

## **Safety and Your Vintage Electric Clock**

Vintage electric clocks can be beautiful clocks and can run reliably and safely for decades. There are some things to remember about these clocks, however.

**SAFETY FIRST!** These clocks were designed many decades before modern safety standards were established. Many were designed before UL existed as we know it today. As such, it is important to remember that any metal exposed areas of the clock are potential shock hazards. We strive to correct obvious safety problems with wiring and insulation; but no matter what anyone does, it is still a clock designed with antiquated safety philosophies. So, no one can guarantee they will always be safe! As a precaution, **DO NOT** touch any metal part of the clock if any other part of your body is in contact with any grounded surface or metallic object. For example, touching exposed metal on a vintage appliance, clock, lamp, etc. with bare feet on ground level tile floors, especially when wet, poses a risk. Another example is touching metallic table lamps or any other metallic appliance while touching exposed metal on the clock. If this seems conservative, consider the era in which these clocks were designed. It is **IMPOSSIBLE** to fully control the condition of these clocks, given their age.

**Use common sense with any vintage electric appliance, clock, or lamp. We do not recommend using them in bathrooms, kitchens, or laundry rooms near wet areas.**

**Fire Hazard.** For maximum safety, treat ANY vintage electric appliance as a potential fire hazard, including your electric clock. As such, keep the clock away from any flammable objects like boxes of tissue paper, cloths, curtains, flammable liquids, etc. If the clock should ever feel hot to the touch, **UNPLUG IT** and send it in for repair. Slightly warm to the touch is ok. If the clock emits any smoke or burning smell, it **MUST BE UNPLUGGED** and sent in for repair.

**Cord.** Be sure the cord is not located anywhere that it might experience abrasion. If the cord shows any sign of wear or cracking, have it replaced.

**Vintage Cords.** If your clock was restored with a Vintage style woven cord, or if it still has the original cord, please keep in mind that they are very fragile. Any snag or abrasion against a sharp edge, rubbing or stepping on the cord will likely cause it to fray. Once it starts to fray, there is no stopping it from unraveling. If this should happen, have the cord replaced.

**Noise.** A noisy clock is not necessarily a sign of compromised safety. Most if not all vintage electric clocks will emit a very low level grinding or grumbling sound and this is normal. But clearly audible whines or grinding that can be heard more than 6 feet away may mean that it is time to lubricate or otherwise service the clock.

**Light Bulbs.** Some clocks have internal light bulbs. Mastercrafters clocks are often equipped with small 4 watt night light style bulbs to illuminate some special effect. As another example, the Viking MoonGlo uses a small night light bulb that is accessible from the bottom of the clock by removal of 4 screws. **ALWAYS UNPLUG CLOCK BEFORE CHANGING BULBS!** When replacing light bulbs, NEVER use a bulb rated at more than 4 watts or as indicated on the clock. ALWAYS IMMEDIATELY replace any safety panels and screws.

### **Coming Soon: Model 1930 Precision Inverter**

Ken's Clock Clinic will be offering a new product, the Model 1930 Precision Inverter, in Fall of 2011. The primary purpose of this product is to allow the use of electric clocks in any country, regardless of country of origin. If, for example, you own a vintage European electric clock designed to operate on 220 volts at 50Hz (very common in Europe), the 1930 will allow it to be powered from 120 volts 60Hz in the USA with exceptional timekeeping accuracy.

The reverse is also true. A vintage electric of USA origin can be used in Europe in conjunction with the Model 1930.

In addition, the Model 1930 features two additional layers of safety for owners with vintage electrics:

1. The input power is limited to much safer levels that would be the case if the clock were plugged directly into the power line. For example, in the event that the interior wiring is shorted, the device will help prevent damage to the clock and greatly reduce the risk of fire.
2. The internal isolation adds a layer of protection to the user in the event that the internal insulation of the clock is compromised due to age or deterioration.