, in all likelihood, out last their current owners (you) and if something irreversable happens, then there is another piece of history and future history destroyed for all time.

My advise is anyone reading this is to find a "local" repair person and establish a good relationship with that person. Do NOT pick just anyone. Ask whether or not they belong to either of the following:

AWCI (American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute),  
BHI (British Horological Institute), or  
NAWCC (National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors).

The thinking here is that in horology, as in every profession, there are both good and bad. And the above references will give you a better indication of who is good and dedicated.

Hopefully that local person will belong to at least one (1) of the aforementioned organizations. This will NOT guarantee that the person is knowledgeable or reputable but it WILL tell you that most likely that person is a caring and serious repair person that strives to keep well informed and apprised of the "best" techniques concerning restoration.

Besides what I already mentioned a local repair person will keep the monies you spend within your community. This type of support will help keep professionals in your community and thereby guarantee that your community will prosper and flourish.

Both AWCI & BHI have a referral service.

American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute (AWCI)  
701 Enterprise Drive  
Harrison, OH 45030 USA  
Phone 513-367-9800 or Fax 513-367-1414  
AWI has a referral service for both clock and watch repair.  
AWI's Web address: "<http://www.awci.com/>"

British Horological Institute (BHI)  
Upton Hall  
Upton  
Newark, NG23 5TE.  
England, UK  
011-44-6136-813795

BHI's Web address: "<http://www.bhi.co.uk/>"

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, Inc. (NAWCC)  
514 Poplar Street  
Columbia, PA 17512-2130 USA  
Phone 717-684-8261 or Fax 717-684-0878  
NAWCCs Web address: "<http://www.nawcc.org/>"

There are four excellent books on beginning clock repair.

The first is "Clock Repair Basics" by Steven G. Conover and you can purchase it directly from the author at:

<http://www.clockmakersnewsletter.com/books.html>

or E-mail at:

[editor@clockmakersnewsletter.com](mailto:editor@clockmakersnewsletter.com)

The second is "The Clock Repair Primer" by Philip E. Balcomb distributed by:

Tempus Press  
P. O. Box # 235  
Tell City, IN 47586-0235  
E-mail address: [BHerringPA@aol.com](mailto:BHerringPA@aol.com)

The third is "This Old Clock" by David Goodman.

David Goodman  
220-78 77TH Avenue  
Hollis Hills, NY 11364 (that's Queens)  
718-217-2078  
E-mail address: [dsgood@worldnet.att.net](mailto:dsgood@worldnet.att.net)  
Dave runs a clock repair course for Continuing Education at a local High School. Dave also has a good beginners book called "This Old Clock" for sale and it's a good starting point.

The fourth is

Penman, Laurie, The Clock Repairer's Handbook, David and Charles, Devon, UK, 2000 Clock repairers' handbook (softback edition)

Also, contact your local adult education program because sometimes they have clock repair under "vocational" training and offer the class at a nominal cost.

There are many schools and correspondence courses available and they are listed on my schools.mcc file. More information is located in my file educate.mcc and the following is some of the very basics.

I also have a basic cleaning and lubrication file called basiccleaning.txt.

You ALWAYS need to disassemble a clock before cleaning. You could add some "running" life to the clock by cleaning the movement assembled but it definitely shortens the life of the mainspring, bushings and pivots.

The mainspring life is shortened because of moisture that will collect in and around it. This moisture will cause rust and rust will eat away the "blued" steel of mainsprings. Take a look at my file spring.mcc in order to get the "feel" of what's involved when dealing with mainsprings.

Bushings and pivots will not last very long because the previous wear will not be compensated for and the encrusted dirt cannot be removed unless you disassemble the movement.

While an assembled cleaning will loosen most of the dirt and sometimes allow the clock to run again, the hidden wear will get worse and worse and in the long run it will cost much more to repair later because of all the "extra" running the clock did which must be dealt with accordingly.

I do not have a repair course on the Internet.

If you want to get into clock repair it is very important you 1st start with a weight driven clock (such as a cuckoo picked up for a "song" at a garage sale) and master that one first. Then read, read, read before you tackle a spring driven clock. Also, you MUST have the appropriate tools then dealing with mainsprings and professional quality clock repair. My files schools.mcc and spring.mcc has all the information to get you started with quality instruction before you take that heir loom apart.

One thing to remember is that clock parts are NOT like automotive part, in that, no mater how much information you give a supplier the chances are that the supplier will NOT have the specific part you need. Their are interchangeable parts, such as mainsprings, suspension springs, pendulums, hands, keys, and such will be available. But most everything else must either be modified from a stock or existing part or made from scratch. These examples are some of the reasons you will need a professional.

Lastly, I have a file called repair.mcc which is a list of professionals who specialize in repair to and for the trade. Of course most likely each will work for the public.

A service from, E-mail address: Mike@atmos-man.com  
Mike Murray Founder of Clocksmiths

A specialist in Atmos and 400-day clock repair.  
Also, I overhaul most plug in electric clocks.  
In continuous horological service since 04/01/1982.

Mike's Clock Clinic Membership: NAWCC

1600 Maryland Avenue  
Myrtle Point, OR 97458-1508

Phone: 541-559-1090 or 877-286-6762

My main Web site is located at "<http://www.atmosman.com/>"

Main FTP site is located at:  
"http://home.earthlink.net/~atmosman/earthftp.html"

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