

Grandsire Doubles

Ringling a Plain Course

Plain Bob is a method more suited to even numbers of bells; the “long fifths” in Bob doubles happens because there is one bell left over from the dodging pair.

Grandsire is a method devised for ringing changes on odd numbers of bells, usually with a covering tenor on six or more bells.

Look at Grandsire doubles in your “Diagrams” book. The path of the treble, shown by a red line, is plain hunting. 2, also shown with a red line, plain hunts as well, following the treble; it is “coursing” the treble. (Also see page 5.) So Grandsire has **two hunt bells**. One of these is always the treble, but the extra bell “in the hunt” might be any one of the other bells; however, in the “Plain Course” (that is, until bobs or singles are called,) the “hunt bell” is always 2.

The rules for ringing the plain course of Grandsire are similar to Plain Bob, but:

- The bell that is turned from lead by the treble makes **thirds** place over the treble and the hunt bell, then hunts down leads again.
- Because thirds place is made instead of seconds place, the dodging is moved ‘up’ one place compared to Plain Bob, so the dodging is now in 4-5 instead of in 3-4.

Study the method by writing it out several times before trying to ring it - this can save a lot of hassle. Write the treble’s hunting path for three leads on squared paper; now write in 2, the hunt bell, as shown on page 5. Now write in the “working” bells:

1 2 3 4 5	Starting from rounds, 3 makes thirds place and hunts
2 1 3 5 4	back to lead. While 3 is making thirds place 4 & 5
2 3 1 4 5	dodge. 4 is dodging 4-5 down, 5 is dodging 4-5 up.

3 2 4 1 5
3 4 2 5 1
4 3 5 2 1

4 5 3 1 2	After this all bells plain hunt, <u>including the two rows</u>
5 4 1 3 2	<u>as the treble leads.</u>

5 1 4 2 3
1 5 2 4 3

1 2 5 3 4	As the treble leaves the lead, thirds place is made
2 1 5 4 3	(here by 5 which was taken from lead by the treble)
2 5 1 3 4	while 3 and 4 dodge.

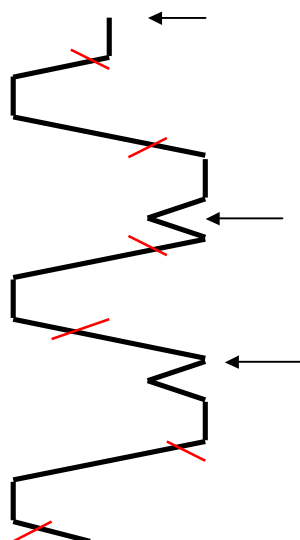
5 2 3 1 4	Now all bells plain hunt again.
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At the end of three leads you should come back to rounds; if you go wrong check your figures against the Diagrams book.

In Grandsire there are three pieces of work:

- Make thirds place
- Dodge 4-5 down
- Dodge 4-5 up

and in the plain course they always happen in that order. Join the 3's to see the blue line:



Thirds place (3 starts here).

Pass the treble in 3-4 up:

Dodge 4-5 down (4 starts here).

Pass the treble in 2-3 up:

Dodge 4-5 up (5 starts here).

Treble takes you from lead:
Make thirds place and lead again.
(This is where 3 starts.)

Now look at how each bell starts. In Bob doubles each bell started by plain hunting, but it's different in Grandsire. As the bells leave rounds

- 3 makes one more blow thirds place and hunts down to lead. Its next work is to dodge 4-5 down.
- 4 moves up for one blow after 5, then hunts down. (It has dodged 4-5 down.) Its next work is to dodge 4-5 up.
- 5 dodges under 4, then holds up for two blows ("lays full") in fifths place, and hunts down. (It has dodged 4-5 up.) Its next work is to make thirds place.

A few tips:

- Making thirds place. Hunt up over the treble and one other bell to get into thirds place. Strike over the same two bells again and lead. (Study the figures!) Count your places - and remember that the two blows in thirds place are backstroke-handstroke.
- Dodging 4-5 down. Lay full (backstroke-handstroke) at the back, check into fourths place on a backstroke, Hold up into fifths place (the dodge) on a handstroke, then hunt down.
- Dodging 4-5 up. Hunt up into fifths place on a backstroke, check into fourths place (the dodge) at handstroke, hold up and lay full, backstroke-handstroke, then hunt down.
- The thin line — on the diagram shows where you pass the treble. As with Plain Bob this can be a useful guide. The one thing that isn't shown is passing the treble in 4-5 up; this happens only when you are hunt bell.

Notice that, whilst in Plain Bob the dodges (the step back) are always at backstroke, in Grandsire they are always at handstroke. If you **count your places carefully** this will be easier to follow. Generally learners start on by ringing the third but, where possible, learn the plain course on each working bell, 3, 4 and 5, so that you know all the starts.