... where the time honoured skills of traditional clockmaking meet modern technology to create some of the world's finest clocks.

Established in 1967

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Established in 1967, Sinclair Harding honours the historical tradition of fine English clockmaking. With its range of beautiful hand crafted clocks, this unique company embraces the horological industry’s ideals for precision, quality and perfection.

Sinclair Harding’s craftsmen work hard to study and preserve original production techniques. The exquisite detail of each clock is a testament to this skill and dedication, with every delicate stage of production carried out in the Yorkshire based workshop.

Sinclair Harding’s valued clients range from private collectors to high class jewellers worldwide and includes prestigious, bespoke commissions. Every clock Sinclair Harding makes is lovingly crafted to suit your individual needs and your involvement is encouraged at all stages of production of what will become a treasured heirloom. Clients are welcome to visit our workshop to appreciate first hand the trademark skill and dedication of Robert Bray FBHI and his fellow craftsmen.

Robert Bray is a fellow member of the British Horological Institute and a member of the AHCI Académie Horlogère des Créateurs Indépendants. In 2010 Robert was awarded the BHI Silver medal for outstanding development in the field of Horology.
SINCLAIR HARDING H1

In May of 1714 representations from Her Majesty’s Fleet, Merchants and Merchant-Men demanded the Government to encourage the solution of the Longitude problem and in July of that year the Longitude Act was passed offering up to £20,000 for a method if determining Longitude at Sea.

In the mid 1720’s Yorkshire born John Harrison started work on what would be the first of his clocks, the H1, that would work on board ships and so solve the Longitude problem. In 1772 after a lifetime’s work, culminating in the watch H4, John Harrison was paid the final balance of the £20,000 reward.

In 1999 Sinclair Harding started to work on a clock in homage of John Harrison. Nearly 5 years in development, the Sinclair Harding H1 is a wonderful combination of art and fascinating mechanics, all finished to an exquisite standard.

To demonstrate the H1’s capability to work at sea the movement is mounted onto a granite base, which in turn is suspended on pivots. The whole piece sits on a table designed to the customer’s specification and is counter balanced by a massive weight. A tiny hidden DC motor rotates a small weight which puts the whole assembly out of balance, and a gentle rocking motion ensues, creating a fascinating spectacle inside the elegantly engineered glass case. John Harrison used wooden wheels and pinions throughout, using the Lignum Vitii, a wood which exudes its own oils. On the Sinclair Harding model, the wheels and pinions were purposely made in brass and polished steel. The interaction provide a fascinating spectacle and reflections from the plates and highly polished wheels serve only to deceive the observer.
JOHN HARRISON SEA CLOCK

Our range of Sea Clocks are inspired by the great John Harrison. In each clock we have embodied at least three of the basic principles from Harrison’s first Sea Clocks.

Perhaps his most well known invention is the unique escapement, which gives the clock its popular name, ‘The Grasshopper’. The subtle and almost silent ‘lock and release’ action of the pallets permits them to work without oil (and consequently be free of the effects of changes in viscosity) and at the same time make it so endurably fascinating to watch.

The Invar pendulums are linked at the back, which allow the clock to function ‘out of level’. Their gentle action gives each clock that restful quality which is typical of an earlier more tranquil age. The Astronomer Royal, Edmund Halley (c1656-1742) was a proponent of the Lunar distance method for determining longitude. The observations and calculations required for this method took many hours and were prone to error. The hand painted Moonphase dial (each signed and numbered by the artist) on the Moonphase model symbolised this alternative method.

Our Moophase Sea Clock provides in the Moonphase dial a representation of the competition (Lunar distance method) he faced for the solution to the Longitude problem back in the 18th Century. Each Moonphase dial is hand painted by our artist Keith Warrington, each with a hidden initial and date on each dial. Having a hand painted dial enables us to offer a bespoke and unique dial to individual customer taste.
JOHN HARRISON SEA CLOCK

Two styles of clock are available they are named “His” and “Hers”. As with all Sinclair Harding clocks a selection of finish and base materials can be specified to make your clock a very personal piece.

The engraved dials are hand silvered as they were in Harrison’s day. The seconds hand is unusual as it sweeps through 240 degrees going from 0-60 seconds before vanishing, only to reappear instantly at zero again.

Almost every piece is made in the workshops of Sinclair Harding using a combination of modern technology, materials and traditional finishing techniques. Every care is taken at each stage in the making and build to ensure that the final clock performs to a standard, which justifies the association with John Harrison. All the parts on each clock are hand finished (even the ones you cannot see) and all the Brass parts are protected with a thin layer of Gold or Rhodium.

The clocks are normally mounted on a base figured with Walnut or Rosewood. The base is then French polished which is generally recognised as the finest finish that can be applied to wood. The 8 day movement is protected by a framed glass shade which is available with a beveled glass shade with an opening door, or a framed glass shade which incorporates a winding hole to avoid having to remove the shade each week.

