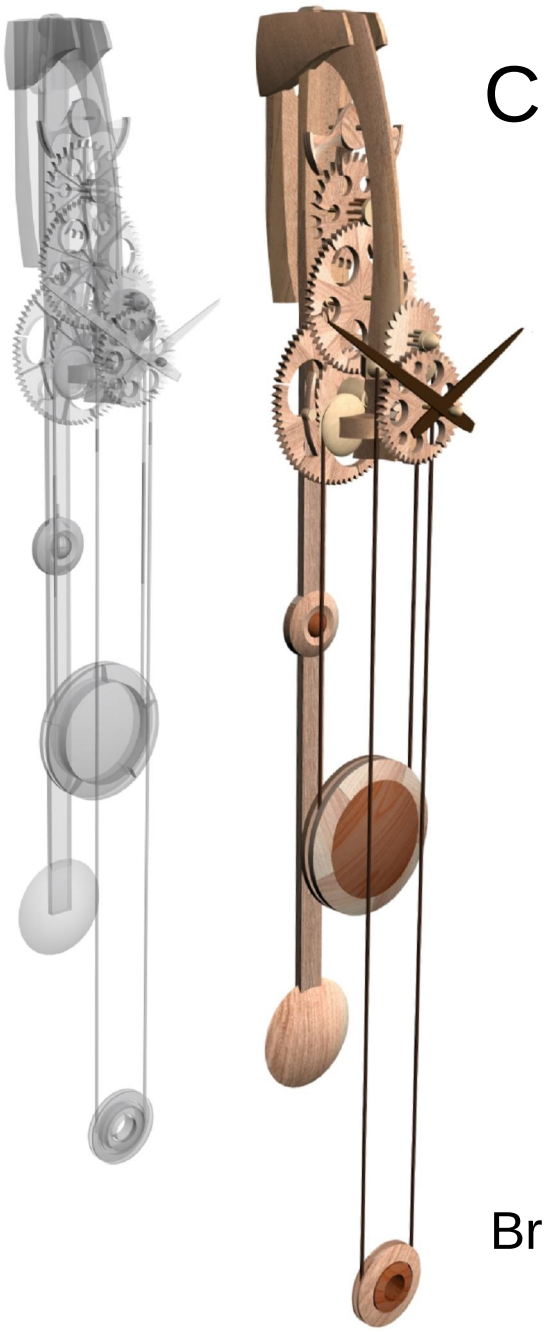


Clock 12

Choosing Your Clock

Bruce Aitken

This booklet is to help a purchaser select a bespoke clock in the ‘Clock 12' series of clocks designed and made by Bruce Aitken.

Written and published by Bruce Aitken,
Old Tram Depot Studio, 25 Rutland Street, Matlock DE4 3GN.

01629 580622 bruce-aitken@msn.com
07876 350492

http//www.bruceaitken-clockmaker.co.uk

3rd Edition, July 2013

Published by Bruce Aitken, Matlock

Contents

Introduction:

I make traditional weight driven mechanical clocks in a new contemporary design.

The design is available in a variety of styles and timbers: each clock is made to order.

A number of decisions need to be made to arrive at a clock that matches ones taste, environment and budget; this booklet is intended to take the reader through those choices in a straightforward manner.

Features and Timber

There are two areas to consider: the choice of features that will be built into the clock and the choice of timbers it will be will built from.

The appearance of a clock is dominated by the choice of timbers used in its construction. I make no extra charges for different timbers so you can choose a clock with any overall look - light, dark, contrasting, colourful or utterly bonkers.

Some optional features take longer to make, this is reflected in the price.

