

Hull Handbells Project

Promoting Double Handed Change Ringing throughout the East Yorkshire Region

Plain Bob Minor on 3-4 and 5-6.

This document attempts to give enough information on these two pairs of bells to be rung, yet does not use diagrams, nor other visual aids. For this document to be useful, a ringer must be thoroughly familiar with 1-2 to Plain Bob Minor, preferably to Quarter Peal standard, and to understand the plain hunting patterns, coursing, 2-3, and 3-4, together with the work of an individual bell in Plain Bob.

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1 Plain Courses of Plain Bob Minor, 3-4 and 5-6, Overview and rules.

Overview

Ringling any pair of bells (other than 1-2) to Plain Bob on any number of bells will involve two hunting patterns, joined together by each of the bells making seconds over the treble.

In minor, on the 3-4 pair, the two hunting patterns are 2-3, and 3-4; on the 5-6 pair the two hunting patterns are coursing and 2-3. 5-6 is by far the easier of the two pairs.

Rules for Plain Bob Minor

Rule 1

Ring Plain Hunting until the treble leads. When the treble leads, seconds place is made and the bells in 3-4, and 5-6 dodge.

Rule 2

When one bell makes a place and the other bell dodges, the hunting pattern changes. (applies to all pairs 1-2, 3-4, 5-6).

The old hunting pattern lasts until the handstroke of the treble's lead, the new pattern begins at backstroke.

Rule 3:

When one bell makes either 3rds at a single, or 4ths at a bob or at a single, the work of the pair of bells changes to the other pattern.

i.e. If you are ringling 3-4 pattern and a bell makes 4ths at a bob or 3rds at a single, you will then ring 5-6 pattern. And vice versa.

NB: if your pair makes two places at a single, the pattern being rung remains unchanged.

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2 Plain Bob Minor on 5-6 - description

The hunting structure for the 5 leads is

- Lead 1: Coursing
- Lead 2: Coursing
- Lead 3: 2-3
- Lead 4: Coursing
- Lead 5: Coursing

And these hunting patterns are linked by work when the treble leads, viz:

- Lead 1: Coursing
 - Dodge in parallel 3-4, 5-6 up
- Lead 2: Coursing
 - Make seconds place and dodge 3-4 up
- Lead 3: 2-3
 - Make seconds place and dodge 3-4 down
- Lead 4: Coursing
 - Dodge in parallel 3-4, 5-6 down
- Lead 5: Coursing
 - Dodge together in 5-6

Points to note on the parallel dodging work.

The bells are coursing through the dodges, hence they always strike one blow apart. Therefore, concentrate on the 3-4 dodge and ring the other bell one space away. The dodge takes place at backstroke, and NB, parallel dodging up is 3rds and 5ths at backstroke, down is 4ths and 6ths at backstroke. This is significant when bobs and singles are called; odd place bells hunt up to the back, even place bells hunt down to lead.

Points to note on making the seconds and dodging 3-4.

After the second lead of coursing 5 makes seconds place, and 6 dodges 3-4 up. Therefore the bells "touch" in 2-3 at backstroke. "Touch" here means ring next to each other inside the change, but do not cross over.

The hunting pattern is then 2-3, starting with handstroke lead and 2 apart, backstroke lead and 3 apart. The places to ring in then are 2nds and 6ths followed by 3rds and 6ths.

Then comes the meet and cross in 4-5; here three bells are in front of the pair, and one behind. That one is the treble. This is the halfway point change row 234561.

Following 3rds and 6ths, 2nds and 6ths, lead and 5ths, lead and 4ths, the bells touch in 3-4, but then the first bell (6 in plain course) rings again in 2nds place, and the other bell steps back to 4ths at backstroke. That's one apart, back coursing.

Points to note on dodging together in 5-6.

At the change before the treble leads the pair meet in 5-6. They then cross at handstroke, and cross back at backstroke for the dodge. They then start the next lead by crossing over.

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3 Plain Bob Minor on 5-6 - details

Lead	Hunting pattern	Work	Places	Note
1	Coursing	Cross	56	6 down first
		Hunt down	46	
			35	
			24	
			13	
		Meet	12	
		Cross	12	
		Hunt up	13	
			24	
			35	Strike over treble
			46	
		Dodge	35	That's the parallel dodge, 3-4 / 5-6 up
2	Coursing	Hunt up	46	
		Meet	56	
		Cross	56	
			46	
			35	
			24	
			13	
		Meet	12	
		Cross	12	
			13	
			24	
			23	2nds over treble, dodge 3-4 up, touch
3	2-3 pattern		14	
			15	
			26	
			36	
		Meet	45	Halfway change
		Cross	45	
			36	
			26	
			15	
			14	
			23	Touch
			24	2nds over treble, dodge 3-4 down, back into coursing

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3 Plain Bob Minor on 5-6 – details, continued

Lead	Hunting pattern	Work	Places	Note
4	Coursing		13	
		Meet	12	
		Cross	12	
			13	
			24	
			35	
			46	
		Meet	56	
		Cross	56	
			46	
			35	
			46	Parallel dodge, 3-4 & 5-6 down
5	Coursing		35	
			24	
			13	
		Meet	12	
		Cross	12	
			13	
			24	
			35	
			46	
		Meet	56	
		Cross	56	Dodge together in 5-6
		Cross back	56	

4 Plain Bob Minor on 5-6 - Hints and tips

Novice ringers often have difficulty with the third lead, which is 2-3 pattern. Work needs to be done to imprint the pattern of places, and especially the “touch” points so that the bells can be struck crisply in the 3-4 dodge.

