

one could rival the beauty, purity, and sweetness of her singing.⁵³

Now that we know that the *Patti* clock was named in honor of Adelina Patti, let us clear up what the V. P. stands for. Simply, V. P. was used as an abbreviation for *visible pendulum*.

THE "PATTI" ACCESSORIES

The Welch, Spring and Company was not satisfied with offering the public a new clock with a fancy rosewood case, a new style movement, and a special name; they had to go a few steps further. They thought they could capture more of the market by dressing up the *Patti* with the following accessories:

1. A highly ornamental brass pendulum bob with a sandwich glass center.
2. A gold leaf border added to the door glass.
3. Black labels with gold print to replace the standard white labels with black print. The label also had one or both of Solomon C. Spring's patent dates (March 25, 1879 and/or May 20, 1879). See Figure 78.
4. Black flocked paper on the inside of the case on the backboard. This black surface made the pendulum and the gold leaf on the door glass stand out and was eye catching to the public.
5. A bell mounted to the movement, and not to the case, because the pendulum hung behind the movement.

6. A 5" diameter painted dial having a 1½" diameter brass ring around the center hole.
7. French style cloverleaf hands. (Here again, we see the B. B. Lewis influence since these were the same hands used in his Patent No. 113,781 dated April 18, 1871, as shown in Figure 72.)

Although the trade catalogs show spade hands on the *Patti* clock, let me state emphatically: that the spade or Maltese hands were never used; the *Patti* only used the cloverleaf hands. The trade catalogs made this error because the printers used the design patent photograph (Figure 65); this photograph had the wrong movement and wrong hands. Examine Figure 65, and you will see the two wind holes are located at IV and VIII; all clocks with Patti movements wind at III and IX. It is important to remember that at the time Solomon Spring applied for his "A Clock Case" patent the *Patti* movement had not been developed.

THE "PATTI" ALARM

The *Patti* alarm first appeared in the 1885 catalog and was listed as a patented alarm. Researching old patents prior to 1885, I have been unable to find out when, where, or who had the patent rights. The photograph of the Gerster, V. P. (Figure 101), shows one of the *Patti* models with the special alarm. Note that the alarm is wound through the center of the bell. Figure 79 shows a close up view of the



