The Hull Handbells Project
Promoting Double Handed Change Ringing throughout East Yorkshire

Touches of Plain Bob Minor

Touches are most often rung using the tenor bell as the reference point (a.k.a. an observation bell). It is perfectly acceptable to make calls that affect the tenor, but very often the tenor is unaffected. The calling positions are known by their impact on the tenor viz:

Plain Course work	Title	Code
Dodge 5-6 Up	Wrong	W
Dodge 3-4 up	Fourths	F
Make Seconds Place	Before	B
Dodge 3-4 Down	In	I
Dodge 5-6 Down	Home	H

When writing down touches in "shorthand" it is conventional to use a dash symbol to indicate a bob, and "S" to indicate a single, and generally course end change rows are given. In the touches below we have added the related coursing order as well, and the specific purpose touches are spelled out in more detail. We have used "B" for Bob and "S" for Single.

Getting started with touches

The major factors seem to be:
The overall strength of the band,
The speed at which concepts and challenges are being tackled and overcome.

If you are lucky enough to have two experienced handbell ringers and only one "improver" in the touch then just working through the touches, watching for mistakes and learning points should be enough to get up to quarter peal standard.

If your situation is more of a struggle, the following are suggested:
Brief the band on what the touch entails, and specifically get the weaker person on the inside pair to learn how their bells are affected.
It can be useful for the conductor to call out when the lead ends occur that have no call.

Putting a weaker ringer on 5-6 and briefing him / her on the repeating pattern of the calls, and the repeating structure of the work of their pair of bells can enable progress to be made, and very importantly, practice to be gained by all concerned.

The Touches

Short Touches of Plain Bob Minor

1   36 Plain Bob Minor – 3 bobs in a row

2   72 Plain Bob Minor – BBS BBS

3   108 Plain Bob Minor – BBP x Repeated twice

4   72 Plain Bob Minor – Before and Home

5   120 Plain Bob Minor – Wrong Home Wrong Home

6   120 Plain Bob Minor – 2 Singles Home

7   120 Plain Bob Minor – 2 Singles Wrong

Specific Purpose Touches of Plain Bob Minor
8   204 Plain Bob Minor, Bobs Work for 1-2

9   120 Plain Bob Minor, Singles Work for 1-2

Longer Touches of Plain Bob Minor
BBP and WHW converge.

10   216 Plain Bob Minor – SBP BBP BBP Repeated

11   192 Plain Bob Minor – BBP BBP WHW

12   384 Plain Bob Minor SBP BBP WHW Repeated

13   276 Plain Bob Minor – BBP WHW WHW

14   552 Plain Bob Minor – SBP WHW WHW Repeated

BSBS Wrong - series

15   240 Plain Bob Minor – BSBS Wrong

16   720 Plain Bob Minor – BSBSW BH Repeated twice

17   540 Plain Bob Minor – BSBSBW Shortened

Wrong Home Wrong extended

18   360 Plain Bob Minor – Wrong Home Wrong

19   720 Plain Bob Minor – WHW x3 x2

SBSB Wrong - series

20   240 Plain Bob Minor – SBSBW

21   360 Plain Bob Minor – SBSBW HHH

22   480 Plain Bob Minor – SBSBW SH Repeat

23   720 Plain Bob Minor – SBSBW BSBH Repeat

24   540 Plain Bob Minor – SBSBW BSBBSB H

All touches are shown with tenor as the observation bell.

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Short Touches of Plain Bob Minor

Whilst touches 1, 2 and 3 are often called using the patterns of bobs and singles, they should also be examined from the view of the observation bell and hence used as practice for following and observing the coursing order. Touches 11 through 14 converge with touch No 5 to give progressively longer touches up to 552 change rows.

1   36 Plain Bob Minor – 3 bobs in a row

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B	B			B	23456	53246	36

Abel : composition code: **W 4 H**

This is the shortest possible touch, bells 5, 6 and 4 make the bobs in turn.

Variation: Call single instead of each of the first two bobs.
Notes: 1-2 never leave coursing position.
Composition 2 and 3 are further variations on composition 1.

2   72 Plain Bob Minor - BBSBBS

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B	B			S	32456	52346	36
B	B			S	23456	53246	36
					Total		72

Abel : composition code: **2 (W 4 SH)**
Notes: 1-2 never leave coursing position.

3   108 Plain Bob Minor – BBP x 3

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B	B				34256	54326	36
Repeat twice		Total:					3 x 36

Abel : composition code: **3 (W 4)**
Notes: 5-6 make the 4ths at each of the bobs. See also touch No 10 below.

4   72 Plain Bob Minor – Before and Home

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
		B		B	23456	53246	72
					Total		72

Abel : composition code**: 3 H**

Notes: In this simple touch bell No 4 makes both bobs, 5-6 run in and out at the first bob, and 2 and 3 run in and out at the second.

