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The place to come for all your Bulle and Eureka restoration parts.

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Bulle Clock Serial Number 123079

Restoration of Bulle Clock Serial Number 123079

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The clock as delivered is of medium length pendulum set on a black oval wood base. The dome would be a crystal type (not supplied), First things of interest are the small plastic bag containing one of the Isochron "T" piece hangers either from the pendulum or main plate; we'll see which later. The dial looks reasonable although it has buckled at the two points where the dial screws hold it to the movement. The silvering has also worn away at these points. The base has been resprayed at some point and has been left quite dull and rough. The coil leads into the cover look as though they have been pulled out and seem excessive in length.. The brass rod which runs up the back of the pendulum and joins the contact pin is also supplied loose.

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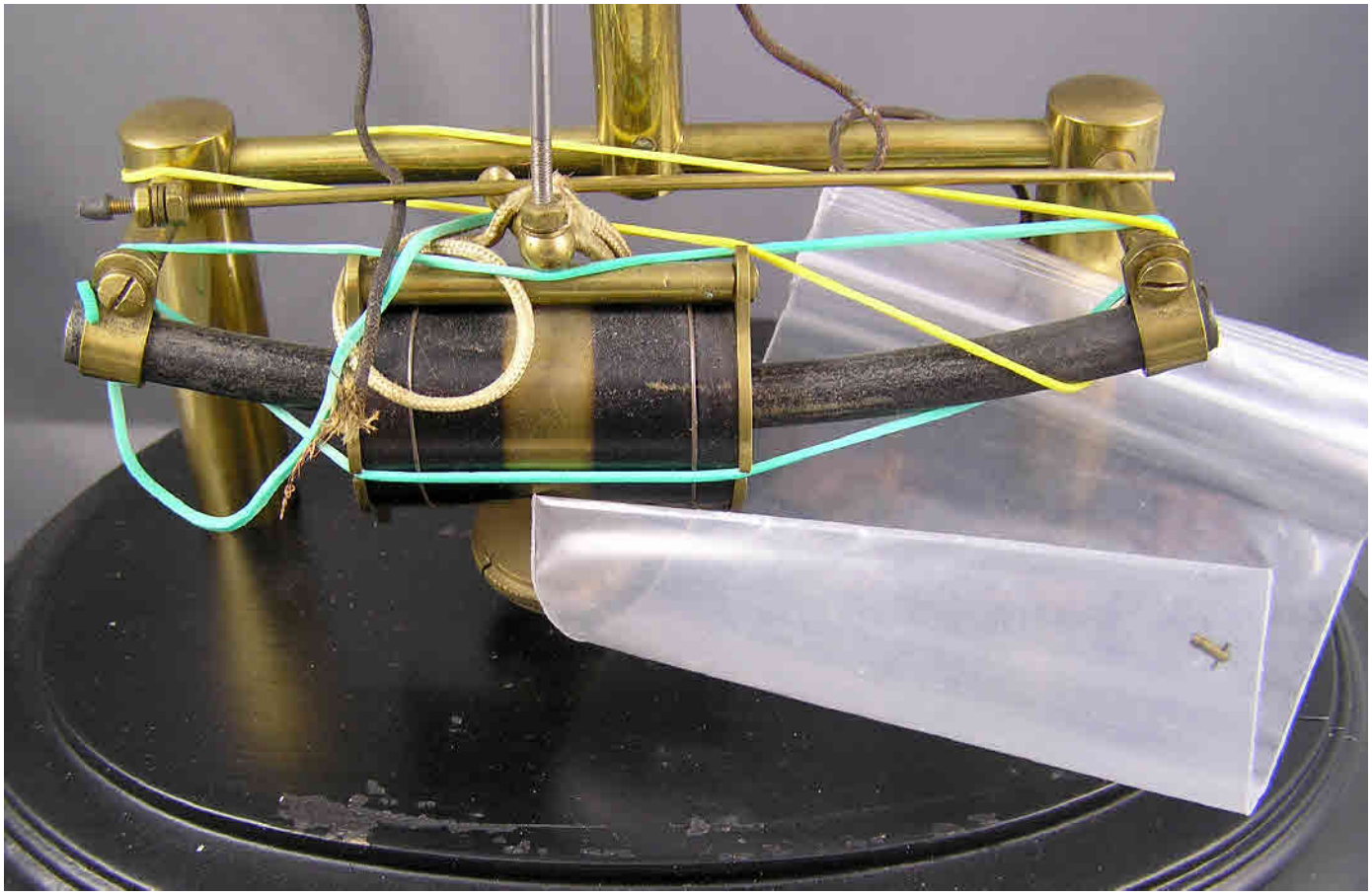

This more more detailed photo above shows the two pieces of binding wire around the coil cover. I don't know why they are there as they are not original.

The base has some damag to the top where the surface may have been scratched by the dome being replaced over the years. We can also see the dull and rough appearance.

