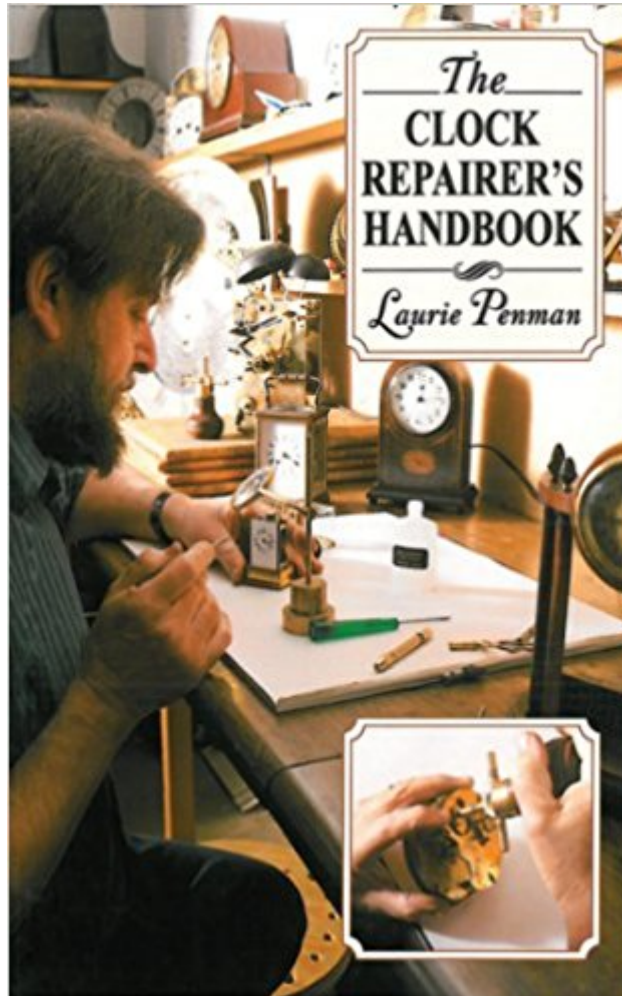




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The Clock Repairer's Handbook



Synopsis

Laurie Penman has written an indispensable guide for both the absolute beginner and the experienced clock enthusiast. The Clock Repairer's Handbook provides information on how to repair and maintain a clock's delicate mechanics and teaches the basics of clock repairing through detailed, easy-to-follow instructions and more than three hundred instructive diagrams and illustrations. Advice and directions for cleaning clock movements, pivoting and mounting, fixing train faults and gears, the importance of lubrication and friction, and how to make sure the strike and chimes work on the hour, every hour. The Clock Repairer's Handbook provides all the necessary information to troubleshoot any clock's problems and to make sure your clock continues to run in perfect order for generations to come.

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Customer Reviews

Laurie Penman has been repairing clocks since 1972. He has authored The Clock Repairer's Handbook, Clock Design and Construction, Practical Clock Escapements, and The Carriage Clock. He lives in Sunman, Indiana.

I bought this book along with several others to learn about basic clock repair to maintain and repair my small collection of mechanical clocks. The organization of topics is very logical, first starting with clock troubleshooting. His first chapter does assume a working knowledge of clock part terminology

that, at times, leaves the novice lost. More pictures of his discussion points would have been helpful here. However, follow-on chapters on the various components of the clock movement and their repair is excellent. I would suggest anyone just starting to learn clock repair read Steven G. Conover's "Clock Repair Basics" prior to reading this handbook. This will provide much needed basic terminology with pictures/diagrams to help learn the parts breakdown. Laurie Penman's handbook is a good buy to add knowledge and repair processes. His repair techniques involve more hand tool useage than many repairers do, allowing the novice to obtain basic repair tools to address many of the minor adjustments and repairs to clock movements. His chapter on tools clearly outlines the uses for the more expensive and elaborate tools: lathe; depthening tool and bushing tool; thus giving the novice a better understanding of repair limitations without additional tool investment.

I purchased this as a companion to the clock oil I needed. It is written for readers who are knowledgeable about clock repair, not for the average person who knows nothing about the terminology. I wanted a simple instruction with illustrations on how to oil my pendulum clock -- this book did not help. There were very few illustrations and none that even matched my grandfather clock (which isn't that old). If you are looking for a history of clock repair and tool descriptions and understand all the terminology, then this might be for you. I returned it.

Have to love the British DNA bias against German and French made clocks. Great advice but far more technical than what we needed. Laurie clearly is an expert and he writes very well. Book covers old world clocks. If you are looking to repair one of the battery operated clocks this is not for you. But if you have an old world Grandfather clock or other non-battery powered clock you will find useful information here. Recommended.

I'm at best a novice when it comes to clock repair. I bought this book to try to learn some basics. But the book is written for someone who's already familiar with clock mechanisms. For example, the author strongly recommends that everyone read chapter 1 to get the big picture even if they have a specialized interest that's covered in another chapter. But chapter 1 is full of terms that are never explained with very limited and not very useful illustrations. This book may be very useful to someone who already knows about clocks and is trying to fill in their knowledge in some specialized areas but don't waste your time if you don't already know a lot about how clocks work and the names of all the parts.

The author may live in Indiana but he uses the Queen's English. Obviously a Brit and a lover of the English language. Some may think his writing is slightly stilted, but to borrow a phrase from Winston Churchill, It is something up with one must simply be prepared to put. The first chapter must be read first before jumping to any other subject in the book. It details theory and troubleshooting.

Unfortunately, most of it went over my head, but a second read-through was quite enlightening. Things began to make sense, especially since I then had a clockwork mechanism in my hands. The drawings were created by a professional machinist and can be somewhat confusing to the layman. Hopefully, anyone willing to take on clocks as a hobby will have some mechanical abilities. I was able to determine why my clock was striking a few hours incorrectly and make the correction. And, in the process, learned to do the oiling that needs to be done every two to three years. Without oil, clock parts begin to deform and/or wear away. Very important. Clock oil kits are available online for under \$20.00. And yes, you can oil the mechanism on the kitchen table; use a soft mat. I used a few miniature and small screwdrivers and small, smoothed jawed needle-nose pliers that I bought from Sears. More advanced work, such as machining new parts, installing new bushings in pivot holes, or adding metal by silver soldering, will require training and expensive shop equipment. I would not consider this a book for rank beginners; more of a middle-level book that carries a wide variety of repair topics on many different types of clocks. It's probably great for the apprentice in the clock repair shop. Yes, the book did work for me. It was informative. I'm glad I bought it but I doubt that I'll use most of the information in it. Then again, who knows?

Good book for basics... however it gets into advanced clock repair that most do not have the tools for. Also not enough terminology and explanations for clock repair.

I am amassing a fair collection of books on clock and watch repair as I jump deeply into a hobby I began years ago. I feel this book is more suited for the serious amateur and professional. It is the most comprehensive book on the topic in my library. The text is clear, easy to read and the topics are explained well. There are plenty of clear illustrations that compliment the text. While I claim that the book is best suited to a serious clock enthusiast, the author does not assume any significant prior knowledge on the part of the reader. A beginner will also find much to their liking in this book. I highly recommend this book, and will soon be adding additional books from this author to my library. DRW

Not as advertised. Supposed to be for beginner and advanced repair person, yet sadly lacking in clear diagrams and visuals. Also uses terminology common to clock repair on very first pages of the book without explaining what these parts are. If you don't know how to identify all the parts of a clock movement before you pick this book up, then the book will be useless to you.

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