

## THE FRENCH CLOCK

### **44 DE-GREASE / DE-OIL ALL THE PARTS AND THE PLATES**

*Whether you decide to use Rodico® or Blu-Tack the presence even of traces of oil or grease will give you big problems. One of the best materials to de-grease is ordinary petrol-lighter fuel. It will remove almost every kind of oil or grease and will evaporate leaving perfectly dry components. Do not skimp this process because any residue of dissolved Rodico® or Blu-Tack is difficult to remove especially from wheel teeth and pinion leaves. Now read this paragraph again.*

### **45. Double-check you have completed ALL the bushing and pivot work.**

*It will be found to be a complete waste of time and effort to go through all the assembly work only to find that some important corrective work has not been completed. Initially, each train of wheels should be placed separately into their position without regard for correct orientation of pins and levers. Test they are free and properly meshing using finger pressure. One must be absolutely sure that all bushing is complete and accurate before proceeding. The wheels must run easily and freely. Should any resistance be felt this **MUST** be corrected before going any further. **These sections 44 & 45 are the most important here.***

### **46. Group together the parts associated with the Strike/Chime/Going trains.**

*Do this now so that during assembly you do not accidentally fit the wrong wheel. This may seem unimportant but sometimes it really is difficult to decide which wheel belongs to which train. Do all the identification during the dismantling stage and if wheels are very similar tie a label on one of them.*

### **47. Insert the Centre Wheel**

*Close the plates and make sure it spins freely yet without sloppiness and large end-shake. You should have done this in step 45 but double check now.*

### **48. It might be necessary to add the Mainspring Barrels now.**

*Sometimes it is impossible to add or remove these barrels when adjoining wheels are in place. You will need to check this for the movement on which you are working. If they can be added later this is a bonus if only to reduce weight.*

### **49. Add the Hammer Pinwheel and the Hammer Lift Bar ONLY.**

*Place each into their places and replace the top Plate - pin it lightly.*

### **50. Rotate the Pinwheel until the hammer JUST drops.**

*(This step is not critical with the majority of French clocks because one can remove the little pivot plate later for exact adjustment of the hammer action. However, I do it properly each time, as I want to check the hammer drop is correct before proceeding) After making **SURE** that the hammer falls properly, place small pieces of Rodico® on the bottom Plate where the Hammer Lift Lever rests and alongside the Pin Wheel to hold them both in place securely. **Use Rodico® Freely!!***