



## Grandsire.

Plain Bob is a method more suited to even numbers of bells; the “long fifths” in Bob doubles happens because there is one bell left over from the dodging pair.

Grandsire is a method devised for ringing changes on odd numbers of bells, usually with a covering tenor on six or more bells.

Look at Grandsire doubles in your “Diagrams” book. The path of the treble, shown by a red line, is plain hunting. 2, also shown with a red line, plain hunts as well, following the treble; it is “coursing” the treble. (Also see page 5.) So Grandsire has **two hunt bells**. One of these is always the treble, but the extra bell “in the hunt” might be any one of the other bells; however, in the “Plain Course” (that is, until bobs or singles are called,) the “hunt bell” is always 2.

The rules for ringing the plain course of Grandsire are similar to Plain Bob, but:

- The bell that is turned from lead by the treble makes **thirds** place over the treble and the hunt bell, then hunts down leads again.
- Because thirds place is made instead of seconds place, the dodging is moved ‘up’ one place compared to Plain Bob, so the dodging is now in 4-5 instead of in 3-4.

Study the method by writing it out several times before trying to ring it - this can save a lot of hassle. Write the treble’s hunting path for three leads on squared paper; now write in 2, the hunt bell, as shown on page 5. Now write in the “working” bells:

1 2 3 4 5      Starting from rounds, 3 makes thirds place and hunts  
 2 1 3 5 4      back to lead. While 3 is making thirds place 4 & 5  
 2 3 1 4 5      dodge. 4 is dodging 4-5 down, 5 is dodging 4-5 up.

3 2 4 1 5

3 4 2 5 1

4 3 5 2 1

4 5 3 1 2

5 4 1 3 2

5 1 4 2 3

1 5 2 4 3

1 2 5 3 4

2 1 5 4 3

2 5 1 3 4

5 2 3 1 4

After this all bells plain hunt, **including the two rows at the treble lead.**

As the treble leaves the lead, thirds place is made (here by 5 which was taken from lead by the treble) while 3 and 4 dodge.

Now all bells plain hunt again.

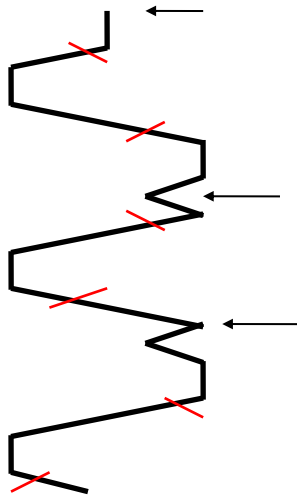
At the end of three leads you should come back to rounds; if you go wrong check your figures against the Diagrams book.



In Grandsire there are three pieces of work:

- Make thirds place
- Dodge 4-5 down
- Dodge 4-5 up

and in the plain course they always happen in that order. Join the 3's to see the blue line:



Thirds place (3 starts here).

Pass the treble in 3-4 up:

Dodge 4-5 down (4 starts here).

Pass the treble in 2-3 up:

Dodge 4-5 up (5 starts here).

Treble takes you from lead:  
Make thirds place and lead again.  
(This is where 3 starts.)

Now look at how each bell starts. In Bob doubles each bell started by plain hunting, but it's different in Grandsire. As the bells leave rounds

- 3 makes one more blow thirds place and hunts down to lead. Its next work is to dodge 4-5 down.
- 4 moves up for one blow after 5, then hunts down. (It has dodged 4-5 down.) Its next work is to dodge 4-5 up.
- 5 dodges under 4, then holds up for two blows ("lays full") in fifths place, and hunts down. (It has dodged 4-5 up.) Its next work is to make thirds place.

A few tips:

- Making thirds place. Hunt up over the treble and one other bell to get into thirds place. Strike over the same two bells again and lead. (Study the figures!) Count your places - and remember that the two blows in thirds place are backstroke-handstroke.
- Dodging 4-5 down. Lay full (backstroke-handstroke) at the back, check into fourths place on a backstroke, Hold up into fifths place (the dodge) on a handstroke, then hunt down.
- Dodging 4-5 up. Hunt up into fifths place on a backstroke, check into fourths place (the dodge) at handstroke, hold up and lay full, backstroke-handstroke, then hunt down.
- The thin line — on the diagram shows where you pass the treble. As with Plain Bob this can be a useful guide. The one thing that isn't shown is passing the treble in 4-5 up; this happens only when you are hunt bell.



Notice that, whilst in Plain Bob the dodges (the step back) are always at backstroke, in Grandsire they are always at handstroke. If you **count your places carefully** this will be easier to follow.

