How to make Clock Cleaning Solution

By a group of AAHS Members

Recent times have shown that the 9-1 clock cleaning solution supplied by a local industry has become badly flawed. Several of us members got together and conferred that a light blue coloured plastic-ey scum forms on the brass after use and clogs up the teeth on the wheels etc.

Several attempts to get the local supplier to investigate and find the cause led nowhere as they deny any changes to their chemical formula other than they now buy in bulk supplies from China. I pointed out that this change occurred approximately the same time as their product became unusable for us horologists – they said "impossible!"

A small group of AAHS members got together to make our own and after several attempts we came up with a product that worked very well in all tests we tried. We stuck to the exact format below to achieve our results. Do not change the order of pouring and mixing.

	Small Amount	**Large Amount**
	2.5 litres rainwater or distilled water	10 litres
Add	62 mls Oleic Acid and stir	250 mls
Add	62 mls Acetone and stir	250 mls
Add	62 mls Dishwashing Liquid (clear) and stir	250 mls
Add	125 mls Ammonia 25% industrial grade and stir	

Supplies:		
Acetone	Bunnings	
Detergent (Morning Fresh – clear detergent or similar)	Supermarket	
Industrial 25% ammonia	Hucon 9 Waldheim Road Bayswater Ph: 9720-4744	Minimum amount 20 litres – about $95.00
Oleic Acid		Minimum amount 20 litres – about $95.00

Of course buying this amount of ammonia and oleic acid ensures many batches of solution can be made.

<u>Safety</u>

- Only use outside in ventilated areas.
- Only use robust plastic or glass containers (preferably with handle holes or grips and lids)
- Avoid inhaling fumes – wear a mask
- Always wear rubber gloves – so as to not irritate the skin
- Clean containers with water between uses and dispose of watered down chemicals in accordance with local council requirements.