



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Educational Leaflet

No. 13

PLAIN BOB MINOR

LITTLE BOB MINOR

DOUBLE BOB MINOR

PLAIN BOB MINOR

1996

Version 1

Bob Minor

During the Seventeenth Century Change Ringing developed from ringing changes on three and four bells (Plain Hunt and Bob Minimus) as the number of bells in towers increased to five or six.

Plain Bob Minor was first rung during the Seventeenth Century. It was the logical extension to six bells from Bob Minimus. The latter was based on Plain hunting on four bells. The extension to five bells took two forms viz. P.B. Doubles with one hunt bell (the Treble) and Grandsire Doubles which has two hunt bells (Treble plus one other bell). Bob Minimus was extended for use on six bells when rings of six bells became more common. The extension received two names - Grandsire Bob and Plain Bob Minor. These names were both in use at the beginning of the Eighteenth Century. However, in the *Clavis Campanalogia* of 1788 it states: that the method "is commonly called Plain Bob, some give it the title of Grandsire Bob, but the most critical part of the Exercise will have it to be Single Bob Minor" †

By 1816 (when Shipway wrote *The Campanalogia*) Bob Minor was the accepted name for the method. Today it is referred to as Plain Bob Minor bringing it into line with the whole family of methods based on the same principles. However many ringers, when speaking of the method, refer to it as Bob Minor. Its full title also brings it into line with other related methods viz. Reverse Bob Minor, Double Bob Minor and Little Bob Minor.

Beginners who are learning Bob Minor often find it difficult to progress from Doubles to Minor ringing. This is often due to the fact that there is no Tenor from which to lead and the 'Rope-sight' on six bells is more difficult than on five.

The first problem can be resolved in two ways. First, by plenty of 'call changes', with different bells in sixth place (last). This teaches the beginner to listen and make the necessary hand-stroke gap when leading. This gap marks the even beat in even- bell ringing. In odd-bell ringing viz. Doubles, Triples, the Tenor will mark the rhythm at the end of the 'row' and leading is fairly easy. In even-bell ringing one has to learn the relationship at lead between one's own bell and all the others and to 'judge' or 'feel' the correct handstroke gap. Above all one must listen all the time - no easy task when learning a new method.

Secondly there should be plenty of Plain Hunting so that the rhythm of leading, hunting out, lying behind and hunting to lead becomes ingrained. There should also be plenty of dodging both at hand-stroke and backstroke with various bells so that this too can become easy and part of one's skills. Again this teaches one to adapt to the rhythm required by the rest of the band.

† Extract from *The Clavis Campanalogia*. This book also includes Single Bob Minor, Reverse and Double Bob Minor. *The Campanalogia Improved 1733* says "Grandsire Bob, commonly called Plain Bob".

Bob Minimus

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

Fig. A

Bob Doubles

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

Fig. B

Bob Minor

1 2 3 4 5 6
 2 1 4 3 6 5
 2 4 1 6 3 5
 4 2 6 1 5 3
 4 6 2 5 1 3
 6 4 5 2 3 1
 6 5 4 3 2 1
 5 6 3 4 1 2
 5 3 6 1 4 2
 3 5 1 6 2 4
 3 1 5 2 6 4
 1 3 2 5 4 6
 1 3 5 2 6 4
 3 1 2 5 4 6
 3 2 1 4 5 6
 2 3 4 1 6 5
 2 4 3 6 1 5
 4 2 6 3 5 1
 4 6 2 5 3 1
 6 4 5 2 1 3
 6 5 4 1 2 3
 5 6 1 4 3 2
 5 1 6 3 4 2
 1 5 3 6 2 4
 1 5 6 3 4 2

Fig. C

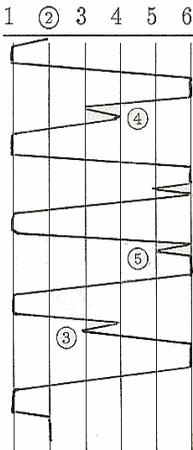


Fig. D

The "Blue Line"

If the course of P.Bob Minor is written out in full and a line drawn through the path of the second bell, it will produce Fig.D.

A careful study of the work of each bell will show that every bell carries out the same work as the second bell (cf Fig.E) but starting at a different place. The start of each bell is indicated by a circle with the number of the bell inside (cf Fig.D).

⊙ = Tenor starts work here.

A. Plain Bob Minor – The Method

I. Place Notation

×16×16×16×16×16×12 Bob 14 Single 1234

Place notation is a ‘shorthand’ way of writing a method and saves many lines of printing. It is also used by ringers when ringing handbells and some use it in the tower.