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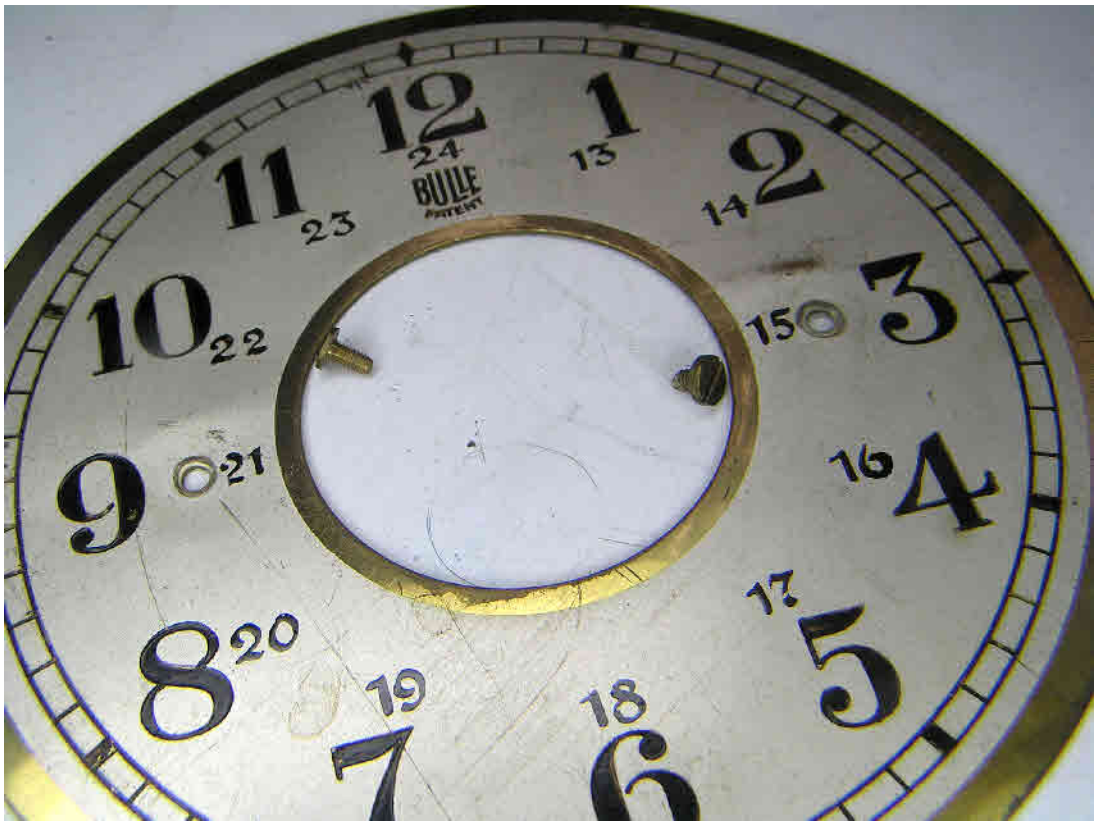

The dial showing the damage around the screw holes and the general scratched and faded silvering. This type of dial is very difficult to restore because of the fact that the silvered part is not seperate to the surreounding brass and therefore extremely difficult to silver without affecting the brass surround.

This photo left shows the hole left by the missing battery container. This is usually a brass tube fitted very snugly into the hole with a brass end cap. The cap was purely decorative as it was tight up beneath the clock frame and could not be removed. The battery was replaced from underneath the base. Via an iron sliding plate which is also missing (below).

