

Plain Bob Doubles

Learning about it

You will have heard the term “Plain Bob doubles” (or just “Bob doubles”). “Plain Bob” is a “method”, “doubles” means that it is rung on five bells, usually with a covering tenor in towers with six or more bells. To explain further,

Changes on	Are called
Three bells	Singles
Four bells	Minimus
Five bells	Doubles
Six bells	Minor
Seven bells	Triples
Eight bells	Major
Nine bells	Caters
Ten bells	Royal
Eleven bells	Cinques
Twelve bells	Maximus

When ringing Plain Hunt you probably noticed that the bells frequently came back into rounds. The reason we have “methods” is to keep the bells ringing longer before they come back into rounds - and to make the ringing more interesting.

Write out the first lead of plain hunt on five bells up to the treble’s handstroke lead. The basic rule of Plain Bob on any number of bells is that “The bell the treble takes from lead strikes twice over the treble and leads again”. As the treble comes down to lead your figures should be:

	5 3 4 1 2	
	3 5 1 4 2	
	3 1 5 2 4	
	1 3 2 5 4	
→	1 3 5 2 4	←
	3 1 2 5 4	
	3 2 1 4 5	

and the next row is:
Now carry on plain hunting:

and so on.

The treble takes 3 from lead so 3 strikes twice over the treble and leads again. Striking twice in the same place is called “making a place”, so 3 has “made seconds place over the treble”.

Because 3 made seconds place 2 could not hunt down. Instead, it stepped back from thirds place to fourths place, then carried on hunting down again. This step back is called a “dodge”. 2 has dodged from thirds to fourths place whilst hunting down, so this is called a “3-4 down dodge”.

5 was hunting up and has “dodged with 2”, so this is a “3-4 up dodge”.

4 hasn’t got anyone to play with; it strikes four blows in fifths place (or “at the back”) before it can hunt down. This is “long fifths” or “four blows behind”.

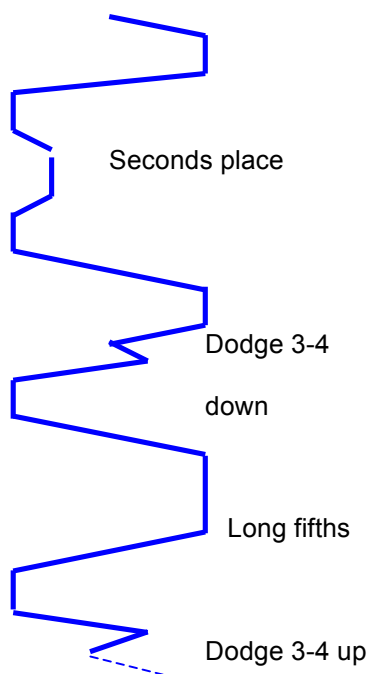
Carry on writing plain hunt until the treble leads again, then do the same thing - the bell the treble takes from lead makes seconds place and leads again, the bells in 3-4 dodge, and the bell left over makes long fifths. Keep doing this until, when the treble leads for the fourth

Resource Finder – www.bellringing.org/finder

This resource is provided by Resource Finder.

time, you should come back into rounds. This is the “Plain course” of Bob doubles. The figures are given later in case you go wrong.

When you have written the plain course of Bob doubles draw a line through all the “3’s”. If we squeeze it up a bit it will look like this:



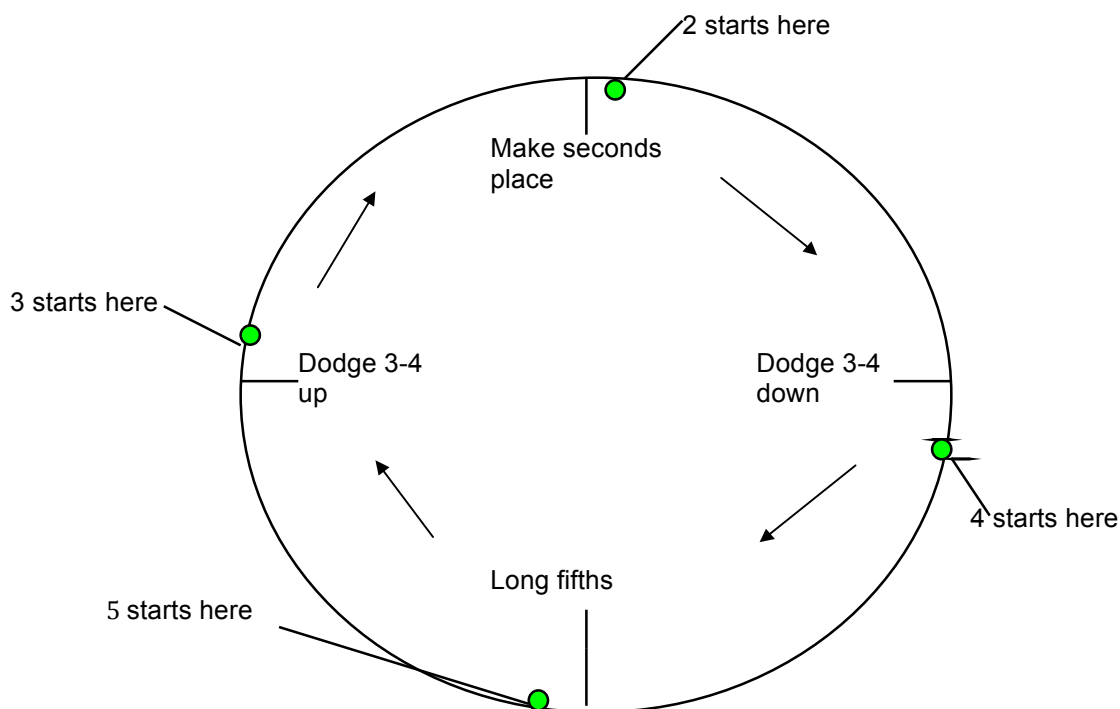
The line that traces the path of a bell is usually called the “Blue Line” because in ringing books a blue line is normally used to show the “path” of a “working” bell. (The treble is usually shown with a red line.)

