

From Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise in Easily Manageable Steps

We don't always have the benefit of being the only inexperienced ringer amongst a band of experts, so these notes outline a pathway where a less experienced band can progress from ringing Plain Bob to Cambridge Surprise Minor in a series of easily manageable steps. The skills that these intermediate methods introduce also enable people to progress on to ringing a variety of other methods beyond Cambridge Surprise, with a far less learning than would otherwise be the case.

We normally learn to ring Plain Bob using one of the following techniques:

- **The blue line** (2nds, 3-4 down, etc; often seen as a graphic).
- **Passing the treble** (pass the treble in 1-2, make 2nds etc: the rules)
- **Circle of work** (the order of individual pieces of work, often expressed in words)

Each of these techniques has its limitations when you make a mistake or get lost (or someone else does), so you need to get to the stage of being able to use a combination of these techniques.

To progress along the pathway to ringing Cambridge Surprise, we are going to develop two further techniques:

- **Place bells** (where each inside bell starts and ends up the next lead end, ringing the work section by section)
- **Grids** (a development of passing the treble, where you start to see how the work fits together)

Beyond plain Bob and Grandsire rather than individual dodges, combinations of dodges and places are put together to form larger chunks of work, which are then joined together by hunting. However the same chunks of work are often found in a number of different methods (e.g. Yorkshire Places and Cambridge Places).

We will also show you how places can be substituted for dodges, and vice versa, to produce new, but very similar methods. Bobs and singles in the group of methods we are going to explore are all the same as Plain Bob, with 4ths place made and bells running in and out.

The illustrations in this paper come from:

The Change Ringing Toolkit <http://www.ringbell.co.uk/toolkit/index.htm> and from Blueline Methods <https://rsw.me.uk/blueline/methods/>

This paper is based on the [Ringing World Bellboard 2020 Blue Pathway](#) and the Doubles and Minor Pathways in [Learning the Ropes Plus](#). These are open to all ringers. If you do not have a SmARTringer login go to www.smartringer.org/registernewuser

You can obtain a LTR+ Logbook and tick off when you can ring a plain course and a touch in each of the methods confidently. You can also obtain a LtR+ Certificate once you have rung a quarter peal of one of the plain minor methods (other than Plain Bob) and quarter peals of Treble Dodging Minor on the treble and inside.



Doubles methods and variations

Once you can ring Plain Bob and Grandsire, you can quickly learn a number of different methods by substituting places for dodges. By using different calls you can also ring 'variations'

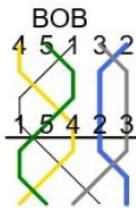
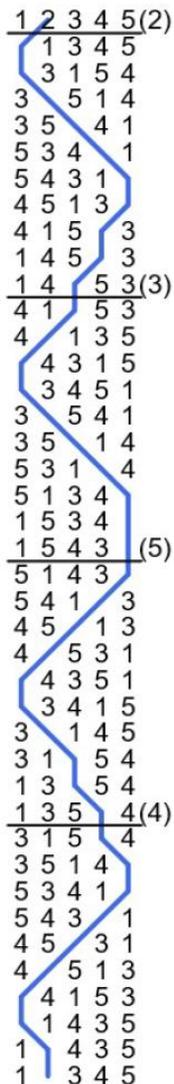
You can also combine different grids of work above and below the treble to make new methods.

The best places to start are to ring Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles (a new method where places are made in 3-4) and April Day Doubles (A variation on Plain Bob Doubles with Grandsire Singles as the call)

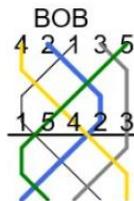
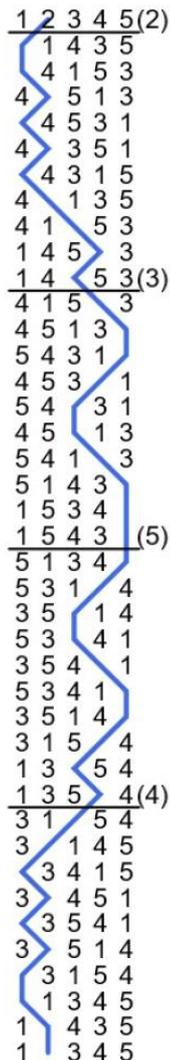
Then St Simon's Doubles where the grid is Plain Bob Doubles above the treble and an upside down Grandsire bob below the treble.

By substituting places for dodges and different frontworks, backworks and calls, you will soon be able to ring 28 different methods and variations, as the table on the following page.

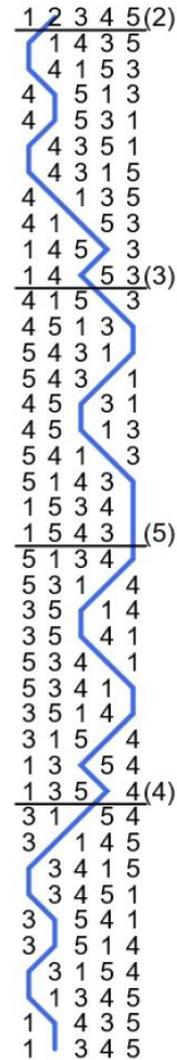
Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place

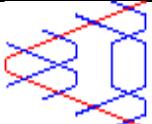
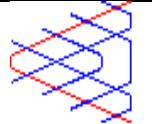
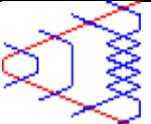
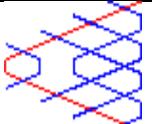
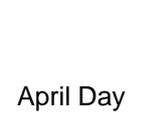


St Simon's



St Martin's



code	a	b	c	d
Call	Reverse Canterbury Bob	Plain Bob Bob	Grandsire Single	Old Single
Below Treble				
Above Treble				
Plain Bob	Kennington	Plain Bob	April Day	Old Bob
Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place	Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place	Southrepps	Clifford's Pleasure	St Columb
St Simon's	St Alban	St Simon's Bob	Eynsham	Cassington
St Martin's	St Paul	St Martin's Bob	St Leonard	St Peter
St Nicholas	St Nicholas Bob	St Giles	Lapley	St Thomas
Winchendon Place	Winchendon Place	St Miles	St John	St Luke
Eynesbury	St John Evangelist	Eynesbury	St John Baptist	Candlemas