

Touches of Grandsire Doubles

Notation

Touches are set out by writing down the change rung at the treble's backstroke lead (and excluding the treble, which is leading of course).

All of the touches start at rounds, before the "Go Grandsire", and so this is underlined as a header.

Touches are then "pricked out" a "lead" at time by writing down every 10th change (each treble's backstroke lead) and noting down what was called to get you there ... either a single (marked "S") or a bob (marked "-") or a plain lead (unmarked).

Most touches also come back into rounds at the treble's backstroke lead to give a "normal finish", and for these you'll see that rounds is the last change written down.

Grandsire can also be brought round one change early, on the treble's handstroke lead, if the touch contrives to swap 2-3 and 4-5 over; so that the change 12345 at handstroke would have been followed by 13254 at backstroke. Since the conductor should (!) have called "That's all" before the change 13254 is rung, this change is put in brackets.

Touches, extents and falseness

A touch is usually defined as some Grandsire, starting and ending in "rounds", containing bobs and/or singles.

There are 120 different changes that can be rung on 5 bells, and an "extent" is a touch of Grandsire 120 changes long that contains them all once, and once only.

A "false" touch is one that repeats one or more changes.

Compositions useful for quarter peals

Quarter peals of Doubles are traditionally between 1260 and 1320 changes long, and comprise each change rung 10 times (usually in 10 extents) plus another touch of at least 60 changes.

Since Grandsire lends itself to a very simple touch of 60 changes, they are usually 1260 changes long.

Instead of two separate extents, a "240" may be rung instead, if that 240 contains each of the 120 changes twice over. Similarly for 360's or 480's if you are keen.

Peals are 5040 changes long; again 240's etc. may be used.

You shouldn't include any "false" touches in a quarter peal, and although nobody takes notice of what is rung in quarter peals, peals shouldn't be counted if you do.

Observation bells and rotation of compositions

The simple "traditional" touches of 60 and 120 changes usually have the 3rd or 5th as observation bells, where it double dodges 4-5 up at calls at alternate leads and makes 3rds (either at a bob or plain lead) in between each call. So for 60 changes with the 3rd observation we might write:

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60
2345
4523 -
4352
5243 -
5324
2453 -
2345

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And 60 changes with the 5th observation we could have:

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60
2345
2534
3425 -
3542
4235 -
4523
2345 -

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Both these touches are termed "round blocks" because they start & end in rounds and contain a whole number of leads.

Note that the calling of "round blocks" may be started from any lead; and these touches are really the same thing (alternate bobbed and plain leads) but just started in a different place; one is a "rotation" of the other.

In general, any touch that is a round block can be started from any lead.

Touches of Grandsire Doubles

Short touches

20
2345
 4523 -
2345 -

39
2345
 2534
 3425 -
 3542
 (3254)

40
2345
 4523 -
 3245 S
 4532 -
2345 S

40
2345
 5423 S
 2354 -
 4523 S
2345 -
 (this is just a
 "rotation" of the
 previous touch by
 starting a lead
 later, and giving
 the 3rd observation
 rather than the 5th)

40
2345
 2534
4325 S
 Repeated

59
2345
 2534
 4325 S
 2543 -
 3425 S
 3542
 (3254)

Touches useful for quarter peals

60
2345
 2534
 3425 -
 3542
 4235 -
 4523
2345 -

The above could
 also be written as:

60
2345
 2534
3425 -
 Repeat twice

The above has the 5th
 observation, and may
 be rotated to give
 the 3rd observation:

60
2345
 4523 -
4352
 Repeat twice

99
2345
 2534
 4325 S
 4532
 3245 -
 3524
 2435 -
 2543
 3425 S
 3542
 (3254)

Touches useful for quarter peals and peals

120
 Any 60, without
 singles, may be
 doubled to 120 by
 substituting one bob
 for a single and
 repeating the whole.
 This is the
 traditional "6-call"
 extent.
 This gives 6 extents
 (3 with 3rd
 observation and 3
 with 5th observation)

120
2345
 5423 S
 2354 -
 4523 S
4352
 Repeat twice
 The "9-call"
 (may also be rotated
 in 3 other ways,
 giving 2 extents
 with the 3rd
 observation and 2
 with the 5th
 observation)

Touches of Grandsire Doubles

240
(composed by
E.Morris)

2345
5423 S
3254 S
4532 S
3245 -
5432 S
2354 S
4523 S
4352

Repeat twice
Contains each change
twice, once at
handstroke and once
at backstroke.

Note: there isn't an
observation bell
here in the usual
sense, but the 3rd
comes back to 3rds
at the end of each
part; it makes 3rds
at the plain leads
and reverse 3rds at
the bobs.

May also be rotated
so that the 2,4 or 5
does this
observation work.

Other 240's have
been composed but
nobody can ever
remember them!

**Touches useful for practice
nights ... watch out, these
may be false!**

99
2345
5423 S
2354 -
2435
3524 -
3452
2534 S
2453
5324 -
5432
(3254) -

This almost has the
4th observation,
apart from the 1st
call

150
2345
2534
2453
5324 -
5432
3254 -
3425
5234 S
5423
2354 -
2435
3524 -
3452
2534 S
2453
2345

This is what you get
if you try to call
the 4th observation;
some changes are
repeated, and in
fact, rounds appear
as the 49th change
and the 120th.

120

2345
2534
2453
3524 S

4 part, with no
observation bell at
all!

119

2345
2534
4325 S
4532
3245 -
3524
2435 -
2543
3425 S
3542
4235 -
3542 -
(3254)

This is almost a
traditional 6-call
120 with 5th
observation, but the
last bob is called a
lead early to bring
it round at
handstroke; useful
if you have a smart-
ass visitor who
thinks they know
everything, since
they often "correct"
your calling!