



# **Bellringing by Instalments**

**by  
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**Instalment No. 6.**

**Treble Bob and Little Bob.**

- \* The Basics.**
- \* Kent Treble Bob.**
- \* Oxford Treble Bob.**
- \* Little Bob.**

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## Treble Bob Basics.

In treble bob methods the treble doesn't plain hunt; it dodges in each pair of places, 1-2, 3-4, etc. It has been suggested that "Bob" is in fact an old name for a dodge, so the treble's dodging ("bobbing") path became known as "Treble Bob", giving us the present name to a wide variety of even-bell methods, including the "Surprise" and "Delight" methods.

When you can dodge reliably in Bob minor it is time to study the treble's work in treble bob methods. From rounds it dodges in 1-2 up, then in 3-4 up and in 5-6 up. It then lays full (handstroke and backstroke), dodges 5-6 down, then 3-4 down, 1-2 down and then leads full. From here it starts again by dodging 1-2 up - - - and so on. See the diagram below.

As in Plain Bob, the dodges always occur on the backstroke; check the backstrokes when dodging up, hold up on the backstrokes when dodging down.

H = Handstroke, B = Backstroke.

Ringling the treble:

	Hunting up, count up to the highest places which will be
B 1 2 3 4 5 6	even numbers and a handstroke;
H * 1 * * * *	here it is up to seconds place, then
B 1 * * * * *	check on the backstroke to dodge.
H * 1 * * * *	
B * * 1 * * *	Hunt up through seconds, thirds and fourths place,
H * * * 1 * *	reaching fourths place on a handstroke,
B * * 1 * * *	check into thirds place on the backstroke
H * * * 1 * *	and hunt up -
B * * * * 1 *	
H * * * * 1 *	to sixths place (a handstroke) and
B * * * * 1 *	check on the backstroke into fifths place.
H * * * * 1 *	- - - - -Now lay full and - - -
B * * * * 1 *	Hunting down, count to the lowest place which will be
H * * * * 1 *	an odd number and a handstroke; here it is fifths place,
B * * * * 1 *	and hold up into sixths place on the backstroke.
H * * * * 1 *	
B * * * 1 * *	
H * * 1 * * *	Now hunt down to thirds place (a handstroke) and
B * * * 1 * *	hold up on the backstroke into fourths place.
H * * 1 * * *	
B * 1 * * * *	And the same for the 1-2 dodge at lead, count down
H 1 * * * * *	to lead at handstroke and hold up on the backstroke
B * 1 * * * *	into seconds place, then lead full, handstroke/
H 1 * * * * *	backstroke, which is where we started.
B 1 * * * * *	

As a practice exercise you can ring treble bob hunt, where all bells are treble bob hunting. The changes repeat frequently, but it is helpful when first learning treble bob:



## Treble Bob Hunt:

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

Note that the bells start by dodging in their pairs.

Ringling the treble to treble bob methods gives many more opportunities for ringing because all Surprise methods rely on a treble bob treble. However, you will note variations when you ring treble to different methods.

In some methods like Cambridge you dodge with the same bell before and after leading (this bell makes seconds place over you as you lead), also you dodge with the same bell before and after laying in sixths place; this bell makes fifths place under you as you lay so you strike over it twice between the two dodges. (Look at the treble's path in Cambridge minor in the Diagrams book). In other methods like Kent and Oxford treble bob it's a different bell that you dodge with after leading or laying. (Again, study this in the Diagrams book.) In some methods you get a mixture. So be ready for this.



## Kent Treble Bob Minor.

This is perhaps the easiest of the treble bob methods; anyway it's usually the first treble bob method to be taught. There are three pieces of work to learn, apart from treble-bob dodging:

- Kent places in.
- The Slow Hunt (usually just called "The slow").
- Kent places out.

At other times the working bells are treble-bob hunting but with one important difference: in Kent you never dodge at lead unless it is with the treble - you lead "plain" at all other times.

Look at the blue line in the Diagrams book; second is the blue line bell. For a whole lead it doesn't get above seconds place; this is the slow hunt. It consists of:

- Dodge 1-2 down with the treble.
- Alternately leading and making seconds place until the treble returns to lead and then:
- Dodge 1-2 up with the treble.

During this work you make seconds place over each of the other working bells.

Follow the blue line; after the slow hunt you make Kent places out. (If you can ring Reverse Canterbury doubles these places are just the same.) Hunt up to thirds place, striking twice in thirds place, hunt up one more place, striking twice in fourths place. Then hunt up. These places are always made backstroke-handstroke.

