

Old Time Chimes

HANDCRAFTED AMISH-MADE CLOCKS

THE HEIRLOOM CLOCK HANDBOOK

*Choose — and personalize —
a clock you'll pass down*

A grandfather-clock buyer's guide: understand every choice, browse our collection with confidence, and make one of our designs your own.

2026 EDITION



Built to order by Amish craftsmen in the USA · Solid hardwood · Made your way

[OLDTIMECHIMES.COM](https://oldtimechimes.com)

Welcome

A CLOCK WORTH PASSING DOWN

For most families, a handmade grandfather clock is a once-in-a-lifetime purchase — bought to mark a milestone, honor someone loved, or simply for the joy of fine furniture and a chime echoing through the house.

This handbook walks you through every choice, so that when you browse our collection you'll recognize your clock the moment you see it. Keep a pen nearby — you'll build a shortlist as you go.

How we're different

You don't have to settle for a fixed store-bought clock, or start from an intimidating blank page. You begin with one of our proven designs and make it yours — your wood, stain, chime, and details — handcrafted to order in a small Amish workshop in the USA.

— *Dave King, Owner*

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THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK FIRST

1. Why are you buying this clock?

Grandfather clocks are bought for sentimental reasons, as a memorial, to celebrate an anniversary, birth, or retirement, as a meaningful gift, or out of love for fine furniture. Your reason shapes every choice that follows.

Marking a special moment? Add an engraved brass plate — see page 12.

2. Ready-made, or made your way?

You could buy a fixed, ready-made clock — or commission one entirely from scratch. We offer the best of both: start from one of our proven designs and personalize it — wood, stain, chime, dial, and details — all built to order in solid hardwood. Most buyers happily begin from a design they love.

3. Are you willing to wait?

Because each clock is built after you order, most grandfather clocks are delivered in 12–16 weeks. Measured against decades of enjoyment, a season of anticipation is part of the story. Ordering for a date? Tell us the occasion and we'll give you an honest timeline before any work begins.



An heirloom in the making

HOW TO JUDGE QUALITY IN ANY CLOCK

Before you compare prices, learn to compare quality. Here's what to look for from any grandfather-clock seller — the same standards we hold ourselves to.

☐ Solid hardwood, not veneer

Ask what the case is actually made of. Solid hardwoods and quality plywoods last for generations; thin veneers over particle board don't.

☐ A quality movement

The movement is the mechanical heart. Ask who makes it and whether it's serviceable for decades to come.

☐ Real customization

Can you choose the wood, stain, chime, and details — or is it sold exactly as-is?

☐ Setup & support included

Will someone place and start the clock, and answer questions later? White-glove delivery matters on a piece this size.

☐ A clear warranty

Know exactly what's covered, for how long, and who honors it.

☐ Honest lead times

A custom clock takes time. A trustworthy seller tells you the real timeline up front.



Hand-finished detail

Know the parts

ANATOMY OF A GRANDFATHER CLOCK

A little vocabulary makes every product page and every conversation easier. Here are the parts, on one of our own clocks.



Two words worth knowing

Movement — the working heart of the clock: pendulum, weights, gears, hands, and chime hammers. **Cabinet** — the solid-wood body that houses it. They are built, and warranted, as separate things.

The heart of the clock

THE MECHANICAL MOVEMENT

The grandfather clocks we're known for are mechanical — powered by weights that slowly descend inside the case. Hammers strike tuned chime rods (or tubes), producing the rich, authentic ring these clocks are loved for. Think of the difference between a piano and a keyboard.

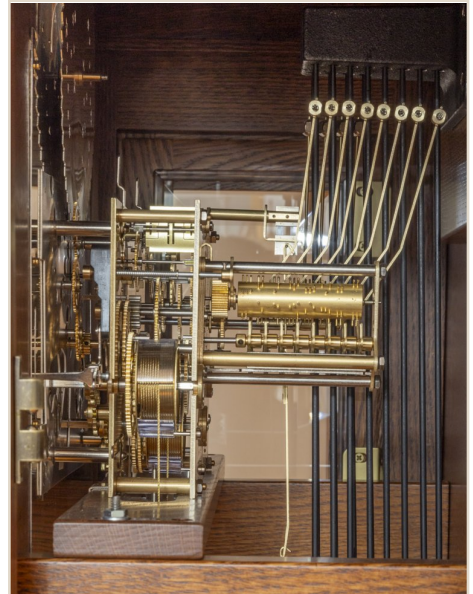
Winding & upkeep

A mechanical clock is wound about once a week, and should be oiled by a specialist every few years. That gentle ritual is part of living with an heirloom.