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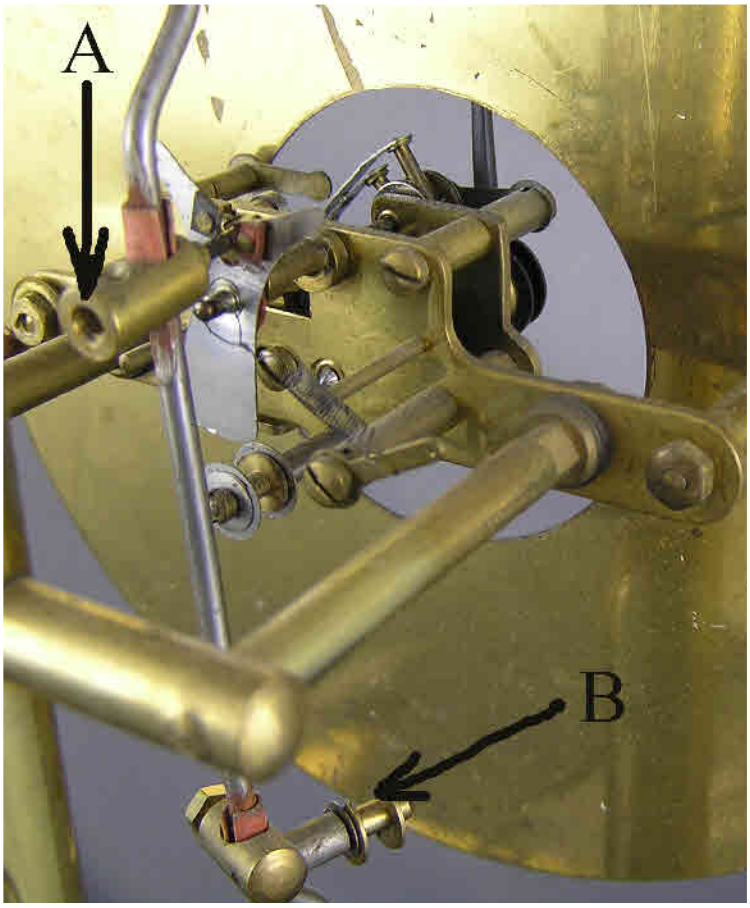
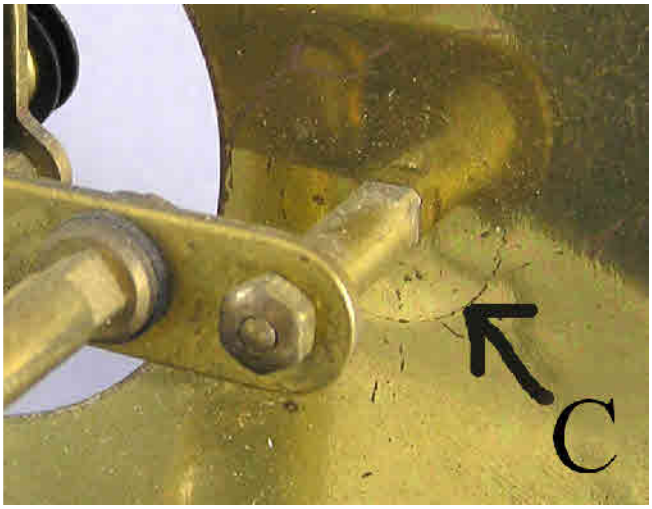
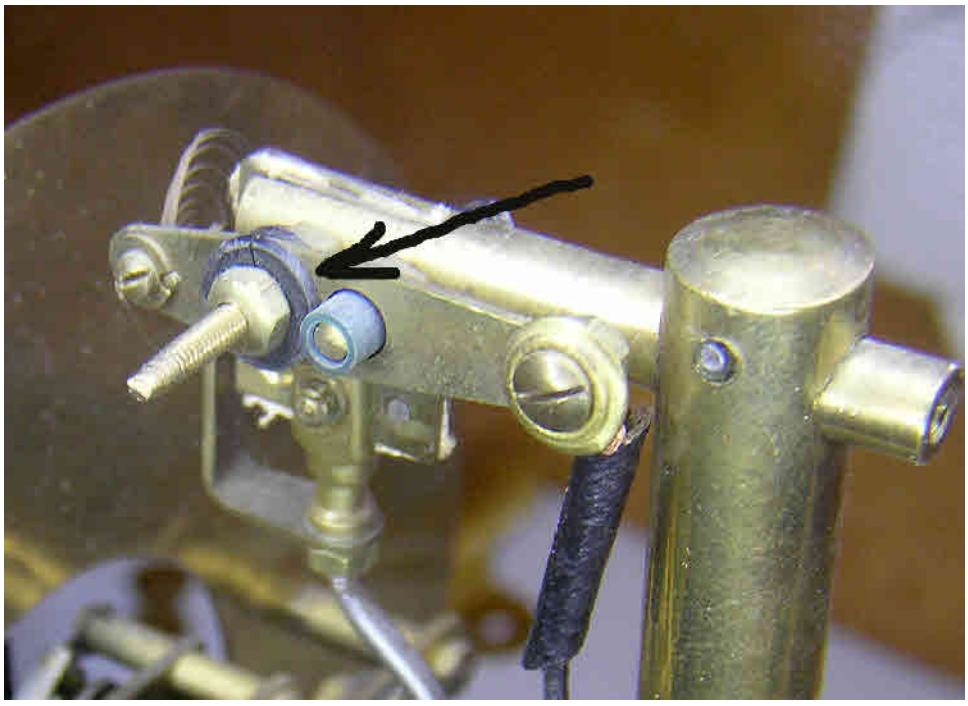




These two photos left and above show A) The missing screw, rod and packing piece for the contact pin assembly. B) shows the place where the bagged "T" piece should be housed. C) show sthe indentation left by the washers missing from behind the dial. This is the reason the dial is buckled at this point. The washers are about 15mm in diameter and support the dial where it is screwed onto the frame.



In the photo at left we find that the brass spacer washer is also missing and will need replacing.

