

# BROKEN ARCH MANTEL CLOCK PLANS BOBSPLANS COM Tutorial

## **Broken arch mantel clock plans bobsplans com:** A Comprehensive Guide to Building Your Own Mantel Clock

Are you a woodworking enthusiast or a DIY hobbyist looking to craft a timeless piece for your home? If so, exploring broken arch mantel clock plans bobsplans com can be a rewarding venture. This website offers detailed plans and guidance for building a classic mantel clock with a distinctive broken arch design. Whether you're a seasoned woodworker or a beginner eager to learn, these plans can help you create a stunning, functional clock that adds charm to any room.

In this comprehensive guide, we will delve into the essentials of broken arch mantel clock plans from bobsplans com, covering everything from understanding the design to sourcing materials, step-by-step building instructions, finishing tips, and troubleshooting common challenges. By the end, you'll have a clear roadmap to bring your clock project to life.

### Understanding the Broken Arch Mantel Clock Design

Before diving into the plans, it's important to understand what a broken arch mantel clock entails.

#### What is a Broken Arch Mantel Clock?

A broken arch mantel clock features a distinctive arch-shaped top that is not continuous but "broken" or segmented, creating an elegant and classic silhouette. This design is rooted in traditional clockmaking and woodworking, often characterized by:

- An arched hood or top that is segmented or interrupted
- A decorative face with clock hands and numerals
- A sturdy base for stability
- Optional decorative elements like moldings or carvings

#### Why Choose This Design?

Opting for a broken arch mantel clock offers several benefits:

- Aesthetic appeal that complements vintage or traditional decor
- A manageable size suitable for most mantels
- Opportunities for customization in wood choice, finish, and decorative details
- A rewarding project that combines craftsmanship with functional artistry

## Accessing and Understanding Plans from bobsplans com

### What Are Bobsplans?

Bobsplans is a reputable online platform that provides detailed woodworking plans for a variety of projects, including clocks, furniture, and decorative items. Their clock plans, specifically, are known for clarity, precision, and comprehensive instructions.

### Features of the Broken Arch Mantel Clock Plans

The plans available on bobsplans com typically include:

- Detailed diagrams: Exploded views, side and front elevations
- Material lists: All necessary wood types, hardware, and finishing supplies
- Cutting lists: Exact measurements for each component
- Step-by-step instructions: Clear guidance on assembly, fitting, and finishing
- Tips and troubleshooting: Common issues and solutions
- Optional embellishments: Suggestions for decorative carving or inlays

### How to Access and Use the Plans

- Purchase or subscribe: Some plans are free, while others require a purchase or subscription.
- Download the PDF or digital files: Ensure compatibility with your device.
- Review the plans thoroughly: Familiarize yourself with the entire project before starting.
- Gather materials: Use the material list to source supplies.
- Follow the step-by-step instructions: Proceed methodically, verifying each step.

### Materials and Tools Needed

#### Essential Materials

- Wood: Hardwoods like cherry, oak, or maple are preferred for durability and appearance.
- Clock movement: Quartz or mechanical, depending on preference.

- Glass panel: For the clock face or cover.
- Hardware: Screws, nails, hinges as specified.
- Finish: Oil, varnish, stain, or paint.

### Recommended Tools

- Measuring and marking tools: Tape measure, square, pencil
- Cutting tools: Table saw, band saw, or hand saw
- Shaping and smoothing: Chisels, rasps, sandpaper or power sander
- Assembly tools: Drill, screwdriver, clamps
- Finishing supplies: Brushes, rags, and protective gear

### Step-by-Step Building Process

- Planning and Preparation
  - Review all plans and diagrams.
  - Prepare your workspace.
  - Gather all materials and tools.
- Cutting Components
  - Use the cutting list to mark and cut all pieces accurately.
  - Pay special attention to the broken arch segments to ensure proper fit.
- Shaping and Sanding
  - Smooth all edges and surfaces.
  - Carve or embellish decorative elements if desired.
  - Ensure the arch segments are symmetrical and fit well.
- Assembling the Base and Frame

- Attach the side panels to the bottom piece.
- Join the broken arch components to form the clock's hood.
- Use clamps and glue as necessary, following plan instructions.

#### - Installing the Clock Movement

- Drill holes for the clock mechanism.
- Mount the movement securely.
- Attach the clock face and glass cover.

#### - Final Assembly

- Attach the top arch segment to the base.
- Secure all joints and check stability.
- Add decorative moldings or carvings if planned.

#### - Finishing Touches

- Apply stain or paint for aesthetic appeal.
- Finish with a protective coat like varnish or oil.
- Install any hardware or decorative elements.

### Customization Tips and Ideas

- Wood Choice: Experiment with different woods for varied grain and color.
- Finish: Use contrasting stains or paints for unique effects.
- Decorative Elements: Add carvings, inlays, or painted details.
- Size Adjustments: Scale the plans to fit your space or preferences.
- Clock Face: Personalize with different numerals or motifs.

### Troubleshooting Common Challenges

#### Warping or Crooked Cuts

- Ensure your saw blades are sharp and aligned.
- Use a proper square and measuring tools.
- Make precise cuts and support the wood during cutting.

