

PLAIN HUNTING

Plain Hunting is the basis of all method ringing. Every bell changes its position by one place every stroke until it reaches the last or first place, where it must stay for two strokes.

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1 2 3 4 5 6
2 1 4 3 5 6
2 4 1 5 3 6
4 2 5 1 3 6
4 5 2 3 1 6
5 4 3 2 1 6
5 3 4 1 2 6
3 5 1 4 2 6
3 1 5 2 4 6
1 3 2 5 4 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
    
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Draw lines through the path of each bell. Use different colours for each bell.

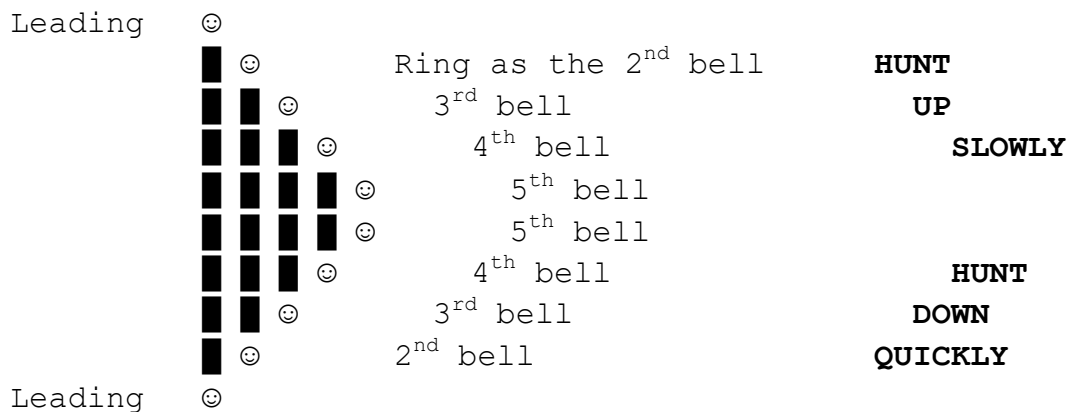
That's all

Words used in plain hunting:

A bell hunts *up* to the *back*, then stays or *lies* there for two blows,

Then hunts *down* to the *front* where it *leads* for two blows.

Some people find it useful to think of plain hunting as going up and down stairs.



As you hunt up after lead you ring slowly, the two blows at the back are steady, then as you hunt in you ring quickly.

Ringing is a matter of settling into a rhythm, and plain hunting is no exception. But plain hunting takes practice and gets easier the more you do.

A lot of people start to learn plain hunting on the treble, but if you have another bell then don't panic! You can work out how you start by thinking about whether you're ringing an odd numbered bell or an even numbered bell. Odd numbered bells go up to the back, and even numbered bells go down to lead.

So the 3 is an odd numbered bell so goes up to the back
 the 2 is an even numbered bell so goes _____
 the 4 is an _____ so goes _____

ROPE SIGHT

Imagine you are ringing the treble.

Then the conductor calls “go plain hunt doubles”

Look around, and find the bell that is following you (which is the 2nd if you were ringing rounds)

Make your bell wait on the sally stroke. Just after the 2nd pulls off on their sally, you pull your sally and follow it:

Go plain hunt: 1 2 3 4 5
 2 1 4 3 5

After pulling the sally look around to see who is following you now ... they will probably be looking at you. It will either be the 3rd, 4th or 5th. It should be the 4th, so follow it on the ropes end and look to see who is following you now out of the 3rd or 5th. You should see the 5th ringing after you, so follow the 5th next sally.

Go plain hunt: 1 2 3 4 5
 2 1 4 3 5 Sally
 2 4 1 5 3 Ropes end
 4 2 5 1 3 Sally

Now there is only one bell you haven't followed yet ... the 3rd, so that's the one you follow on the ropes end.

Go plain hunt: 1 2 3 4 5
 2 1 4 3 5
 2 4 1 5 3
 4 2 5 1 3
 4 5 2 3 1

The order that you followed the bells “2 4 5 3” gets you to the back, and you repeat them in the same order to get back down to lead “2 4 5 3”, but ringing more quickly this time.

5 4 3 2 1
5 3 4 1 2
3 5 1 4 2
3 1 5 2 4
1 3 2 5 4
1 2 3 4 5 That's all

In plain hunt doubles, all the bells are following a similar pattern ... go back to the diagram where you followed the line of each bell with different colours and check.

It's easier to follow on the treble because the leading doesn't break the pattern of the numbers.

Rope sight is really useful. You can't learn all the sequences of numbers when you get onto grandsire and other methods, so being able to spot which bells to follow is a very useful trick. If you use rope sight rather than learning the numbers then you'll be able to plain hunt the treble for Grandsire, Plain Bob, April Day, Reverse Canterbury Pleasure, All Saint, Reverse St. Bartholomew, and loads and loads of other different methods.