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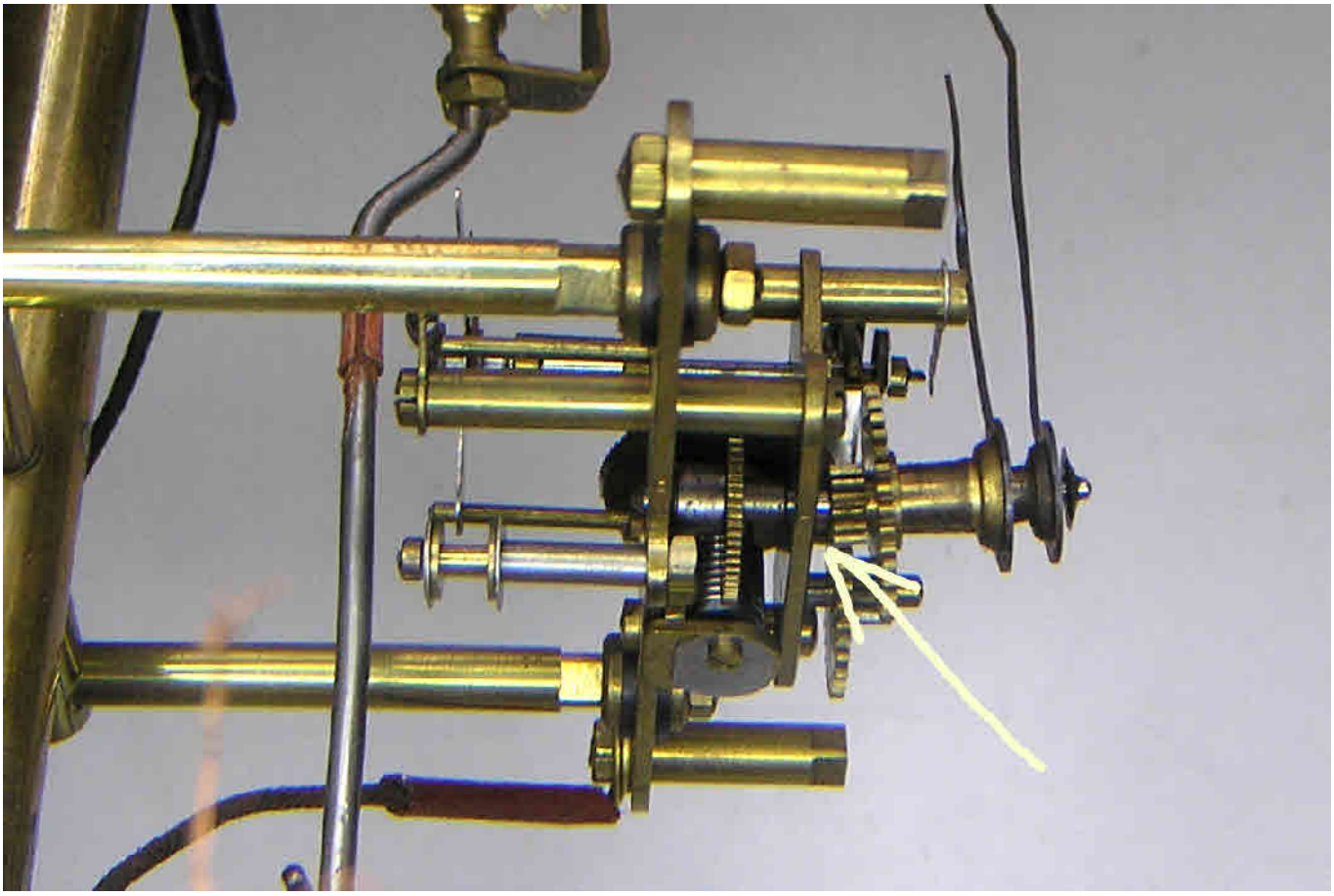
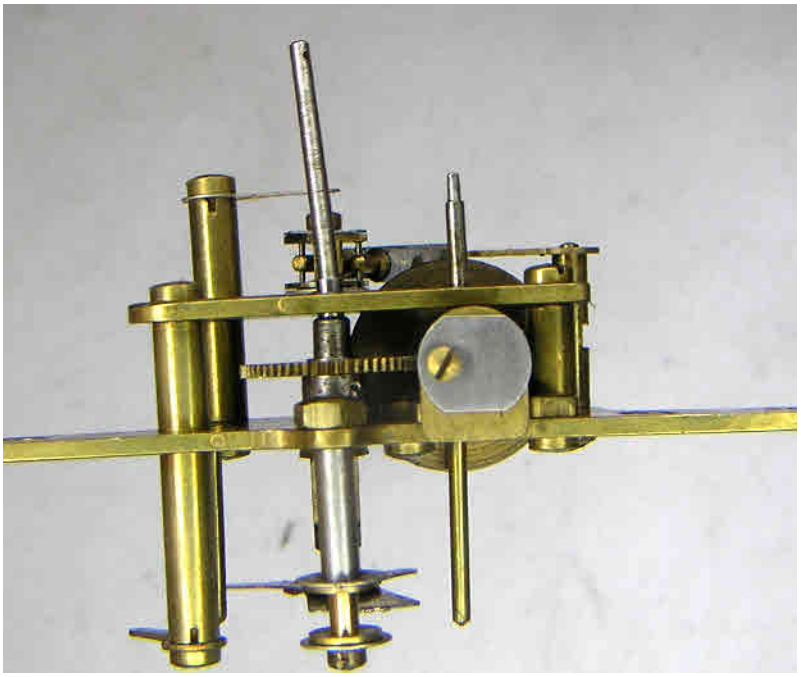


This looks a little more serious! The centre (minute) arbour seems to have a slight kink in it!! It may have been bent in transit. We'll see how bad the damage is and try and straighten it.
The rest of the movement seems not to have suffered.. Well... at least nothing seems to be missing.