The Options

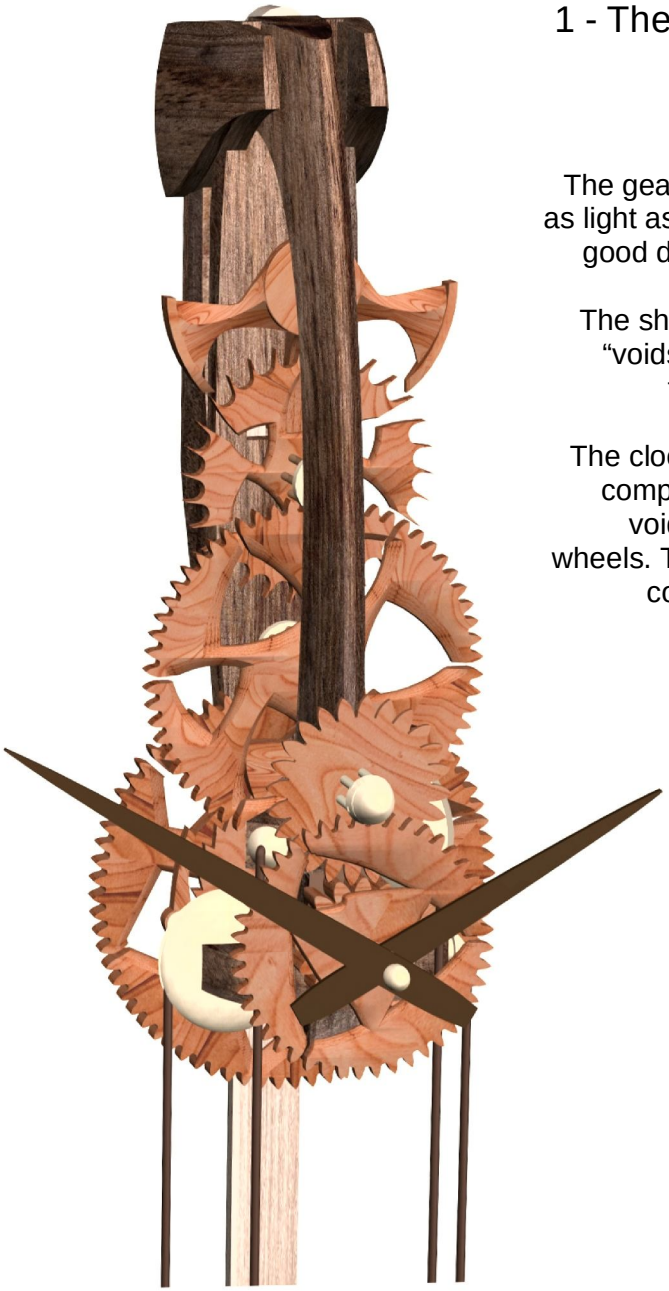
The illustrations in this booklet are computer generated - the textures used in the virtual clock images are scans of real timber from my workshop.

The illustration on this page (page 4) shows the simplest version of the clock; in this instance it is rendered with a walnut frame, cherry wheels and an ash weight set.

The illustration opposite (page 3) shows a clock with sculpted wheels, an adjustable pendulum and a patterned weight (in this case walnut and ash in a yin-yang shape). The clock on page 3 would take significantly longer to build.

The next section of the booklet deals with the choice of features, after that we will look at different timbers.

Optional Features



1 - The Gearwheels

Sculpted Voids

The gearwheels need to be as light as possible so I cut a good deal of timber away.

The shape of the resulting “voids” is the first design feature to consider.

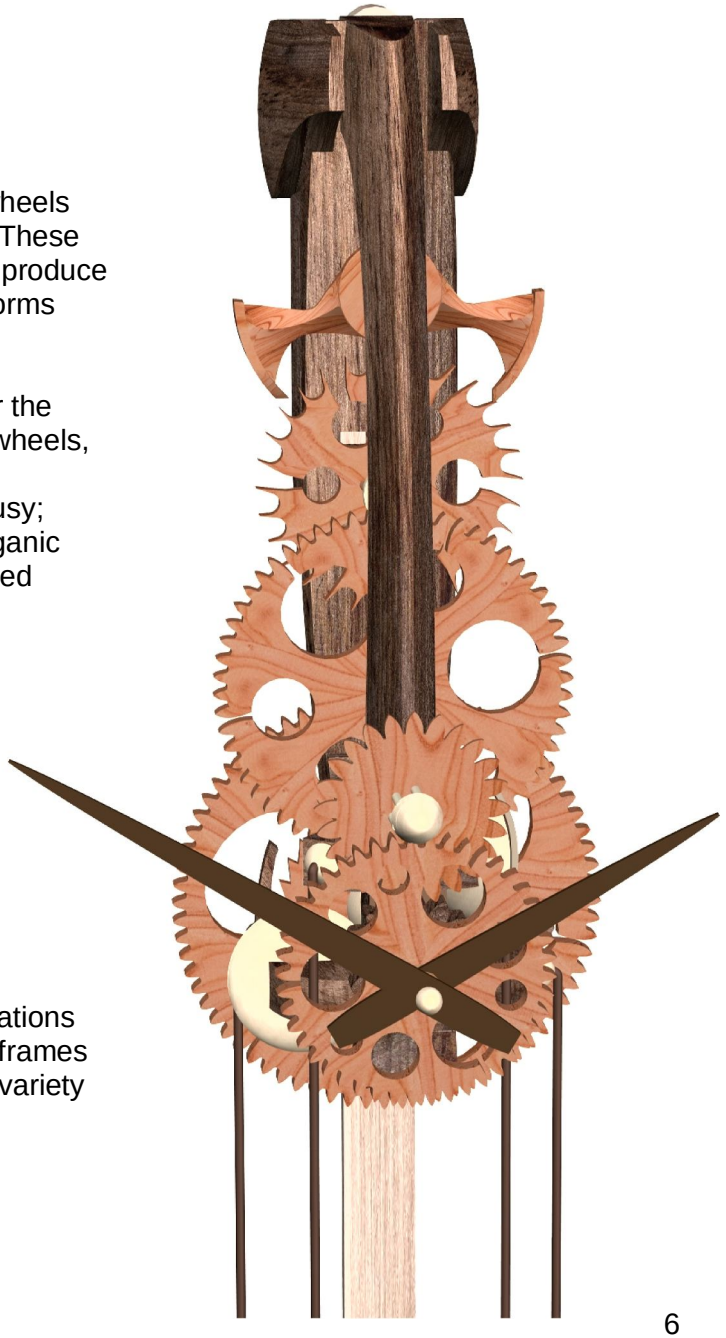
The clock on this page has complex curvy triangular voids sculpted into the wheels. These are very time consuming to create.