× = all pairs of bells change.

16 = one bell makes a second blow at lead while another lies a second blow in sixth’s place. The four other bells change place.

12 = one bell leads a second blow while another makes second’s place.

Bob 14 } = Indicates that at the Treble’s second blow
Single 1234 } = at lead those places are made.

II. The Method – Construction

Plain Bob Minor is simple in construction:

- (i) The Treble Plain Hunts to sixth’s place and back to lead all the time.
- (ii) (a) The other five bells also Plain Hunt except when the Treble leads at Backstroke.
 (b) Then the bell the Treble took from lead makes a second blow over the Treble (Seconds Place) and returns to lead.
 (c) This causes the other four bells to dodge. The dodge is always made at Backstroke.

Note: The up dodges need a quick pull and the down dodges a slower pull.

- (d) The bells then continue Plain Hunting until the Treble leads again – when a bell again makes seconds place (cf Fig.C). This **pattern** is repeated until the bells come back into rounds after five leads, making 60 changes in all.

Note: Fig.C gives two leads of Bob Minor.

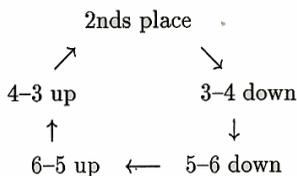


Fig. E

Getting Started

- (1) Begin by listening when “sitting out” and watching someone else who is ringing the method. Listening helps one to become ‘tuned’ to the rhythm of the method.
 - (a) Listening to tape recordings also helps. If you have access to a simulator this will also help. For some ‘listening’ is difficult and will only come by practice. Listening ‘software’ is now available for use with a computer.
 - (b) Ring plenty of call changes when the Tenor is not ‘behind’. Also dodging practice is a help. Remember that in Plain Bob Minor the dodges take place at BACKSTROKE. DODGES in 3-4 and 5-6 up are quick while with those in 3-4 and 5-6 down the bell has to be rung more slowly.

As in rowing, good team work is essential. While ringing a ringer is not only an individual carrying out his/her own task but he is a member of a team/band/crew and must learn to feel what the remainder want. Once this is achieved it is a most satisfying experience.

Ropesight

As many beginners have problems in listening, Rope-sight is generally used to begin with when learning a method.

With regard ‘to rope sight on six’ some people acquire it easily and have no problems; others find it difficult and have to work at it. One common fault which leads to problems with rope sight is looking too long at the last bell one pulled over so that one does not see the changing position of the other bells. The real answer to this problem is always to keep all the working bells in one’s vision. In other words **do not turn** to follow any bell but always face the centre of the ring. Also try to see the bells or ropes in blocks of 2 or 3 or 4 etc. and not as individual bells or ropes, viz. in thirds place see a block of two ropes; in fifths place a block a four ropes.

It does not matter then whether those bells are in their correct position or not. It is rather like playing ‘Jacks’ or ‘Knuckle Bones’. Another factor which can affect the learner is also the formation of the rope circle. He/she should be able to see all the ropes when facing the centre. If this cannot be done on any bell do not try to learn a new method on that bell. The second is generally recommended for learning a new method because one can learn where one meets the Treble and so pass it in the correct place (provided of course that it is where it should be). Sometimes another bell is better from the point of view of rope sight. However never try to learn on a heavy bell unless absolutely necessary as these bells often entail more handling to get them into the correct place especially when dodging. Some even have to be pulled off before a little bell to get them to strike in the correct place.

Also avoid - if possible, an odd struck bell, unless you know it well. Learning a new method or learning to ring on higher numbers poses enough problems without any additional problems which can be avoided!

Now to Learning the Method

No two ringers learn a method in the same way. Some learn it as a map, others learn the method by verbalising the pattern; again others use a mixture of the two.

(i) Another way - and this is the simplest - is to listen for the Treble (or watch it) and do what it tells you to do - i.e. when the Treble leads in P.B. Minor

Seconds Place is made and the bells in 3, 4, 5, 6 dodge and then continue hunting.

This, according to the author of *Campanologia Improved* - written at the beginning of the 18C is the simplest way to ring P.B. Minor. He continues that this demands a reliable Treble ringer.

(ii) Place Bell Order (or Lead Order)

Other people find it easier to learn a method lead by lead using the place bells.

The place bell order for Plain Bob Minor is 2~4~6~5~3 so one learns the first lead of the Second, then that of the Fourth and so on. This has the advantage that one knows where one should be at the Treble's next back stroke – especially if things are going wrong.

