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The first thing to check is "is it wound"? The clock winds at the back on the lower left hand side as you face the back of the clock. Most anniversary clocks wind counter-clockwise. Wind fully but do not force it. A fully unwound clock usually requires anywhere from 7 to 12 half turns of the winding key.

Anniversary or (if you prefer) 400-day clocks should be wound every six months in order to keep it running within some degree of accuracy. They will run slightly more than a year on one wind (hence the name of anniversary) but after six months or so the force of the mainspring is somewhat depleted and the clock will start to slow down.

The second thing to do is too get hold of some clock oil from a local clock shop (I will not sell it) and lightly lubricate (that means a drop or less) the "holes" in the plates where the end of the gear or wheel comes through the plate. These "holes" are referred to as pivot holes, or bushings, or oil sinks in the plates. If you cannot get a hold of clock oil then use as light of an oil as you can get your hands on such as sewing machine or gun oil. But clock oil is preferred and remember use it sparingly.

Third make sure that when you start the clock you make a full revolution with the pendulum (3 or 4-balled, or disk type) in either direction. If all is well the clock will "tick" on the next swing of the pendulum. Also the end of the pendulum should be centered inside a small brass cup (if your clock has one) and the clock must be level. The reason for this is because any extra outside friction will definitely stop the clock. This includes the suspension spring (that long hair-like piece of metal the pendulum is hanging by) which should be free from everything and not rub on anything for the same reason as above.

If you plan on getting into any more repairs on the anniversary clock then do yourself a big favor and get a copy of the "Horolovar 400-day Clock Repair Guide".

For more information about the guide please see file 400day.mcc and also see my files matclock.mcc and publica.mcc for supply houses which carry the guide as well as other repair materials.

If you don't plan on getting any more involved in the repair then I suggest that you take the timepiece into a local repair shop and establish a good relationship with that person. Do NOT pick just anyone. Ask whether or not they belong to either of the following:

AWI (American Watchmakers-Clockmakers Institute),
BHI (British Horological Institute), or
NAWCC (National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors).

Hopefully that local person will belong to at least one (1) of the aforementioned organizations. This will NOT guarantee that the person is knowledgeable or reputable but it WILL tell you that most likely that person is a caring and serious repair person that strives to keep well informed and apprised of the "best" techniques concerning restoration.

Besides what I already mentioned a local repair person will keep the monies you spend within your community. This type of support will help keep professionals in your community and thereby guarantee that your community will prosper and flourish.

Finally, if you do not want to trust your 400-day clock to just anyone then d/l my file 400pub.mcc for a description of my repairs, prices, and turn around time.

A service from, E-mail address: Mike@atmos-man.com
Mike Murray Founder of Clocksmiths

A specialist in Atmos and 400-day clock repair.
Also, I overhaul most plug in electric clocks.
In continuous horological service since 04/01/1982.

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