

Plain Bob Doubles

Plain Bob is an extension of plain hunt. In order to ring Plain Bob Doubles, one must first be able to ring Plain Hunt.



Figure 1 A Course of **Plain Hunt**



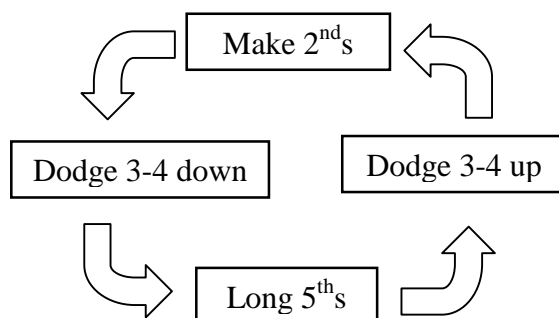
Figure 2 **Plain Bob**,
showing the bells working together when the treble leads.

Plain course work

Figure 2 shows what happens in Plain Bob when the treble leads. In order to get more changes than in plain hunt, someone decided a bell should make 2nds over the treble. This forces the bells in 3-4 to dodge and leaves the last bell making long 5ths (4 'blows'). In plain hunt, see Figure 1, you can see the **blue line** continues to hunt out when the treble leads, but in plain bob it stops and makes seconds as shown in Figure 2. It is this difference that defines the method, and it forces the bells above 2nds place to do something different too, like the bells in 3-4 to swap back and forth, or 'dodge'.

The full line of Plain Bob Doubles is given above. Note that after the bit that is different, all the bells continue to hunt, but the order in which you pass the other bells will now be slightly different. If you ring plain hunt only by the numbers, you will need to develop your 'rope sight'.

The 'Order of the Work'



Now follow the **blue line** of Plain Bob Doubles through the changes, and notice the order of the bits of work that are different (when the treble is leading) and compare with the above diagram.

Ringling by where you pass the treble

Each 'lead' (a section between one lead of the treble and the next, marked by horizontal lines in the full course shown on the first page) you will pass the bells in a slightly different order, this includes passing the treble in a different position too. You may find this helpful, as the treble continues to hunt without doing any of the new 'work', and consequently where you pass it can tell you what you do next.

Pass the treble hunting up to the back	What you do next	Pass the treble hunting down to the front
5ths place	3-4 down	3rds place
4ths place	4 blows behind	4ths place
3rds place	3-4 up	5ths place
2nds place	Make 2nds <i>and lead again</i>	(2nds place)

Knowing what to do by passing the treble is helpful when you forget what you were going to do next. Lastly, because all the work happens *when the treble is leading*, if you are confident, listen for the treble leading and then do your piece of 'work'.

Doing it

How to learn it

The order of the work and where you pass the treble require memorising. You should test yourself before taking a rope to make sure it is fresh in your mind immediately before you start.

How to ring it

Since plain bob is mostly hunting, the bells continue to follow each other. You can use this if you know which bell is 'coursing' before you and follow it down to lead two blows behind (until it leads). The order in which the bells 'course' is "5324" so:

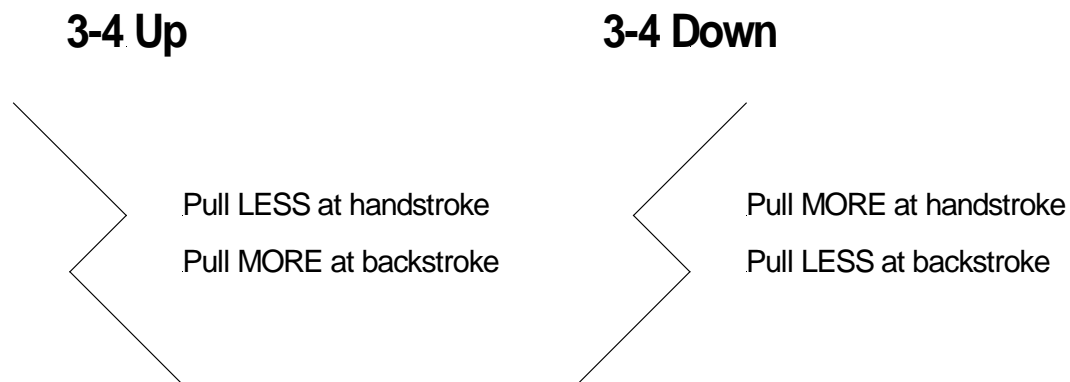
3 follows **5** follows **4** follows **2** follows **3**

Note that in one lead, when you are about to do a 3-4 down dodge, you will actually be following the **treble** down until you do the dodge.

You can also rely on your 'rope-sight' to find the correct bell to ring over. Here again, the coursing order helps because it is (nearly) the order in which you will pass the bells. In fact in the plain course it means that your eyes scan round the ringing circle for ropes in an easy pattern. Ringing from the 2, 4 turns you from lead, next look right for the 5, now scan to the left for the next bell (3), don't forget the treble pops up in different places each time over your right shoulder, and left again from the 3 to the next bell. Apart from keeping an eye out for the treble getting a blow in different places each lead within this order, your eyes continually scan from left to right to left *etc.* hopefully picking up the bells by 'rope-sight'.

Doing a dodge

A 'dodge' requires a change of speed in the ringing and is done 'with someone'.



You might hear someone ask you to 'cut-in' at a stroke. This means, stop the bell slightly short of the 'balance point' and pull your rope down so as to make the bell ring quickly for a stroke. Since you only want to ring quickly for one blow in the up dodge ('cut-in' at backstroke), don't forget to give your bell a bit of a pull to get it back up to the balance the next time or you'll ring too soon and then lose your place! Similarly for the down dodge, give the hand-stroke just before the dodge a bit of a tug and let the bell rise to the balance long enough for your dodging partner to ring, and then continue to 'cut-in' all the way down to the lead.

You will need to take care with how far you let the bell rise to the balance. If you let it go too far beyond the balance point, it will take time to pull it back off again. This will make you late to ring, and you could lose your place as a result. You need to discover what it feels like to do it correctly and how far is too far. You will find that some precision with controlling the bell around the balance point is required in order to achieve good striking, especially in the dodges. However, you will have plenty of time even after today to fine-tune it.

Good luck and have fun!

Philip Abbey, 29/2/2004