(iii) Verbalising the Course

Simply following the Blue line:

2nd place – 3-4 down – 5-6 down – 5-6 up – 3-4 up

(iv) Or again having a reliable Treble.

Duty of each bell after making seconds place in Plain Bob Minor

1. Turn the Treble from behind Dodge 3-4 down. Pass the Treble 3-2 i.e. strike over her as you ring in 3rds place.
2. Pass the Treble in 4-5 up Dodge 5-6 down with your After Bell after lying full. Pass the treble in 4-3 down.
3. Pass the Treble in 3-4 up Dodge 5-6 up with your Course Bell before lying full. Pass the treble in 5-4 down.
4. Pass the Treble in 2-3 up Dodge 3-4 up. Lie over the Treble as you lie your whole pull behind.
5. Treble turns you from lead Make seconds place over the Treble and lead again.

General Notes

1. **COURSE BELL.** - Your **COURSE BELL** is the bell you turn from the back when the Treble is not there.
2. **AFTER BELL.** - Your **AFTER BELL** is the bell that turns you from the back. **You should always know these as they can be of help if you get lost.**
3. Your **COURSE BELL** and **AFTER BELL** do not change unless a **BOB** or **SINGLE** is called.
4. A call may change your **COURSE BELL** and **AFTER BELL** so look carefully for the new one after a call is made.
5. In Plain Bob on all numbers you not only turn your **COURSE BELL** from the back but also from the lead except when the Treble is there.
6. In Plain Bob your **AFTER BELL** will always take you off lead except when the Treble does before you make seconds place over the Treble.
7. In **Bob Minor** you always dodge 5-6 up with your **COURSE BELL** and 5-6 down with your **AFTER BELL**.

Bobs and Singles

BOB



FIG. F

SINGLE

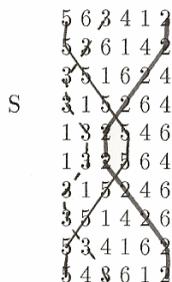


Fig. G

BOBS

At a Bob Fourth's Place is made as the treble leads at backstroke instead of Second's Place as is usual in the Plain Course. This alters the work of three bells; that of the two bells dodging in 5-6 being unaffected.

Bell due to:	At a Bob	Work at Next Lead
Dodge 3-4 up	Makes two blows in Fourth's Place and returns to lead.	Dodges 5-6 down (new course bell)
Dodge 3-4 down	Runs into lead, taking the Treble from lead.	Dodges 3-4 down (same course bell)
Make Second's Place	Plain hunts to the back and back to lead.	Makes Seconds Place over Treble (new course bell)
Bells due to dodge in 5-6 up/down	Work not affected but 5-6 down bell has new course bell.	Work not affected

SINGLES

At a Single Second's Place, Third's Place and Fourth's Place are all made. Again the bells in 5-6 are not affected.

Bell due to:	At a Single	Work at next lead
Dodge 3-4 up	As at Bob	As at Bob
Dodge 3-4 down	Makes two blows in Third's Place, then Plain Hunts out to the back and down to lead.	Makes Second's Place over the Treble (new course bell)
Make Second's Place	Not affected.	Dodges 3-4 down (new course bell)
Bells due to dodge in 5-6	Not affected but 5-6 down bell has a new Course Bell.	Continue as in Plain Course

NOTE:

If the work of Plain Bob Minor has been learned by the start of each bell in the Plain Course, then the Bell which "Makes the Bob' i.e. makes Fourths Place, starts the pattern of the fourth in the Plain Course. The Bell that 'Runs Out' has the third's start; the Bell that 'Runs In' has the seconds start.

Questions on Bob Minor

1. Write out the complete course of Bob Minor. Three leads have been done for you.
2. What do all the bells do most of the time?
3. Draw in the blue line of your favourite bell.
4. Write beside your course + 'blue line' where that bell dodges 3-4 down, 5-6 down, 6-5 (5-6) up, 4-3 (3-4) up and makes 2nd Place over the Treble.
5. Mark the 'holding' blows in one colour and the cutting (quick) blows in another.
6. On which blows do the dodges take place? Handstroke or Backstroke?
7. Check which dodges need to be held up and those which need to be cut.
8. Which are the 'up' dodges [i.e. going **from** lead] and which the 'down' dodges [i.e. going towards lead]?
9. Do you make the two blows behind **Back + Hand** or **Hand + Back**?
10. Which bell is the **course bell** of the bell you have chosen?
11. Which is its **after bell**?
12. When do you **not lead** after your **course bell**?
13. When does your **after bell** not **take you off lead**? Who does?
14. Do you ever **dodge** with your **course bell**? If so when?
15. Do you ever **dodge** with your **after bell**? If so when?
16. When is **seconds place** made?
17. What does this cause the other bells to do?
18. If you can **hear** the **Treble Lead** or see it lead what must you do if you are striking in 2nds place at the handstroke lead? What must the bells in 3rds, 4ths, 5th and 6th places do?

