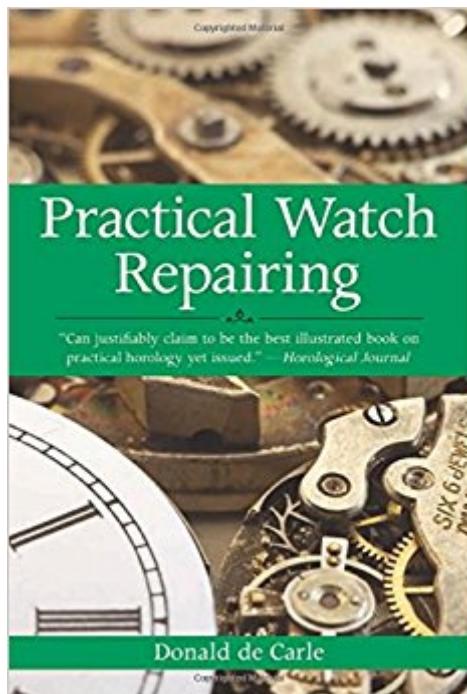


The book was found

Practical Watch Repairing



Synopsis

The absorbing and everlasting subject of watch repairing has been dealt with in books in many languages throughout the years. But when de Carle first set out to write Practical Watch Repairing in 1946, it was with the intention of creating a textbook "that a watchmaker can understand, even if he can't read." With over 550 instructional black-and-white illustrations and an approach that assumes no prior watch-repairing experience, this book achieves and surpasses that lofty mission, and has been touted as "the best illustrated book on practical horology" (Horological Journal) ever written. For the readers in his audience, de Carle has provided well-informed discourse on every topic a watchmaker, or aspiring watchmaker, needs to know. With Practical Watch Repairing, even a layman can become a watch-repair specialist.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Donald de Carle was a Fellow and Medallist of the British Horological Institute. He contributed to the Encyclopedia Britannica and was the author of many other horological works.

I've been trying to go through this book for the past couple of weeks since getting it and this is what I can tell you from my experience so far...The first few chapters go over basics like what your work area should look like, be lit, what tools to use, how to use them BAM!!! The book goes right into how to take a watch apart. I like to understand something really well before I make an attempt at doing it which is what I tried to do with this book. I finally got frustrated when I got to the part of the book that started to explain how to take apart the balance wheel and how the escapement works. I couldn't get past a certain page after reading it five times. That's when it occurred to me that it might help me

understand what I'm reading if I actually try to take apart a watch. So I gave it a go...Yes, that's how you can get the most out of this book. Sure, you can read all about "run to the banking" and the theory of how the escapement works but it won't sink in until you actually start taking a watch apart (it's akin to swimming, sure I can tell you how to swim freestyle but until you actually get into the water, you won't know how to kick properly and use your arms together). Yeah, I royally screwed-up the balance spring on the watch that I was taking apart but I learned a LOT in that hour with the help of the book than if I were to only read the book--or God forbid--I try to take a watch apart without any kind of guidance. So it's a "read the section a couple of times and then try to do it on a watch" type of approach that helped me. This book has a TON of information so try to not get dismayed/bogged down by it's detail. An example of this is how you can adjust the run to the banking by either bending pins (if that's how the watch is designed) or by cutting away at the movement case and bending the remaining metal acting as a "pin" to either lengthen or shorten the run. In reality, when you're taking apart your first watch you're probably not going to be focusing on diagnosing a problem and figuring out what you need to do to repair the watch right away. I just don't know if everyone is necessarily trying to fix their first watch as much as they are trying to learn how a watch works and how the parts all fit/work together. So you have to know what to take in deeply and what you can casually read and use as reference later. A newbie with lots of enthusiasm can use this book but it won't be easy to follow. It's a great book with tons of information but I have to admit that I got another book that should be arriving today that has the term "beginner" in the title.

Keep in mind that this book was first written in 1946 and additions made to it up until 1963. With that being said, this has got to be the complete encyclopedia of watch making at the time of writing it. The author, Donald E. Carle is no doubt an authority of horology. The language he uses is old British and a little hard to understand in places and some of the equipment and materials he advises are no longer available or have been found to be health hazards in today's world. This book contains a wealth of information, but unless you are a professional horologist and willing to invest 10's of thousands of dollars in tools and equipment it has more information than you will ever use. But it does contain everything and I mean everything that you could possibly want to know about vintage mechanical watches. I guess the author assumes that the reader already has considerable experience in watch repair by the layout of the book. It starts out discussing needed tools and then by chapter 3 it explains completely disassembling a wrist watch movement. The steps he uses are not what I would recommend. The first thing he suggests removing on the back of the movement is the balance wheel assembly, which in my opinion has got to be the most difficult part of watch

disassembly of all. Unless you have an extreme amount of previous experience, you will permanently trash your watch by starting at this point. The balance wheel assembly is very delicate and easily damaged. In the time period this book was written replacement parts may have been readily available. That is not the case today. The majority of the parts for these vintage watches are no longer made in today's market place and finding a replacement part can in some cases be close to impossible. He does explain how to make or repair some parts of a watch, but without the specialized tools needed to do this, it would be impossible to do today and finding those specialized tools would be a difficult task in itself and very expensive. Overall, I would highly recommend this book if you want to learn extensive watch repair.

Excellent book with good illustrations and clear, albeit lengthy, explanations. Since there is a lot of prose to read through, best to do that away from the workbench, first. Has been very helpful to me in my attempts at American pocket watch servicing. Should be helpful if/when I tackle wristwatches. This book is definitely a must have, and is often recommended on watch forums I frequent.

decent read and definitions for watch parts and processes. that is what I was looking for. It ain't Shakespeare. It's a reference book written in a narrative.

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