HEIGHT 41CM WIDTH 33CM DEPTH 18CM
ROSEMARY CLOCK

Rosemary which first came into being in 2009, is a miniaturised version of the Great Wheel Skeleton Clock and was designed to include an integral bevelled glass case and base.

The pendulum is hung from a silk type suspension, which can be lowered and temporarily secured, making it ideal for presentation ceremonies. A presentation case is also available. The plates can be made any shape within the confines of the wheel train and personal engraving can be added to the plinth. Every part, with the exception of the pallet, is made from either Gold plated brass or Stainless Steel, which will eliminate any tarnishing problems caused by high humidity. The Rosemary is available in a Gold or Rhodium finish.

The main wheel has 288 teeth cut using a cycloidal tooth form, like the Great Wheel this makes just one revolution daily.

The Escapement is a ‘Graham Deadbeat’ controlled by a ‘silk’ suspension and Invar pendulum. The movement is fitted with Maltese Cross stop work to achieve the most accurate timekeeping and the clock will run for a full 8 days. The Brighton Pavilion Clock demonstrates perfectly Sinclair Hardings’s unique skill in being able to tailor design to the requirements of each individual customer.

HEIGHT 27CM  WIDTH 20CM  DEPTH 10CM
GREAT WHEEL SKELETON CLOCK

The superb artistry which typifies the French Horologists of the late 18th Century seems to culminate in this beautiful clock. Deceptively simple, the restrained elegance serves to enhance the obvious craftsmanship inherent in such fine wheelwork with its delicate crossings and very high tooth counts.

The frames, pierced out of solid brass, are gracefully faceted, polished and burnished to provide a gleaming support for the four-wheel train. The Great Wheel has 288 teeth and makes only one revolution daily. This drives the centre wheel with a diameter slightly larger than the bezel, thus, when viewed from the front, frames the silvered dial.

The escapement is a 'Graham Deadbeat' controlled by a 'silk' suspension pendulum and the movement requires winding once weekly. The movement is mounted on a slim, white marble or granite base to the customer’s choice and is protected by a framed glass shade.

Sinclair Harding offers two designs, a variation of the classic 'Y' frame French Skeleton Clock and the 'Arch' frame where the graceful curves of the frame legs are engraved with a simple yet elegant pattern.
SINGLE TRAIN CONDLIFF CLOCK
WITH PASSING STRIKE

In homage to James Condliff of Liverpool, circa 1860 this single train skeleton clock features exquisite crossings of the wheelwork and plates which highlight Sinclair Harding’s attention to detail and finishing at its very best.

The frames, pierced out of solid brass, are gracefully faceted, polished and burnished to provide a gleaming support for the four-wheel train. The Great Wheel has 288 teeth and makes only one revolution daily. This drives the centre wheel, which is framed by the pierced chapter ring and bezel.

A passing strike produces a single clear strike every half hour on a hand tuned bell. The mechanism is unique to Sinclair Harding and has been created to maintain the symmetry of the design. Two hammers act on one bell and strike the alternate hours. A simple lever hidden under the base can be used to silence the strike at night. The movement is mounted on two ornate pillars and appears to be floating over the base made from a sandwich of decorative brass plates and a choice of a selected wood or marble.

The clock is protected by a bevelled glass shade, which does not need removing to wind. The Condliff Clock can be finished either in Gold, Rhodium or a combination of both.
TWO TRAIN CONDLIFF CLOCK

This is the latest addition to the range of skeleton clocks made by Sinclair Harding, based on the series 2 style manufactured by the famous Liverpool clockmaker James Condliff circa 1860.

In the Victorian era, less than 100 skeleton clocks of various styles by this company were made and very few of the original skeleton clocks ever appear at auction. This latest Two Train Skeleton clock is possibly the most elegant of the Condliff clocks with extremely delicate frames. Sinclair Harding use the latest technology with CNC machines producing components of great accuracy, however all clocks are individually polished by hand to a high degree of finish.

A number of Condliff’s clocks had normal wheel trains with pendulums, this clock has a large balance wheel with a helical balance spring surmounted at the top of the clock frame this gives a most attractive and balanced look. The clock beats seconds and this is shown by the centre sweep seconds hand against the hand silvered chapter ring, all the hands and striking work are polished and blued.

A French polished wood base is used which is built in a box section to house the bell, the clock strikes on the hour. A very elegant bevelled glass shade with an opening door is supplied to keep dust away from the very fine mechanism.
THREE TRAIN SKELETON CLOCK

This magnificent chiming Skeleton Clock is the result of months of painstaking hand work. Each plate is individually cut out of solid brass, edge filed, papered smooth, burnished and gilded before finally being built into a finished clock. Every wheel and arbor, detent and lever has been finished by hand to give the whole mechanism the glittering aspect of a true work of art.