19. Bobs

- (a) What does the bell due to make 2nds place do?
- (b) What does the bell due to dodge 3-4 down do?
- (c) What does the bell due to dodge (4-3) 3-4 up do?
- (d) What is the next work of each of these bells?
- (e) Which bells do not have their work affected by a Bob?

20. Singles

- (a) Answer all the questions 19(a-e).
- (b) How many bells make places at a single?
- (c) Which places are they?
- (d) Which places cause a bell to change direction?

Bob Minor

×16×16×16×16×16×12

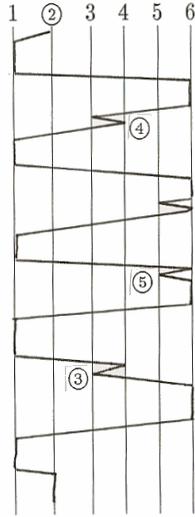
Bob 14

Single 1234

1 2 3 4 5 6
 2 1 4 3 6 5
 2 4 1 6 3 5
 4 2 6 1 5 3
 4 6 2 5 1 3
 6 4 5 2 3 1
 6 5 4 3 2 1
 5 6 3 4 1 2
 5 3 6 1 4 2
 3 5 1 6 2 4
 3 1 5 2 6 4
 1 3 2 5 4 6
 3 5 2 6 4
 3 1 2 5 4 6
 3 2 1 4 5 6
 2 3 4 1 6 5
 2 4 3 6 1 5
 4 2 6 3 5 1
 4 6 2 5 3 1
 6 4 5 2 1 3
 6 5 4 1 2 3
 5 6 1 4 3 2
 5 1 6 3 4 2
 1 5 3 6 2 4
 1 5 6 3 4 2
 5 6 3 4 2
 5 1 3 6 2 4
 1 6 4 5 2 3
 1 6 4 5 2 3

Finish the course for yourself.

Diagram



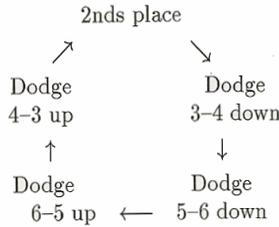
Dodge 3-4 down

Dodge 5-6 down

Dodge 6-5 up
(5-6)

Dodge 4-3 up
(3-4)

2nds Place



Bob

Bob 5 6 1 4 3 2
 5 1 6 3 4 2
 1 5 3 6 2 4
 1 3 5 6 4 2
 3 1 6 5 2 4
 5 6 1 2 5 4

Single

Single 5 6 1 4 3 2
 5 1 6 3 4 2
 1 5 3 6 2 4
 1 3 5 6 4 2
 5 1 6 3 2 4
 5 6 1 2 3 4

Calling Touches of Plain Bob Minor

~~1 2 3 4 5 6~~
~~2 1 4 3 6 5~~
~~2 4 1 6 3 5~~
~~4 2 6 1 5 3~~
~~4 6 2 5 1 3~~
~~6 4 5 2 3 1~~
~~6 5 4 3 2 1~~
~~5 6 3 4 1 2~~
~~5 3 6 1 4 2~~
~~3 5 1 6 2 4~~
~~3 4 5 2 6 1~~
~~1 3 2 5 4 6~~
~~1 3 5 2 6 4~~

Bob

— 3 5 1 6 2 4
 3 1 5 2 6 4
 1 3 2 5 4 6
 1 2 3 5 6 4
 2 1 5 3 4 6
 2 5 1 4 3 6

Single

1 3 2 5 4 6
 1 3 2 5 6 4

At a Bob:

The bell in 4ths place at the Treble's Handstroke Lead makes a second blow in that position and commences the work of the 4th at the beginning of a Plain course. (4ths Place Bell)

The two bells in 2nds place and 3rds place at the Treble's Handstroke plain hunt becoming 3rds and 2nds place respectively. They start the work of the 3rd Bell and the 2nd Bell in the Plain course. (3rds Place Bell and 2nds Place Bell)

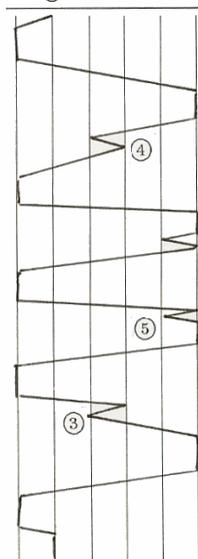
At a Single:

At a single 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places are made by the bells striking in those positions at the Treble Handstroke Lead.

