

The Education Column

5. Let's be Original!

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 fifth article deals with Original. This is helpful for the more advanced student, who is beginning to deal with Bobs and Singles. It develops the necessary quick reaction but avoids some of the other difficulties involved in touches. It may well also pose an interesting challenge to the rest of your band.

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| 1. Introductory rumblings | 5. Original |
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| 4. Little Bob and Penultimate | 8. Back to Basics: 3-and-2 |

This week we are thinking about a slightly more advanced student. They are confident with plain hunting, and have rung plain courses of a simple method, perhaps Plain Bob Doubles, and are beginning to deal with *touches*.¹ This can be another of those big steps – what do we do when a Bob or Single is called, how do we carry on after the lead-end, and (often the biggest worry) what work are we going to do at the next lead-end? That's a lot to think about, and there's very little time for cogitation – the reaction to the call must be immediate.

Ringing Original can help. Our student does not have to worry about when the lead-end occurs or what the 'next work' is, and deciding what to ring after the call is very straightforward. The only thing to occupy the brain is what to do when a Bob is called.

Maybe you also want to shake up the rest of your ringers a bit, and try a 'student exercise' that they may find not quite as easy as they were expecting. Your more experienced ringers may well find Original entertaining, different, and a bit of a challenge.

What is Original?

Ringing Original just means plain hunting, and we'll assume we are ringing on six. So, if no calls are made, all bells plain hunt to sixth place, so neither our student nor anyone else in the band should have any problems.

The work of each bell in Plain Hunt is the same. This is different from the other exercises we have discussed, such as Bastow and Penultimate, where the treble has a simpler pattern of work than the other bells. We use the word '*principle*' in these situations, so we say 'Original is a *principle*', meaning that all bells do the same work.

At a Bob, fourth place is made (exactly as at a Bob in Plain Bob), so this is useful practice for our student who is learning touches of Plain Bob Doubles or Minor. The pattern at a Bob is shown in Diagram 5.1. Notice the arrow – this shows when the call is made. The three front bells are unaffected (leading, and running in or out as they would in plain hunt). In the diagram, the unaffected front bells are shown by thin blue lines, the purple line is the bell *making the Bob*,² and the green and orange lines show the other affected bells dodging at the back.

What is unfamiliar is that ANY bell could be leading when the Bob is made – remember this is a principle, so the treble has no special status and may well be affected by calls. Moreover, the rest of your band, used to ringing Plain Bob Minor, may be challenged to find that even though the work at a Bob is identical to Bob Minor, it is now the bells at the back that are affected. The two back bells dodge (which is NOT what they would do in Plain Hunt), while the run-in and run-out bells are unaffected (as it's what they would do in Plain Hunt anyway).

Work at a Bob

The call is made at the arrow

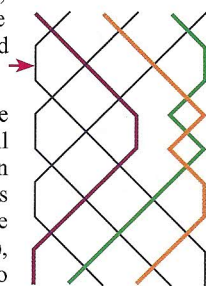


Diagram 5.1