



## Disconnected Jottings by an Itinerant Bellringer

Written by Peter D Wenham

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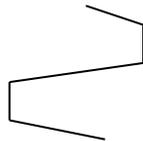
So the instructions given by Fig. 1 (or Fig.2) is that, ringing the treble and starting from lead, you will:

Hunt up  
Lay  
Hunt down  
Lead

(In other words, the instructions for Plain Hunt.)

If we repeated the diagram in a continual line we would have continual plain hunting. A better idea is to visualise Fig.2 as an endless loop, the finishing point joined up to the starting point. Now we have continual Plain Hunt, like the treble in Bob doubles.

In Plain Hunt all the bells follow a similar path, but they start at different points on the line. Line in all the 3's and you will get:



(Fig.3)

Visualise Fig.2 as an endless loop and you will see that Fig.3 is the same pattern, starting at a different place. It tells us that 3 starts by hunting up. Line in 2 and 4 – you will see they are similar patterns, telling you the start and path of 2 and of 4. Thus, 2 starts by leading, 4 starts by hunting down.

In many methods the treble plain hunts throughout and this is shown in the 'Diagrams' book as a RED line – look at Plain Bob (on any number of bells) to see this. (In the RW Diary the treble's path is traced with a thin black line.) We haven't got to the BLUE line yet, the path of a 'working' bell. That comes next. It's always been known as a blue line from the 'Diagrams' book first published by Jasper Whitfield Snowdon in the late 1800's and which must have simplified change ringing for countless ringers since then. Ringers now always refer to it as a blue line, regardless of what colour pen they use to draw it !

P.D.W.







## **BLUE LINES FOR BEGINNERS (3)**

The Fancy Bits.

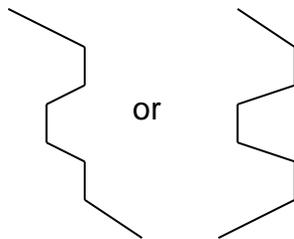
One of the fundamental facts about conventional change ringing is that, for each pull, you can only do one of three things:

- Change places with the bell following you (move up one place),
- Change places with the bell you are following (move down one place)
- Stay in the same place (although you may be following a different bell on the second pull).

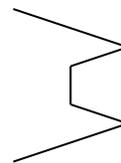
Blue lines help you memorise what to do next. This is helped further by remembering 'Blocks' of work. Many of these blocks have been given descriptive names:



'Fishtails'

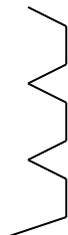


'Crankshafts'



'Cats ears'

To fit with cats ears we have:



'Coat hangers'

or

'Tram tickets'

Other blocks relate to methods, such as 'Cambridge front work' or 'Yorkshire places'. Learning these blocks (which can occur in other methods as well) is the way that many ringers remember their way through the more complex methods.

P.D.W.