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If it's cable then place something like a wad of newspaper or a large piece of Styrofoam and then wind the weights into this material. Place the material in between the cables, in other words on top of the pulley.

Wind until it starts to "bite" into the material and remove the weights with a gloved hand. See if the bottom of each weight is marked and if not mark them because they much go back exactly the same way they came out. I usually mark the bottom with a "l" "c" "r" for left, center, and right.

If it's chain then use three garbage bag twist ties and remove one weight and as high up as you are comfortable insert the twist tie into a link on each side, because the chain is actually doubled coming out of the movement, and tie them together as they don't slip off. Repeat this for the other two weights and again make sure that the bottom of the weights are marked.

Most pendulums come off easily and you may have to have a look inside to determine the easiest way. Usually you can do this by removing one or both of the side panels. Side panels usually slide straight up and then push the bottom of the panel, toward the inside of the clock and the rest is common sense.

With all three weights and the pendulum removed, you can then safely move the clock until you have to move it back.

It's very important to use a gloved hand to prevent finger acids and oils from getting on the weights and pendulum.

Then just reverse the process and install the pendulum, remove the twist ties and install the weights. If it's cable you can generally leave the material in and in a few days it will be much easier to remove because the weights have dropped.

If the clock was made from about 1977 to present, then removing the pendulum will not usually "upset" anything. These modern clocks have, what is called, a self adjusting beat and that means that you will only have to rehang the pendulum and move it to the left or right to just before the end of the case and let go. This wide swing will allow the clock to find its "beat". Beat means evenness of tick which is critical of all clocks and you can compare it to a metronome ticking as someone learns the piano. The tick and tock MUST occur at even intervals and the actual amplitude of the sound is

unimportant but the frequency or time or occurrence of these sounds is critical and must be even.

A self adjusting clock will do this automatically with the wide swing of the pendulum.

For earlier clock, then please remove the pendulum without moving the hanger from which it hangs. Stop the pendulum and keep it centered as you remove the pendulum from the hanger.

Do the very same thing when you install the pendulum and make sure that the hanger and pendulum stay centered at all times and then a gently push of the pendulum is all that is necessary to start the clock. Just push gently either right or left and just enough until you hear a tick or tock.

If you push the "wrong" way don't worry about it because the clock will tick or tock when the pendulum reaches the opposite direction.

Just remember to keep things centered and push gently and if necessary get progressively harder with the push until you hear the tick or the tock.

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Mike Murray Founder of Clocksmiths

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