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Placing the Atmos clock "In-Beat".

First off, if the clock is running, even if it's fast or slow, do NOT try to place the clock in beat because being out of beat will cause the clock not to run at all and it has nothing to do with it's timing.

There are actually two things, on the Atmos, that must be "in-beat". In-beat means that the tick and tock occur exactly at the same time interval from each other. If you listen to a mantel, wall, or grandfather clock you can hear the evenness of the ticking. It is this evenness that we call in-beat. Unfortunately, on 400-days and the Atmos, your ear is NOT sensitive enough to hear the differences in the beat or ticking and must rely on observation or electronic timers.

The first are the pallets on the fork. These pallets are fictioned fit on the fork, so you can move the fork while one of the pallets is blocked, usually by the escape wheel, to place this in beat. The best method I have found is to remove the power, movement, and pendulum, along with the suspension unit and then remount the movement and wind the mainspring. If the fork is properly poised and in beat, the fork will impulse rapidly and will continue to do so. This is much like the "flutter" on a 400-day but not as fast.

The second "in-beat" condition is the roller. It is exactly like a 400-day in that the roller must have the same amount of after swing in both directions. If not there is a small screw, which once loosened, allows you to rotate it in either direction. Another way to state it is that when the power is off and the movement is removed, the roller will come to rest in the center front of the frame facing you.

I use a two handed process in setting the roller and gently pull the bottom of the roller slightly down and then tighten the screw. This seems to make sure that the impulse is as strong as it needs to be as the pendulum rotates.

Both the fork and the pendulum, LeCoultre calls it

the balance, MUST be poised.

Most of the above is contained in the "Atmos Repair Notes", which is available from all major suppliers for about \$3.00 or \$4.00.

If any of this causes you concern please be sure to take or mail the Atmos to someone who knows what he or she is doing because one slip will cost you the price of an overhaul anyway.

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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