

Silvering a Platform

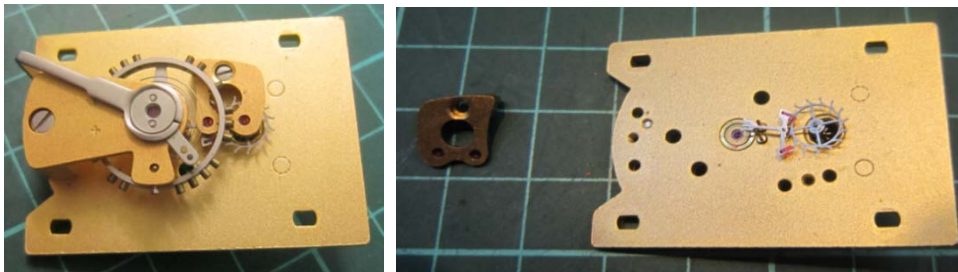
Stan Boyatzis (Aust.)

The process to be described is similar to the traditional French Silvering but utilizes a commercially available 2 jar system consisting of silver chloride (Horosilv) and Cream of Tartar (Horofinish). A good silvering paste contains about 25% by volume of silver chloride but because of cost the % silver chloride in the Horosilv is much less. It however produces a reasonable result and the paste may be reapplied to cover areas of exposed brass,



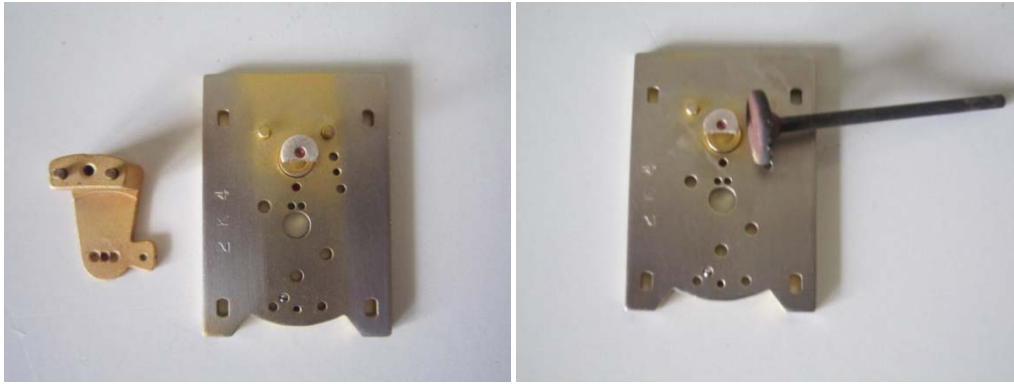
Preparation

The platform is disassembled and cleaned prior to silvering. This only should be carried out by someone who is familiar with disassembling and assembling a platform. Only the brass platform and cocks are silvered.

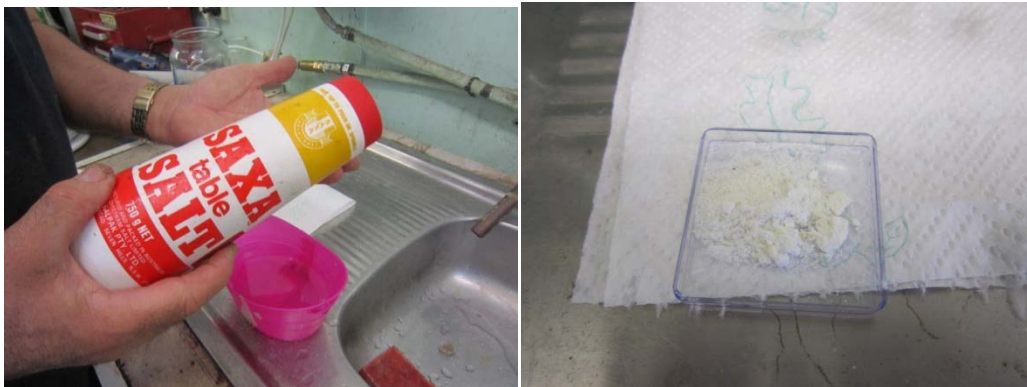


I use a Garryflex medium grit (grey:120 grit) abrasive block to clean the platform and a similar abrasive wheel on a mandrel to clean around difficult areas. The mandrel is held and used by hand. The banking pins are removed and silvered separately.



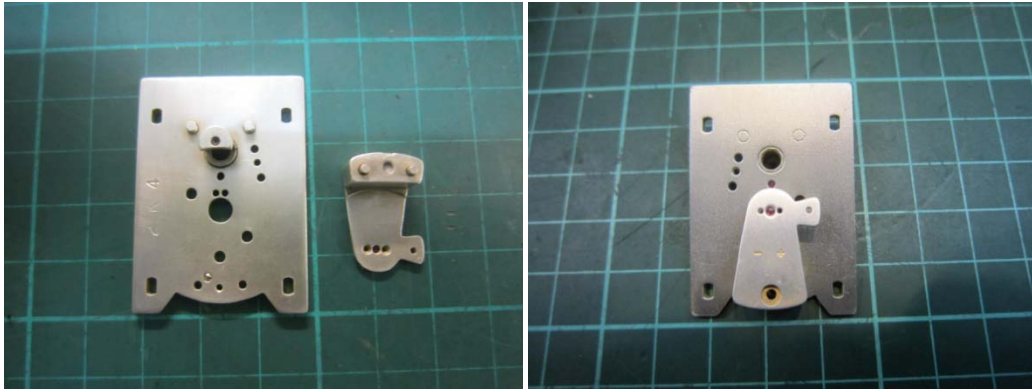


The platform is washed with warm water and the surface rubbed with fine salt using a small wad of clean muslin. A small amount of the Horosilv is placed in a container and using the wet muslin the Horosilv is rubbed quickly and evenly over the entire platform. The brass assumes a greyish appearance.

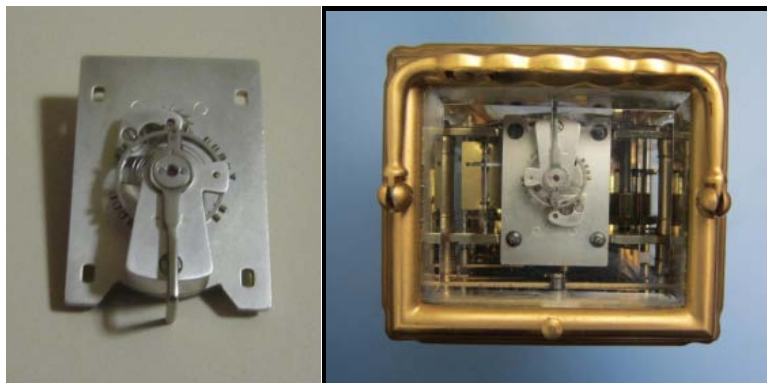


In a separate container place some Horofinish (Cream of Tartar) and with a separate piece of wet muslin take some Horofinish and continue rubbing until the silver on the platform is evenly distributed. Wash in warm water and dry. Check to see that all the required surfaces are silvered. If not, more Horosilv paste can be applied followed by Horofinish and rewashing and drying.





Make sure all holes on the platform are clean before reassembling.



Horosilv and Horofinish are available from :

<http://www.restoration-materials.gbr.cc/>