Generally learners start on by ringing the third but, where possible, learn the plain course on each working bell, 3, 4 and 5, so that you know all the starts.

Then it will be time to learn about calls, bobs and singles. When calls are made there is a new piece of work; the bells in 4-5 **double-dodge** with each other. To double-dodge you dodge twice with the same bell before moving on. Another feature of calls is that the hunt bell is called “out of the hunt” and another bell is called “into the hunt”. In plain courses the second has always been the hunt bell, and you will have been used to passing second after the treble. But this changes when calls are made.

## Bobs.

The treble and the bell making thirds place are “unaffected”; the bob does not alter what they do. The rules for the other bells are:

Instead of:	You will now:	And your next work is:
Dodging 4-5 down	Double-dodge 4-5 up	Make thirds place
Dodging 4-5 up	Make thirds place and lead again	Plain hunting - you have been called into the hunt
Being the hunt bell	Double-dodge 4-5 down	Dodge 4-5 up

If a bob is called at the first lead, the figures are:

4 5 3 1 2  
 5 4 1 3 2 ← The bob is called here. 4 was going to dodge 4-5 up  
 5 1 4 2 3 but now makes thirds place and goes into the hunt.  
 1 5 4 3 2 2 comes out of the hunt by double-dodging 4-5 down.  
 1 4 5 2 3 3 was going to dodge down, but now double-dodges up  
 4 1 5 3 2 with 2.  
 4 5 1 2 3 5 is not affected - it still makes thirds place.  
 5 4 2 1 3

**A tip:** If you cannot remember whether you have made the “usual” thirds place or the “extra” thirds place to go into the hunt:

- If you take the treble from lead after making thirds place you are in the hunt. If you take any other bell from lead you have made the “usual” thirds place and will dodge 4-5 down next time.



## Singles.

To obtain the extent of Grandsire we need singles as well as bobs. Singles affect all bells except the treble. At singles:

Instead of:	You will now:	And your next work is:
Making thirds place	Make seconds place over the treble and lead again	Plain hunting; you have been called into the hunt.
Dodging 4-5 up	Make four blows in thirds ("long thirds") and lead again	Dodge 4-5 down
Dodging 4-5 down	Double-dodge 4-5 up (same as for a bob)	Make thirds place
Being in the hunt	Double-dodge 4-5 down (same as for a bob)	Dodge 4-5 up

- Making seconds place is just like Plain Bob.
- Making long thirds: You only meet two other bells and one of these is always the treble. Note the bell that takes you from lead, then the next bell you strike over is the treble. Now strike twice over the bell that took you from lead, then the treble again, then the bell that took you from lead - and now lead yourself. (Study the figures below.)

If you double-dodge in 4-5, up or down, it's the same as a bob.

If a single is called at the first lead:

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4 5 3 1 2
5 4 1 3 2 ←—The single is called here.
5 1 4 2 3
1 5 4 3 2    5 makes seconds and goes into the hunt.
1 5 4 2 3    4 makes long thirds
5 1 4 3 2    3 double-dodges 4-5 up (as at a bob)
5 4 1 2 3    2 double-dodges 4-5 down to come out of the hunt
4 5 2 1 3    (as at a bob).
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You can learn more about making bobs and singles by writing some "touches"; a "touch" is a name for a short piece of ringing that contains calls. (See page 6.)

P=Plain lead. B=Bob. S=Single.

20 changes: B B. (two bobs called consecutively.)

40 changes: S S S S

60 changes: P B P B P B. Or: B P B P B P

120 changes (The "Extent") P B P B P S Repeated.



## Grandsire Doubles.

The Plain Course.

2 is 'in the hunt' with the treble.

1 2 3 4 5  
2 1 3 5 4  
2 3 1 4 5  
3 2 4 1 5  
3 4 2 5 1  
4 3 5 2 1  
4 5 3 1 2  
5 4 1 3 2  
5 1 4 2 3  
1 5 2 4 3  
1 2 5 3 4  
2 1 5 4 3  
2 5 1 3 4  
5 2 3 1 4  
5 3 2 4 1  
3 5 4 2 1  
3 4 5 1 2  
4 3 1 5 2  
4 1 3 2 5  
1 4 2 3 5  
1 2 4 5 3  
2 1 4 3 5  
2 4 1 5 3  
4 2 5 1 3  
4 5 2 3 1  
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

1 2 \* \* \*  
2 1 \* \* \*  
2\*1\* \* \*  
\* 2 \* 1 \*  
\* \* 2 \* 1  
\* \* \* 2 1  
\* \* \* 1 2  
\* \* 1 \* 2  
\* 1 \* 2 \*  
1 \* 2 \* \*  
1 2 \* \* \*  
2 1 \* \* \*  
2 \* 1 \* \*  
\* 2 \* 1 \*  
etc.

