Longcase clocks with their seventeenth century clock-making technology were innovative and incorporated an accurate pendulum clock within an attractive piece of domestic furnishing. This invaluable book is essential reading for all those who own and collect longcase clocks as well as clock repairers, horologists and conservationists. The authors provide detailed information about how longcase clocks work and how they are made. They also cover the theory and the 'best practice' practical steps that are required in longcase clock maintenance, restoration and conservation.


I have an old case of a longcase clock (no clock inside) I want to start my refinishing the casing and then eventually get the clock parts. Any ideas of how to do that. I think part of one side needs to be completely redone. Thanks in advance!

Here's what I'd do, assuming the clock isn't a valuable antique (if it is, then have an expert restore it, since a lot of the value is in the finish):

1. If the finish is a varnish, poly (generally something that sits on the surface of the wood), strip the whole piece to remove the finish. 2. Wash the piece with mineral spirits and denatured alcohol to remove any dirt and oils in the wood pores. 3. Lightly sand the entire piece with 150 and 220 paper. Remove sanding dust with tack cloth. 4. Stain the piece the color you want. I certainly think that this is the case with The Longcase Clock, Eric Brutonâ€™s classic book on this particular style of timepiece. First published as long ago as 1964, the second edition of 1976 is really rather more representative, as the author admits candidly in his preface. For one thing the deep interest of collectors which has pushed prices up so far had not really got going in the 1960s. Obviously values have risen a lot even since 1976, but the general â€œfeelâ€ seems better here. I am in no way an expert on the subject of longcase clocks, but I still found Brutonâ€™s work an interesting read, and the clear writing style was most welcome. Although this has doubtless been superseded by more recent writing, it is still worth a look.