To do this:

2 3 1 5 4 6

2 1 3 4 5 6

1 2 3 4 6 5

2 1 4 3 5 6

1 2 4 3 6 5

1 4 2 6 3 5

4 1 2 6 5 3

1 4 6 2 3 5

4 1 6 2 5 3

4 6 1 5 2 3

2 finishes the slow hunt -

and dodges with the treble.

Hunt up, passing two bells (here 1 & 4)

and strikes over 1 again to keep in thirds place.

Then hunt up over another bell (here 6) and strikes

over it twice, back and hand, making fourths place.

Then hunt up to dodging in 5-6.

One way of remembering how to hunt up and make thirds place: on leaving the lead strike over two bells A and B in the order A-B-A, (one of these will always be the treble) then strike twice over another bell, C, in fourths place so the complete sequence is A-B-A-C-C.

Follow the blue line; having dodged 5-6 up, 5-6 down and 3-4 down you come to a plain lead - then make places up again, over the same bells except that the first two bells (as you make thirds place) are the other way round. You can still use A-B-A-C-C as a guide.

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So the work we have learnt so far is:

- Slow hunt, followed by
- Places out twice.

After this you treble bob hunt with plain leads until you pass the treble between 3-4 up and 5-6 up, otherwise called “passing the treble in 4-5 up”. This tells you that, after the dodging in 5-6, you will make places in. Again, this is like the places in Reverse Canterbury doubles except that now you count down from sixths place.

Here 2 is making places in:

5 1 3 6 4 2	Hunting down from the dodging in 5-6,
1 5 3 6 2 4	count down into fourths place (backstroke)
1 3 <u>5</u> 2 6 4	and strike the next handstroke over the same bell
3 1 <u>5</u> 2 4 6	(in this case 5); hunt down into thirds place; now
1 <u>3</u> 2 5 6 4	there are two ropes under you, 3 and 1.
3 <u>1</u> 2 5 4 6	Strike over these alternately (here 3-1-3) to make thirds
<u>3</u> 2 1 4 5 6	place and come to lead. (You can think of the whole sequence
	as the reverse of places up, that is, C-C-A-B-A.)

Now you make a plain lead followed by the usual dodging in 3-4 and 5-6.

You then make places in again and, unless “That’s all” is called you meet the treble at lead, dodge with it and start the Slow Hunt again.

If you meet the treble at lead **always** dodge with it.

So, apart from treble bob dodging with plain leads, the work of Kent Treble Bob is:

- Places in twice
- Slow Hunt
- Places out twice.

If you miss where to start making places in, here is another tip:

- Hunting down, if you meet the treble in fourths place, dodge 3-4 down with it. **But** - if you get down to fourths place and haven’t yet met the treble - **make places!**

Starts on other bells.

Look at the Diagrams book; 5 and 6 start by dodging with each other, then 6 hunts down while 5 lays and dodges down.

3 and 4 are making places; 3 makes one more blow in thirds place and then makes fourths place (places up) and 4 makes one further blow in fourths place then makes thirds place (places down).



## Bobs in Kent Minor.

Bobs in Kent are entirely different to bobs in Plain Bob.

When a bob is called:

- If you are making places in - you are **unaffected**.
- If you are leaving the Slow - you are **unaffected**.
- If you are making the **second** set of places out you follow this by making places in. (Making the bob.) This is explained further below.
- If you are dodging in 5-6 you make two extra dodges (three in all) and resume normal dodging. To count your dodges, count an extra backstroke for each extra dodge. The effect of these extra dodges is to delay your next “places in” by one lead.

2 1 3 4 5 6  
1 2 3 4 6 5  
2 1 4 3 5 6\*  
1 2 4 3 6 5  
1 4 2 3 5 6  
4 1 2 3 6 5  
1 4 3 2 5 6  
4 1 3 2 6 5  
4 3 1 6 2 5

Here, 3 is making its second set of places out, so it will make the bob (called at \*).

Having made places out it stays in fourths place for two more blows, which is the start of places in. This is its “first” set of places in so it will make places in again then enter the Slow.

5 & 6, here dodging in 5-6 at the call, make further two dodges, (three dodges in all).

Notice that when making the long fourths at the bob you strike over two bells in the order A-A-B-B.

Singles are not normally used in Kent.



