

# Plain Hunting on 6 handbells

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## Plain Hunting on six handbells

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## 1 Introduction

This text-only note describes how to ring Plain Hunting on 6 bells.

The principles of plain hunting on even numbers of bells are well demonstrated by ringing on just 6, it is the position within the change row that is most important. It is the series of positions that is memorised to form the basis of ringing a pair of bells to Plain Hunting.

NB. Plain Hunting is a very important component of all bellringing methods, but may also be rung as a bellringing method in its own right, the method is called "Original".

Plain Hunting uses two, and only two processes to change the positions of bells between rows:

- Cross all pairs
- Leave first and last bells in place and change the other two pairs

The shorthand notation, a.k.a. Place Notation for these two changes between rows is:

- X - Cross all pairs
- 16 - Leave first and last bells in place and change the other two pairs

Start with all of the bells represented by their numbers in descending order:

1 2 3 4 5 6

Apply: X (Cross all three pairs) gives bells 1 through 6 ringing in the order:

2 1 4 3 6 5

Repeating that transformation would bring us straight back to our starting point, so instead we apply the 16 transformation, so, from

2 1 4 3 6 5

We get bells ringing in the sequence:

2 4 1 6 3 5

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## 2 The Change rows

Repetition of the process (Cross all pairs, cross internal pairs) brings the sequence back to the starting sequence after 12 rows.

### Plain Hunting on 6 bells showing all bells:

H		1 2 3 4 5 6
B		1 2 3 4 5 6
H	X	2 1 4 3 6 5
B	16	2 4 1 6 3 5
H	X	4 2 6 1 5 3
B	16	4 6 2 5 1 3
H	X	6 4 5 2 3 1
B	16	6 5 4 3 2 1
H	X	5 6 3 4 1 2
B	16	5 3 6 1 4 2
H	X	3 5 1 6 2 4
B	16	3 1 5 2 6 4
H	X	1 3 2 5 4 6
B	16	1 2 3 4 5 6

## 3 The three hunting patterns

Ringing these changes on handbells

The team of bellringers will ring two bells each of the set of six, and it is possible for any one pair of bells to start to ring Plain Hunting from any combination of places. There are, in total 15 different combinations of places. However, an analysis of the pattern formed by starting from each of the 15 combinations shows only **three** distinct “positions”, or hunting patterns, these are normally looked at as:

- **1-2 pattern**
- **2-3 pattern**
- **3-4 pattern**

These three patterns are written out below but substituting a dot for the other bells:

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## Plain Hunting on 6 bells 1-2 Pattern:

H            1 2 . . . .  
B            1 2 . . . .  
  
H    X       2 1 . . . .  
B    16      2 . 1 . . .  
  
H    X       . 2 . 1 . .  
B    16      . . 2 . 1 .  
  
H    X       . . . 2 . 1  
B    16      . . . . 2 1  
  
H    X       . . . . 1 2  
B    16      . . . 1 . 2  
  
H    X       . . 1 . 2 .  
B    16      . 1 . 2 . .  
  
H    X       1 . 2 . . .  
B    16      1 2 . . . .

## Plain Hunting on 6 bells 2-3 Pattern:

H            . 2 3 . . .  
B            . 2 3 . . .  
  
H    X       2 . . 3 . .  
B    16      2 . . . 3 .  
  
H    X       . 2 . . . 3  
B    16      . . 2 . . 3  
  
H    X       . . . 2 3 .  
B    16      . . . 3 2 .  
  
H    X       . . 3 . . 2  
B    16      . 3 . . . 2  
  
H    X       3 . . . 2 .  
B    16      3 . . 2 . .  
  
H    X       . 3 2 . . .  
B    16      . 2 3 . . .

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## Plain Hunting on 6 bells 3-4 Pattern:

H . . 3 4 . .

B . . 3 4 . .

H X . . 4 3 . .

B 16 . 4 . . 3 .