When a bob or single is called, 2 will come 'out of the hunt', becoming a 'working bell', and another bell will be called 'into the hunt'. (See pages 3 & 4.)  
The treble always plain hunts.

**Writing touches.**

See pages 3 and 4 for what to do at calls.

These figures are given as a check list if you go wrong - try to write the touches without help!!

**20 changes (two bobs)**

1 2 3 4 5 (6)  
 2 1 3 5 4  
 2 3 1 4 5  
 3 2 4 1 5  
 3 4 2 5 1  
 4 3 5 2 1  
 4 5 3 1 2  
 5 4 1 3 2(B)  
 5 1 4 2 3  
 1 5 4 3 2  
 1 4 5 2 3  
 4 1 5 3 2  
 4 5 1 2 3  
 5 4 2 1 3  
 5 2 4 3 1  
 2 5 3 4 1  
 2 3 5 1 4  
 3 2 1 5 4(B)  
 3 1 2 4 5  
 1 3 2 5 4  
 1 2 3 4 5

**40 changes (four singles)**

1 2 3 4 5  
 2 1 3 5 4  
 2 3 1 4 5  
 3 2 4 1 5  
 3 4 2 5 1  
 4 3 5 2 1  
 4 5 3 1 2  
 5 4 1 3 2(S)  
 5 1 4 2 3  
 1 5 4 3 2  
 1 5 4 2 3  
 5 1 4 3 2  
 5 4 1 2 3  
 4 5 2 1 3  
 4 2 5 3 1  
 2 4 3 5 1  
 2 3 4 1 5  
 3 2 1 4 5(S)  
 3 1 2 5 4  
 1 3 2 4 5  
 1 3 2 5 4  
 3 1 2 4 5  
 3 2 1 5 4  
 2 3 5 1 4  
 2 5 3 4 1  
 5 2 4 3 1  
 5 4 2 1 3  
 4 5 1 2 3(S)  
 4 1 5 3 2  
 1 4 5 2 3  
 1 4 5 3 2  
 4 1 5 2 3  
 4 5 1 3 2  
 5 4 3 1 2  
 5 3 4 2 1  
 3 5 2 4 1  
 3 2 5 1 4  
 2 3 1 5 4(S)  
 2 1 3 4 5  
 1 2 3 5 4  
 1 2 3 4 5

The (B) and (S) show where the calls are made. They take effect as the treble leads.



## Grandsire Triples.

Ringling Grandsire on seven bells give us the extra dodging places of 6-7.

As with doubles, from rounds, the work starts as the treble leaves the lead with thirds place being made and the bells above thirds place dodging in pairs:

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7    3 makes thirds place and hunts down to lead.
- 2 1 3 5 4 7 6    4 dodges over 5 then hunts down (4-5 down dodge).
- 2 3 1 4 5 6 7    5 dodges under 4, then hunts up (4-5 up dodge).
- 3 2 4 1 6 5 7    6 dodges over 7 and hunts down (6-7 down dodge).
- 3 4 2 6 1 7 5    7 dodges under 6 and lays full (6-7 up dodge).

Write a plain course (it should come round in five leads) remembering that 2 is the hunt bell. Draw the “Blue line” through 3 and learn the order of work:

- Make thirds place
- Dodge 4-5 down
- Dodge 6-7 down
- Dodge 6-7 up
- Dodge 4-5 up.

Note where each bell starts from rounds, shown above. Also note where you pass the treble each time you hunt up.

### Bobs.

The front three bells work just the same as in Grandsire doubles (the bell making thirds place is unaffected), and the bells above thirds place double dodge:

Instead of:	You will now:	And your next work is:
Dodging 4-5 up	Make thirds place and lead again (as in doubles)	Plain hunting - you have been called into the hunt.
Dodging 6-7 up	Double-dodge 4-5 up	Make thirds place
Dodging 6-7 down	Double-dodge 6-7 up	Dodge 4-5 up
Dodging 4-5 down	Double-dodge 6-7 down	Dodge 6-7 up
Being hunt bell	Double-dodge 4-5 down (as in doubles)	Dodge 6-7 down

Points to note:

- The bell going into the hunt leaves the 4-5 up dodging slot “vacant”. This is filled by the bell that would have dodged 6-7 up **double-dodging 4-5 up** - it double-dodges one place sooner.
- All the other bells in dodging places follow in the same way - by double dodging one dodging place sooner.
- The bell called out of the hunt fills the remaining space by double-dodging 4-5 down.