Cable-driven vs. chain-driven

The weights hang from either cables (wound with a key in the dial) or chains (wound by pulling the chain). Full-size grandfather clocks are usually cable-driven; we'll advise what suits each model.

A note on battery movements: we focus on true mechanical clocks. Battery (quartz) movements are offered only on select models where a windup isn't available.



A Kieninger KSU Triple Chime
movement

How long it lasts

THE THREE MOVEMENT GRADES

Our mechanical clocks come in three movement grades. The heavier the movement, the longer it runs before an overhaul — and the top grade also changes how the chime is made.

- **Standard Movement**

The industry standard, with a typical lifespan of about 25 years before it needs an overhaul or replacement.

- **Heavier Duty Movement**

Thicker plates give greater resistance to wear, extending typical lifespan to about 35 years before a major overhaul or repair.

- **Tubular Movement**

Also built with thicker plates, but it strikes long brass chime tubes instead of chime rods.

Movement lifespan can vary based on maintenance.

The auto night shutoff

Love the chime, but not at 3 AM? Many movements can silence chiming overnight (roughly 9–10 PM to 6–7 AM). Ask before ordering if it matters to you.

LISTEN TO CHIME RECORDINGS

oldtimechimes.com/your-guide-to-mechanical-amish-clock-movements/

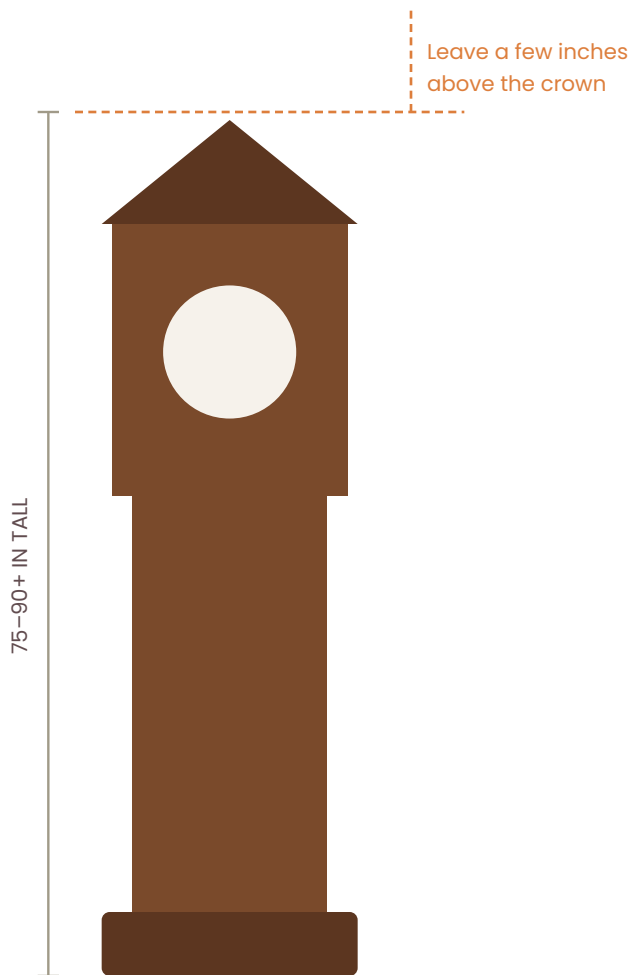


Grandfather clock
with a tubular chime

Find the right fit

SIZE, SPACE & PLACEMENT

Grandfather clocks are commanding — most stand 75 to 90+ inches tall. Measure before you fall in love with a model, and plan the path to its final spot.



Before it arrives, check:

- ☐ Ceiling height — clock height plus a few inches of clearance.
- ☐ The delivery path — doorway and stair width, and any tight turns.
- ☐ A solid, level floor — grandfather clocks keep best time when level.
- ☐ Away from direct sun, heat vents, and high-traffic bumps.