The motive power for the 8 day movement is provided by three mainsprings each operating through its respective fusee and chain to give virtually constant torque to the train of wheels. The going train is controlled by a ½ second deadbeat escapement and an Invar pendulum rod assembly, the bob of which is visible beneath the plates. This gives the piece a high standard of timekeeping, which with the seconds dial produces additional movement to add to the already fascinating spectacle.

The escape pallet is made from high carbon steel, with through hardened faces diamond polished to a mirror finish assuring a long life. The chime train operates a pinned drum and hammer assembly which can be set to play Westminster or a choice of Whittington and St Michael chimes on an octave of hand tuned bells, whilst the striking train sounds the hours on a ninth tenor bell. The levers and racks controlling this activity are finished to the same meticulous standard.

The movement is mounted on a base of decorative brass plates with a choice of wood or marble in between. The bevelled glass shade with opening door protects the whole clock from dust, while at the same time allows perfect visibility.
SUN AND MOON CLOCK

The movement is visually light and graceful with hand painted dials one signifying the sun rise and sun set and the second dial showing the Moonphase cycle.

Most Moonphase dials take twenty-nine and a half days to complete a cycle. On this clock the panorama of the sky changes daily as in real life, sunshine and clouds during daylight hours and the moon rising and setting every night. The unique feature being that over twenty nine and a half days the moon goes through its phases, waxing and waning, in the most realistic manner.

Between the seconds bezel there is a cluster of stars, which elegantly move with the pendulum swing.

The whole clock sits on a base of highly figured walnut or rosewood or black French Polished base and the movement can be finished in either Rhodium or Gold. The movement is protected by a bevelled glass frame which has an opening door which does not need to removed for winding.

HEIGHT 48CM WIDTH 33CM DEPTH 18CM
CONGREVE CLOCK

William Congreve, the son of a British General and more famous for his invention of the first rocket in 1795, patented in 1808 a new Principle for the Measurement of Time using a rolling ball escapement. His original piece was powered by a cannon ball although later models were driven by springs.

His resulting clock was far from accurate, however the mechanism provides a fascinating and hypnotic spectacle for the viewer. The Sinclair Harding Congreve uniquely has the track mounted on top of the clock. The track is made from brass and can be finished in either Rhodium or Gold with a white or black ceramic ball. The ball meanders along the track triggering the mechanism every 15 seconds to gently reverse the ball. The skeletonised track also makes it easy to clean and provides a reasonable degree of timekeeping.

The clock is powered by a spring through a hand made chain, which drives the movement through a Fusee to ensure the clock mechanism sees a constant torque. The movement is 8 days and is wound from the front cleverly lifting the bezel using the winding key to expose the winding arbor. At the other end of the train a fly absorbs any shock loads at each index and prevents the tray indexing mechanism vibrating. The single hand shows the hour with a mother of pearl disc detail indecating the hour on the engraved plated chapter ring.

The Congreve clock sits on to a marble base and is housed by a bevelled glass shade which opens at the front.
TABLE REGULATOR

Probably the most classic of all the clocks made by Sinclair Harding is the Table Regulator. The case is made from aluminium, polished and hard anodised and finally finished with renaissance wax. The front and back opening bevelled glass doors are 6mm thick. Similarly finished are the side panels, which give an interesting view of the movement.

The dial is a ‘Breguet’ style with its large diameter seconds and slim chapter ring. Engraved and silvered by hand it represents the high point of elegance in dial design, and provides a contrast with the diamond pattern backing plate. The clock has a very substantial 8 day movement controlled by an unusual ‘high Q’ spherical pendulum beating half seconds.

The escapement is a Sinclair Harding modification of the fascinating double three-legged gravity escapement - the original design by Lord Grimethorpe controls the great Westminster Clock in London, more commonly known as Big Ben.

At Sinclair Harding we like to use different combinations we are able to use a traditional brass case as well as different coloured anodising with either Gold or Rhodium finished movements.
LONGCASE CLOCK

The heyday of the traditional London Longcase Clock was undoubtedly the mid 1700’s when elegance and space were the hallmarks of an era which is still regarded as the highpoint of English design.

The cases are made from the finest selected timbers - usually English Walnut or Honduras Mahogany with curl or burr panels. The stringing line is inlaid brass. As a variation, a bevelled glass door can be fitted to the trunk to show the descending weights and the gently swinging pendulum. As each of our clocks is hand crafted, customers may specify any suitable wood or case style. The opposite page shows a contemporary style case made in a combination of English and Brown Oak.

The movements are 8 day, key wound weight driven and can be hour striking or a similar but much more complex quarter chiming on eight bells (with a ninth and larger bell for the hour) playing Westminster or Whittington chimes every 15 minutes.

Each Moonphase dial is handpainted making the dial unique to individual Longcase Clocks. We particularly recommend our Moonphase version with a handpainted dial depicting your own land and sea scene.