

1920 Chelsea

The Chelsea Clock Company is probably the last clock manufacturer in the United States. Their factory in Boston, MA, has been offering high-grade mechanical clocks since 1897. The company was originally founded as the Eastman Clock Company in 1886. The name changed to the Boston Clock Company in 1893. The United States Navy supplied their ships with Chelsea clocks that are now in strong demand among collectors. Earlier Chelseas, like the one on this page, were equipped with seven-jewel escapements provided by Waltham. This clock has nine jewels because two more were added later. Figure 1 shows the front of the movement with the escapement.



Fig. 1

The back side of the movement is shown in figure 2. The ship's bell strike parts work similarly compared to the Schatz ship's bell clock in this website, though the design is different.



Fig. 2

The time and strike trains are arranged in two layers. The relationship between the gears in the strike train must be adjusted such that the striking stops just after the second drop of the hammer, and the warning wheel rotates by about a quarter turn when the clock goes into warning. This is the most difficult part of assembling the clock.



Fig. 3

The centershaft (the third wheel of the time train) consists of two parts, one of which must be placed between the plates during assembly of the strike train, as shown in Figure 4.



Fig. 4

Figure 5 shows the time train. All brass gears in this clock are gold-plated. The pinion leaves are polished to a mirror finish. The quality and craftsmanship in vintage Chelseas are superb.



Fig. 5

1897	001
1899	3937
1904	16459
1909	59641
1914	97528
1919	136237
1924	159719
1929	194237
1934	213894
1939	256235
1944	472765
1949	559240
1954	598659
1959	638906
1964	673459
1969	743137
1974	786288
1979	827760
1984	857063
1989	868171

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