A more experienced ringer will also note that when ringing this parted lead for a coursing pair, the treble hunts between the two working bells. This becomes a significant aid to accurate striking when progressing to 8 or more bells.

The above details make no distinction on “which way round do my bells need to be”? In the plain course, 6 is the lead bell, 5 is the after bell. So 6 leads and then 5, 6 hunts up and gets to the back first, and so on.

More importantly, all pairs of bells stay in the relationship within the changes until “Meet and Cross”, and then the relationship changes round. This is a fundamental skill in double handed ringing.

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5 Plain Bob Minor on 3-4 - Description

The hunting structure for the 5 leads is

Lead 1: Opposites

Lead 2: 2-3

Lead 3: 2-3

Lead 4: 2-3

Lead 5: Opposites

And these hunting patterns are linked by work when the treble leads, viz:

Lead 1: Opposites

2nds & 5-6 down

Lead 2: 2-3

Scissors dodge together, 3-4 down & 5-6 up

Lead 3: 2-3

Scissors dodge apart, 3-4 up & 5-6 down

Lead 4: 2-3

2nds & 5-6 up

Lead 5: Opposites

Dodge together in 3-4

Points to note on 3-4 pair.

First and last leads have a single meet and cross in 3-4

Middle lead has a single meet and cross in 2-3 at the halfway change.

In the second and 4th leads there are two meet and cross points 2-3 and 4-5.

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6 Plain Bob Minor on 3-4 - details

Lead	Hunting pattern	Work	Places	Note
1	Opposites	Cross	34	
			25	
			16	
			16	
			25	
		Meet	34	
		Cross	34	
			25	
			16	
			16	
			25	
			26	2nds 5-6 down, into 2-3 pattern
2	2-3		15	
			14	
		Meet	23	
		Cross	23	
			14	
			15	
			26	
			36	
		Meet	45	
		Cross	45	
			36	
			45	Scissors dodge back together, touch
3	2-3		36	Hunt apart
			26	
			15	
			14	
		Meet	23	Halfway change
		Cross	23	
			14	
			15	
			26	
			36	
			45	Touch
			36	scissors dodge apart

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6 Plain Bob Minor on 3-4 – details - continued

Lead	Hunting pattern	Work	Places	Note
4	2-3	Meet	45	
		Cross	45	
			36	
			26	
			15	
			14	
		Meet	23	
		Cross	23	
			14	
			15	
			26	
			25	2nds & 5-6 up, into opposites pattern
5	Opposites		16	
			16	
			25	
		Meet	34	
		Cross	34	
			25	
			16	
			16	
			25	
		Meet	34	
		Cross	34	
		Cross back	34	Dodge together in 3-4

7 Plain Bob Minor on 3-4 - Hints and Tips

Novice ringers often have difficulty with the scissors dodges, indeed, the 2-3 pattern hunting is the hardest pattern to learn and ring, and the scissors dodges live within that pattern.

Tackle this by first getting the overview of where the location of the meet and cross points in relation to the dodging work.

Memorise the sequence of places.

NB “scissors apart” means 3rds & 6ths at the backstroke of the dodge, “scissors together” means 4ths & 5ths at the backstroke.

Scissors together has the touch at handstroke, scissors apart has the touch at backstroke.

Really note the touch points. Work needs to be done to imprint the pattern of places, and especially the “touch” points so that the bells can be struck crisply in the dodges.

Scissors dodges become easier after about 50 plain courses, so it’s only a matter of a bit of memory work and a lot of practice. 😊

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8 Plain Bob Minor - Looking forward

Ringling plain courses on 5-6 and 3-4 is preparation for ringling touches. A thorough knowledge is absolutely essential, and sufficient practice needs to be had so that the places and ringling become automatic.

To help with ringling touches, and once the ringling is getting to the automatic level, do ensure that you are aware of exactly which places the bells ring in at the backstroke of the treble's lead. Awareness of this will make the ringling of touches and extents so much easier.

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9 Plain Bob Minor, touches on an “inside” pair.

Because of all of the permutations of calls and positions, initially there is a lot of detail to assimilate. However, the patterns are logical and consistent, so not so daunting as it looks at first.