Fig. 78 Patti, V. P. Label

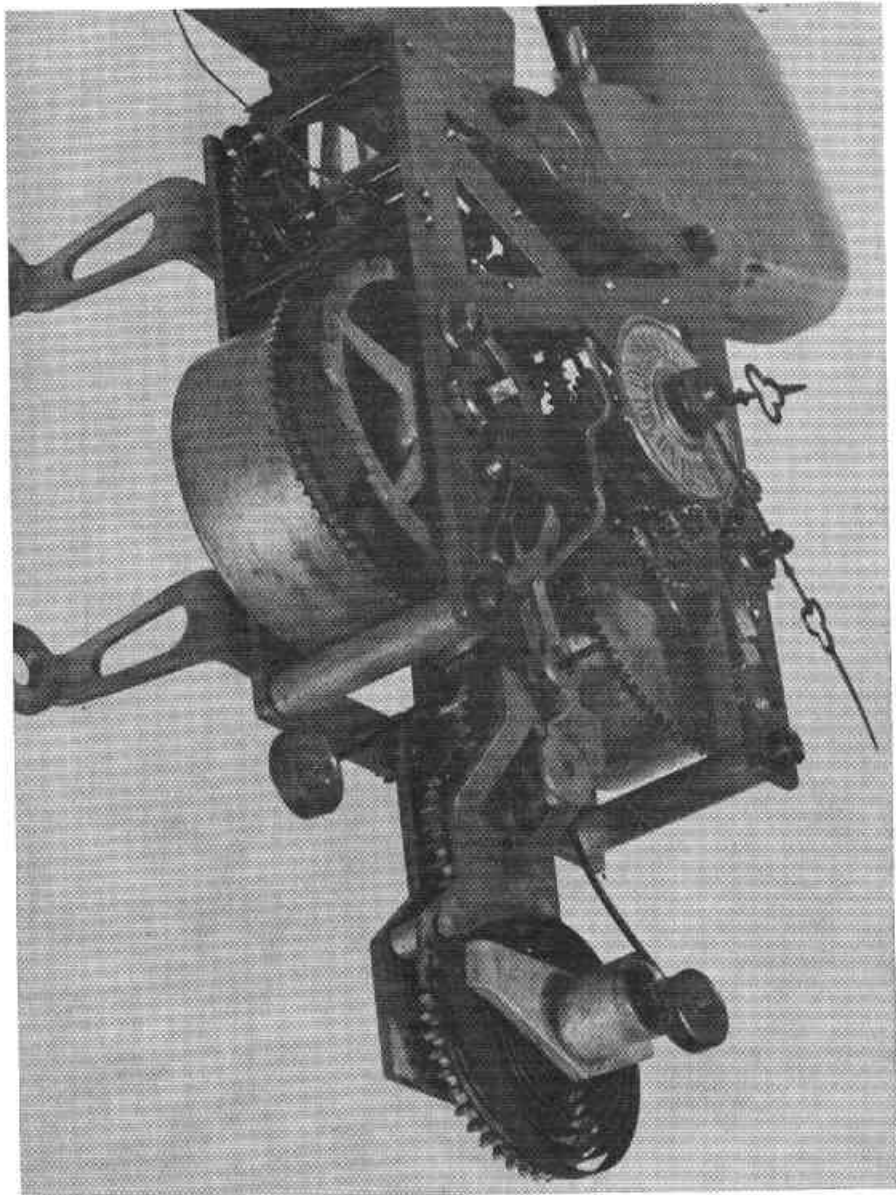


Fig. 79 Patti Alarm — front view without bell cup

movement with the cup bell removed, and the alarm wind mechanism can clearly be seen. Both the alarm and the strike mechanism use the same bell. Figures 80 and 81 give a more detailed view of the alarm assembly. The rear view also shows the stop-

works which prevents over-winding the alarm spring. The *Patti, V. P.*, circa 1879-1893, originally sold for \$15.00, the patent alarm was \$1.00 more and the cathedral gong was an extra \$.60.