H X 4 . . . . 3

B 16 4 . . . . 3

H X . 4 . . 3 .

B 16 . . 4 3 . .

H X . . 3 4 . .

B 16 . 3 . . 4 .

H X 3 . . . . 4

B 16 3 . . . . 4

H X . 3 . . 4 .

B 16 . . 3 4 . .

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## 4 The three patterns and the places in which bells ring.

The above three patterns form the fundamental basis of change ringing on 6 bells, and the most important aspect for each pair is the positions, or places, within each change row that a specific pair of bell rings in. Spelling this out for the pairs we have:

### Plain Hunting on 6 bells 1-2 Pattern:

H		1 2 . . . .	Lead & 2nds
B		1 2 . . . .	Lead & 2nds
H	X	2 1 . . . .	Lead & 2nds
B	16	2 . 1 . . .	Lead & 3rds
H	X	. 2 . 1 . .	2nds & 4ths
B	16	. . 2 . 1 .	3rds & 5ths
H	X	. . . 2 . 1	4ths & 6ths
B	16	. . . . 2 1	5ths & 6ths
H	X	. . . . 1 2	5ths & 6ths
B	16	. . . 1 . 2	4ths & 6ths
H	X	. . 1 . 2 .	3rds & 5ths
B	16	. 1 . 2 . .	2nds & 4ths
H	X	1 . 2 . . .	Lead & 3rds
B	16	1 2 . . . .	Lead & 2nds

### Plain Hunting on 6 bells 2-3 Pattern:

H		. 2 3 . . .	2nds & 3rds
B		. 2 3 . . .	2nds & 3rds
H	X	2 . . 3 . .	Lead & 4ths
B	16	2 . . . 3 .	Lead & 5ths
H	X	. 2 . . . 3	2nds & 6ths
B	16	. . 2 . . 3	3rds & 6ths
H	X	. . . 2 3 .	4ths & 5ths
B	16	. . . 3 2 .	4ths & 5ths
H	X	. . 3 . . 2	3rds & 6ths
B	16	. 3 . . . 2	2nds & 6ths
H	X	3 . . . 2 .	Lead & 5ths
B	16	3 . . 2 . .	Lead & 4ths
H	X	. 3 2 . . .	2nds & 3rds
B	16	. 2 3 . . .	2nds & 3rds

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## Plain Hunting on 6 bells 3-4 Pattern:

H		. . 3 4 . .	3rds & 4ths
B		. . 3 4 . .	3rds & 4ths
H	X	. . 4 3 . .	3rds & 4ths
B	16	. 4 . . 3 .	2nds & 5ths
H	X	4 . . . . 3	Lead & Lie
B	16	4 . . . . 3	Lead & Lie
H	X	. 4 . . 3 .	2nds & 5ths
B	16	. . 4 3 . .	3rds & 4ths
H	X	. . 3 4 . .	3rds & 4ths
B	16	. 3 . . 4 .	2nds & 5ths
H	X	3 . . . . 4	Lead & Lie
B	16	3 . . . . 4	Lead & Lie
H	X	. 3 . . 4 .	2nds & 5ths
B	16	. . 3 4 . .	3rds & 4ths

In order to navigate a pair of bells amongst the other 4, a handbell ringer needs to listen intensively to all of the bells in all of the changes, and hence to count as the individual bells ring. Two positional counting techniques are shown below:

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## 5 Counting by Distance from lead

