

FRENCH CLOCK TRANSFORMATION KIT

This kit can transform an old French movement into a beautiful clock. Many French clocks have lost their original cases, and this kit provides an excellent way of reusing them.

Before commencing with the kit, it is important to make sure the clock is in good working order. This is because many French clocks have become separated from their original pendulums. Just because your clock movement has come complete with a pendulum, it may not be the original. More importantly, it may not be the right length. As the kit has to be adjusted to suit the pendulum length, it is clearly essential to make sure the clock is working properly and keeping good time.

Most French clocks had very plain pendulums designed to be functional only. They were mostly hidden inside the case. An attractive 'sunburst' pendulum in place of the original style looks much more appropriate when exposed. These can be obtained from us but we recommend that you keep the original pendulum that came with the clock for posterity.

The kit is not supplied with a dome or base, because the size of the dome will depend a great deal on the size of the movement. We recommend you assemble the kit on a piece of plywood or board. When the kit is complete, it will be a simple matter to identify the nearest dome and base available.

The kit comprises of the following items:

- (A) Top finial x 2
- (B) Movement support x 2
- (C) Pillar top x 2
- (D) Plastic insert for pillar x 4
- (E) Reeded pillar
- (F) Plastic insert for pillar base x 2
- (G) Pillar base x 2
- (H) Studding x 2

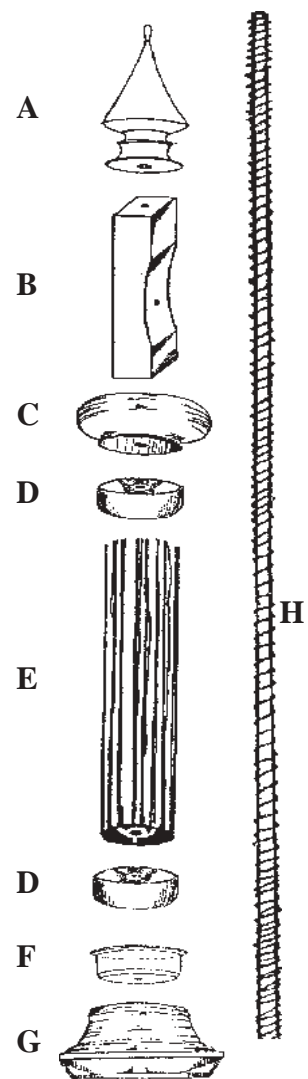
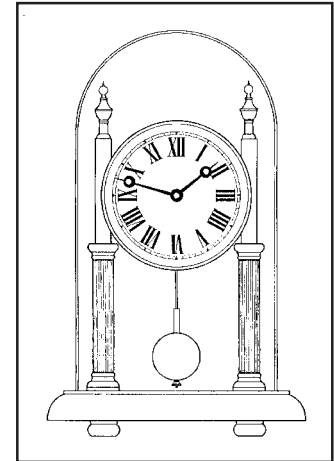
Steel washer for studding x 2

Steel nut for studding x 2

4BA Steel screw with nut for movement support x 2

Having set the clock going, either by using a stand or the original case, establish that the pendulum length is correct.

You will see that the securing holes in the two movement supports (B) are not placed centrally in the block. They can be used either way up, and this allows more freedom to position the movement in the most attractive way. This will assist you in assembling your particular movement to the kit.



Roughly assemble the kit, by first cutting a 12mm section of studding from each of the two lengths (H). If there is a burr on any of the ends of the studding, file this off so that the thread starts easily.

Insert one end of the 12mm lengths into each of the two brass finials (A) and check for fit. Remove, put a drop of 'superglue' on the screw thread inside each finial and screw the 12mm piece of studding back in about half way. Allow the glue to set.

Now screw the finials into the top of the square brass movement supports (B). Do not glue these in place. Fix the remaining lengths of studding to the lower ends of the brass movement supports (B). Once again do not glue.

Enlarge the holes in the round brass pillar tops (C) so that the studding passes clearly through. Pass the pillar tops (C) up the lengths of studding now screwed to the movement supports. File as necessary so they fit the movement supports (B) closely. Finish on end of each length of reeded pillar (E) so that it sits flat against the pillar top (C). Pass the reeded Pillar onto the studding, followed by the brass pillar base (G).

You should now have two roughly assembled movement pillars. Lay this arrangement onto the work bench. Place the movement face downwards on the bench in an appropriate position between the movement supports. Protect the clock hands and face if these are exposed. Place the pendulum in position. The length by which the reeded pillars need to be shortened can now be measured. Remove the pillars, shorten and square off the lower ends.

Fit a plastic tube insert (D) into both ends of both reeded pillars (E). Fit the two movement supports (B) to the sides of the movement, being sure to get them your chosen way up. Use the two screws and nuts provided to fix them to the body of the bezel. There should be two holes where the original movement straps were fitted. Alternatively the case can be tapped to suit. The clock may look better if you file away a curved section from the movement supports, as shown in the parts list. This will also hold the movement more securely. This curve should be cut to suit the curve of your clock where it touches the supports.

Fit the two pillar base inserts (F) into the pillar bases (G). Make a hole in the centre of each base insert (F) through which the studding can pass. Fit the pillar base inserts (F) into the pillar bases (G).

Pass the pillar bases (G) complete with inserts (F) onto the studding. It should now be possible to mark the holes for studding into the temporary base board. Drill these large enough for the studding to pass through. Do not cut all the excess studding off at this stage. It is better to fit some timber feet to the base board or stand the base board on a carton. The excess studding simply extends onto the box.

Fit the steel washers onto the two pieces of studding protruding from under the base. Fix firmly with nuts. The clock can now be tested.

When happy with the height of the kit and the general arrangement of the movement, select a suitable dome. It will be clear that the pillars do not necessarily go in the centre of the dome and it is for this reason that the dome cannot normally be purchased with the kit. Dismantle the various pieces. Each one can now be cleaned and polished with a metal polish. Brass items in the kit are sometimes differing colours, depending on the manufacturer we have used. They are all brass, and when any anti-tarnish finish is removed, they will all look similar. Even if the clock is to be fitted beneath a glass dome, it is wise to lacquer all the brass parts of the kit with colourless lacquer. When dry, reassemble as before.

Carefully mark the holes on the glass dome base. Drill these to suit the studding, and make a recess under the base to accommodate the steel washer, the nut, and a small length of studding. This will stop the studding of nuts from scratching any polished surfaces. Assemble the clock onto the base. If desired, small brass feet can be added to the base.