

## **Pendulum Clocks ~ Countwheel Striking ~ The Floating Balance**

### **THE COUNTWHEEL STRIKING SYSTEM**

Many clocks with which we are familiar such as the traditional 8 day Long Case or 'Grandfather' clock or the once popular 'Napoleon' mantle clock with Westminster Chimes have a system of striking known as "Rack Striking". In this system the striking mechanism is adjusted automatically as the hands are turned when setting. The clock maintains its setting without any assistance from the owner. In many instances there is present additionally a self-correcting component.

The earlier style movement using the system known as Countwheel Striking has to rely occasionally for help from the owner to ensure that the correct strike pattern is maintained. The clock usually strikes the number of hours on the hour and often a single strike on the half-hour. This system is very commonly found in many French clocks of the 1700s and 1800s but was maintained by several of the American and German manufacturers as well. In British clocks it is also not uncommon and is a feature of the Old English 30hour Longcase Clock. You will appreciate there are many thousands of these clocks in Britain alone. The problem usually presents itself by one noticing that the clock strikes the hour at the half-past, and the half-hour on the hour, and often the number of hours struck does not reflect the position of the hour hand. There is nothing more unacceptable than poor striking. However.....

There is no need to call the Horologist. At least not yet!

***THE OWNER MUST LEARN TO ADJUST THE CLOCK  
THERE IS NO PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE***

These are some examples of Countwheel Movements



**French Clock from the 1800s - Very common in Britain**