Circular Voids

This page shows wheels with circular voids. These are much easier to produce than the sculpted forms opposite.

Many people prefer the simplicity of these wheels, finding the overall appearance less busy; some prefer the organic nature of the sculpted wheels.

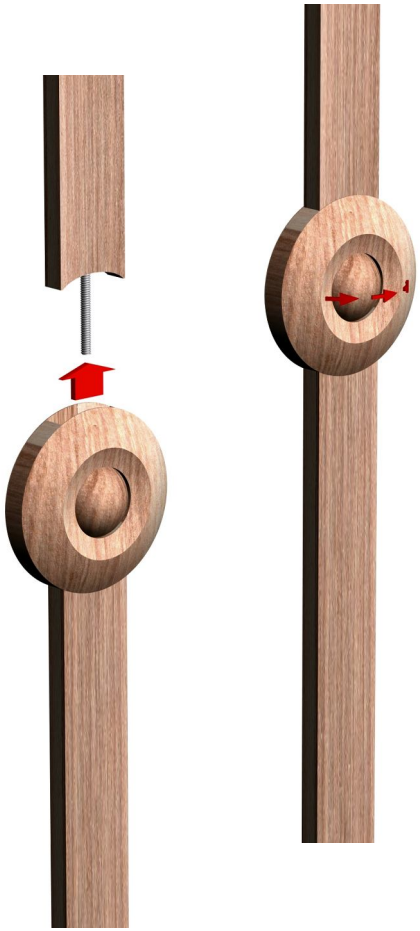
The gearwheels in both of these illustrations are in cherry & the frames are walnut. A wide variety of timbers can be employed.



Features (continued)

2 - Pendulum Joiner

The pendulum is in two pieces to enable easy handling of the clock and so it can be packed in a sensibly sized box. The lower pendulum is a weighted rod topped with a joiner, two types are available:



Adjustable Pendulum Joiner

The clock will lose time if the pendulum is too long, shortening the pendulum causes it to gain.

This page shows an adjustable joiner which enables the overall length of the pendulum to be finely tuned to control the timekeeping of the clock.

In this design a rotatable ball gives control over the pendulum length.

If the ball is rotated in the direction shown the clock will gain. This adjustment allows the clock to be tweaked to within 10 seconds per day, give or take.

