

# Practical ideas for building up to method ringing – Plain Bob

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Once the learner can plain hunt confidently it is time for them to start ringing Plain Bob. This requires them to do new things (dodge and make places) in an order they must learn – the blue line. Some can make the jump relatively easily but for those who can't here are some exercises designed to break Plain Bob down into easy to learn bite-sized chunks.

## Making 2<sup>nd</sup>

**The learner rings the treble to Bastow Little Court Doubles or Minor** (see last page for the blue line) in which the learner alternatively makes 2nds and leads over changing bells.

## Making the bob (4<sup>th</sup>) and long 5<sup>th</sup>

**The learner rings the treble to Penultimatus** (see last page for the blue line.) In this exercise the treble hunts to 4ths place i.e. the penultimate place. The other bells hunt to 5ths place i.e. the ultimate place, the treble moves through the coursing order each lead; consequently a little more rope sight is required.

**The learner rings the 5<sup>th</sup> to Penultimatus** (see last page for the blue line.) The bell that is taken from the lead by the treble rings 4 blows behind or long 5ths this provides the learner with another new task and is a progression towards ringing 4ths place bell in Bob Doubles. If the learner finds it too difficult to see when the it takes the treble off the lead it is perfectly ok for the treble to shout out when it is making 4<sup>th</sup>!

## Making the bob (4<sup>th</sup>) and long 5<sup>th</sup> – a different approach

**The learner is told to ring the 4<sup>th</sup> to Plain Hunt on 5**, but to listen out for bobs. When a bob is called they should be told to only go up to 4<sup>th</sup> place and then come back down to lead otherwise they should ring four blows in 5<sup>th</sup>. Everyone else rings Plain Bob Doubles with the conductor calling plain, bob, plain, bob, plain, bob. The 4<sup>th</sup> will alternatively make long 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

After successful ringing the learner can be told that they have rung their first touch of Plain Bob Doubles.

## Making the single (3<sup>rd</sup>) and 2<sup>nd</sup>

**The learner is told to ring the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Plain Hunt on 5, but to listen out for singles.** When a single is called they should make 3<sup>rd</sup> place then turn-around and go out to the back, otherwise they should make 2<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone else rings Plain Bob Doubles with the conductor calling plain, single, plain, single. The 3<sup>rd</sup> will alternatively make the single (3<sup>rd</sup>) and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

After successful ringing the learner can be told that they have rung their second touch of Plain Bob Doubles.

## The bobs in Plain Bob Minor & dodging in 5-6

**Learner rings an inside bell to Original (plain hunt on 6.)** Every time the treble leads a bob is called and 4<sup>th</sup> place is made. This causes the two bells above the treble to dodge in 5-6. Continuing to do this at each lead end results in a bob course of Plain Bob Minor being rung.

## A plain course of Plain Bob Minor

**Learner rings an inside bell to Original (plain hunt on 6.)** Every time the treble leads a bob is called and 2<sup>nd</sup> place is made. This causes the four bells above the treble to dodge in 3-4 and 5-6. Continuing to do this at each lead end results in a plain course of Plain Bob Minor being rung.

## Plain Bob with another bell as treble

Makes everyone look for the “treble.”

## Practicing individual leads of Plain Bob using Bayles Doubles

If the learner needs to practice a particular lead of Plain Bob Doubles then use Bayles Doubles (see diagram.) When Bayles is being rung the treble makes long 5<sup>th</sup> whilst the bell that took the treble off the lead (made 2<sup>nd</sup>) makes 4<sup>th</sup> and back underneath the treble. All the other bells ring Plain Bob Doubles. This allows a lead of Plain Bob Doubles to be repeated continuously until the learner has mastered that lead at which point the method can be changed back to Plain Bob Doubles at the next lead end.

## Practicing Dodging

**Treble Bob Hunting** – starting at handstroke or backstroke

**Mexican wave** - Place your learners on non-neighbouring bells. Stand in the centre of the circle facing the ringers. Explain that they will be changing places with a neighbouring bell for one whole pull starting at handstroke and then it is back into rounds. Explain that the bell following the bells changing places will have to ring over a different bell for two blows, i.e. cover over a changing pair.

Say, “Treble and two go next time/handstroke . . . and back into rounds”. Continue with the rounds while you appraise performance. If the learner was too quick or slow/wide or close at any of the blows explain, advise and repeat until the striking is accurate. Then move round, the next command

is “Two and three go next handstroke . . . back into rounds”. Next do the same with 3 and 4, 4 and 5, (and 5 and 6 if you wish).

When the band can strike this easily they can move on to changing every whole pull. At this time the conductor may still have to prompt each move i.e. “Go Mexican Wave, treble and two next handstroke . . . back into rounds . . . two and three next handstroke . . . back into rounds” etc.

The next step is to say “Go Mexican Wave, one and two . . . two and three . . . three and four . . .” etc. When the band can manage with this reduced prompting the final stage is just to say “Go Mexican Wave”.

Variations on a Mexican Wave:

- Start at backstroke.
- Ring each place twice: “Echo Mexican Wave”
- Put a dodge on either end of the places: “Dodgy Mexican Wave”
- Set a second “Wave” going before the first one has got to the back.
- Start from Queens

## Methods useful for learning Plain Bob

<p><b>Bastow Little Court</b> <b>Minor.</b></p>	<p><b>Penultimatus</b></p>	<p><b>Bayles Doubles</b></p> <p>Plain Bob Ring one lead of Plain Bob</p> <p>Change to Bayles</p> <p>Bayles</p> <p>Ring Bayles as long as required</p> <p>Bayles</p> <p>Bayles To finish, either revert to Plain Bob or set the bells without coming to Rounds</p>
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