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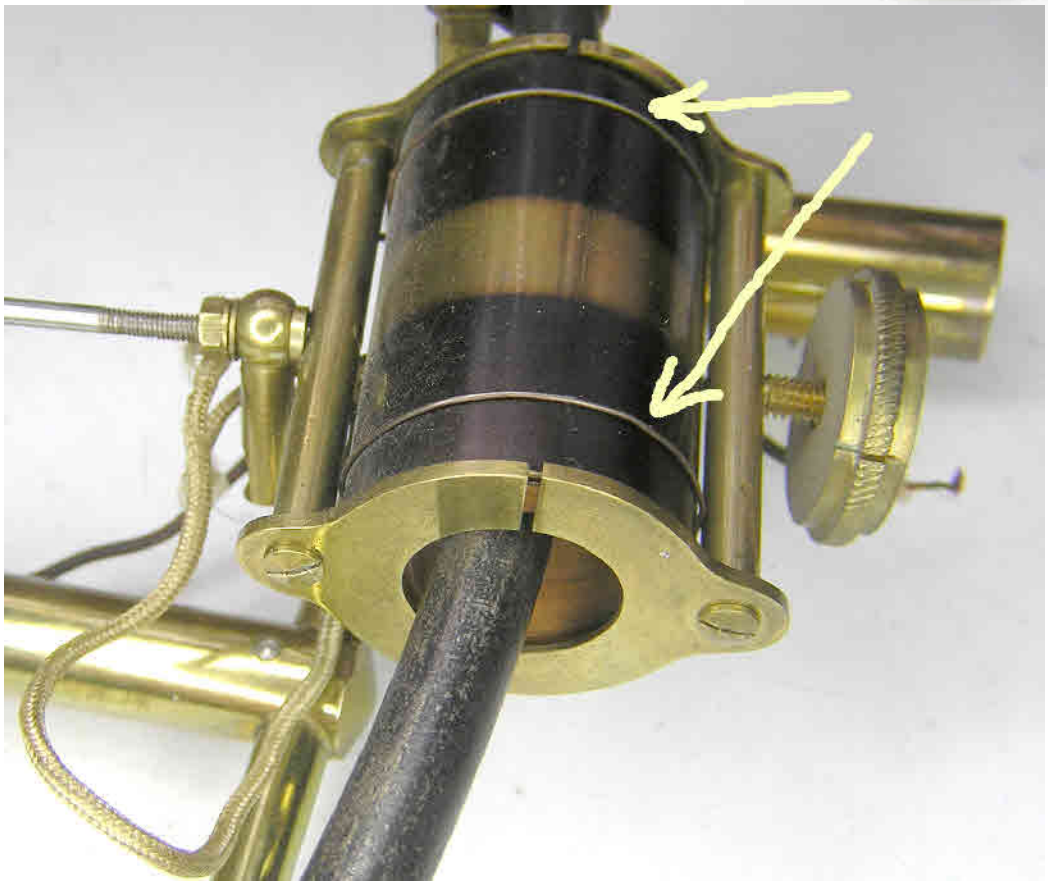
The fork contacts seem to be in good condition and will only need to be cleaned.



Above we see the centre arbour after disassembly. It should be relatively easy to straighten it.

To the left we see the two pieces of binding wire around the coil cover. I'm guessing that the brass has been bent and was difficult to replace in the cheeks the last time the clock was repaired. Note also that what at first glace appears to be a decorative brass band around the cover is in fact just an unpainted ring. This is original and must have been a cost cutting exercise on later clocks.

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The coil with the brass cheeks removed. The coil bobbin looks to be in a bad way which is not uncommon to find on Bulle clocks. It may have been damaged by a repairer in the past or it could just be cracking and flaking caused by atmospheric changes and dampness. They were machined from the solid and were sometimes very thin in structure. As long as the coil itself is intact then it will be quite acceptable to leave it as it is. We must make sure that no undue pressure is applied when re-assembling the caps.
Below we see the coil cover after the binding wire has been removed. It sprung out to an oval shape.

The photo at left shows the cover after a bit of warm manipulation. It is now round again. It's worth tryinging it in the cheeks before re-assembly with the coil, just to make sure.

