

# The Education Column

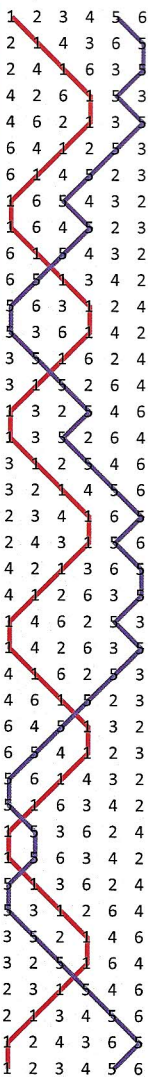
## 4. Little Bob and Penultimate

This series of eight articles suggests ways in which teachers and ringing masters can help learners who have achieved bell control to make the transition to simple method ringing. The articles present various ideas and practice methods, not intended to be in sequence of increasing difficulty. The 'Jargon Box' serves both to explain terms to learners and to remind teachers not to assume that their learners will understand these terms.

This fourth article looks at two methods where the treble plain hunts to fourth place: Little Bob Minor and Penultimate Doubles. Penultimate serves as a useful way to introduce the concept of *when* to do work by observing the treble, but the work itself is extremely simple.

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| 1. Introductory rumblings            | 5. Original                     |
| 2. Bastow                            | 6. Introduction to Kaleidoscope |
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### Little Bob Minor



### Little Bob

In previous articles we looked at Bastow (where the treble plain hunts to seconds) and Quick Sixes (where it hunts to thirds), so the obvious next stepping stone towards plain hunting on higher numbers is a method where the treble plain hunts to fourths. Of course there's no need to find a practice method to achieve this when there's a perfectly good 'real' method: Little Bob. (Please don't ask for a formal definition of a 'real' rather than 'practice' method — I suspect that, like beauty, it is in the eye of the beholder.)

Little Bob Minor is shown in Diagram 4.1, and is well worth ringing with your student on the treble, but most students who can attempt this will probably also have the necessary skills to plain hunt on five or six. Certainly though, if you have more than one student ringing, Plain Hunt Doubles will prove very much easier than Little Bob Minor.

So instead let's look at a different practice method. It's not often rung and indeed I'd never heard of it until attending an *ART Module 2'* course. As usual, we'll look at how to ring it, then why it's useful.

### Penultimate Doubles

Penultimate means last-but-one, with the prefix 'pen' coming from the Latin and meaning 'almost', as in penumbra or peninsula. So in Penultimate the treble hunts to last-but-one place. As we're wanting the treble to hunt to fourth place, we'll look at Penultimate Doubles (Diagram 4.2), but the concept is easily extended to larger numbers of bells.

The working bells all spend almost all the time plain hunting (but, unlike the treble, they hunt all the way from the lead to fifth place). The only exception is that they make *long fifths*<sup>2</sup> once in a plain course, which is 32 changes long. This '*work*'<sup>3</sup> happens when they are at the back over the treble. Another indicator is that the long fifths comes after the treble has taken you off the lead (though 3 needs to be awake, as it makes long fifths immediately).

### Penultimate Doubles

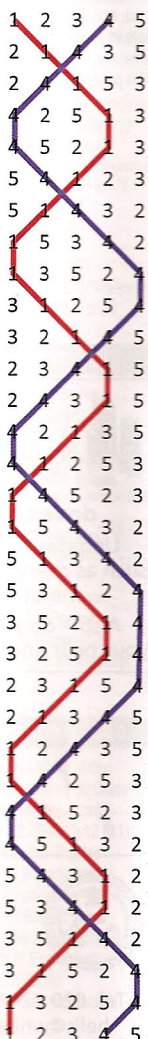


Diagram 4.1

Diagram 4.2