

#1 Most European Clocks:

There are two straps within the case running from the dial base to the rear. On the rear surface and sitting in the hole you will find a steel or brass ring and usually also a fitted door. The ring will have two long screws set into two straps to secure the movement tightly.

The first step is to remove the bell if this is fitted. Simply unscrew the knurled holding nut and the bell will come off. Replace the nut for safekeeping.

Next, carefully unhook the pendulum from its suspension spring. Force is to be avoided as the spring is delicate and cannot be repaired. A replacement would have to be obtained. If you do break it, send the fragments to me and I will obtain a new spring for you.

Now you can remove the movement.

The strap screws should be unscrewed carefully and completely whilst holding the front of the movement to prevent it falling out. If you are not used to this operation it is a good idea to have a second person to hold the dial side firmly as often the dial side has heavy plate glass and has a tendency to fall forward as soon as the second screw is removed. Damage from a fall will be expensive to repair (**Perhaps even impossible with some of these older movements**). Replace each screw into its strap **now**, as often the threads will differ. If these screws were loose initially it is a good plan deal with this problem now rather than experimenting after the case has been restored. Often you will find that the threads inside the soft brass strap ends have worn and no longer afford good grip to the steel screw. If this is the case you should obtain some steel nuts suitable for the screws to be fitted beyond the strap ends when replacing the movement.

When the movement is free, gently and carefully remove it from the front of the case. **Be most careful that you do not damage any of the projecting parts**, (such as the balance wheel if fitted), on the edge of the case hole. Also, if the case is fitted with a gong, be especially careful that the hammer does not foul the gong coils as you withdraw the movement.

Now place the movement facedown on a soft pad of some kind in a box that will keep it safe from accidents. Keep the pendulum with the movement.

#2 Many American Clocks (but not all models):

In some common American clocks such as Ansonia, Seth Thomas and other makes the movement is held **only** on the front face of the case. As you can see in the photograph you might find three or four screws on the dial plate once you have opened the glass door. In my opinion it is really wise for the non professional to have a second person to assist in removing these movements. They are heavy units and although sturdy, they can suffer damage. Because they are all around 100 years old it stands to reason that broken parts have to be made rather than bought from a catalogue.