

Plain Bob Doubles

Now for the bobs

The “plain course” of Bob doubles that you have been ringing is 40 changes long, but the “Extent” of changes on five bells is 120. In other words, you can write 1 2 3 4 5 one hundred and twenty different ways.

To ring the extent we have to move the bells around more than happens in the plain course, and this is why we have “Bobs”. Bobs are called as the treble comes to lead, and they cancel the usual rules of making seconds place and dodging for that one lead.

Don’t think that bobs are going to be more difficult than ringing plain courses because in some ways bobs are easier than plain leads. There are three things to remember about making bobs:

Instead of:	You will now:	And your next work is:
Making seconds place	Plain hunt up and down again. This hunt up is called “Run out”.	Make seconds place
Dodging 3-4 down	Hunt down to lead and back up again. This hunt down is called “Run in”	Dodge 3-4 down.
Dodging 3-4 up	Hunt up to fourths place, “make” fourths place and hunt down to lead. Making this place is “Making the bob”.	Make long fifths.

So, if the bob calls you to run in or to run out you get a “free lead” of plain hunt, and then do the same work at the next lead instead. If you are called to make the bob you plain hunt to make fourths place instead of fifths place (so remember to count your places!) and back to lead, then hunt up and make long fifths. **There is no dodging at a bob!**

Compare a plain lead to a bob lead:

Plain lead	Bob Lead	
3 5 1 4 2	3 5 1 4 2	
3 1 5 2 4	3 1 5 2 4	← Bob called here
1 3 2 5 4	1 3 2 5 4	
1 3 5 2 4	1 2 3 5 4	← Bob made here
3 1 2 5 4	2 1 5 3 4	
3 2 1 4 5	2 5 1 4 3	

The bob happens (or “is made”) at the treble’s backstroke lead; the call is made on the previous backstroke, so you have a “whole pull” warning of what you have to do. In the example above,

- Instead of making seconds place 3 has “run out”; it will make seconds place next time.
- Instead of dodging 3-4 down 2 has “run in”; it will dodge 3-4 down next time.
- Instead of dodging 3-4 up 5 has “made the bob” Which is just plain hunting up to **fourths** place and back to lead; it will make long fifths next time.

The bell making long fifths is not affected by the bob - it still makes long fifths, but it strikes over the other bells differently. Making long fifths in the plain course you strike over two bells in the order A-B-A-B. But at a bob you strike over three different bells in the order A-B-B-C; look at the figures on page 9. Notice especially that for the middle two blows you strike over the **same bell**, handstroke/backstroke

As always, writing out what you intend to ring helps to fix it in your mind. If you write Bob doubles and put in a bob at the first lead your figures should be the same as those shown for the bob lead on page 9. If you write another bob at the next lead you should come back into rounds.

If you write a plain lead followed by a bob lead then repeat this twice you should have a “touch” of 60 changes (6 leads) finishing in rounds.

To write the “extent”, write out three plain leads followed by a bob lead, and repeat this twice, usually shown as “P P P B, twice repeated”. If you do this successfully, finishing with rounds, you will have written 120 changes (12 leads), every possible combination of 1-2-3-4-5. Notice that the same bell has made long fifths each time; it is “unaffected” by the calls.

You can also call 120's as PPBP, PBPP or BPPP, each one twice repeated. If you do this you will see that each calling leaves a different bell unaffected. Writing these extents, remember to put three plain leads between each pair of bobs.