

Hull Handbells Project

Promoting Double Handed Change Ringing throughout the East Yorkshire region

Ringling touches of Plain Bob Minor on handbells on 1-2, in words, no drawings nor fancy diagrams

This paper assumes that the reader can ring a plain course of Plain Bob Minor on 1-2.

This paper contains the following sections:

- 1 What is a touch?
- 2 What are bobs and singles?
- 3 What is the impact of Bobs and singles on one working bell?
- 4 What is the impact of bobs and singles on the work of 1-2?
- 5 How do I ring bobs and singles?
- 6 How do I choose a practice touch?

1 What is a touch?

A Plain Course of any method is a piece of ringing which starts and ends in rounds. The number of change rows is dictated by the number of bells and the pattern of the method. For Plain Bob Minor the plain course is just 60 changes long.

However, on 6 bells, there are 720 unique change rows, and one of the objectives of change ringing is to ring all of the possible change rows.

To ring those change rows that are not included in the plain course, we make temporary alterations to the method. The alterations are known as calls (they are called out by the conductor) and there are just two of them in Plain Bob, "The Bob" and "The Single".

The pattern or positioning of the calls is known as the composition, and a piece of ringing that includes calls is known as a touch.

2 What are bobs and singles?

Bobs and singles change the method for one row only and after that the work of the method goes back to normal either until another call is made, or until the touch comes back to rounds.

The calls take effect when the treble is leading. Normally when the treble is leading seconds place is made, and the bells in 3-4 and 5-6 dodge.

When a bob is called, 4ths place is made instead of the seconds place, the bells in 2-3 cross over, and the bells in 5-6 are unaffected by the bob, they do their 5-6 dodges as if nothing had happened.

When a single is called the bell in seconds place is unaffected, it makes seconds as if nothing had happened. However, the bell in thirds place makes thirds, and the bell in 4ths place makes 4ths, just like a bob. The bells in 5-6 are again, unaffected.

Bobs and Singles should be called, loudly and clearly, by the conductor as the treble rings in seconds place just before it leads. This gives the ringers maximum time to respond to the call.

3 What is the impact of bobs and singles on one working bell?

Any one working bell in Plain Bob Minor continuously runs through the circle of work:

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5-6 up, 3-4 up, 2nds, 3-4 down, 5-6 down, etc.

Let's take each piece of work and look at the impact of the calls.

Plain Lead: Making seconds

Bob called: Instead of making seconds place at the backstroke, run out to thirds place, i.e. becomes 3rds place bell.

3rds place bell hunts up to the back, one bell away from the treble, i.e. coursing, make seconds at the following lead end unless **another bob** is called..

Single called. Make seconds just like a plain lead, become seconds place bell, dodge 3-4 down next lead end unless a call is made.

Plain Lead: Dodging 3-4 down

Bob called: Instead of dodging 3-4 down, run in to seconds place, coursing, dodge 3-4 down next lead unless a call is made.

Single called: Instead of dodging back to 4ths place, remain in thirds ("make thirds"), become 3rds place bell, make seconds at the next lead end unless a bob is called.

Plain Lead: Dodging 3-4 up.

Bob called: Instead of dodging, ring the backstroke in 4ths ("make 4ths place" or "make the bob"), become 4ths place bell, go into 2-3 pattern hunting, meet and cross 2-3, meet and cross 4-5, Dodge 5-6 Down at the following lead end.

Single called: Work exactly as for a bob.

Plain Lead: Dodge 5-6 down

Bobs and singles called: no change, dodge 5-6 down this time, dodge 5-6 up next time.

Plain Lead: Dodge 5-6 Up

Bobs and singles called: No change dodge 5-6 up this time, dodge 3-4 up next time unless a call is made.

4 What is the impact of bobs and singles on the work of 1-2?

This question is, essentially, answered above.

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However, it is worth noting that for the bell about to make seconds at a plain lead, a **bob** makes it become 3rds place bell, which is what it has just rung, so it steps back one lead in the circle of work.

Similarly the bell that would have dodged 3-4 down at a plain lead, at a **bob**, runs in to 2nds, and rings 2nds place bell work, again stepping back one lead in the circle of work.

The bell that would have dodged 3-4 down at a plain lead, at a **single** makes thirds, and becomes thirds place bell. This is equivalent to stepping back 2 leads in the circle of work. Ringers of 1-2 tend to enjoy making thirds at a single because it gives them two more leads in the nice and easy coursing position.

The bell that was going to dodge 3-4 up at a plain lead, makes 4ths at a call either **bob or single** and dodges 5-6 down next time. The affect of the call is to cut out all of the coursing work, and jump on two leads in the circle of work. Ringers of 1-2 tend to dislike making 4ths because it jumps them right past the two nice and easy coursing leads.

5 How do I ring bobs and singles, what's the trick if there is one?

There is no trick, you have to learn it all to begin with. Go through it in your head time and time and time again until it's absolutely automatic.

Ok. So how do I keep going when I get tired and the conductor hasn't finished?

Focus. You are about to ring a lead of plain hunting, nothing else for 12 changes. Odd place bells hunt out, even place bells hunt in.

1-2: coursing meet and cross straight away; 3-4 down next time

1-3: coursing; 2nds next time

1-4: 2-3 pattern; meet and cross straight away; 5-6 down next time

1-5: 2-3 pattern; 3-4 up next time

1-6: Opposites (symmetrical pattern); 5-6 up next time

6 How do I choose a practice touch?

The touches on the website are split into three sections:

- Short Touches – up to about 2 courses or 120 changes.
- Training touches - ensure that a pair gets to do all the work of a bob or a single.
- Long touches – 120 to 720 changes