The bells in 5-6 are not affected by either a Bob or a Single.

1 ② 3 4 5 6

Dodge



3-4 down

5-6 down

5-6 up

3-4 up

2nds place

Calling Positions

It is usual to use either the Tenor or the 5th as fixed bell in Bob Minor though any calling can be used for any other bell. (Produces the best music - ie 5th after Tenor)

Home (H) 5-6 Down

Wrong (W) 5-6 Up

In Run in at Bob (2nds Place Bell)

Out (Before) Run out at Bob (3rds Place Bell)
4ths or Make the Bob

Make the single - ie make 3rds at Single

Calling Touches of Bob Minor

	<u>2 3 4 5 6</u>		W B H	
(a)	(2 3 5 6 4	(1)	- -	Call Tenor W H W H
	(4 5 2 3 6	(4)	- -	or 5th To make the bob, twice
	(4 5 3 6 2	(1)		out and Wrong
*	(2 3 4 5 6	(4)		

	<u>2 3 4 5 6</u>		W In 4 th H	
(b)	(6 4 2 3 5	(4)	-	Call Tenor Twice 'In', make the
	(6 4 3 5 2	(1)	- - -	Bob and Home
	(2 3 6 4 5	(4)		or 5th H W H W
*	(2 3 4 5 6	(1)		

By omitting Bob at * in (a) and (b) a 360 can be produced.

By using a Single at the last H a 720 can be produced.

As both the 720s are six parts the Singles can also be introduced at the end of Parts 1, 4 OR 2, 5 or when the 5th makes the Bob in (a) (the Tenor in (b)) in parts 1 and 4 or 2 and 5 or 3 and 6.

Conducting Touches – some useful helps to keeping the bells straight

One should know the **coursing order** of the bells.

In the Plain Course the bells come to lead in the order 6–5–3–2–4.

A Bob will change the coursing order of the three bells affected *ie* 3–2–4 will become 2–4–3 or 5–3–2 will become 3–2–5

This will come with practice (both when conducting and when ringing or watching another conductor).

Knowing the relation of the other bells with regard to the Tenor (observation bell) in Calling (a):

- (i) (a) At a Bob **Wrong** the Tenor's Course Bell is not changed.
 - (b) The 5ths After Bell before the call now becomes the Tenor's **After Bell**.
- (ii) At the first Bob **Home** the 5th's Course Bell makes the Bob and becomes the Tenor's **Course Bell**. The 5th now courses the Tenor's **After Bell** which has not been affected.
- (iii) At the second Bob **Wrong** the 5th again runs out and this time returns to coursing the Tenor – the Tenor's After Bell having made the Bob.

DOUBLE BOB MINOR ×16×16×56×16×16×12 Bob 14 Single 1234

Plain Course

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	1	4	3	6	5
2	4	1	6	3	5
4	2	6	1	5	3
4	6	2	5	1	3
6	4	5	2	3	1
4	6	2	5	3	1
6	4	5	2	1	3
6	5	4	1	2	3
5	6	1	4	3	2
5	1	6	3	4	2
1	5	3	6	2	4
1	5	6	3	4	2

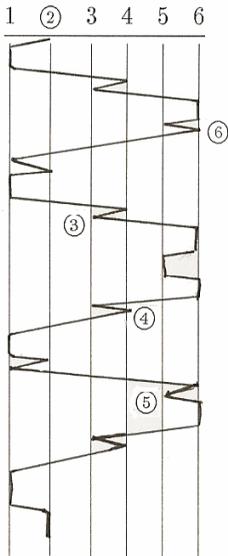
Bob

6	5	4	1	2	3
5	6	1	4	3	2
5	1	6	3	4	2
1	5	3	6	2	4
1	3	5	6	4	2
3	1	6	5	2	4
3	6	1	2	5	4
6	3	2	1	4	5
6	2	3	4	1	5

Single

6	5	4	1	2	3
5	6	1	4	3	2
5	1	6	3	4	2
1	5	3	6	2	4
1	3	5	6	4	2
3	1	6	5	2	4
3	6	1	2	5	4
6	5	2	1	4	3

Diagram



The easiest way to ring this method is by the Treble. One must, however, remember that (when 5th place is made at the Treble's second blow in 6ths place) the dodges in 1-2 and 3-4 take place before that blow!

