

Covering to plain hunt

Background: Covering, or ringing the Tenor behind is an important part of change ringing on odd numbers of bells.

The cover, or Tenor bell, is rung in last place to maintain a rhythm and how accurately it is rung often determines how good a ring or quarter peal or peal is.

The simplest change ringing exercise to follow is plain hunt on an odd number of bells, where all bells other than the Tenor move from 1st place to 5th place and back from wherever they started.

The bells followed: The order of the bells in one course of plain hunt on 5 bells with the Tenor covering is given in Table 1 (below).

Looking at the bells that 6 (the cover bell or Tenor) follows, shows that they occur in the order 5 3 1 2 4 and back to 5 again to get to rounds.

It should also be noted that 6 changes the bell it follows at backstroke and so the routine would be: follow 5 at handstroke, then 3 at backstroke and handstroke, then treble at backstroke and handstroke, then 2 at backstroke and handstroke, then 4 at backstroke and handstroke, then 5 at backstroke which is where 'rounds' or 'that's all' is called or you go back to the start again and continue on.

Advance notice code: Now look at Table 1 and look at which bell 6 is following (let's say it's "X").

If we do that for each handstroke then we see that 5 "looks at 3" when 6 follows it at handstroke, then 3 "looks at 1" at the next handstroke, then 2 "looks at 4" at the next handstroke, and then 4 "looks at 5" at the next handstroke.

In other words, if bell 6 looks to see who the bell it is following at handstroke is following itself, then that is the bell for bell 6 to follow at the next backstroke.

Using this "code" means that if the bells are changed and start from, for example 1 2 **4 3** 5 6 (rather than 1 2 **3 4** 5 6) then bell 6 can work out which bell to follow in a fairly straight forward way.

This concept of watching which bell "X" is following at handstroke is the beginning of you developing rope sight for yourself.

By the way, it is normal for the call "Go plain hunt" to be made in advance of when it is started. Generally, this is when the treble has just led at handstroke and so bell 6 has handstroke and backstroke to ring before things start to happen.

Speed and counting: As you get more familiar with covering / ringing the Tenor behind, try to concentrate on the speed you are ringing at and maintain it.

Counting your place and making sure you are roughly in 6ths place is also very important.

Ringing at the right pace in 6ths place will often help make finding the bell you should be following, much easier.

**Table 1 Order of the bells in Plain Hunt on 5 with Tenor covering
(H is handstroke and B is backstroke)**

	stroke									
Go plain hunt called here	H	1	2	3	4	5	6		Bell 6 is following ("X")	Bell that "X" is following at handstroke
	B	1	2	3	4	5	6			
	H	2	1	4	3	5	6	5		3
	B	2	4	1	5	3	6	3		
	H	4	2	5	1	3	6	3		1
	B	4	5	2	3	1	6	1		
	H	5	4	3	2	1	6	1		2
	B	5	3	4	1	2	6	2		
	H	3	5	1	4	2	6	2		4
	B	3	1	5	2	4	6	4		
	H	1	3	2	5	4	6	4		5
	B	1	2	3	4	5	6	5		