

How to Ring by Places

This applies to all change ringing and all bells – treble or an inside bell.

In any one method each bell has a fixed path to follow. In most methods (except Stedman) the treble will either Plain Hunt, or Treble Bob. The inside bells will all follow the same path which is called the Blue Line but start on the line in a different place. The pattern of the line will vary according to the method being rung, and the treble will Hunt according to whether the method is a Plain Hunt or Treble Dodging method.

A bell only moves a maximum of one place at a time.

In all change ringing the ringer must first learn the line. In Plain Hunt this is simply hunting the bell (moving its relative position one place at a time) from being in its Home Position to the front and back (or visa versa according to which bell it is) and back to its Home Position.

A ringer will usually start change ringing by Hunting the Treble. This is often learned by numbers initially, knowing which bell to follow by its number. This is not an ideal method of teaching/learning because the ringer has no concept of Hunting to the back of the change when the bell should be held up slightly, or Hunting down to the front of the change when the bell should be checked in slightly. However, learning by numbers does help in the initial stage to help understand the concept.

Ringling by numbers should be disposed of as soon as possible because it has severe limitations to progress in helping the ringer understand change ringing and can hold the band back.

Essentials:

The ringer must have good bell control in order to ring the bell as required in each Row. The ringers must be able to hear their own bell amongst the others.

Understanding Places

In Rounds each bell is rung in its own place starting from the treble with the tenor being the last bell to ring. The treble is in 1st place, the third is in 3rds place etc.

123456 Rounds – each bell in its own place.

Each ringer should be able to see which place they are in. e.g. If ringing the third bell, it can easily be seen that the treble and second bells are ringing before you ring.

PRACTICE NOTE: When next ringing Rounds practice observing which place you are in and practice actively listening to your bell.

The same learning can be applied to Call Changes.

PRACTICE NOTE: When the conductor calls a change watch to see which place you are in. Also, try to look at another bell to see which place that is in. Try to see which bell is leading and which is at the back of the Row (excluding the tenor ringing behind)

Plain Hunt on 6, Ringing the Treble

The treble starts the ringing by leading. On the conductor's command the changes begin at the following handstroke. The treble first has to move away from the front of the Row. The only way it can go is into 2nd place. From Rounds this means it has to ring over the second bell. Note: the number of the bell and the place you ring in might be the same but is purely co-incidental.

Hunting Up

As it is going towards the back of the change the ringer must hold the bell up slightly to enable the 2 to ring before it.

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214365 First Row – treble holds up and moves into 2nd place at handstroke

In the second change the treble continues to move to the back of the Change Row so has to hold up at backstroke to follow another bell. In this case it is the fourth bell.

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241635 Second Row – treble looks for the next bell, holds up and moves into 3rds place at backstroke

Continue the third, fourth and fifth changes and you will end up at the back of the Change Row

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426153 Third Row – treble holds up at handstroke into 4ths place

462513 Fourth Row – treble holds up at backstroke into 5ths place

645231 Fifth Row – treble holds up at handstroke and strikes first blow at the back

If the ringer should practice seeing the bells ringing before them, so if you see 3 bells ring before you, you are in 4ths place.

When you arrive at the back of the Change Row you strike your second blow in 6ths place again and get ready to Hunt Down.

Hunting Down (slightly more difficult to pick out the bells)

When Hunting Down, the bell you have just followed is Hunting UP and at each stroke another bell will hold up over you so that you can slip down into the space left.

To start your Hunt Down cut in under the bell that you are following. You must watch for a bell to strike over. It will be Hunting Up. As soon as you see this bell start looking for the next one to follow. It too will be Hunting Up. Count your places 6ths, 5th, 4ths etc. You will arrive in 2nds place at the backstroke so that your first blow at Lead is at handstroke.

When you arrive at the Lead your bell will be ringing faster than when Hunting Up, so you must pull the handstroke a little harder so that it is ready to Hunt Up again at the following handstroke.

You should be aware of the place you are in and the place you should be in at the next stroke. i.e. 5ths, 4ths, 3rds etc. As you Hunt Down the bell should be rung slightly quicker so that your bell and the bell Hunting Up over you occupy the time it takes to physically ring two bells within the compass of the number of bells being rung.

KEY LEARNING

- Learn and understand the Blue Line (even Plain Hunt, because you might not always ring the treble!)
- Learn and understand how and when to change the speed that you ring the bell from Hunting Up to Hunting Down and Leading.
- Practice counting your place as you ring (even if you are following bells using numbers)
- Watch all the bells and look for your next bell as soon as you begin to pull at every stroke. Don't dwell on the bell you are just following. (forget the steering wheel, gear lever, dash board and pedals – look at the road ahead!)
- Listen all the time. Listening is more important than looking to achieve good results.

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