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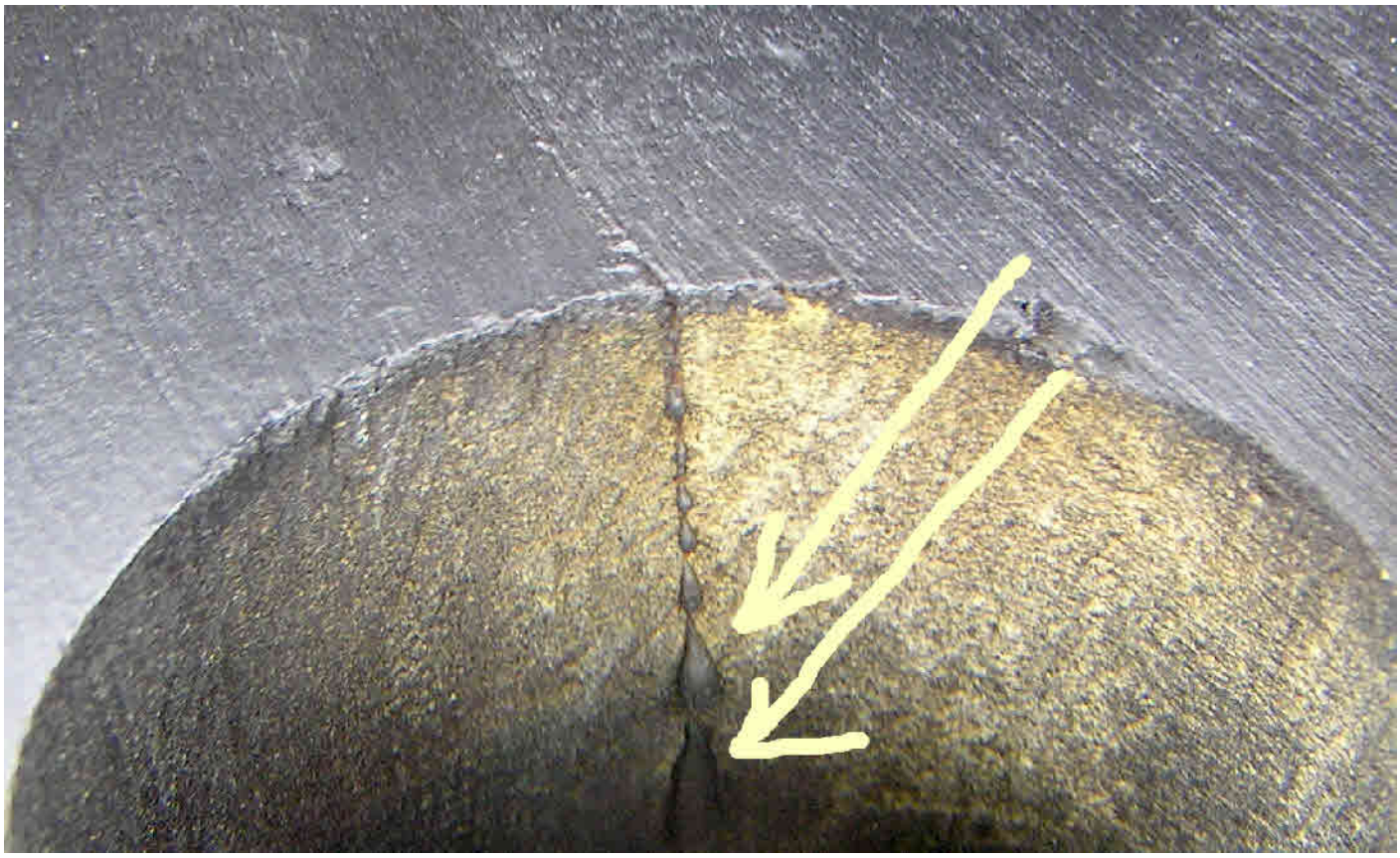

There is a bit of a problem with the hole in the base. It is oval instead of round. It looks as though the base must have been repaired in the past such that the hole ended up being oval and the brass tube would not fit. You can see the beads of glue left in the hole which would have made it impossible to insert the tube even if the hole had been perfectly round. These bases were often made up of multiple pieces of wood; in this case three pieces. I will have to set up the base on a milling machine and bore the hole round.

Here you can see the base secured to the machine table with boring just about finished. The hole is now round and 55mm diameter.

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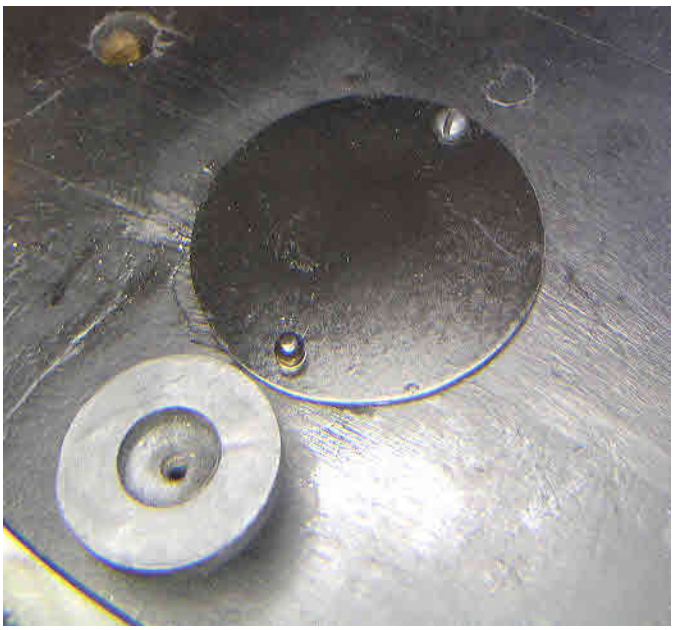
Here the replacement tube can be seen in the newly bored hole in the base.