Notice also that the dodges are in alternate places *ie* 2nds place 3-4 up omit 5-6 up; dodge 5-6, 1-2 down etc.

Bobs and Singles are the same as in Plain Bob Minor.

LITTLE BOB MINOR

×16×14×16×12

Bob 14

Single 1234

Plain Course

1 2 3 4 5 6
 2 1 4 3 6 5
 2 4 1 6 3 5
 4 2 6 1 5 3
 4 6 2 1 3 5
 6 4 1 2 5 3
 6 1 4 5 2 3
 1 6 5 4 3 2
 1 6 4 5 2 3
 6 1 5 4 3 2
 6 5 1 3 4 2
 5 6 3 1 2 4
 5 3 6 1 4 2
 3 5 1 6 2 4
 3 1 5 2 6 4
 1 3 2 5 4 6
 1 3 5 2 6 4

Fig. 1

Diagram

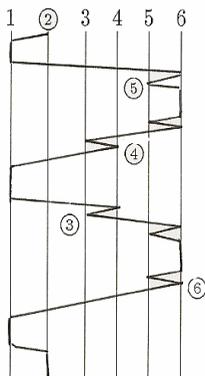


Fig. 2

Bob

4 2 6 1 5 3
 6 2 1 3 5
 6 4 1 2 5 3
 B 6 1 4 5 2 3
 1 6 5 4 3 2
 1 5 6 4 2 3
 5 1 4 6 3 2
 6 4 1 3 6 2
 4 5 3 1 2 6
 4 3 5 1 6 2

Fig. 3

Single

4 2 6 1 5 3
 4 6 2 1 3 5
 6 4 1 2 5 3
 S 6 1 4 5 2 3
 1 6 5 4 3 2
 1 6 3 4 2 3
 6 1 4 5 3 2
 6 4 1 3 5 2
 4 6 3 1 2 5
 4 3 6 1 5 2

Fig. 4

NOTE: The Treble only hunts to Fourth's Place so dodging takes place in 5-6 then. When the Treble leads, Second's Place is made and dodging takes place in 3-4 and 5-6.

At a **Bob** Fourth's Place is made instead of Second's Place at the Treble's backstroke lead. It is made by the bell due to dodge 3-4 up. This forces the bell due to make Second's Place and that due to dodge 3-4 down to plain hunt. (cf Fig.3)

Bell due to:	At the Bob	Next Work
Dodge 3-4 up	Makes Fourth's Place and returns to lead.	Dodges 3-4 up
Dodge 3-4 down	Runs into lead, taking the Treble off.	Dodges 5-6 up and down and then dodges in 3-4 down.
Make Second's Place	Runs out to 5-6.	Dodge 5-6 up and down. Plain hunt to lead then make 2nds place.
Bells due to dodge in 5-6	These bells are not affected.	Continue work.

At a **Single** Second's Place, Third's Place and Fourth's Place are made.

Bell due to:	At the Single Next	Work
Dodge 3-4 up	Makes Fourth's Place as at a Bob.	Dodges 3-4 up
Dodge 3-4 down	Makes two blows in Third's Place and returns to back.	Dodges 5-6 up and down then makes Second's Place.
Make Second's Place	Not affected.	Continue work.
Bells in 5-6	Not affected	Continue work.

NOTE:

The easiest way to ring this method is to watch or listen for the Treble. When it is at lead the bells in 3-4 and 5-6 dodge. When it is in Fourth's Place the bells in 5-6 dodge.

Plain Bob Major

In 1733 in *Clavis Improved* the authors wrote

"Changes on eight bells are seldom or never rung, unless it be a five, six or seven bell peal, that is rung thereon; A five Bell Peal that is rung upon eight, is by laying three of the eight bells behind and the most musical are 218, 148, 418 A seven Bell Peal is always rung upon the seven foremost Bells, the Tenor always lying behind to cover the Peal." 1

It is interesting that in *Campanalogia* 1788 the authors only print in full the first lead of the method and the other six full treble lead ends. They continue

"The above course contains 112 changes, to ring which, we think no other directions will be wanting than hath already been laid down in the article of Plain Bob, there being no other difference than the two additional bells, which of course must dodge with the rest, we therefore advise the young practitioner first to perfect himself in ringing the plain course" 2

1 *Clavis Improved* - 1733 Chapter "Of Changes on Eight Bells".