You will see that there are four pieces of “work”, that is, when the bells are not plain hunting. These are:

Seconds place, Dodge 3-4 down, Long fifths, Dodge 3-4 up.

All the “working bells” do the work in this order, but starting in a different place. Follow 4 from your figures; at the first treble lead it makes long fifths, then dodges 3-4 up, makes seconds place and dodges 3-4 down as the bells come back into rounds. It does the same work as 3, but starting in a different place, as do 2 and 5.

To ring Bob doubles we know that the bells start by plain hunting and we must learn the sequence of work - for each bell. This can be shown with a diagram:



Each bell starts from rounds by plain hunting until the treble leads, then does the next work shown around the circle. Learn the work of the plain course of Bob doubles, starting from any bell, and in the next session we will discuss how to ring it.

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

Plain Bob Doubles

How to ring it

Most of Plain Bob is plain hunting, but each time the treble leads we have to do something different; we may have to:

Make seconds place
Dodge 3-4 down
Make long fifths or
Dodge 3-4 up.

If you ring the third you will start by hunting up, then down to lead and your first work is to:

Make Seconds Place.

As the treble takes you from lead you strike over the treble at handstroke; your backstroke blow is also over the treble, then lead again (handstroke/backstroke) and carry on plain hunting. Your next work is to:

Dodge 3-4 down.

Your last blow in fifths place is a handstroke; you hunt down into fourths place on a backstroke; **the bell you meet here is the bell you are going to dodge with**. Hunt down into thirds place (handstroke) then **hold up** into fourths place, over your dodge bell, on the backstroke, then hunt down again. Look at the figures for Bob doubles to see this. Count your places as you are ringing: "Fifths-fourths-thirds-**fourths**-thirds-seconds, lead".

Your next work is to:

Make long fifths.

When you "lay" in fifths place you normally strike over two different bells, call them A and B. When you make long fifths in the "plain course" (that is, no-one is calling bobs,) strike over **the same two bells again** in the order A-B-A-B, then hunt down. Your next work is to:

Dodge 3-4 up.

Notice which bell takes you from lead; your next blow will be over the treble (look at your figures!) and your next blow, a handstroke, will be over the bell you are dodging with. **Check** on the next backstroke to come back down into thirds place, striking over the bell that took you from lead, then **hold up** into fourths place, striking over your dodge bell, and then up into fifths place. Your counting from lead will be : Seconds-thirds-fourths-**thirds**-fourths-fifths - -. The next work is to make seconds place, so we are back to where we started.

Dodging requires something extra in bell control because we have to change from hunting down to hunting up to hunting down - or the reverse - each time we dodge. To do this with minimum effort and good striking we need to think ahead.

Dodging down.

Hunting down to thirds place we are checking the bell slightly to ring faster than in rounds. On the blow in thirds place **pull harder** to hold up into fourths place (the dodge), and now **pull less** because on the next pull you must check to get back down into thirds place and so to lead. (Always pull less if you know that the next pull will be a check. Try always to think one pull ahead.)

This resource is provided by Resource Finder.

On the pull which brings you up into fourths place **pull less** because on the next pull you will check into thirds place (the dodge), but on this pull **check and pull harder at the same time** so that you can hold up into fourths place and hunt up. As with the down dodge, try to think ahead and pull according to what you will do next. It saves energy, improves the striking and it makes ringing more enjoyable when you feel the bell following your guidance rather than having to use brute force.

Pass the treble in 2-3 up - dodge 3-4 up.

1. It reminds you what to do next if you have forgotten.
2. It's a bell you haven't got to look for - you know who it will be.
3. Later on, if a learner is on the treble and is out of place you will realise this and (hopefully) ring on and not get lost yourself.

Practice ringing the plain course from each working bell; the next session will be about making bobs.