### Fitting Issues

- Dry-fit components before assembly.
- Adjust measurements slightly if necessary.
- Use clamps to hold pieces securely during gluing.

### Finishing Problems

- Sand thoroughly before applying finish.
- Test finishes on scrap wood.
- Follow manufacturer instructions for drying and curing times.

### Maintenance and Preservation

Once your broken arch mantel clock is complete, proper maintenance will ensure its longevity:

- Regular dusting and cleaning.
- Periodic reapplication of protective finishes.
- Keeping the clock mechanism in good working order, including cleaning and oiling if mechanical.

### Where to Find Further Resources

- Bobsplans.com: For detailed plans, diagrams, and additional project ideas.
- Woodworking forums: For community advice and sharing tips.
- YouTube tutorials: Visual guides on clock building and woodworking techniques.
- Local woodworking classes: Hands-on instruction for beginners.

### Conclusion

Building a broken arch mantel clock using plans from bobsplans com is an achievable project that combines craftsmanship, creativity, and functionality. By understanding the design, sourcing quality materials, following detailed plans, and applying finishing touches, you can create a timeless piece

that enhances your home decor and showcases your woodworking skills. Whether as a personal project or a gift, this clock will stand as a testament to your dedication and craftsmanship.

Embark on your woodworking journey today with these comprehensive plans and turn your vision into a beautiful reality!

Broken arch mantel clock plans bobsplans.com have gained significant attention among woodworking enthusiasts and clock collectors alike. As a niche yet compelling segment of horology and craftsmanship, these plans offer a unique blend of historical charm, technical challenge, and creative satisfaction. This article aims to explore the intricacies of these plans, analyze their features, and provide a comprehensive overview for hobbyists and professionals interested in building or understanding broken arch mantel clocks, with a particular focus on resources available through bobsplans.com.

## Introduction to Broken Arch Mantel Clocks

### Historical Significance and Design Characteristics

Broken arch mantel clocks are a distinctive category of decorative timepieces that originated in the 18th and 19th centuries. Their defining feature—a broken or arched pediment—sets them apart from full-arch or straight-sided mantel clocks. The "broken arch" design typically involves a semi-elliptical or curved top with open or ornamental space in the middle, often decorated with finials, carved motifs, or intricate moldings.

Historically, these clocks served both functional and aesthetic purposes within homes, parlors, and parlors of the Victorian era. Their craftsmanship reflected the artistic trends of the time, often incorporating brass or wooden finials, elaborate dial faces, and detailed veneer work. Today, they are prized by collectors and artisans for their visual appeal and the challenge they present to woodworkers.

### Why Build a Broken Arch Mantel Clock?

Building a broken arch mantel clock is more than just a woodworking project; it is an exploration of traditional clockmaking techniques, geometric design, and detailed craftsmanship. Hobbyists are often motivated by:

- The desire to recreate a historic piece with modern tools
- The challenge of precise joinery and intricate carving
- The opportunity to learn clock movement assembly and finishing techniques
- Creating a unique decorative item that combines function with artistry

Understanding their historical context and design complexity underscores why detailed plans?such as those provided by bobsplans.com?are invaluable resources for builders.

## Overview of bobsplans.com and Its Offerings

### What Is bobsplans.com?

bobsplans.com is a well-established online resource specializing in detailed woodworking plans, project blueprints, and technical guides aimed at hobbyists, DIY enthusiasts, and professional woodworkers. The site covers a broad spectrum of projects, from furniture and cabinetry to clocks and decorative items.

In the realm of clockmaking, bobsplans.com offers a range of plans, including those for mantel clocks, wall clocks, and specialized designs such as broken arch models. The plans are characterized by their detailed illustrations, step-by-step instructions, and comprehensive parts lists, making complex projects accessible even to intermediate woodworkers.

### Focus on Broken Arch Mantel Clock Plans

Among the offerings, the broken arch mantel clock plans stand out for their thoroughness. These plans often include:

- Detailed diagrams of the clock case, movement mounting, and decorative elements
- Precise measurements and cutting lists
- Guidance on selecting suitable woods and finishes
- Instructions for assembling the clock case and installing the movement
- Optional embellishments such as inlay work, veneers, or carved motifs

The plans are designed to be adaptable, allowing builders to customize dimensions, decorative details, or wood choices based on personal preference or available materials.

## Features of the Broken Arch Mantel Clock Plans

### Design and Structural Elements

The plans typically encompass a comprehensive design framework, including:

- Case Construction: The primary structure involves precise cuts for the sides, top, base, and the distinctive broken arch pediment. The design emphasizes symmetry and smooth curves, often

utilizing templates or jigs for accuracy.

- **Decorative Details:** Plans often include options for finials, carved motifs, or inlays. These details require precise routing or carving techniques, which are explained step-by-step.
- **Dial and Movement Mounting:** The plans specify the location and mounting of the clock movement, dial face installation, and access points for winding and adjustment.

