

Gustav Becker Clock

This clock looks like a Vienna Regulator, but it was factory made by Gustav Becker in Freiburg, next to the Black Forest in Southern Germany. The introduction of factory methods of clock production increased the quantities produced and lowered the prices dramatically. It is my understanding that a Gustav Becker clock originally cost only one tenth the price to produce, compared to a comparable hand-made regulator clock from Vienna. The name brand of Gustav Becker has excellent recognition, making these clocks highly collectible.



Fig. 1

This example is probably from the late 1880s. You can see that, compared to the Vienna Regulator shown on the [previous page](#), the levers are larger and heavier. The following photos were taken during disassembly.



Fig. 2

Taking this clock apart is straightforward, as it has the conventional design for the rack and snail.



Fig. 3

One issue I have with Vienna Regulator clocks, and you can see it on this clock, is that the pallet assembly has the beat adjustment mounted to it, adding a lot of unnecessary weight. The pallet assembly should be as light as possible. The beat adjustment could be mounted on the pendulum itself, which is

sometimes seen on other types of clocks.



Fig. 4

Outstanding quality, for a fraction of the cost, is what earned Gustav Becker a gold medal, earned at the 1852 Silesia Trade Exposition.



Fig. 5

The pallet assembly has a Vulliamy escapement, which is a Graham escapement with adjustable pallets. This feature would help considerably in lowering the cost of production.



Fig. 6

Each pallet has two screws to hold it in place. The only disadvantage here is that the design adds weight to the pallet assembly, so more weight will be required to keep this clock running.



Fig. 7

in 1935.

| Year | Serial No. |
|------|------------|
| 1850 | 480 |
| 1860 | 4000 |
| 1863 | 10,000 |
| 1865 | 15,000 |
| 1867 | 25,000 |
| 1872 | 50,000 |
| 1875 | 100,000 |
| 1880 | 260,000 |
| 1885 | 500,000 |
| 1890 | 800,000 |
| 1892 | 1,000,000 |
| 1900 | 1,500,000 |
| 1913 | 1,850,000 |
| 1923 | 1,860,000 |
| 1925 | 1,945,399 |
| 1926 | 2,244,868 |

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