





What a “Doubles Variation IS . . .

A “Doubles Variation” is any regular 5-bell method (either single- or twin-hunt) being rung with one or more alternative calls which is/are not regarded as “belonging” to it.

. . . and what it *ISN'T*

Or equivalently, when is an “alternative” call not regarded as alternative ? Answer: when it “belongs” to the base method already, even though it is not the one most commonly used.

While the treble leads (in a symmetrical, single-hunt 5-bell method) there are just 4 ways in which the working bells can interchange. One of these ways will have been chosen as the plain lead of that method, another as the bob. The remaining two are also regarded as “belonging” to the base method, so substituting one of these for the usual bob does NOT create a “variation”. The four possible lead-end changes are named like this:

	SINGLE	(or PLAIN – e.g. All Saints)
	EXTREME	(or PLAIN – e.g. Plain Bob)
	BOB	
	OMIT	(or PLAIN – e.g. Reverse Bob)

This means that while all of these Doubles methods have a Bob, ...

... those like All Saints *may* have also an Extreme and an Omit

... those like Plain Bob *may* have also a Single and an Omit

... those like Reverse Bob *may* have also a Single and an Extreme

(The qualification “may” is necessary because either or both of these other calls could be useless.

For example, an Omit in Plain Bob would cause repetition of the previous lead-end.)

A consequence of these CC decisions is that the once-popular Old Doubles (Plain Bob with the first of these calls instead of its usual Bob) is no longer either a distinct method or a variation – it is now simply Plain Bob Doubles. The same is true of many other “methods” and “variations” which were rung and named prior to publication of the CC’s 1980 *Doubles Collection*.)

Note that the labels attached to these calls are arbitrary: although a Single is indeed a *single* change (*one* pair change places), so are both a Bob and an Extreme. The only *double* change (*two* pairs change places) is an Omit.

How many (a) alternative calls and (b) Variations exist?

(a) Rather a lot, and (b) far too many! More precisely, there are currently 143 calls listed on the web-page www.Cambridgeringing.info/Methods/Doubles/calls.htm , and about 4000 variations in the list at www.Cambridgeringing.info/Methods/Doubles/METVAR.htm Some of these variations use as many as 7 different calls in a single extent, while for others no true extent has ever been found.

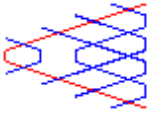

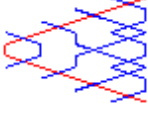


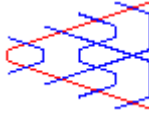

Why ring Doubles variations?

- To relieve the monotony of your practice night or service ringing. If you are using a base-method the band already knows, only 3 ringers need be involved in the alternative calls, the others ringing treble, observation bell (if unaffected by the calls) and cover.
- To mark the feast days of saints, when these fall on or near your practice night. (Patronal festivals also call for appropriately-named methods or variations.) If there isn't a method in the book with the required name, try a Doubles Variations online database.
- To provide appropriate ringing on an outing, when visiting the 5- or 6-bell tower in a village which has lent its name to a variation, or whose church is dedicated to such a saint.
- (Anoraks only!) To increase the total number of methods-and-variations in your record-breaking Doubles Peal or Quarter, without the bother of learning any new methods.

Which variations are being included in today's course?

Mainly those based on methods like St Simon's and Winchendon Place, which participants probably ring already, combined with symmetric alternative calls affecting only the rows having the treble below 3rds place. If time permits, and participants so wish, it may be possible also to include one or two variations of Grandsire, using bobs and/or singles from other twin-hunt Doubles methods (Newark, Antelope and Wollaton)

Table of required alternative calls

	Old single		Pinks Single
	Grandsire Extreme		Shipway Plain
	Wallflower Single		Wainfleet Plain
	Antelope Single		

Wallflower is a former name for Newark, and Pinks for Wollaton, both of which are twin-hunt methods resembling Grandsire and Antelope.

In addition to these calls, you may also need:

Reverse Canterbury: Plain and Bob

Plain Bob: Plain and Bob

Grandsire: Single

The Variations which result from applying these calls to some widely-rung Doubles methods are listed in a separate table.