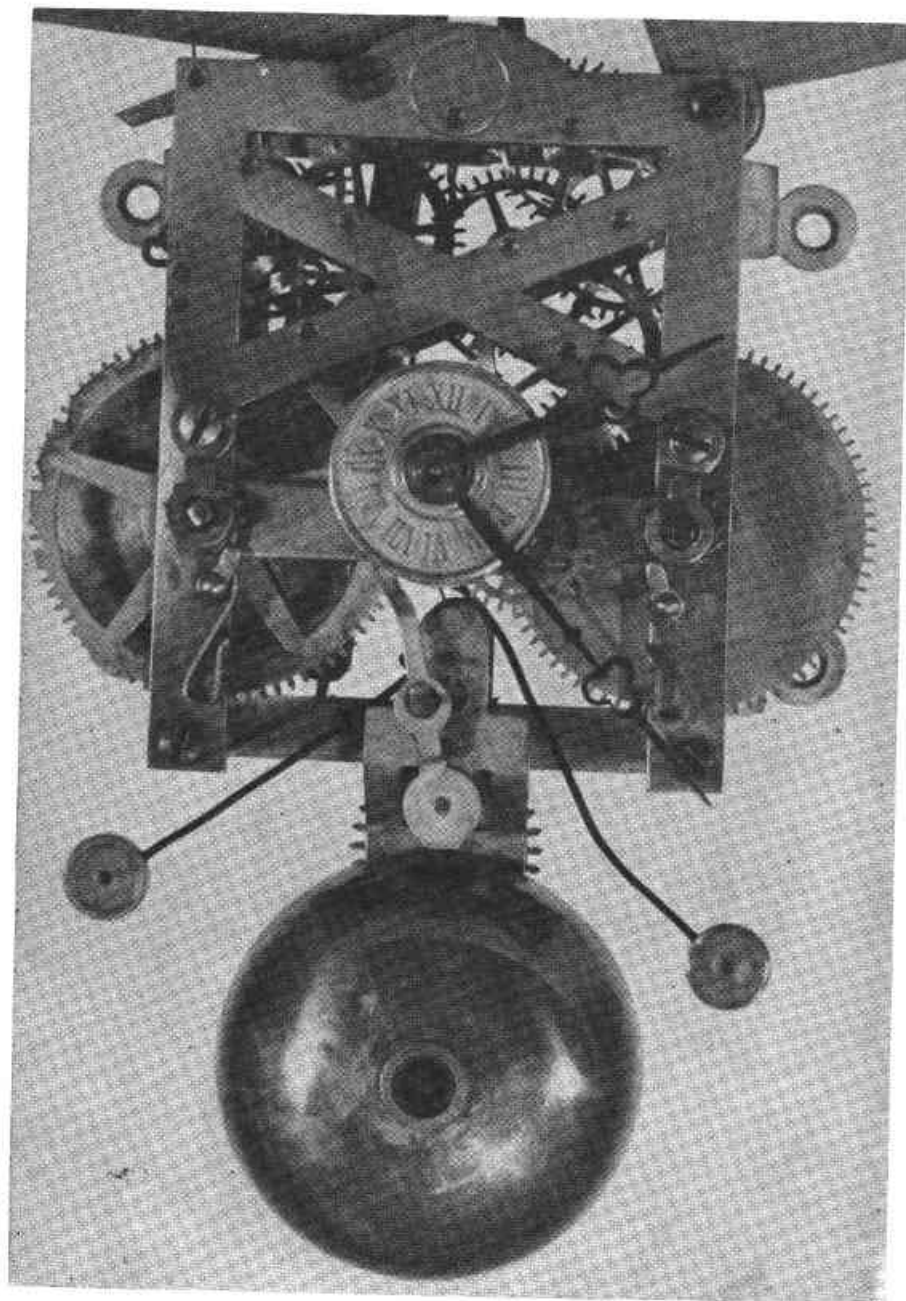


Fig. 80 Patti Alarm — front view with bell cup

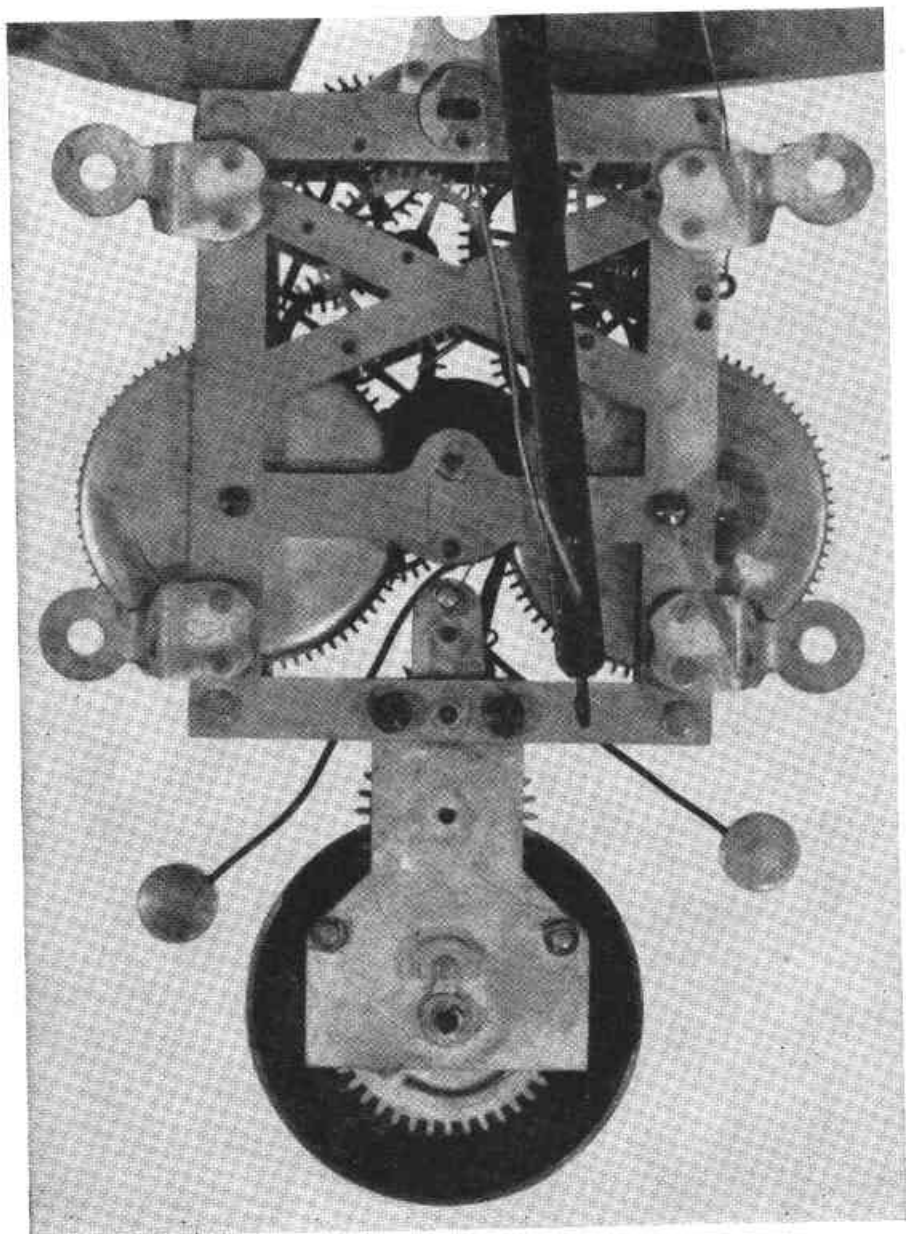


Fig. 81 Patti Alarm — rear view



Fig. 82 Patti No. 2, V. P.

