Safety and Your Vintage Electric Clock—PLEASE READ

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 with the clock plugged in. 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 SERIOUS 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, laundry rooms or in kitchens 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 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 emit low level grinding or grumbling sound. This is normal. But clearly audible whines or grinding heard more than 6 feet away may mean it is time to lubricate or otherwise service the clock. Hammond Bichronous clocks tend to be more noisy than others.
**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 as indicated on the clock. **ALWAYS IMMEDIATELY** replace any safety panels and screws.

**Vintage Clock Timers.** Be ultra-conservative about what you plug into a vintage clock timer. The switches in these clocks are vulnerable to burn out and wear, and again, were specified long before present-day standards existed. We would recommend limiting the power switched with these outlets to 60 watts or less. Remember also that an incandescent light bulb will draw a power surge of up to 10 times its rated wattage when switched. Routine switching of incandescent bulbs will accelerate burn-out of the internal switch. We recommend compact fluorescent bulbs if you are going to turn a light on with a vintage clock timer.

**The Model 1930 Frequency-Precise Power Inverter**

Ken’s Clock Clinic is the exclusive supplier of a NEW product, the Model 1930 Frequency-Precise Power Inverter. The Model 1930 will allow customers to power their vintage synchronous electric clocks anywhere regardless of country of origin, rated voltage or frequency. The device may be used domestically to insure accurate line frequency for clocks and timing devices where accurate line frequency isn't available, including mobile, solar, and other alternative energy installations.

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

With discussion about de-regulation of the line frequency in the USA coming soon, this product will provide rock-solid assurance that your vintage clock will continue to keep accurate time regardless of what the power utility companies decide to do.

Just as importantly, the Model 1930 provides vintage clock enthusiasts peace of mind as it adds a layer of safety from certain electrical overloads or short circuits within vintage clocks, which might otherwise result in electrical fire or shock. **NOTE: NOTHING can replace taking proper precautions. NOTHING can make any vintage electric device completely safe.**