### Counting distance from lead and distance apart, 1-2 Pattern:

H		1 2 . . . .	Lead & 2nds	
B		1 2 . . . .	Lead & 2nds	
H	X	2 1 . . . .	Lead & 2nds	<b>Cross over, Lead &amp; 2nds</b>
B	16	2 . 1 . . .	Lead & 3rds	<b>Lead &amp; 1 between</b>
H	X	. 2 . 1 . .	2nds & 4ths	<b>1 from lead, 1 between</b>
B	16	. . 2 . 1 .	3rds & 5ths	<b>2 from lead, 1 between</b>
H	X	. . . 2 . 1	4ths & 6ths	<b>3 from lead, 1 between</b>
B	16	. . . . 2 1	5ths & 6ths	<b>4 from lead, meet together</b>
H	X	. . . . 1 2	5ths & 6ths	<b>4 from lead cross over</b>
B	16	. . . 1 . 2	4ths & 6ths	<b>3 from lead, 1 between</b>
H	X	. . 1 . 2 .	3rds & 5ths	<b>2 from lead, 1 between</b>
B	16	. 1 . 2 . .	2nds & 4ths	<b>1 from lead, 1 between</b>
H	X	1 . 2 . . .	Lead & 3rds	<b>Lead, 1 between</b>
B	16	1 2 . . . .	Lead & 2nds	<b>Meet together in 1-2</b>

### Counting distance from lead and distance apart, 2-3 Pattern:

H		. 2 3 . . .	2nds & 3rds	
B		. 2 3 . . .	2nds & 3rds	
H	X	2 . . 3 . .	Lead & 4ths	<b>Lead &amp; 2 between</b>
B	16	2 . . . 3 .	Lead & 5ths	<b>Lead &amp; 3 between</b>
H	X	. 2 . . . 3	2nds & 6ths	<b>1 from lead 3 between</b>
B	16	. . 2 . . 3	3rds & 6ths	<b>2 from lead, 2 between</b>
H	X	. . . 2 3 .	4ths & 5ths	<b>3 from lead, meet together</b>
B	16	. . . 3 2 .	4ths & 5ths	<b>3 from lead, cross over</b>
H	X	. . 3 . . 2	3rds & 6ths	<b>2 from lead, 2 between</b>
B	16	. 3 . . . 2	2nds & 6ths	<b>1 from lead, 3 between</b>
H	X	3 . . . 2 .	Lead & 5ths	<b>Lead, 3 between</b>
B	16	3 . . 2 . .	Lead & 4ths	<b>Lead, 2 between</b>
H	X	. 3 2 . . .	2nds & 3rds	<b>1 from lead, meet together</b>
B	16	. 2 3 . . .	2nds & 3rds	<b>1 from lead, cross over</b>

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### Counting distance from lead and distance apart, 3-4 Pattern:

H		. . 3 4 . .	3rds & 4ths	
B		. . 3 4 . .	3rds & 4ths	
H	X	. . 4 3 . .	3rds & 4ths	<b>2 from lead, cross over</b>
B	16	. 4 . . 3 .	2nds & 5ths	<b>1 from lead, 2 between</b>
H	X	4 . . . . 3	Lead & Lie	<b>Lead, 4 between</b>
B	16	4 . . . . 3	Lead & Lie	<b>Lead, 4 between</b>
H	X	. 4 . . 3 .	2nds & 5ths	<b>1 from lead, 2 between</b>
B	16	. . 4 3 . .	3rds & 4ths	<b>2 from lead, meet together</b>
H	X	. . 3 4 . .	3rds & 4ths	<b>2 from lead, cross over</b>
B	16	. 3 . . 4 .	2nds & 5ths	<b>1 from lead, 2 between</b>
H	X	3 . . . . 4	Lead & Lie	<b>Lead, 4 between</b>
B	16	3 . . . . 4	Lead & Lie	<b>Lead, 4 between</b>
H	X	. 3 . . 4 .	2nds & 5ths	<b>1 from lead, 2 between</b>
B	16	. . 3 4 . .	3rds & 4ths	<b>2 from lead, meet together</b>



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## 6 Counting by Position emphasis

