

## Flooded Clock Case (Doesn't apply to movements)

1. Get the clock case out of the water as soon as possible; most are well made and exposure to water for a very short time will generally do little damage. Time is the enemy.
2. Generally, one should let the case dry naturally; maybe blow off excess water with an air compressor, but heat may do more damage than good. An exception would be access to a vacuum chamber which would reduce the drying time.
3. If there are problem areas after drying, attempt the mildest fix first and move up ... stop when the solution is acceptable ... start with a water soaked rag to remove grime, then move up to wax, Windex, mineral spirits, lacquer thinner, acetone, etc. First try cloth, then try fine steel wool, then try fine sand paper, etc. Again, stop if a fix is acceptable.... Complete refinishing should be the last option; 30 years from now any imperfections will be a reminder that the clock survived a storm and it will be a talking point.
4. If more is necessary ... A list of materials (in no particular order) that can be used for touch up is provided below; sample on a small spot before proceeding. Use small applicators if necessary (a tiny brush, cue tip, etc.)

- 1) Old English Scratch cover; usually will add color to a finish without complete stripping. Different colors can be mixed or different colors can be applied in layers.
- 2) Restor A Finish (mix colors if necessary to match); usually will add color to a finish without stripping.
- 3) Minwax Gel Stain (apply different colors in layers if necessary); a good option for carefully filling in light areas without complete refinishing – goes on with a small cloth like shoe polish and can be removed with mineral spirits before it completely dries.
- 4) Transfast water soluble dye (mix colors if necessary to match); this stain needs bare wood for absorption. **Be careful** using this one since it goes into the wood and if it gets too dark it is very difficult or impossible to remove it.
- 5) Bondo Wood Filler is like Auto Bondo but takes stain. Use this if water has caused a previous repair to come out leaving a gap.
- 6) Minwax Wipe-On Poly (comes in gloss and Satin); can be applied with a rag instead of a brush or spray.
- 7) An inexpensive airbrush - 7 piece ¾ ounce quick-change airbrush kit (Harbor Freight \$9.99) requires a small \$40 or \$50 compressor.