5   120 Plain Bob Minor – Wrong Home Wrong Home

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B				B	45236	35426	60
B				B	23456	53246	60
					Total		120

Abel : composition code: **2 (W H)**

Notes: A bob every time the tenor dodges in 5-6.

Touch No. 5 has the 5th making the bob and running out twice for 120 changes length. This pattern is carried forward into touch No. 18 and repeated twice to make 360 changes; and to touch No. 19 where there are 5 repetitions to make a 720.

6   120 Plain Bob Minor – 2 Singles Home

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
				S	24356	54236	60
				S	23456	53246	60
					Total		120

Abel : composition code: **SH SH**

Notes: 3-4 are the only bells affected by the calls.

7   120 Plain Bob Minor – 2 Singles Wrong

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
S					53426	23546	60
S					23456	53246	60
					Total		120

Abel : composition code: **SW SW**

Notes: Nos 2 and 5 are the only bells affected by the calls.

Specific Purpose Touches of Plain Bob Minor

8   204 Plain Bob Minor, Bobs Work for 1-2

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Changes
B	B				34256	54326	36
		2		B	42356	52436	84
		2		B	23456	53246	84
					Total		204

Abel : composition code: **W 4 2 (3 3 H)**

Note: Whilst the touch is false, its purpose is to ensure that No 2 runs in, runs out and makes a bob at least once each.

8   204 Plain Bob Minor, continued

Tenor	Call	23456	53246	2nd
Wrong	Bob	23564	32546	Run In
4ths	Bob	23645	54326	Run In
Home		34256		3-4 Down
Wrong		45362		5-6 Down
4ths		56423		5-6 Up
Before	Bob	56234	52436	Make Bob
Before	Bob	56342	53246	5-6 Down
Before		64523		5-6 Up
In		42635		3-4 Up
Home	Bob	42356	52436	Run Out
Wrong		25463		Make 2nds
4ths		56234		3-4 Down
Before	Bob	56342	53246	5-6 Down
Before	Bob	56423	54326	5-6 Up
Before		62534		3-4 Up
In		23645		Make 2nds
Home	Bob	23456	53246	Run In

9   120 Plain Bob Minor, Singles Work for 1-2

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
S	S				34256	54326	36
		S	S		23456	53246	84
					Total		120

Abel : composition code: **SW S4 S2 S3**

Tenor	Call	23456	53246	2nd
Wrong	Sngl	32564	23546	Make 3rds
4ths	Sngl	23645	54326	Make 2nds
Home		34256		3-4 Down
Wrong		45362		5-6 Down
4ths		56423		5-6 Up
Before	Sngl	65234	24356	4ths at S
In	Sngl	56342	53246	5-6 Down
Before		64523		5-6 Up
In		42635		3-4 Up
Home		23456		Make 2nds

The touch is designed to ensure that No 2 makes 2nds, 3rds and 4ths at least once each at the call of single.

Longer Touches of Plain Bob Minor

Touches 10 through to 14 build on and combine touches nos. 3 and 5 to give a variety of practice lengths and pair patterns, especially helpful for the aspiring conductor on 5-6.

10   216 Plain Bob Minor – SBP BBP BBP Repeated

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
S	B				24356	54236	36
B	B				43256	53426	36
B	B				32456	52346	36
Repeat					Total		2 x 108

Abel : composition code: **2 (SW 4 W 4 W 4)**

11   192 Plain Bob Minor – BBP BBP WHW

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B	B				34256	54326	36
B	B				42356	52436	36
B				B	35426	25346	60
B					23456	53246	60
					Total		192

Abel : composition code: **W 4 W 4 W H W**

12   384 Plain Bob Minor – SBP BBP WHW Repeated

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
S	B				24356	54236	36
B	B				43256	53426	36
B				B	25436	35246	60
B					32456	52346	60
Repeat					Total		2 x 192

Abel : composition code: **2 (SW 4 W 4 W 4)**

13   276 Plain Bob Minor – BBP WHW WHW

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B	B				34256	54326	36
B				B	25346	45236	60
B					42356	52436	60
B				B	35426	25346	60
B					23456	53246	60
					Total		276

Abel : composition code: **W 4 2 (W H W)**

14   552 Plain Bob Minor – SBP WHW WHW Repeated

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
S	B				24356	54236	36
B				B	35246	45326	60
B					43256	53426	60
B				B	25436	35246	60
B					32456	52346	60
Repeat					Total		2 x 276

Abel : composition code: **2 { SW 4 2 (W H W) }**

15   **240 Plain Bob Minor – BSBS Wrong**

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B					52436	32546	60
S					32456	52346	60
B					53426	23546	60
S					23456	53246	60
				Total			240

Abel : composition code: **2 (W SW)**

The tenor is unaffected by calls but bell no 5 makes 4ths at each bob, and 3rds at each single. This is the building block of the following two touches.