**Position Counting, 1-2 Pattern emphasis in bold numbers with a following “,”:**

H		Rounds, Lead & 2nds	<b>1, 2,</b> 3 4 5 6
B		Rounds, Lead & 2nds	<b>1, 2,</b> 3 4 5 6
H	X	Cross over, Lead & 2nds	<b>1, 2,</b> 3 4 5 6
B	16	Lead & 3rds	<b>1, 2 3,</b> 4 5 6
H	X	2nds & 4ths	<b>1 2,</b> 3 <b>4,</b> 5 6
B	16	3rds & 5ths	1 2 <b>3,</b> 4 <b>5,</b> 6
H	X	4ths & 6ths	1 2 3 <b>4,</b> 5 <b>6,</b>
B	16	Meet in 5ths & 6ths	1 2 3 4 <b>5, 6,</b>
H	X	Cross over in 5ths & 6ths	1 2 3 4 <b>5, 6,</b>
B	16	4ths & 6ths	1 2 3 <b>4,</b> 5 <b>6,</b>
H	X	3rds & 5ths	1 2 <b>3,</b> 4 <b>5,</b> 6
B	16	2nds & 4ths	<b>1 2,</b> 3 <b>4,</b> 5 6
H	X	Lead & 3rds	<b>1, 2 3,</b> 4 5 6
B	16	Meet in Lead & 2nds	<b>1, 2,</b> 3 4 5 6

**Position Counting, 2-3 Pattern emphasis in bold numbers with a following “,”:**

H		2nds & 3rds	<b>1 2, 3,</b> 4 5 6
B		2nds & 3rds	<b>1 2, 3,</b> 4 5 6
H	X	Lead & 4ths	<b>1, 2 3 4,</b> 5 6
B	16	Lead & 5ths	<b>1, 2 3 4 5,</b> 6
H	X	2nds & 6ths	<b>1 2,</b> 3 4 5 <b>6,</b>
B	16	3rds & 6ths	1 2 <b>3,</b> 4 5 <b>6,</b>
H	X	Meet in 4ths & 5ths	1 2 3 <b>4, 5,</b> 6
B	16	Cross over in 4ths & 5ths	1 2 3 <b>4, 5,</b> 6
H	X	3rds & 6ths	1 2 <b>3,</b> 4 5 <b>6,</b>
B	16	2nds & 6ths	<b>1 2,</b> 3 4 5 <b>6,</b>
H	X	Lead & 5ths	<b>1, 2 3 4 5,</b> 6
B	16	Lead & 4ths	<b>1, 2 3 4,</b> 5 6
H	X	Meet in 2nds & 3rds	<b>1 2, 3,</b> 4 5 6
B	16	cross over in 2nds & 3rds	<b>1 2, 3,</b> 4 5 6

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Position Counting, 3-4 Pattern emphasis in bold numbers with a following “,”:

H		3rds & 4ths	1 2 <b>3, 4</b> , 5 6
B		3rds & 4ths	1 2 <b>3, 4</b> , 5 6
H	X	Cross over 3rds & 4ths	1 2 <b>3, 4</b> , 5 6
B	16	2nds & 5ths	1 <b>2</b> , 3 4 <b>5</b> , 6
H	X	Lead & Lie	<b>1</b> , 2 3 4 5 <b>6</b> ,
B	16	Lead & Lie	<b>1</b> , 2 3 4 5 <b>6</b> ,
H	X	2nds & 5ths	1 <b>2</b> , 3 4 <b>5</b> , 6
B	16	Meet in 3rds & 4ths	1 2 <b>3, 4</b> , 5 6
H	X	Cross over in 3rds & 4ths	1 2 <b>3, 4</b> , 5 6
B	16	2nds & 5ths	1 <b>2</b> , 3 4 <b>5</b> , 6
H	X	Lead & Lie	<b>1</b> , 2 3 4 5 <b>6</b> ,
B	16	Lead & Lie	<b>1</b> , 2 3 4 5 <b>6</b> ,
H	X	2nds & 5ths	1 <b>2</b> , 3 4 <b>5</b> , 6
B	16	Meet in 3rds & 4ths	1 2 <b>3, 4</b> , 5 6

[END]