CHOOSING YOUR WOOD

The most popular personalization. Each hardwood takes stain differently, so the wood and stain are really one decision made together.



Red Oak

Coarse, straight grain; light tan to reddish. The classic.



Cherry

Smooth-grained, naturally reddish brown; deepens with age.



Maple

Nearly white and glass-smooth; takes a glossy finish beautifully.



Walnut

Bold, dark, full of character; the darkest hardwood.



Ash

Light heartwood, wide growth rings; texture close to oak.



Hickory

Striking sapwood-to-heartwood contrast; heavy and strong.



Elm

Light-to-medium reddish brown with a smooth, wavy grain.



Qtr-Sawn White Oak

Cut to reveal ray-fleck figure; the antique look.

Not sure how a species reads in person? Wood-and-stain samples are the answer — see the next page.

The color

STAIN, FINISH & SAMPLES

Most Amish builders — us included — use Ohio Certified Stains (OCS), a standardized system that makes it easy to match your clock to other furniture. A few of the popular colors:



Special finishes

Antiqued distressing

Nicks and glazing give a new clock the soul of an antique.

Burnt edges

Edges flame-darkened before staining for depth and variation.

Two-tone

Cabinet and moldings in contrasting colors make the profile pop.

Painted

Milk-paint style colors, often glazed, for farmhouse and French looks.

See it in your own light

Order wood-and-stain samples before you commit: a \$30 prepayment per sample, fully credited when you order (up to three free with a grandfather clock purchase). Prefer paper first? Ask for our free printed stain catalog.

ORDER WOOD & STAIN SAMPLES

oldtimechimes.com/product-category/samples/

The details

THE DIAL & ITS DETAILS

The dial is the front of your clock — the part you read the time on. Dials can be round, or square with a half circle on top. They can have Arabic or Roman numerals. We can help you determine the options that are available for the design that you choose.

The moon dial

Many of our clocks include a moving moon dial in the arch. A disc painted with two moons makes a half-turn every 29.5 days — one full lunar cycle — so the moon you see on the dial matches the moon in the sky, with the full moon landing mid-cycle.

Metal, pendulum & weights

The pendulum, weights, and dial hardware come in your choice of brass or silver. Pendulum bobs and weight shells range from plain to intricately scrolled — a small detail that changes the whole personality of the clock.



Grandfather clock with brass moon dial, weights, and pendulum

Make it yours

CUSTOM DETAILS & BRASS PLATES

Every design starts from the wood and stain you choose — then you can take it further. A handful of the ways to make a clock unmistakably yours:

- **Crowns & bases**

Choose the pediment on top — split-pediment, bonnet, flat, or round — and the base profile beneath it.

- **Carvings & moldings**

Applied moldings, beading, and CNC or hand carvings, including custom motifs worked from a photo or drawing.

- **Beveled glass**

Angled edges on the door glass catch the light and add a note of formality.

- **Glass side panels**

See the movement and weights in motion through the sides; upper panels are often removable for easy access.

- **Glass engraving & etching**

Custom etched or engraved glass — from a simple monogram or date to an elaborate scene or family crest.

- **Interior lighting**

Battery or plug-in lighting that showcases the dial, movement, and pendulum after dark.



The most personal touch

ENGRAVED BRASS PLATES

Add a polished brass plate engraved with a name, date, or dedication — the simplest way to turn a beautiful clock into your family's heirloom. Perfect for a memorial, anniversary, retirement, or gift. Note your wording on the Find Your Clock worksheet.

The honest numbers

WHAT A CUSTOM CLOCK COSTS

Real prices, no mystery. Our mechanical grandfather clocks are grouped in three tiers — every price on our site includes standard shipping in the USA.

ENTRY

from \$4,650

Solid-hardwood mechanical clocks with a Westminster or triple chime — the heirloom experience at its most accessible.

PREMIUM

\$6,000–\$9,000

Where most buyers land: character woods, richer detailing, and finer finishes.

HEIRLOOM

top tier

Our grandest designs — tubular chimes and the most elaborate cabinetry and customization.

What moves the price

- **Movement:** rod chime < tubular chime
- **Wood:** character woods over red oak
- **Finish:** two-tone, distressing, glazing
- **Details:** carvings, beveled glass, lighting, brass plates

BROWSE THE COLLECTION & SEE LIVE PRICING

oldtimechimes.com/shop-clocks

No pressure, truly

HOW ORDERING WORKS

Spending thousands on a clock you haven't seen should feel safe. You're never charged for a clock you haven't approved.