16   **720 Plain Bob Minor – BSBSW BH Rep twice**

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B					52436	32546	60
S					32456	52346	60
B					53426	23546	60
S				B	42356	52436	60
	Repeat twice	Total		3 x	240		

Abel : composition code: **3 { 2 (W SW) H }**

Hints and tips

This popular 720 has almost the minimum number of calls, and **one bell unaffected by the calls** at Wrong in each part, viz:
Part 1: Bells 5, 3, 2 affected by calls; 4, unaffected by calls, dodges 5-6 down with Tenor
Part 2: Bells 5, 2, 4 affected by calls; 3, unaffected by calls, dodges 5-6 down with Tenor
Part 3: Bells 5, 4, 3 affected by calls; 2, unaffected by calls, dodges 5-6 down with Tenor

Some **pitfalls** for the ringer of **3-4 to avoid**:
1st part: After the first bob and single, 3-4 are coursing, 3 down before 4.
2nd part: The halfway point is at the end of the course, coursing order 54236, and at the home, the change is 124356.
Bob Wrong Single Wrong completes the block and brings back coursing order 52436 until the part end.
3rd part: In this last part, 3-4 are coursing throughout. In the first and last course of the last part, the order is 4 down before 3; in the 2nd and 3rd courses, the order is 3 down before 4.
So for the last 5 courses of the extent, 3-4 are coursing: 2 courses 4 down first, 2 courses 3 down first, and 1 last course, 4 down first.

And one **pitfall for the conductor to avoid**:
The first bob Wrong of a part comes immediately after the last bob Home of the previous part.

Are you short of mental capacity to transpose coursing orders whilst ringing and calling at handbell speeds? - You bet!
So, **just learn the coursing orders**, viz:
At Wrong: B 325, S 523, B 235, S 532 plain course, Home B 5243 part end;
At Wrong: B 245, S 542 half way, B 425, S 524, Home B 543 2part end;
At Wrong: B 435, S 534, B 345, S 543, Home B 5324 720 end.

17   **540 Plain Bob Minor – BSBSB Shortened**

Call Composition 16 above, omitting one block of 4 calls (BSBS) at Wrong.

18   **360 Plain Bob Minor – Wrong Home Wrong**

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B				B	45236	35426	60
B					34256	54326	60
	Repeat twice	Total		3 x	120		

Abel : composition code: **3 (W H W)**

Notes: A bob is called every time the tenor dodges in 5-6 except when it dodges with 5.

5 rings to a consistent pattern, make the bob, run out twice.

19   **720 Plain Bob Minor – WHW x 3, SH Repeat**

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
B				B	45236	35426	60
B					34256	54326	60
B				B	52436	45236	60
B					42356	52436	60
B				B	35426	25346	60
B				S	24356	54236	60
	Repeat	Total		2 x	360		

Abel : composition code: **2 { 3 (W H W) SH }**

The two singles can be called in various places, but must be called in the same place in each part. The simple variations are:

Single instead of the bob wrong in either the 1st, or the 3rd, or the 5th course.
Single at home in either the 2nd, or the 4th, or the 6th course.

20   240 Plain Bob Minor – SBSBW

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
S					53426	23546	60
B					25436	35246	60
S					35426	25346	60
B					42356	53246	60
				Total			240

Abel : composition code: **2 (SW W)**

21   360 Plain Bob Minor – SBSBW HHH

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
S					53426	23546	60
B					25436	35246	60
S					35426	25346	60
B			3B		23456	53246	180
				Total			360

Abel : composition code: **2 (SW W) HHH**

22   480 Plain Bob Minor – SBSBW SH Repeat

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
S					53426	23546	60
B					25436	35246	60
S					35426	25346	60
B				S	24356	54236	60
		Repeat	Total		2 x	240	

Abel : composition code: **2 { 2 (SW W) SH }**

23   720 Plain Bob Minor – SBSBW BSBH

W	F	B	I	H	23456	53246	Rows
S					53426	23546	60
B					25436	35246	60
S					35426	25346	60
B				B	42356	52436	60
				S	43256	53426	60
				B	24356	54236	60
		Repeat	Total		2 X	360	

Abel : composition code: **2 { 2 (SW W) H SH H }**

24   540 Plain Bob Minor –

**Call composition 23 omitting one block of 4 calls
at Wrong.**

Caveat

At first sight touches 16 and 23 are very similar each having a round block of 4 calls at wrong.

This is deceptive.

Touch 15 contains a repeated structure with 5-6 ringing two courses coursing, and 2 courses parted. Touch 20 has 5-6 coursing for 1 course and parted for 3. The extensions to 720 are then fundamentally different with touch 15 becoming a 3 part calling at touch 16, and touch 20 requiring 2 extra courses including a single to produce a 2 part 720.

The temptation to confuse the two approaches and call either BSBS Wrong BSB Home ***or SBSBW BH should be avoided as the touches are false.***

[End]