

Section 3

Preparation

3. Preparation

Before we start I thought I'd better mention a few points for those who may be endeavouring to restore a clock of their own.

1. Take lots of photos at every stage. You'll be surprised how much you will forget once there are hundreds of pieces of brass and steel littering your bench. Modern digital cameras are ideal. As soon as you fill a flash memory card you can download them to your pc for safe keeping. Failing that, draw pictures and write copious notes. I still take photos of new assemblies I haven't worked on before like the Isochron adjuster on clock s/n 17318. (See www.horologix.com)

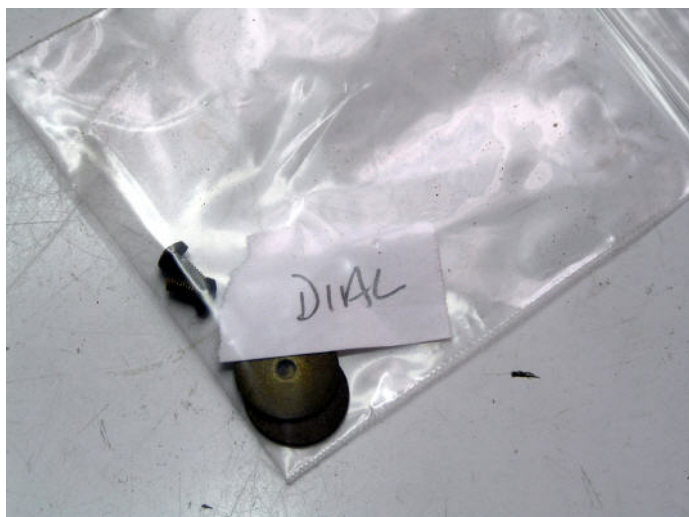


Photo 3/1

2. Buy a hundred or so of those sealing plastic wallets (**photo 3/1**). Every time you pull apart a sub assembly put all the parts in the bag with a piece of paper stating their location. If you have to, clean each assembly (therefore each wallet) separately thereby keeping each one together.

3. You may have to buy or make a few simple tools to deal with the small parts found on a Bulle clock. A set of small precision watchmakers screwdrivers, a set of metric nut spinners or spanners ranging from 2mm to 8mm, a set of screw drivers with the centre ground to fit the small round Bulle nuts. Finally a pair of small smooth jaw pliers. The photo below (**photo 3/2**) and inset show the tools I use throughout the restoration. There are other specially made or adapted items that I use but I will show them as we progress.

4. Only proceed if you are confident in your skills. If the clock is important to you as a family piece or valued treasure then it is probably wiser to let a professional restore it for you. Try the British Horological Institute for the name of a local restorer near you. The web address is <http://www.bhi.co.uk>

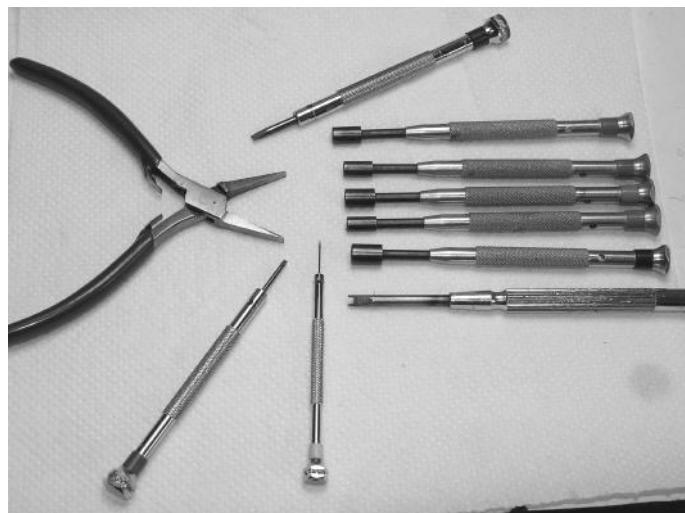


Photo 3/2