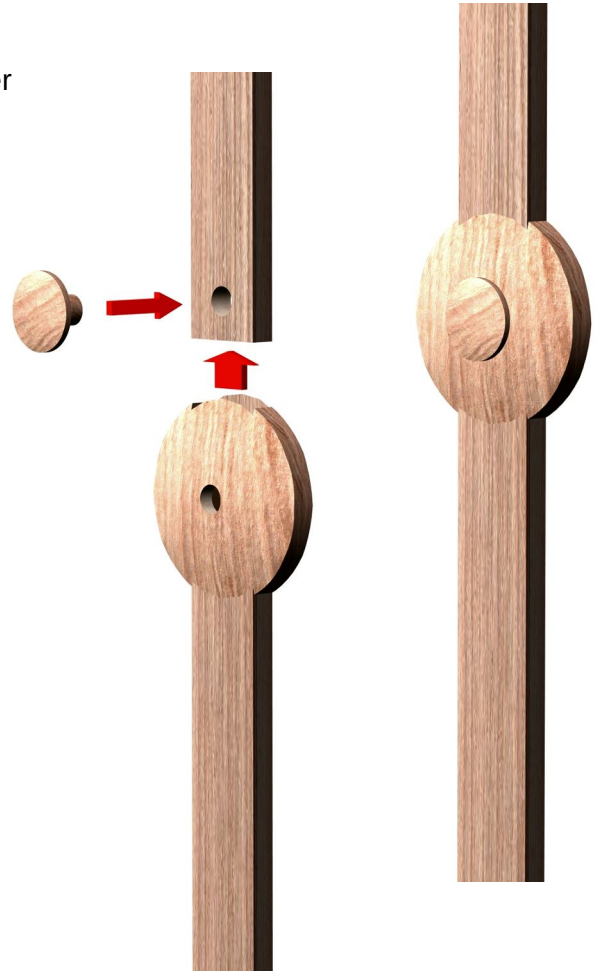
Pegged Joiner

This page shows a simpler approach:

In this case the overall length of the pendulum is fixed so the timekeeping of the clock cannot be fine-tuned. This clock would be adjusted in my workshop before delivery; the error would be around one minute per day.

In this design the lower pendulum is held in place by a simple wooden peg.

The hands of every clock can easily be adjusted to enable it to show the correct time whenever required.



Features (continued)

3 - The Drive Weight

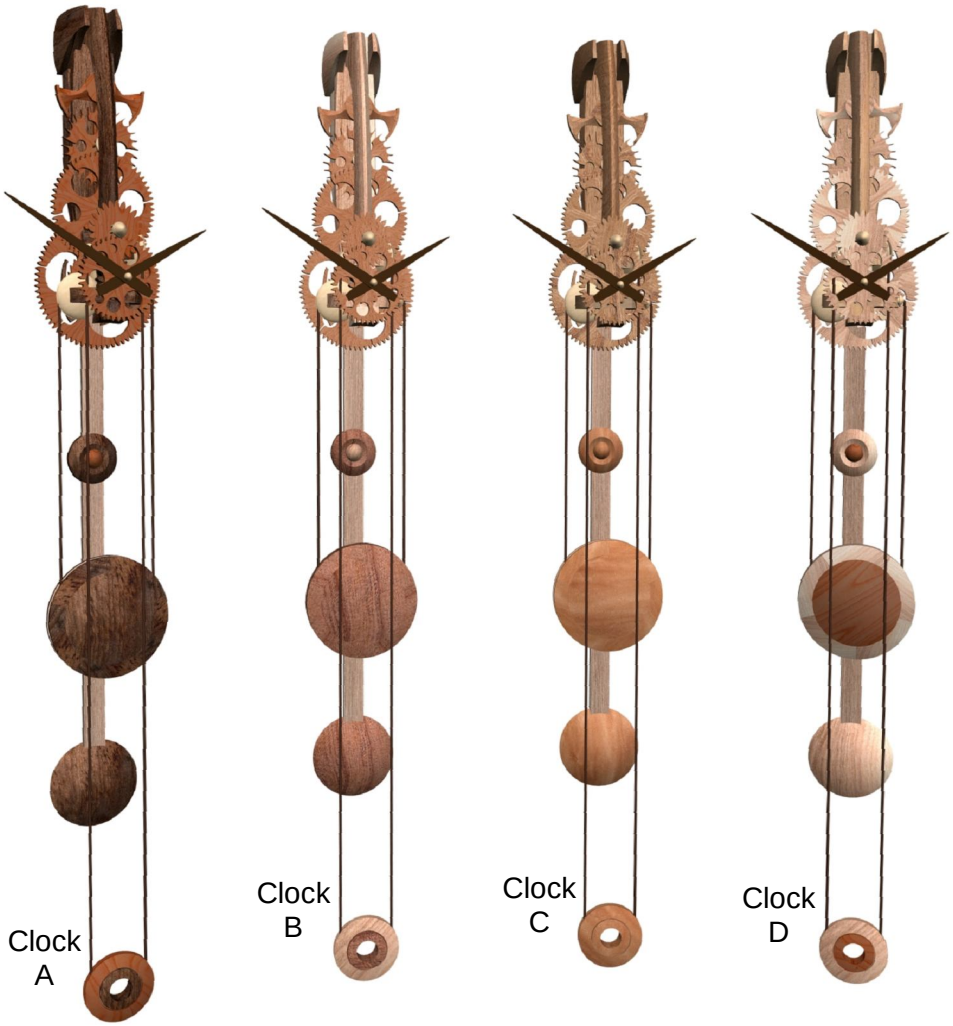
The drive weight is the largest of the wooden discs that hang beneath the clock. I offer two types.

The three images to the right (page 10) show weight discs with no central pattern - this design highlights a single central piece of timber.