## Oxford Treble Bob.

Oxford Treble Bob has the same Slow Hunt as Kent, but has different “places”. Incidentally, be careful with the name because there are methods called “Single Oxford” and “Double Oxford” - and these both have a Plain Hunt treble - they are “Plain” methods.

Look at the blue line in the Diagrams for Oxford TB and you will see that 2 starts with the Slow Hunt, after which it makes fourths place and returns to a plain lead, then picks up the TB hunting pattern. Leaving the dodging in 5-6 it then hunts down to make thirds place and hunts up again - “thirds and out”, like a Plain Bob single. This combination of “fourths and in, thirds and out” form “Oxford Places”. **Oxford places are always made handstroke-backstroke** - the reverse of Kent.

Before entering the Slow you make these places in reverse order - thirds and out, then fourths and in. Your guide, as in Kent, is that after passing the treble in 4-5 up you will treble-bob in 5-6 then make thirds and out.

So, the work of Oxford Treble Bob can be summarised as:

- Thirds and out, Fourths and in.
- Slow Hunt.
- Fourths and in, Thirds and out.

Some tips when making places:

- Making fourths place (except at a bob) strike twice over the same bell - it is making thirds place under you.
- Making thirds place, there are two bells under you - one of these is the treble. These two bells swap places with each other as you make thirds place.

Look carefully at how 3 and 4 start from rounds - 3 makes fourths place and goes in, 4 makes thirds place and goes out, very different to Kent. 5 and 6 start the same as for Kent.

When you have rung Kent minor for a while you will probably have noticed how you keep meeting the same bells in the same places and, when a bell is in the Slow you meet the treble instead. (Some ringers think this makes Kent rather boring!) You will find that, in Oxford TB, this regular order is broken up somewhat because of the different work in the Places. Be prepared for this.

**Bobs in Oxford Treble Bob.**

- If you are making fourths and in you are not affected.
- If you are leaving the Slow you are not affected.
- If you are dodging in 5-6 make two extra dodges - as in Kent.
- If you are making thirds and out after leaving the Slow you make the bob (see below).

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2 1 4 3 5 6  
1 2 3 4 6 5  
2 1 3 4 5 6\*  
1 2 4 3 6 5  
1 4 2 3 5 6  
4 1 3 2 6 5  
1 4 3 2 5 6  
4 1 2 3 6 5  
4 2 1 6 3 5

Here, 3 is making “thirds and out” after the Slow as a bob is called at (\*).

Instead of hunting out it makes fourths place (the bob), then thirds place **again**, then hunts out.

This is now thirds and out **before** the Slow so fourths and in comes next, then the Slow again.  
Making alternate places “Thirds-fourths-thirds” is often called “crankshafts”.

You will see that when making fourths place at a bob you do **not** strike twice over the same bell.

As with Kent, the effect of the extra dodges in 5-6 is to delay your next work by one lead.





## Little Bob.

Little Bob is something of a novelty rather than a serious method, but it can be useful when ringing time is restricted because it has a short plain course, noticeably so on the higher numbers: 40 changes in minor, 56 changes in major, 72 changes in royal, 88 changes in maximus. Because of this it can be rung to quite short touches.

On any even number of bells (6 or more) the treble's work is plain hunt to fourths place only, giving a treble lead every eight changes. For all other bells the work comprises a mixture of Plain Bob and Treble Bob:

- If the treble takes you from lead make seconds place and lead again.
- Otherwise follow a treble-bob hunting path with plain leads **except** that if you meet the treble in 3-4, up or down, you plain hunt through 3-4 without dodging.

If you write out a course of Little Bob minor (it is in the Diagrams book) you will see that when the treble leads and seconds place is made there is dodging in 3-4 and in 5-6; when the treble makes fourths place there is dodging in 5-6 only. (5-6 and above on the higher numbers.) Also note that, calls excepted, if you don't dodge in 3-4 down you will make seconds place - and you don't dodge in 3-4 up either. This happens (again, calls excepted,) every other time you come to lead. One thing more - each bell starts as for Plain Bob and hunts to its next dodging position.

Work at calls is 100% Plain Bob so this shouldn't cause any problems; callings for Little Bob are given in the RW Diary.

Little Bob is a useful method to have in your repertoire especially when something "short" is needed to fill in a few odd minutes. On the same page as Little Bob minor in the Diagrams book is Crayford Little Court which has no dodging in 3-4 and St. Lawrence Little Bob where single places in thirds and fourths cause wrong-handed dodging in 5-6. (Little Bob major is also shown in the eight-bell section.)