The new bottom cover for the battery compartment.

The new contact assembly parts required to complete the pendulum

The finished and re-assembled pendulum coil.

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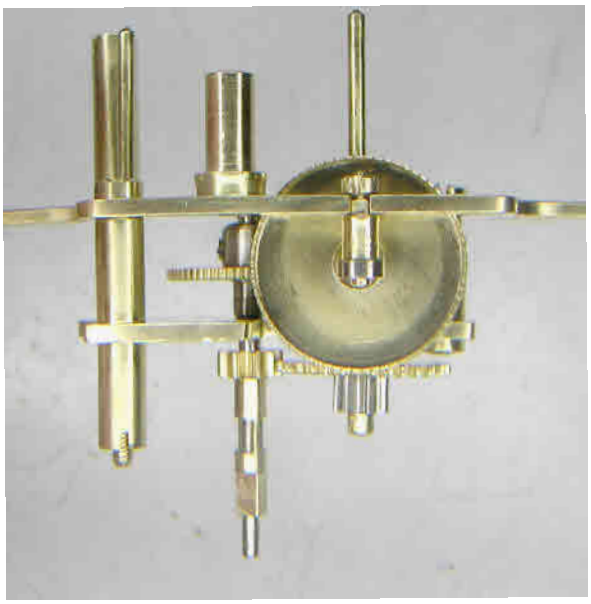
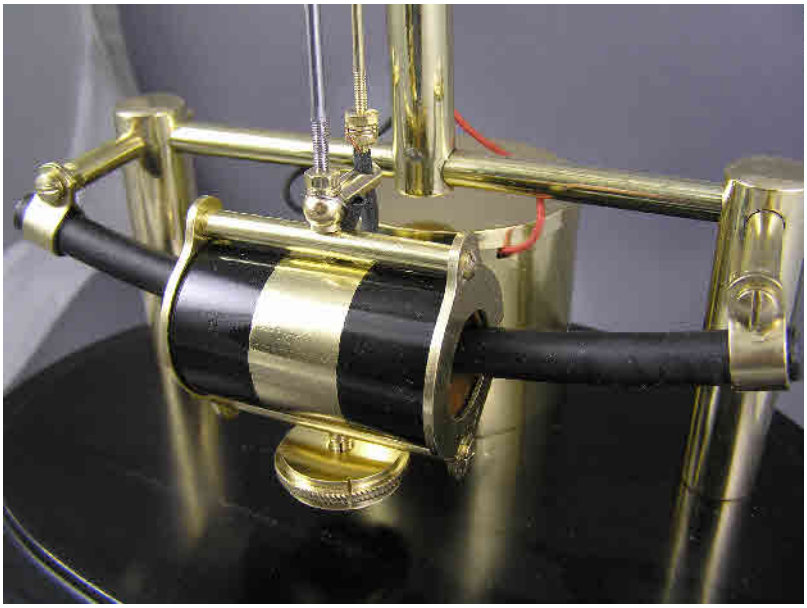


The centre arbour straightened and back in the cleaned movement.



The frame, pendulum and magnet back in place on the base

The new cap manufactured by spinning. The base has been cleaned up and cut back with black wax polish. The top has been filled in places and touched up but not completely French polished. I think it looks more natural if it's not gleaming out like new.