## Technical Specifications and Materials

- **Materials:** Commonly used woods include cherry, mahogany, oak, or maple. The plans specify thicknesses and grain orientations to optimize strength and appearance.
- **Joinery Techniques:** Dovetail, mortise and tenon, and dowel joints are often detailed to ensure stability and aesthetic appeal.
- **Finish Recommendations:** The plans offer guidance on staining, sealing, and finishing to enhance durability and beauty.

## Construction Process and Skill Requirements

Building a broken arch mantel clock from plans involves several stages:

- **Template Preparation:** Using drawings to cut templates for curves and decorative elements.
- **Cutting and Joinery:** Precision cutting of case components, fitting joints, and assembly.
- **Carving and Decorative Work:** For those incorporating carved motifs or inlays.
- **Finishing:** Sanding, staining, sealing, and applying protective finishes.
- **Assembly and Installation:** Mounting the clock movement, dial, and final decorative touches.

While some steps require intermediate skills, the detailed instructions on bobsplans.com make the process manageable for dedicated amateurs willing to learn.

## Advantages of Using bobsplans.com for Broken Arch Mantel Clocks

### Detailed and Clear Instructions

One of the standout features of bobsplans.com is the clarity of its plans. Each step is accompanied by detailed diagrams, measurements, and tips that reduce ambiguity?crucial when handling delicate curves and intricate joinery.

### Customization Flexibility

Plans are designed to serve as a blueprint but also allow for personalization. Builders can modify

dimensions, decorative details, or wood choices to match their aesthetic or skill level.

## Resource and Material Guidance

In addition to plans, bobsplans.com often provides advice on sourcing materials, choosing suitable clock movements, and finishing techniques, offering a holistic approach to project completion.

## Cost-Effectiveness

While professional clockmakers may commission custom pieces, hobbyists can build a high-quality broken arch mantel clock at a fraction of the retail price by following these plans.

## Analytical Considerations and Challenges

### Complexity and Skill Level

Despite the detailed instructions, building a broken arch mantel clock remains an advanced woodworking project. The curved components and decorative carvings demand precision and patience. Builders should evaluate their skills in routing, carving, and joinery before embarking.

### Material Selection and Quality

The aesthetic and functional quality of the finished clock depends heavily on material choice. High-quality, stable woods reduce warping and ensure longevity, especially for the delicate broken arch components.

### Time Investment and Cost

Projects of this complexity typically require significant time, sometimes spanning several weeks or months. Additionally, costs for materials, clock movements, and finishing supplies must be considered.

### Balancing Authenticity and Personalization

While plans provide an authentic design, many builders customize details, which may affect the structural integrity or aesthetic harmony. Careful planning and adherence to guidelines are essential.

## Conclusion and Final Thoughts

Broken arch mantel clock plans bobsplans.com represent a valuable resource for woodworking enthusiasts eager to combine traditional clockmaking with fine craftsmanship. Their detailed

blueprints and comprehensive guidance make the complex task of building a historic-style clock accessible to dedicated hobbyists. Whether for personal satisfaction, aesthetic enhancement, or collection purposes, constructing a broken arch mantel clock can be a rewarding project that combines artistry, technical skills, and historical appreciation.

While the complexity may intimidate beginners, the availability of detailed plans and resources can bridge the skill gap, enabling more artisans to produce functional works of art. As with any woodworking endeavor, patience, precision, and careful material selection are key to achieving a beautiful, durable finished product.

In summary, exploring the plans offered by bobsplans.com for broken arch mantel clocks is a worthwhile venture for those passionate about horology, woodworking, and historical design. It embodies the timeless appeal of handcrafted craftsmanship and offers a meaningful challenge for those seeking to expand their skills and create a lasting decorative piece.

**Disclaimer:** Always ensure safety when working with power tools and fine woodworking equipment. Consult additional resources or seek expert advice if unfamiliar with specific techniques involved in clock case construction or decorative carving.

**QuestionAnswer** What are the key steps to building a broken arch mantel clock using plans from bobsplans.com? The key steps include gathering the necessary materials, carefully following the detailed plans provided on bobsplans.com, accurately cutting and assembling the broken arch components, and finishing the clock with appropriate staining or painting for an authentic look. Are the broken arch mantel clock plans from bobsplans.com suitable for beginners? Yes, bobsplans.com offers detailed and beginner-friendly plans for constructing a broken arch mantel clock, including step-by-step instructions and diagrams to assist novice woodworkers. What materials are recommended for building a broken arch mantel clock from bobsplans.com? Typically, hardwoods like oak, cherry, or maple are recommended for durability and aesthetic appeal, but the plans may also specify other suitable materials depending on your desired finish and skill level. Can I customize the design of the broken arch mantel clock from bobsplans.com? Yes, the plans on bobsplans.com often allow for customization in size, finish, and decorative details to personalize your mantel clock according to your preferences. Where can I find additional resources or support for building the broken arch mantel clock from bobsplans.com? Additional resources include the bobsplans.com community forums, instructional videos, and customer support, which can provide guidance and answer any questions during your building process.

**Related keywords:** mantel clock plans, broken arch clock design, woodworking clock plans, DIY clock projects, bobsplans woodworking, antique clock restoration, clock case woodworking, vintage mantel clock, clock building plans, detailed woodworking blueprints