THE "PATTI NO. 2, V.P."

The 1889 catalog also introduced a 10¼ inch high miniature replica of the *Patti* which was called the *Patti No. 2, V.P.* (Figure 82). From that time, now, and possibly forever, clock collectors will refer to it as the *Baby Patti*. The pride Solomon Spring had

in the *Patti* inspired him to create the miniature.

The rosewood case is identical to the larger *Patti* except for its size. The case dimensions have an approximate ratio of 2:3 on all components except the corner columns. The smaller *Patti* has 6" columns whereas the larger *Patti* has 12" columns. By

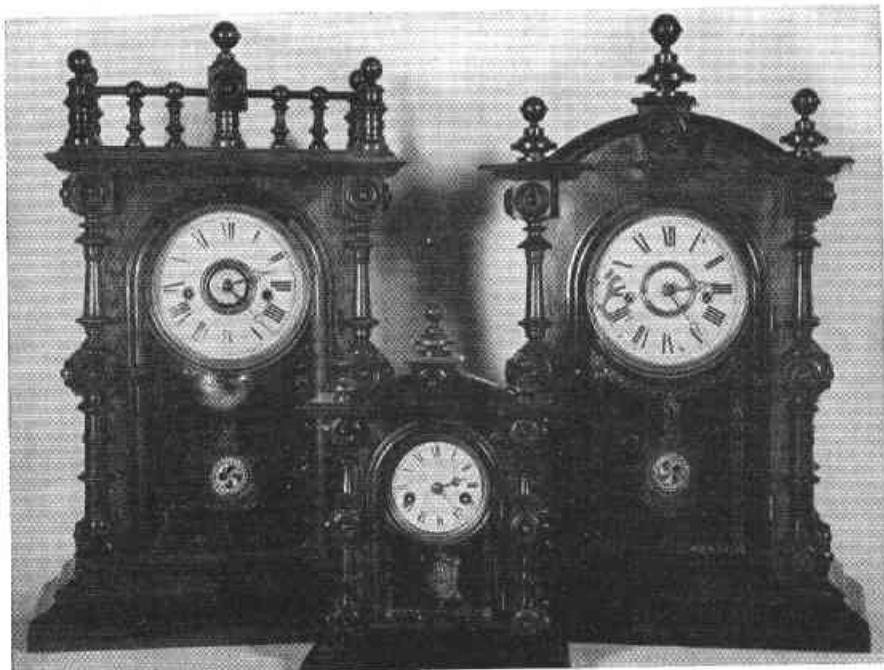


Fig. 83 Patti, V. P.; Patti No. 2, V. P.; and Gerster, V. P. (right to left)

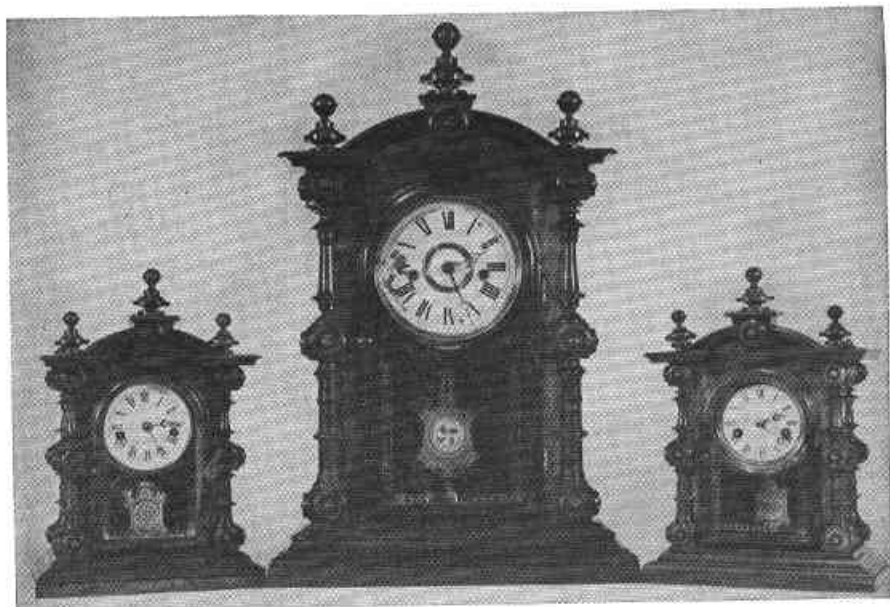


Fig. 84 Patti, V. P. and (2) Patti No. 2 V. P.