

Clock Repair Course

Sponsored by the George McNeil Potomac Guild
Horological Association of Virginia

Mondays and Wednesdays
6:15 PM — 8:30 PM

Green Acres Center
4401 Sideburn Road
Fairfax, VA 22030

Course Description

The Clock Repair Course will provide students with the knowledge of clock functions, principles, and control of various types of escapements and striking mechanisms. The class will include instructions of disassembly, cleaning, oiling, reassembling components, replacing parts, making simple repairs and time regulating. This course is designed for hands-on participation by the students working on their own clocks. It will be oriented toward the typical American 8-day, spring or weight driven mantle/wall clock with or without strike.

Guild members also participate as part of our ongoing continuing education opportunities.

Scope of Course

This beginner-friendly course focuses on classic American pendulum clocks (kitchen or mantle) provided by the student.

With a fully immersive, hands-on approach, every step is guided by experienced instructors. Students will learn by doing and, while working at their own pace, should be able to finish their clock by the end of the semester.

For more complex movements like Westminster chimes (or three train clocks) and 400-day (or Anniversary) clocks, we recommend advanced courses. We'll focus on mechanisms that are manageable and rewarding for beginners.

If your clock requires extensive lathe work or specialized repairs, we'll be happy to guide you towards qualified professionals who can help.

Attendance

While class officially meets Mondays and Wednesdays 6:15-8:30 PM, feel free to attend on the day and within the time that works best for you. Can't make Mondays? No worries! Join later in the evening? That's totally fine! (Just note that the first two sessions cover key theory, so attending those if possible is recommended.)

Tools, Text Books and Materials

Tools

Students should furnish their own basic tools, most of which can usually be found around the house. (A helpful handout will be provided at the first class.)

Screwdrivers – both straight slot and Phillips head

Small pliers – assortment

Small hammers – (brass, steel, rawhide)

Side cutters

Plastic margarine tub and lid or similar container for clock parts

If you plan to work at home, additional specialized tools may be needed. Discuss with your instructor.

Text Books

With the exception of the furnished handout *Clock Repairing* by Marvin Whitney, there is no required text for the course. However, students are encouraged to acquire books relative to clock repair to add to their library. The following books are recommended:

This Old Clock by David S. Goodman (available only from the author directly)

The Clock Repair Primer by Phillip E. Balcomb

Practical Clock Repair by Donald de Carle

Clock Repair Basics by Steven G. Conover

Striking Clock Repair Guide by Steven G. Conover

Materials

Cleaning materials and some common parts, such as bushings, will be provided as part of the class. Other required parts which are unique to the student's individual clock will have to be purchased from a Horological supply house. The following are a few of the most popular:

Merritts Inc.
1-800-345-4101
www.merritts.com

Timesavers
1-800-552-1520
www.timesavers.com

Mile Hi Clock Supplies
303-469-1220
www.milehicklocksupplies.com

Outline of Course Topics

Principle Clock Components

Basic Terminology

Mechanical Clock Types

Repair Procedures

 Initial Inspection

 Disassembly

 Cleaning and Examination

Reassembly

 Strike Setup

 Placing a Clock in Beat

Lubrication