The illustrations on the opposite page and above show weights with a decorative pattern set into the disc - there are very many possibilities. These images show weights with a variety of patterns in sycamore, oak, cherry, walnut and ash. I'll attempt any pattern, please get in touch to discuss this further.

Timber Choices

The possibilities of timber choices are almost endless; this section presents an approach that yields good results.



These images show a range of possibilities

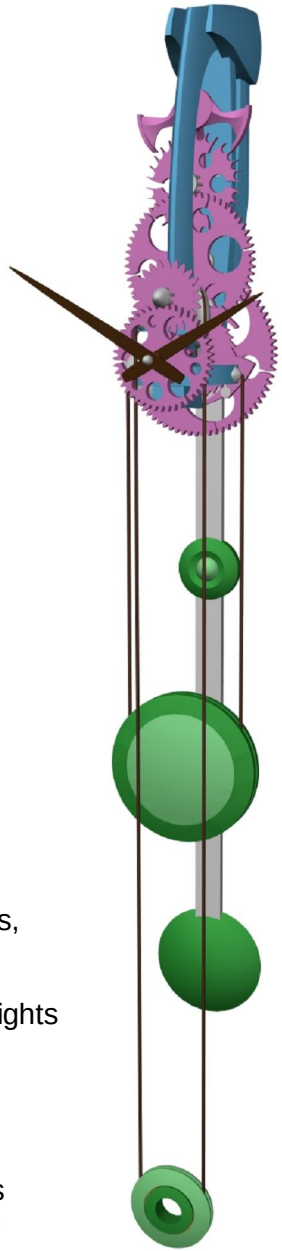
A word of reassurance: I make no extra charges for different timbers. There are some timbers that can only be used for certain parts, these are detailed on page 13.

The clock comprises three main assemblies, the Frame (blue in the diagram on this page), the Gearwheels (mauve) and the Weight Set (in green).

The frame and gearwheels are often chosen first, usually from two different timbers. These can be dark, light or contrasting.

A third timber is often selected for the weight set; it can work well if some parts of the weight set match one or both of the timbers chosen for the frame and wheels. The light green areas of the right hand diagram show parts of the weight set that can look good in a contrasting timber.

This is by no means the only way to approach choosing timber - I'll make a clock from five or twelve different timbers if you fancy - go mad. That said I have made excellent clocks entirely from one piece of wood.



Clock A opposite: Walnut Frame, Cherry Wheels, Walnut Weights with Cherry details

Clock B: Ash Frame, Beech Wheels, Cherry weights with Ash details

Clock C: Oak Frame, Oak Wheels, Mountain Ash weights

Clock D: Holly Frame, Ash Wheels, Ash weights with Cherry details incl. weight centre disc

Timber Choices continued

The list below shows a few limitations on which timbers can be used where - this is due to the nature of the timber or to low stock levels. Please contact me for a more up to date list.

Clock hands can be made in any timber - I suggest hands are chosen to contrast both the clock and the wall it will be mounted on. I'm happy to send alternate hands at a later date, so that decision isn't final at this stage.

After my stock of American Walnut is depleted I intend to use no more imported timber. I source timber locally as much as possible, in some cases I can give a precise map reference of where the tree grew.

	Frames	Gearwheels	Weights
Almond (a little left - one clock only)		•	
American Black Walnut		•	
Ash	•	•	•
Scorched Ash	•		•
Beech		•	
Box	•	•	•
Cherry		•	
English Walnut	•	•	•
Holly	•	•	•
Mountain Ash	•	•	•
Oak	•	•	•
Sycamore	•	•	•
Yew		•	•

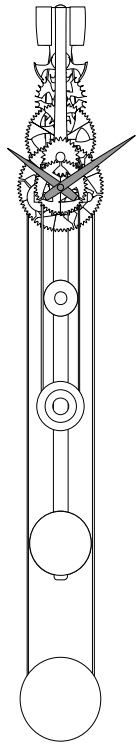
Price List

Basic Clock		£1,800
Options:		
Gearwheels		
circular voids		
sculpted voids	add	£800
Pendulum		
pegged joiner		
adjustable joiner	add	£200
Drive Weight		
plain		
patterned	add	£200

To recap - I charge only for my time, the features detailed above cost more because they take longer to make. I do not add extra charges for any choice of timber.

An order form is included, along with a printed sheet of timber samples. Please feel free to phone or email if you'd like to discuss any of this further.

Thanks once again for your interest.



Bruce Aitken - Clockmaker, The Old Tram Depot, Matlock DE4 3GN

01629 580622 07876 350492

bruce-aitken@msn.com http://www.bruceaitken-clockmaker.co.uk