

A SEDAN BEZEL

In which a broken bezel hinge is repaired

by Guy Gibbons

The bezel and glass of a pretty little Sedan clock – **figure 1** – had become detached from its hinge. I popped out the glass and got to work. The hinge had originally been soft-soldered to the bezel but for whatever reason the joint had apparently failed, resulting in the owner's handyman resorting to an impact adhesive. I could do better, and the photomontage in **figure 2** shows the steps I took.

Image A shows the arrangement on arrival at my bench, while Image B shows the hinge and bezel cleaned of all adhesive before fluxing with an acid flux and tinning (Image C). With a near uniform thin layer of soft solder 'tinning' the surfaces and a light trimming with a sharp craft knife to clear the dovetailed ends of the bezel slot of excess solder, the hinge was slid into position for a re-flux and the final gentle heat, a little extra soft solder wire being fed in to form small fillets at the edges. The finished result is shown at Images D, E and F.

All that now remained was to refinish the bezel and revive the wooden case. The latter was treated to a good rubbing over of wood reviver to clean the polish before a rub over with a beeswax-based polish. The lacquer on the former (the bezel) was inevitably a little damaged by the heat needed to soft solder the hinge, so I treated the whole to a good scrub



Figure 1: The Sedan clock with (top right) its 'pocket watch' movement

with a fine brass wire brush and detergent wash before re-lacquering. A high polish was not wanted, so neither wet and dry paper nor metal polish was used.

The glass was not a tight fit in the bezel, and the edge heavily coated with old, dried lacquer, but as is not uncommon both it and the bezel were

sufficiently oval so that the glass could be rotated to a position where it was a reasonably tight fit. After a thorough clean in detergent followed by a rinse it was fitted, and a careful 'fillet' of brass lacquer was added so as to give it a little additional security once the lacquer had dried.

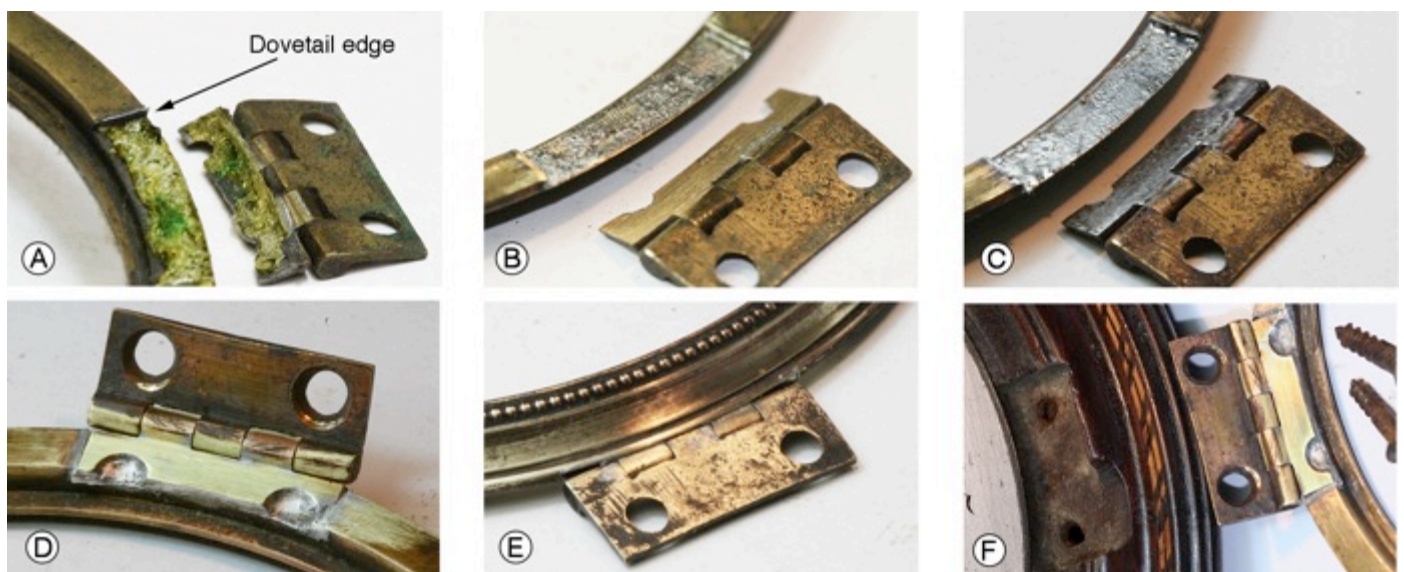


Figure 2: Stages in resecuring the bezel hinge on a Sedan clock