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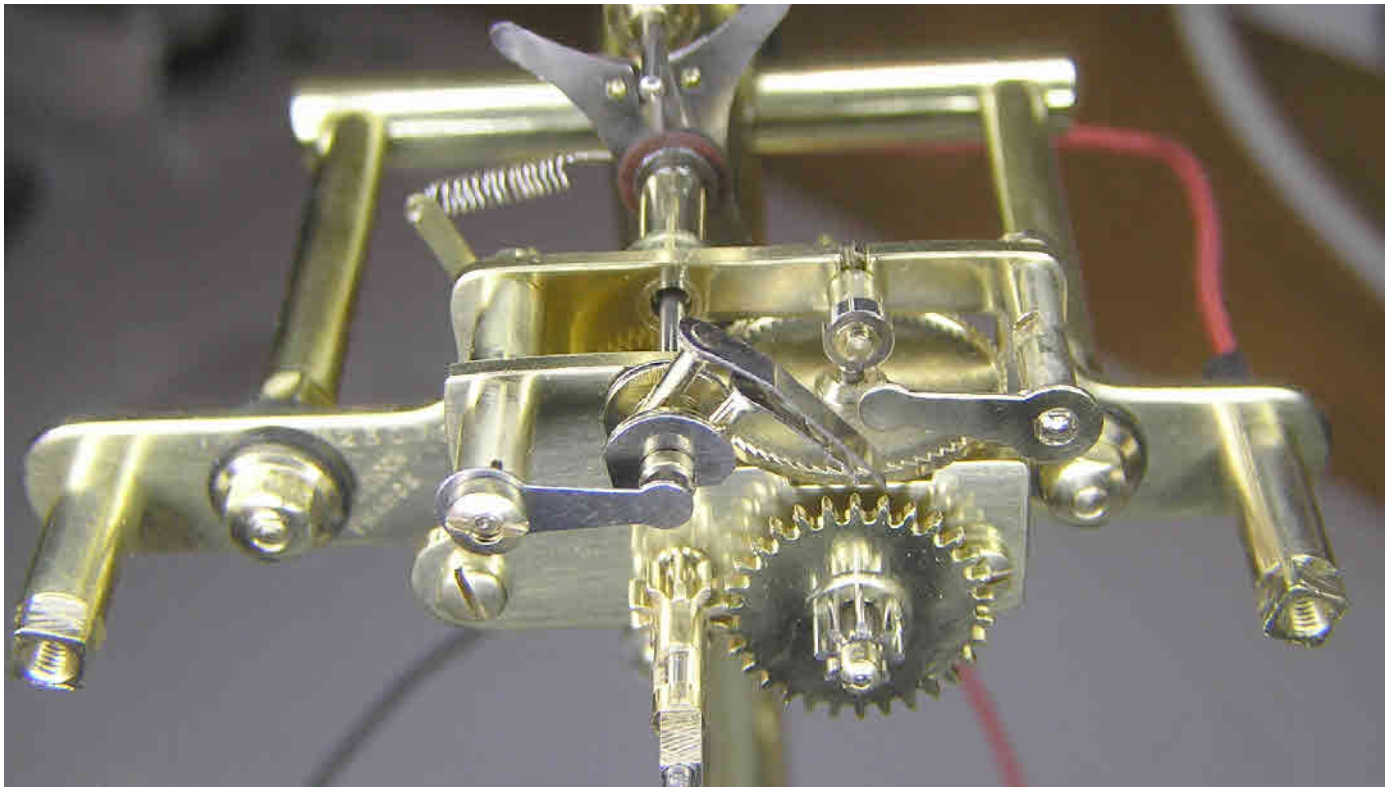
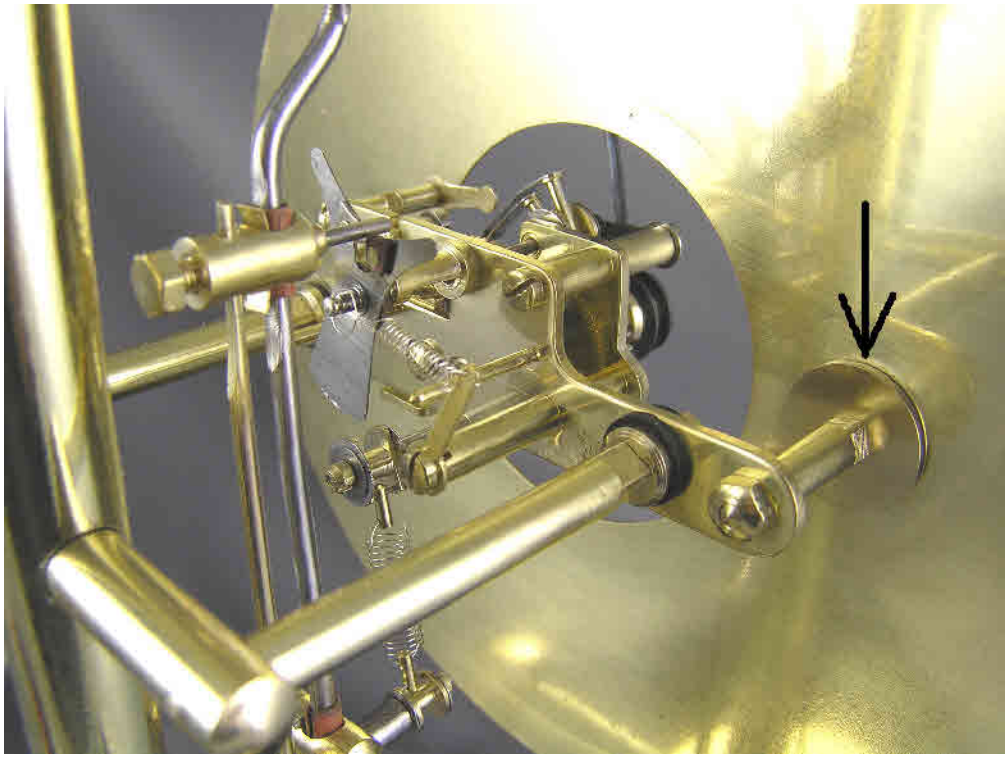


The cleaned movement back in place on the frame.



The movement and rear of the dial showing the replacement dial washers. These help to strengthen the dial and stop it from bending.

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The rear of the clock showing everything back in place.

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It's interesting to note on these medium frame movements that the magnet is short than the tall movements and the strength is a little less at 160mm on the magnetometer as against 180mm.

The dial has been cleaned and partly re-silvered to try and clean up those places where it had worn due to the bending around the screw holes. It hasn't turned out too bad!

The completed clock

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