2 *Clavis Campemalogia* - 1788 Chapter VII.

PLAIN BOB MAJOR

Plain Bob Major is a direct extension from P.B. Minor, Both are simple in construction as the Place Notation shows - ie all the bells plain hunt except when the Treble leads at backstroke. Then seconds place is made by the bell the treble took from lead. This causes the bells in 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8 to dodge at backstroke.

At a Bob 4ths place is made as in P.B. Minor and bells in 5-6 and 7-8 dodge as usual.

At a Single 2nds, 3rds and 4ths places are made and the bells in 5-6 and 7-8 are not affected.

The Method

Place Notation

x18 x 18 x 18 x 18 x 18 x 18 x 18 x 12 Bob 14 Single 1234

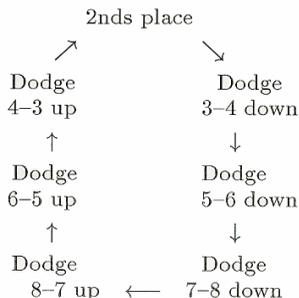
Place Bell Order 2 – 4 – 6 – 8 – 7 – 5 – 3

The Method – Construction

- (i) The Treble Plain Hunts to eighth's place and back to lead all the time.
- (ii) The other seven bells also plain hunt except when the
 - (a) Treble leads at backstroke.
 - (b) Then Seconds Place is made by the bell the Treble took from lead, thus causing the bells in 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 to dodge at the backstroke.
 - (c) All bells then continue to Plain Hunt until the next Treble lead, when seconds place is again made.

This pattern is repeated until the bells come into rounds again (seven leads in all).

Note: The Figure on p.16 gives two leads of P.B. Major.



Plain Bob Major

Place Notation

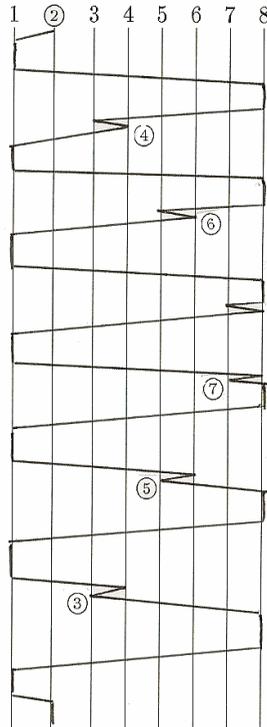
×18×18×18×18×18×18×18×12

Bob 14

Single 1234

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	1	4	3	6	5	8	7
2	4	1	6	3	8	5	7
4	2	6	1	8	3	7	5
4	6	2	8	1	7	3	5
6	4	8	2	7	1	5	3
6	8	4	7	2	5	1	3
8	6	7	4	5	2	3	1
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	5	6	3	4	1	2
7	5	8	3	6	1	4	2
5	7	3	8	1	6	2	4
5	3	7	1	8	2	6	4
3	5	1	7	2	8	4	6
3	1	5	2	7	4	8	6
1	3	2	5	4	7	6	8
1	3	5	2	7	4	8	6
3	1	2	5	4	7	6	8
3	2	1	4	5	6	7	8
2	3	4	1	6	5	8	7
2	4	3	6	1	8	5	7
4	2	6	3	8	1	7	5
4	6	2	8	3	7	1	5
6	4	8	2	7	3	5	1
6	8	4	7	2	5	3	1
8	6	7	4	5	2	1	3
8	7	6	5	4	1	2	3
7	8	5	6	1	4	3	2
7	5	8	1	6	3	4	2
5	7	1	8	3	6	2	4
5	1	7	3	8	2	6	4
1	5	3	7	2	8	4	6
1	5	7	3	8	2	6	4

Diagram



Dodge 3-4 down

Dodge 5-6 down

Dodge 7-8 down

Dodge 8-7 up
(7-8)

Dodge 6-5 up
(5-6)

Dodge 4-3 up
(3-4)

2nds Place

Finish the
course for
yourself
(5 more leads)

Learning the Method

The method can be learned in any of the ways that Plain Bob Minor can be learned (cf Page 5) except that for (IV) when the pattern is altered due to the fact that there are eight working bells. **Again here a reliable Treble is necessary.**

Duty of each bell after making Second's place in Plain Bob Major:

- (1) Turn the Treble from behind Dodge 3-4 down. Pass the Treble in 3-2
ie strike over her as you ring in 3rds place.
- (2) Pass the Treble in 6-7 up Dodge 5-6 down and pass the Treble
in 4-3 down.
- (3) Pass the Treble in 5-6 up Dodge 7-8 down and pass the Treble
in 5-4 down.
- (4) Pass the Treble in 4-5 up Dodge 8-7 (7-8) up, lie behind and pass
the Treble in 6-5 down.
- (5) Pass the Treble in 3-4 up Dodge 6-5 (5-6) up: then continue plain
hunting, passing the treble in 7-6 down.
- (6) Pass the Treble in 2-3 up Dodge 4-3 (3-4) up: continue plain hunting,
following the treble on your second blow
behind.
- (7) Treble turns you from lead Make second's place over the Treble and
lead again.

