Word Clock Manual

# Installation

1. Find someplace to hang the darn thing. It weighs seven pounds.
2. Plug the white cord into the PowerPole connectors on the power supply and the back of the clock. Plug in the power supply.[[1]](#footnote-1)
3. It takes about 70 seconds for the clock to boot. Pray to the gods that it works.

*If you refused to share your Wifi login information with the factory, you should see the 1 digit flashing pink. Jump to* ***How to configure Wifi*** *Step 2, below, to enter the information now.*

# If it doesn’t work

If the screen is completely blank, call the factory.

If the *2* digit is flashing, it means the clock is unable to connect to WiFi. This likely means the technician configured your Wifi settings incorrectly. Continue reading.

# How to configure Wifi

To set up WiFi, you need to put the clock in *hotspot* mode, wherein it sets up its own Wifi hotspot. By connecting to the hotspot, you can browse to the clock’s configuration web page. Follow these steps:

1. There’s a button on the lower-right clock border. Press the button for three seconds, until the *1* digit changes color from blue to pink. Release the button. The *1* digit should start flashing pink.
2. On your favorite Internet-enabled device, connect to the *wordclock* Wifi hotspot, with password *wordclock*.
3. Browse to the *wordclock.local* web site. You should see a configuration page. Some devices, such as Android phones, cannot resolve the web site name. In that case, you can browse to http://10.0.0.1.
4. Enter your own Wifi SSID and password into the top two fields on the page.
5. Click the pink **Save** button.
6. Pray to the gods that the clock connects to your Wifi and starts displaying the time.

If it doesn’t work, try again. If it still doesn’t work, call the factory.

Once the clock is on your own Wifi, you can browse to *wordclock.local* again to play with more settings.

# Display Modes

When you get bored with the clock, delight your friends with other displays. Select a mode by pressing the clock button, or by choosing a Display Mode at the top of the settings web page.

Press the button one to four times to select a mode:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Presses** | **Mode** |
| 1 | Toggles the display on and off. When in modes 2-4, reverts to Clock mode. |
| 2 | Random words. Discover the hidden messages and poems! |
| 3 | Fast Clock Demo. The clock rapidly advances the time from just before sunrise to just after sunset on the week of 7 March 2021, and repeats ad infinitum. |
| 4 | Happy Birthday. In case you can’t wait until your actual birthday. |

# Other Settings

Talk about feature creep! Manage these settings by browsing to *wordclock.local*.

## Latitude and Longitude

Tell the clock where it lives, so that it can calculate the time zone and position of the sun. The factory pre-configured the location of your home.

## Min / Max Ambient Light

The clock measures the ambient light and adjusts its brightness accordingly. Min Ambient Light is the point at which the clock sets its brightness to the lowest level; Max Ambient Light is the point at which the clock brightness is at maximum.

## Min / Max Brightness

The min and max clock brightness, on a scale of 0 to 100.

To play with the brightness settings, click the **Futz With Brightness** buttonat the bottom of the settings page. On the Futz pop-up, you can choose to view the clock at noon or midnight and use the slider to adjust the current brightness. Click the **Set** buttons to save your min and max choices. To make the changes permanent, exit from the pop-up and click **Save**.

## Be Poetic

The clock can display a random four-line poem for one minute each hour. Use this setting to choose when to display the poems. The choices are:

* Never
* At a random minute each hour
* At the top of each hour

## Sunrise Direction

Select on which side of the clock the simulated sun rises. You can choose *Left Side*, *Right Side*, or *Use Compass*. When using the compass, the clock figures out where the actual sunrise is and adjusts accordingly. For example, if the clock is facing south, sunrise is to the right. North is left. East or west are toss-ups.

In theory, you could carry the clock around as an actual compass, viewing the direction on the configuration web page. An accelerometer tells the clock which way us up, so it knows which two magnetometer values to use. But it’s all rather flakey. Calibrating magnetometers is hard!

1. **Pro tip:** Be sure you’re happy with the location before installing a behind-clock AC outlet. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)