10 Plain Bob Minor, touches on an “inside” pair – the details.

There are 5 lead ends for 3-4, and 5 for 5-6. So 10 in all, and a bob or a single may be called at any one of them. This is what happens: (PLE means Plain Lead End, i.e. the work in the Plain Course).

- **PLE: 2nds and 3-4 up**
- **Bob called**
 - Run out and make 4ths
 - Hunting: Go into opposites
 - 2nds and 5-6 down next lead end
- **Single called**
 - Make 2nds and 4ths
 - Hunting: Stay coursing (but the other way round)
 - 3-4 down and 5-6 down (parallel) next lead end

- **PLE: 2nds and 3-4 down**
- **Bob called**
 - Run in and run out
 - Hunting: 2-3 pattern, coursing round the treble
 - 2nds and 3-4 down next lead end
- **Single called**
 - make 2nds and 3rds
 - Hunting: stay in 2-3 pattern (but the other way round)
 - 2nds and 3-4 down next lead end

- **PLE: 2nds and 5-6 up**
- **Bob called**
 - run out and 5-6 up
 - Hunting: go into coursing out
 - 2nds and 3-4 up next lead end
- **Single called**
 - Unaffected

- **PLE: 2nds and 5-6 down**
- **Bob called**
 - Run out and 5-6 down
 - Hunting: 2-3 pattern (start with meet & cross in 4-5)
 - 2nds and dodge 5-6 up next lead end
- **Single called**
 - Unaffected

- **PLE: Dodge together in 3-4**
- **Bob called**
 - Run in and make 4ths
 - Hunting: go into coursing
 - 3-4 down and 5-6 down (parallel) next lead end
- **Single called**

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- make 3rds and 4ths
- Hunting: Stay in opposites (but the other way round)
- 2nds and 5-6 down next lead end

- **PLE: 3-4 up and 5-6 up (parallel)**
- **Bob called**
 - Make 4ths and dodge 5-6 up
 - Hunting: Touch in 4-5 and go into 2-3 pattern hunting
 - Dodge 3-4 up and 5-6 down (scissors apart) next lead end
- **Single called**
 - Make 4ths and dodge 5-6 up
 - Hunting: Touch in 4-5 and go into 2-3 pattern hunting
 - Dodge 3-4 up and 5-6 down (scissors apart) next lead end

- **PLE: 3-4 up and 5-6 down (scissors apart)**
- **Bob called**
 - make 4ths and dodge 5-6 down
 - Hunting: go into coursing down
 - Dodge together in 5-6 next lead end
- **Single called**
 - make 4ths and dodge 5-6 down
 - Hunting: go into coursing down
 - Dodge together in 5-6 next lead end

- **PLE: 3-4 down and 5-6 up (scissors together)**
- **Bob called**
 - Run in and dodge 5-6 up
 - Hunting: go into opposites
 - Dodge together in 3-4 next lead end
- **Single called**
 - Make 3rds and dodge 5-6 up
 - Hunting: go into coursing out
 - Make 2nds and dodge 3-4 up next lead end

- **PLE: 3-4 down and 5-6 down (parallel)**
- **Bob called**
 - Run in and 5-6 down
 - Hunting: go into 2-3 pattern
 - 3-4 down and 5-6 up (scissors together) next lead end
- **Single called**
 - Make 3rds and 5-6 down
 - Hunting: go into 2-3 pattern (start with meet & cross in 4-5)
 - Make 2nds and dodge 5-6 up next lead end

- **PLE: Dodge together in 5-6**
- **Bob called**
 - Unaffected
- **Single called**
 - Unaffected

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11 Plain Bob Minor, touches on an “inside” pair – the summary.

This is where the awareness of places reached at the backstroke of the treble’s lead starts to pay dividends. Also, this technique is useful on higher numbers of bells.

Split the thinking between the three bells affected by calls and the two bells unaffected.

Two bells affected by the calls gives one of these pairs of places:

- 2-3 – 2-3 pattern hunting; 2-4 – coursing pattern (in); 3-4 – opposites pattern.

Two bells unaffected by calls,

- Dodge together in 5-6.

One bell affected and one unaffected,

- 2nds & 5ths – opposites
- 2nds & 6ths – 2-3 pattern
- 3rds & 5ths – coursing out
- 3rds & 6ths – 2-3 pattern
- 4ths & 5ths – 2-3 pattern
- 4ths & 6ths – coursing in

Overall the simple rule is:

Odd placed bells hunt out, even placed bells hunt in. So two odd placed or two even placed work in parallel, one odd and one even work towards each other.

This summary should not be used as an alternative to learning the details, it should be used as an extra confirmation of what’s about to be rung.

12 Practice makes perfect.

A series of 24 graded touches are available on the handbells website starting with 36 changes and running through to several 720s. Each touch has the related Abel code.

Some advice is also offered on how to get going into touches is also offered.

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