BOBS AND SINGLES

These are made as in Bob Minor, and the bell which makes 4ths place dodges 5-6 down at the next lead end. The bells in 5-6 and 7-8 are not affected.

BOB

	5	7	8	8	1	6	2	4
	5	8	7	1	8	2	6	4
	3	5	1	7	2	8	4	6
B	3	1	5	2	7	4	8	6
	1	3	2	5	4	7	6	8
	1	2	3	5	7	4	8	6
	2	1	5	3	4	7	6	8
	2	5	1	4	3	6	7	8
	5	2	4	1	6	3	8	7
	3	4	2	6	1	8	3	7

SINGLE

	5	7	8	8	1	6	2	4
	5	8	7	1	8	2	6	4
	3	5	1	7	2	8	4	6
S	3	1	5	2	7	4	8	6
	1	3	2	5	4	7	6	8
	1	2	3	5	7	4	8	6
	2	1	5	3	4	7	6	8
	2	5	1	4	3	6	7	8
	5	2	4	1	6	3	8	7
	3	4	2	6	1	8	3	7

Checking Your Knowledge

Using the Questions on Page 8 check what you know and have learned about Bob Major. Two leads of P.B. Major have been done for you (cf page 16).

Calling Touches of Plain Bob Major

Calls in P.B. Major generally keep the Tenors together, *ie* the seventh coursing the Tenor. This can be varied for touches of a special length, to shorten a touch, and in peals, quarter peals etc.

Calling Positions

Wrong	Tenor dodges 7-8 up	Affects first three bells in the coursing order eg 53246 → 32546
5ths & 4ths consecutive bobs	Tenor dodges 5-6 up and makes bob at the next lead; viz the 7th makes the first Bob and the Tenor the second.	The first and second bells in the coursing order run out and in at both bobs and become the fourth and fifth bells. eg 53246 → 24653
Before	Tenor runs out.	The last bell in the coursing order makes the bob and becomes the first bell. eg 53246 → 65324
Middle	Tenor dodges 5-6 down.	Affects the last three bells in the coursing order. eg 53246 → 53462
Home	Tenor dodges 7-8 down.	Affects the middle three bells in the coursing order. eg 53246 → 52436

Useful Touches

(a) 160 changes	(b) 224 changes	(b) Can also be written
W B M H	W B M H	W B M H 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
- 3 - -	- -	- - 4 5 2 3 6 7 8
	- -	- - 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
<u>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</u>	<u>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</u>	
- 2 3 5 7 4 8 6 W	- 2 3 5 7 4 8 6	
3 7 2 8 5 6 4	3 7 2 8 5 6 4	
7 8 3 6 2 4 5	7 8 3 6 2 4 5	
- 7 8 6 4 3 5 2 B	8 6 7 4 3 5 2	
- 7 8 4 5 6 2 3 B	6 4 8 5 7 2 3	
- 7 8 5 2 4 3 6 B	4 5 6 2 8 3 7	
8 2 7 3 5 6 4	- <u>4 5 2 3 6 7 8</u>	
2 3 8 6 7 4 5	Repeat	
- 2 3 6 4 8 5 7 M		
- 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 H		

The coursing orders for these touches are:

(a)	W	B	M	H	(b)	W	H
	32546	63254				32546	35426
		46325				54326	53246
		54632	54326	53246			

- (c) A useful service touch if you have three Treble ringers is to call a bob every lead. The 1, 2, 3 then Plain Hunt all the time and the other bells make the bob in turn. It does however shake up the coursing order of the bells.
- (d) A Two Course touch can also be produced by calling a single at the end of the first course and again at the end of the second course. Do not forget that the coursing order 324 will become 423 for the second course.

Other suitable touches, quarter peals etc. can be found in various Central Council handbooks and in The Ringers Diary.

It is a good plan to try to keep an eye on the coursing order between the calls.