Calling Your First Touch

It is likely that your first touch as conductor will be of Doubles, and two common methods are Plain Bob and Grandsire. Therefore, two examples are given below for you to choose from to call 120 Doubles. Make sure you have thought through what you are going to call before taking a rope, as *preparation is the key to success*. Ask for help from someone knowledgeable if you are unsure.

General Points

Before setting off

It is worth letting the rounds settle into an even pace before saying 'go'. Uneven rounds will not provide a good starting point, and will make it harder for ringers starting out in changes. It also sets a poor standard for the quality of the rest of the ringing. Different bands and people take different amounts of time to settle, so listen for a few even rows before starting. Let ringers use this period to accustom themselves to the bell they are ringing, and to fit in with the rest of the band.

When things go wrong

Do not be afraid to say 'rounds' or 'stand'. If the ringing starts out a little ragged, perhaps someone goes the wrong way to start with, then it is better to restart after a short while than to let the touch drag on. The time taken for the ringing to recover in may be rather long and more benefit will be derived from a fresh, clean start.

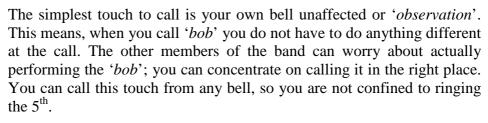
Do I have to keep the touch right?

No. The minimum requirement for conducting is to stay right, put the calls in the correct place, and for longer touches e.g. a quarter peal, have some way to check the calling and bell order is correct part way through. This saves you ringing for 40 minutes without the ringing coming round.

When to call

Say 'go' at hand stroke from rounds, and it is usual to remind the ringers what is about to be rung by saying 'go Plain Bob Doubles' or 'go Grandsire Doubles' or whatever the method is. 'That's all' is also called at hand stroke just before the touch comes round (at the next backstroke), as is 'stand' when you have finished with a few rounds. The stroke at which the calls, 'bob' or 'single' are called depends on the method being rung. Do make sure you know when the touch is expected to come round, and worry about saying 'that's all' in the right place too!

Plain Bob Doubles

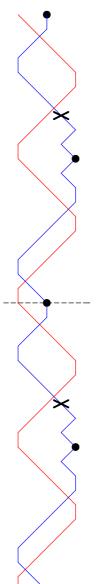


Use the **blue line** adjacent to work out how many leads you must ring before your first call. It will be the lead after your 3-4 down dodge, pass the treble in 4^{ths} place on the way up (treble in 3^{rds}), one more blow and the treble will be in 2^{nds} place at backstroke, and this is when you call 'bob'. The cross marks the calling position as the first blow of your long 5^{ths} . (More precisely, since the treble is at the front of the change, and you are at the back, it ought to be called during your transition in 4-5 just before the cross, so that it is at the treble's back stroke rather than yours.)

You need to call a total of three 'bobs', each a course apart, and then ring for the correct number of leads after the last call for the touch to come round. Note that if you are ringing the 3 or 4, then you say 'that's all' during the dodge, the blow before the black spot on the adjacent line. If you ring the 2nd, then call 'that's all' at your first blow of making seconds over the treble. If you are ringing the 5th, call 'that's all' one blow after calling 'bob' (i.e. in close succession).

There are no 'singles' in Plain Bob Doubles, although there are in Minor and on higher numbers. The reason is because it would mean repeating a change (as the treble is leading) and therefore the touch would be 'false'.

Grandsire Doubles



The simplest touch to call is from either the 3rd or the 5th. The adjacent **blue line** shows the work from the 3rd, and this time, unlike Plain Bob, you call either 'bob' or 'single' when the treble is in 3^{rds} place at hand stroke hunting down to lead.

Calling from 3 rd	Calling from 5 th
Bob, Plain,	Plain, Bob,
Bob, Plain,	Plain, Bob,
Single, Plain,	Plain, Single,
Repeat	Repeat

Whether you call from the 3rd or the 5th, you will need six calls in total, where leads with calls alternate with leads without. For those leads that require a call, the order is "Bob, Bob, Single, Bob, Bob, Single". (In fact you can rotate the composition so that the single is the first or second call, providing you put them every three calls.)

So the table above explicitly states the calling from either bell, and you can see from the adjacent blue line how this works for the 3rd. Your first call will be at the end of the first lead, as you are ringing over the treble in 4^{ths} place. You immediately do a double 4-5 dodge and make 3^{rds} at the next lead end. Repeat this pair of leads another five times, making sure you know if you are calling 'bob' or 'single'.

From the 5th, just start one lead into the adjacent diagram, so that you make 3^{rds} the first lead end with no call, and then call yourself to double dodge 4-5 up at the end of the second lead as you pass the treble. Again, make sure you know when to say 'that's all', because from the 5th, this will be two blows after your last call.

It is worth noting that you dodge with the same bell at both singles. This means that if you forget how many bobs you have called since the first single, then providing you note who you dodged with at that single, you just need to make sure the second single is called with the same bell.

The nature of the 'singles' in Grandsire are such that they do not cause you to repeat a change and they do not make the touch false! Its best written out on paper to see the difference between Plain Bob Doubles and Grandsire Doubles when singles are called.

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