- Remembering what to do next after your double-dodging, think of it as if it had been a single dodge, e.g. if you double-dodged 6-7 down your next work is to dodge 6-7 up

### **Singles.**

As in doubles, the bells above thirds place work the same as for a bob; seconds place and Long Thirds are made in the same way as for doubles:

<b>Instead of:</b>	<b>You will now:</b>	<b>And your next work is:</b>
Making thirds place	Make seconds place and lead again (as in doubles)	Plain hunting - you have been called into the hunt.
Dodging 4-5 up	Make long thirds and lead again (as in doubles).	Dodge 4-5 down.

Grandsire caters (9 bells) and cinquos (11 bells) are rung in just the same way, with extra dodging places in 8-9 and 10-11. Bobs and singles are made in the same way where the front three bells are concerned, and by double-dodging one set of places sooner above thirds place. Coming out of the hunt you always double-dodge 4-5 down.





## Stedman.

In Stedman all bells do the same work - there is no “hunting treble”. Because of this Stedman is called a “Principle” rather than a method.

Stedman consists of Quick Work, Slow Work and double-dodging in 4-5, 6-7, etc. on any odd number of bells.

The Quick Work and Slow Work take place on the front three bells, regardless of the total number of bells being rung. Above thirds place the work consists of double-dodging up in each pair of places, 4-5, 6-7, etc., then double-dodging down again in each pair of places. You can see this if you follow the blue lines for Stedman doubles and Stedman triples in the diagrams book. (For caters and cinquies add the extra dodging places, 8-9 and 10-11.)

After double-dodging 4-5 down a bell may come to the front “Quick” or “Slow”. If it is a “Quick” bell it hunts to lead, leads full and hunts out to double-dodge 4-5 up. If it is a “Slow” bell it stays in the front three places for a long piece of work (the “Slow work”) before going up to the dodging. New features about the Slow work are that sometimes you have to “lead wrong” (that is, backstroke/handstroke), also you have single blows at lead and in seconds place.

### Slow work.

From the dodging in 4-5, make thirds place and then:

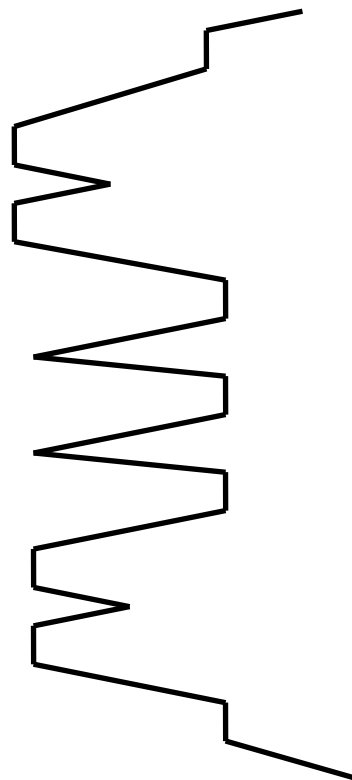
This is “First whole turn” [Lead wrong,  
[ “Point seconds” and  
[Lead right.

This is “First half turn”. [Make thirds place, and  
[“Point lead” (handstroke)

This is “Last half turn”. Make thirds place, and  
[“Point lead” (backstroke)  
[Make thirds place

This is “Last whole turn” [Lead right,  
[“Point seconds”  
[Lead wrong

Make thirds place and out.



When you “go out” from the front you always double-dodge in 4-5 up. If you are ringing Stedman doubles you then lay full and double-dodge 4-5 down.

In the plain course, if you “Went out Slow” (you went out from the Slow Work) you will “Go in Quick” next time and do the “Quick work”. A general rule in Stedman is that in the



plain course, or if you have not been affected by calls, you “go in” to the front alternately “Quick” and “Slow”. In Stedman terminology you might be a “Quick bell” or a “Slow bell” depending on how you “go in”.