1

DESIGN YOUR CLOCK

Pick a design and personalize it online — with no payment required.

2

WE CONFIRM EVERY DETAIL

A real person reviews your order with you before any work begins.

3

WE BUILD, THEN DELIVER

On approval we request a 30% deposit (orders over \$1,500); balance is due before delivery.

Delivery & setup

Grandfather clocks travel with our dedicated furniture delivery specialists — which reduces the risk of shipping damage compared to shipping with common freight carriers. Standard delivery includes first-floor placement and, on most mechanical floor clocks, free in-home setup. Prefer to set it up yourself? We'll credit up to \$400 on qualifying models.

Your protections

- 3-year warranty on the cabinet and movement
- Repair or replace at no cost if anything goes wrong in building or shipping
- Inspect at delivery; damage claims accepted within 5 days
- 30-day returns in good condition (15% restocking; shipping not refunded; heavily customized pieces may not be returnable)

Built to last

CARE & LONGEVITY

A solid-hardwood cabinet should last for generations with basic care. The mechanical movement, like any fine machine, appreciates a little attention.

The care schedule, at a glance

EVERY 7 DAYS

Wind the movement

EVERY 3–5 YRS

Professional oiling (from
~\$150)

EVERY 5–10 YRS

Movement cleaning

25–35 YRS

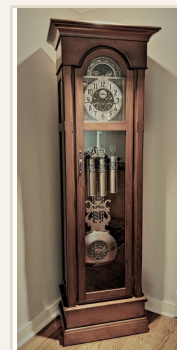
Overhaul or parts service

Only ever use clock oil made for clock movements — never household oil. A well-maintained movement runs 25–35 years before it needs a specialist's overhaul; the cabinet, far longer.

//

The clock is spectacular! Super happy with it. The guys were great.

GRAHAM SNYDER · VERIFIED CUSTOMER



FIND YOUR CLOCK

You've learned every choice — now capture what you want. Fill this in, then use it to shop our collection with total confidence.

1. What matters to you

Occasion / target date

standard / heavy duty / tubular

Movement

Size & space

ceiling height, wall or corner

Wood

see page 9

Stain / finish

see page 10

Options

glass in sides / brass plate / glass engraving / etc.

Budget tier

entry / premium / heirloom

2. How to shop our collection

1

Browse by size & style

Start at our shop and find designs that fit your space and taste.

2

Personalize & price it

Open a design and set your wood, stain, and chime to see the live price.

3

Check the details

Confirm the movement, dial, and dimensions on the product page.

BROWSE OUR FULL GRANDFATHER CLOCK COLLECTION

oldtimechimes.com/shop-clocks

Your worksheet

MY SHORTLIST

Found designs you love? List up to three, with the personalizations you'd choose for each. This is what you'll send us — or enter on the product page.

	CLOCK 1	CLOCK 2	CLOCK 3
Model name / number			
Price shown			
Wood			
Stain / finish			
Dial & numerals			
Extras (glass, lighting, carving)			
Brass-plate wording			

Ready for the next step?

Found the one? Customize it right on the product page. Torn between two? Send us your shortlist and we'll help you decide — free, and with no obligation.

GET A FREE, NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE
oldtimechimes.com/custom-clock-quote

Your family's next heirloom **STARTS WITH A DESIGN YOU LOVE**

You now know every choice that goes into a grandfather clock. Whenever you're ready, here's where to begin.

BROWSE THE COLLECTION

Every model, with live pricing

oldtimechimes.com/shop-clocks

ORDER SAMPLES

Fee credited when you order

oldtimechimes.com/product-category/samples/

GET A QUOTE

Send your shortlist or an idea

oldtimechimes.com/custom-clock-quote

A few terms, defined

Movement — the clock's working mechanism
Moon dial — arch disc tracking the lunar phase

Cabinet — the wooden case
Tubular chime — hammers strike hanging brass tubes

Questions? We answer every email personally.

info@oldtimechimes.com · (610) 235-6902

Free shipping in the USA · Free in-home setup on most mechanical floor clocks · 3-year warranty

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