

Contents

What the bells are doing in the Plain Course

The plain hunting bells 3

The inside bells 4

The three pieces of work in the plain course

Making thirds 5

Dodge 5-4 down..... 5

Dodge 4-5 up 6

Hunting down after your dodges 6

Your first plain course inside 7

Striking 8

Common questions on the plain course..... 9

Ringling the 4th or 5th to a plain course 10

The calls in Grandsire Doubles

Bobs 11

Singles 12

Your first touches

Three bobs before 13

Observation bell..... 13

Observation bell ... with plain leads as well..... 13

More advanced touches

Not observation, but unaffected by singles.....	14
Long 3rds at every single	14
Single every 3rd lead.....	14
Not observation for a 9 call	14
Morris' 240	14
 Summary of all the work	 15
Some other tricks to know what to do next	16
Calling touches	17
Calling a quarter peal	18

What the bells are doing in the Plain Course: The plain hunting bells

This will be done by two of the bells: always the Treble, and one other bell that will be the 2nd until a Bob or Single is called, when it will change.

The treble and two shown here in the first part of the plain course are plain hunting.

12345
21354
23145
32415
34251
43521
45312
54132
51423
15243
12534

Each row is a “change” and they will be alternately handstrokes and backstrokes. The rounds at the top is the last lot of rounds, just after the call of “Go, Grandsire”. The next change “213546” is on the next handstroke.

A line has been drawn through their positions in each change, and after they lead you can see that they get later in each change, being the 2nd then 3rd then 4th bell to ring until they reach 5th place, then stay for second blow in 5th place before starting to ring earlier in each change being the 4th then 3rd then 2nd bell to ring until they reach lead. By drawing a line through the path you can tell if you are getting later in each change (line slants right) earlier in each change (line slants left) or standing still (line vertical: in 5th as well as at lead) so you know when to ring slower, faster or at rounds speed.

The tenor, “6” has been omitted; it rings last in each change ... assuming you have one!

You can see that after ten changes the treble and two have come back to where they started from. If the 3,4 & 5 had plain hunted as well, then every tenth change would be rounds because *all* of the bells would be back to where they started from ... so we get them to do something different every ten changes so that the ringers don't get bored.

This plain hunting and using the shape of the line will be used as the basis for learning to ring the inside bells. If you have rung a quarter peal on the treble then this is excellent practice, and the idea of plain hunting should be coming more automatically to you.

The three pieces of work in the plain course

Making thirds

After leading, hunt up over two bells, repeat them, and lead again. This is really plain hunting but on only three bells, i.e. T.X.T.X Lead (T=Treble, X=next bell) as shown here over the treble & 2nd. On the right is written the speed at which you must ring at as you go from one change to the next in order to move your bell into the right place and maintain an even space from the bell you are following:

Lead	35142	
	31524	Rounds speed
T	13254	Slow
...X	12345	Slow
...T	21354	Rounds speed
X	23145	Quick
Lead	32415	Quick
	34251	Rounds speed

Dodge 5-4 down.

To dodge 5-4 down (sometimes called 4-5 down) you hunt up all the way to 5ths, start to hunt down by moving down to 4ths, step back or “dodge” into 5ths before plain hunting down to lead. It is called a dodge “down” because you do it while hunting down towards lead. Note that if you are dodging down ... then someone else must be doing a dodge up with you: dodges always go together as a pair.

Lead	32415	
	34251	Rounds speed
Plain hunt up, 2 bells	43521	Slow...
	45312	
..then the treble	54132	
..and the last bell	51423	
Start to repeat in 5ths	15243	Rounds speed
..repeat the second bell	12534	Quick at backstroke
Dodge back over 1st bell	21543	Slow at handstroke
Down over the treble	25134	Quick at backstroke
..and 2 more bells	52314	
..to	53241	...quick to lead...
Lead	35421	
	34512	

The Calls in Grandsire Doubles

A “touch” of Grandsire starts the same way as a plain course, but then the conductor calls “bobs” and “singles”. In Grandsire these are always called on the handstroke as the treble is in thirds on the way down: this gives everyone a whole pull warning before they have to do something different to what they would have done without the call.

All the bells **except** the bell making thirds do something different at a bob, and they **all** do something different at a single.

The trick of counting the number of bells that you met before the treble as you hunt up is very useful in working out what to do at the bobs and singles.



I will go through all of the possible things you can do first, then give some touches to introduce this new work a bit at a time, then summarise it all.

If a Bob is called and Treble is your :-

1st bell make 3rds in the usual way ... but it probably won't be the 2nd that you meet after the treble, and the example here has the third making 3rds over the treble and 5th.

Lead	35142	< Call here
	31524	
T	13542	
...X	15324	
...T	51342	
X	53124	
Lead	35214	
	32541	

You will be leading as the bob is called.

2nd bell also make thirds, but in backwards order and go into the hunt (called “reverse thirds” or “short thirds”), i.e. X.T.X.T Lead.

Lead	35421	
	34512	
X	43152	< Call here
...T	41325	
...X	14352	
T	13425	
Lead	31452	
	34125	

You will have just left lead as the bob is called.

Remember: you are then the new hunt bell ... hunt up, with the treble as your last bell.