You can study the full “Blue line” in the Diagrams Book. Instead of “leads”, Stedman is divided into blocks of six changes each, known (surprisingly!) as “Sixes”. At each new six one bell leaves the front work and one bell enters the front work. If the bell going in is a “Quick bell” then this is a “Quick six”, if a “Slow bell” then it is a “Slow six”

### **Stedman Triples.**

In Stedman triples all that has been discussed about Quick and Slow bells still holds good, likewise double-dodging. Now, after double-dodging 4-5 up, you dodge 6-7 up, lay full and double-dodge 6-7 down, then double-dodge 4-5 down. If you came out Quick you go in Slow - unless you have been affected by bobs as discussed later.

Given that you can ring Stedman doubles and have ropesight on eight bells, probably the trickiest bit when first ringing Stedman triples is to spot the bell to dodge with as you come down into 4-5. Like so many other things in ringing, a good sense of rhythm helps in this because, if your rhythm is right, it’s easier to see which bell pulls in front of you as you come down into fifths place - and this is the bell you will dodge with. (If you progress to Stedman caters this holds good for the dodges in 6-7 down as well as 4-5 down. And if, by now, you have learnt to follow your course bell, this will lead you into each set of down dodges.)

### **Bobs and Singles.**

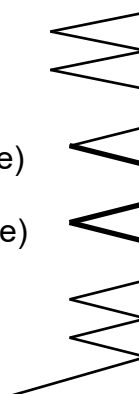
To explain calls in Stedman it is first necessary to understand that calls in Stedman doubles are different to calls in Stedman on any other number.

#### **Calls in Stedman Doubles:**

The only call is “Single”; it affects the bell about to double-dodge 4-5 down, and the bell leaving the front, regardless of whether that bell has come out Quick or Slow. The three bells in the front work at a call are unaffected.

If you are about to double-dodge 4-5 down, you will now:

Make “Point fourths” (backstroke)  
Lay in fifths place,  
Make “Point fourths” (handstroke)  
Lay in fifths place.  
Double-dodge  
down and go in.



(This is sometimes called “Coathangers” or ‘Tram Tickets’.)



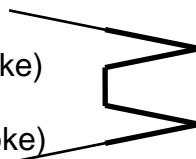
If you are leaving the front work,  
instead of double-dodging 4-5 up,

Make point fifths (backstroke)

Make fourths place

Make point fifths (handstroke)

(This is usually called “Cats ears”.)



If you are affected by a single you go back in **the same way** as you came out.

### **Calls in Stedman Triples.**

#### **Bobs.**

In Stedman triples (and above) we may have bobs and singles. These can be called at the end of every “six”, that is, at the end of each double-dodge. The bob in triples is made in fifths place by the bell that has just finished double-dodging 4-5 up; it makes fifths place and double dodges 4-5 down. Effectively it rings Stedman doubles and goes in opposite to how it came out.

The bells in 6-7 keep on dodging for an extra three dodges, a triple-dodge. (One dodge for the bob, then the usual double-dodge.) If another bob is called then they make another triple dodge, and so on. (To keep count of the dodges, count three extra **handstrokes** for each bob called.) If you are in 6-7 for an odd number of bobs, go in **the same way** as you came out, but if you are in 6-7 for an even number of bobs then go in the opposite way to how you came out.

	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Bob	2 1 3 5 4 7 6
	<u>2 3 1 4 5 6 7</u>
	3 2 4 1 5 7 6
	2 3 4 5 1 6 7

#### **Singles.**

The bell that would make fifths place (make the bob) if a bob were called does the same thing at a single. (See 5, below.)

The bell finishing the 6-7 up dodge is **unaffected** - it lays and dodges 6-7 down. (See 7, below.)

The bell finishing the 6-7 down dodge makes sixths place - and starts dodging 6-7 up. It repeats the work of the previous two sixes, double-dodging up and then down. (See 6, below.)

**SINGLES DO NOT AFFECT THE WAY THAT ANY BELL GOES IN.**

## Bell Ringing by Instalments

Written by Peter D Wenham

Available from [www.pdg.btck.co.uk](http://www.pdg.btck.co.uk)



One small point; the bells that dodged in 6-7 before a single will dodge in 6- **with the same bell 7** (but the other way round) after the call! (See 7, below.)

	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
S	2 1 3 5 4 7 6
	<u>2 3 1 4 5 6 7</u>
	3 2 4 1 5 6 7
	2 3 4 5 1 7 6
	2 4 3 1 5 6 7
	4 2 3 5 1 7 6

In Stedman caters the bob is made in **sevenths place**; the bell making the bob effectively rings Stedman triples, the bells in 8-9 follow the same rules given above for 6-7 in triples.

Likewise all the work at singles is moved up to places 7-8-9.

In Stedman cinques the work at bobs and singles is moved to places 9-10-11.