

IT'S ABOUT TIME

Want to fill that empty space in your room with a vintage clock, but don't know where to start? **Jagruti Verma** tells you what to keep in mind when you're buying one

Buying an antique isn't an easy task. It requires experience and knowledge that will help you figure out if you're getting a good deal. We spoke with Divyan Gupta, the CEO and founder of Artanddecor.com, for advice on making the right choice. Divyan tells us, "Clocks are an embodiment of the human tendency to capture the essence of time." It sounds lofty, but if you want a vintage piece that captures that for you, you're going to have to look quite hard, or spend a pretty penny. Some vintage pieces are so unique that they often find themselves listed as antiques. These types of clocks may be old-school, but there's no lack of variety. Here's what he has to say.

- **Appearance** Grandfather clocks stand out as symbols of wealth and grandeur because back in the day, only affluent households could afford them. On the other hand, a sculpture clock is a trendy pick because of the style's increasing popularity. It also showcases your aesthetic sensibilities, so don't worry if you don't have space for the popular, but also bulkier Grandfather piece.
- **Materials** Grandfather clocks were made out of oak, beech or mahogany. It's best to go with one of these materials if you want an original, vintage clock. Oak is the heaviest of them all, but of the best quality.
- **Mechanical condition** A clock in poor condition that can be repaired by an expert will be sold at a different price. Remember that these are risky investments and you must buy them only if you are aware of where to get them fixed, should they break down in the future.



>> A vintage clock adds an interesting element to your home décor

- **Provenance** If the clock belonged to someone of historical importance or a celebrity from the time, the price is going to shoot up, but is probably worth it. This is pretty rare though, so one needs to be careful.
- **Guarantees** There are several imitation pieces floating around the vintage market. So, if someone can't give you proof of authenticity, you shouldn't buy a piece from them.
- **Shipping and transportation charges** Packing, shipping and insurance costs can add a substantial amount to the price that you pay for your clock. So, make sure that you add all of those costs into your budget before you decide to buy one.

BEFORE YOU BUY

Even if you've done your research and picked according to appearance and prestige, remember that it doesn't end there — you need to know a lot more about vintage clocks and specifically about the piece you're buying. Vintage clocks typically have several moving parts and it is important to know how to wind the clock even if you identify experts to repair them when something goes wrong. Most clocks need to be wound once a day or once a week. Winding is usually done with a key or a crank. Check what your clock needs when you're buying it and ensure that all the parts are included in your purchase, since it won't be easy to source these parts separately in the future.

FINDING OUT ABOUT DATES, MECHANISMS AND MORE

Dr. Sharukh K R Pavri, the owner of Clocks 'n' Watches in South Mumbai, shares a few secrets of time with us.

- People who sell old clocks often exaggerate their history. You need to look at the clock, examine the model and year of make, and then look it up online. A client of mine once bought a clock purported to be about a hundred years old, but it had the words "Made in West Germany" on it. This means that the clock was made post WWII, after the division of Germany.
- Look for what is called a "marriage", checking if the case, finials, hands or pendulum have been replaced. A trained eye will pick up differences in styles, shades of the metal, the finish and the grain of the woodwork.
- Beware of a clock that "just needs a little oiling" or "is just overwound", since these have usually been abused. There is no such thing as a clock that's been wound just a little too tight.
- Don't expect a 100-year-old clock to keep time accurately to the last millisecond. But, a good quality clock can still be made to keep time to within a minute or two every week.
- A clock must be completely disassembled for cleaning. More damage is caused by oiling the clock without disassembly. I recommend a professional cleaning service every 15 years or so.

THE ROYAL DIY

If you like to create things on your own, we doubt there can be anything as exciting as making your own copycat vintage clock. No, you don't have to go back in time to do it. There are several parts available online that you can order and put together at home.

Viennese 'Laterndluhr' casing

This vintage case, which was made around 1900, has overall dimensions of 158 x 37 x 20 (cm). It gives your imagination plenty of room when you're creating your piece. You can get it for ₹97,729 from www.auctionata.com.

Vintage clock parts

You can use this two-piece vintage clock movement gear to make your clock tick. Get it for ₹1,950 from www.etsy.com.

Assorted vintage clock hands

This is a set of seven assorted clock hands that you can use to give your clock its heart beat! At ₹898 from www.etsy.com, it is a pretty good deal!

KNOW YOUR CLOCKS



Carriage clocks

Made in West Germany between 1970 and 1989, this carriage clock works with a Hechinger Qua Movement. Buy for ₹5,442 from www.ebid.net.

Cuckoo clock

This cuckoo clock comes with a certificate of authenticity from the Black Forest Clock Association (VdS) and can be bought for ₹22,810 (+ shipping) from www.cuckoo-clocks.com.



Grandfather clocks

This clock was made in Germany around the 1850s with oak, brass, metal and glass. Pick it up for ₹1,95,459 (+ shipping) from www.auctionata.com.

Fuse clock

This clock dates back to 19th century Norwich, England, and has an inscription that reads 'Lickert, Scherer & Ketterer, Norwich'. You can get it for ₹1,07,502 (+ shipping) from www.auctionata.com.



Mantel clock

This is a 19th century French Bronze clock with a white marble base. It is extremely heavy, weighs about 20kg and can be bought for ₹3,86,739 (+ shipping) from www.etsy.com.