



# Adelaide Bellingers

# Call Changes

How to Ring Call Changes

# Ringling Call Changes

## Calling Style

Call changes can be called in many ways, for example:

- Calling "Up" or "Out":
  - 12**3**456 => "3 to 4" => 12**4**356

3 should follow 4, which implies 4 must follow 2

- Calling "Down" or "In":
  - 12**3**456 => "4 to 2" => 12**4**356

4 should follow 2, which implies 3 must follow 4

- Calling the complete change:
  - 12**3**456 => "124356" => 12**4**356

tells you what the change should be

- Probably the most common is to use "calling Up" when calling call changes.

The timing of when a call is made and when the change occurs is the same regardless of which method is used. The call should be made at a hand-stroke (when the first bell in the change is pulling their hand-stroke). This gives all of the affected bells the entire backstroke to prepare for the change. The change itself occurs at the next hand-stroke. If a call is made during a back-stroke it is either early or late, but it is best to assume that it is early ... some bells, especially heavy bells, need the full back-stroke to prepare to make the change so cannot physically react to a late call.

## Ringling Speed and Rhythm

When ringing rounds on 6 the gap between every time you ring your own bell is 5 dings (the other 5 peoples bells) (Note: for the sake of this discussion we will ignore the extra "hand-stroke gap" pause at hand-stroke, as it is consistent across the ringing regardless of the calls)

```
=>  123456 123456 123456 123456
      ^     ^     ^     ^
      5     5     5
```

If you are called "Up" towards the back of the change (like the 3 in "3 to 4")

```
=>  123456 123456 124356 124356
      ^     ^     ^     ^
      5     6     5
```

when you make the change, for one blow you have to leave a 6 bell gap instead of a 5 bell gap, so you must ring more slowly and hold up (but only for 1 blow, and not too much).

If you are called "Down" towards the front of the change (like the 4 in "3 to 4")

```
=>  123456 123456 124356 124356
      ^     ^     ^     ^
      5     4     5
```

when you make the change, for one blow you have to leave a 4 bell gap instead of a 5 bell gap, so you must ring more quickly and pull in (but only for 1 blow, and not too much).

## Changing Position

Let us say that you are ringing the 3 and we start off in rounds.

- “Look to, trebles going, trebles gone”
  - 123456 => you are following the 2.

During rounds try and get a feel for the speed that you are ringing at

- "3 to 4"
  - 124356 => you follow the 4.
  - The call actually tells you to do this.

In this change you have to slow down to ring after the 4.

The call is made at a hand-stroke. Ring the following backstroke still following the 2, but pull a little harder, so at the next hand-stroke you can ring over the 4.

At the hand-stroke, don't pull too hard, as you have to return to the normal 'rounds' speed of ringing.

- "2 to 4"
  - 142356 => you follow the 2.
  - You were following the 4, but the call 'swapped' 2 and 4, so you follow the 2.

In this change your bell does not change position, so you do not have to change the speed that you are ringing at. Try and ring at the same pace whilst the bells under you change, and remember to not follow the 2 after the change.

- "2 to 3"
  - 143256 => you follow the 4.
  - You were following the 2, but the call 'swapped' you and 2, so you follow who the 2 was following, which in this case is the 4.

The hard bit is knowing who the 2 was following (see below).

In this change you have to speed up to ring over the 4.

The call is made at a hand-stroke. Ring the following back-stroke still following the 2, but pull a little softer, so at the next hand-stroke you can check the bell slightly and ring after the 2.

At the hand-stroke you will have to pull a little harder to slow the bell down to the normal 'rounds' speed.

## Who is Following Who?

There are many ways of determining who the bell you are following is following. Taking the example above, where you are ringing the 3 and following the 2:

- See who the 2 is looking at.
  - this is not reliable, as ringers do not always look at whom they are following.
- Remember what the entire change is.
  - start with rounds, and 'do' all of the changes in your head as they are called.
  - a slightly easier version of this is to only remember the bells that are in front of you in the change. This is only easier whilst you are at the front of the change.
- Watch the ropes to see what the order is.
  - this is the basis of 'rope-sight' and is a good time to practice it, but is difficult when you first start.
- Ring a little quicker for one blow, to get into the right position, and then see who you are following
  - this is also difficult without 'rope-sight'
- Look bewildered until someone tells you who to follow
  - whilst this works, it is not recommended as it makes the change messy, and hence sounds bad. It can also get very irritating for the conductor and the rest of the band if you do it too often
- A combination of these is probably the best, but if in doubt ASK.
  - try and keep track of which bell you are following, and who they are following, but if in doubt it is better to ask than to guess. Conductors will prefer you to ask a question than get a change wrong.

## Some Common Changes on 6 and 8

Change Name	On 6 Bells	On 8 Bells
Rounds	123456	12345678
Queens	135246	13572468
Kings	531246	75312468
Whittingtons	531246	12753468
Devils	154326	17654328
Backchange	543216	76543218
Tittums	142536	15263748
Big Tittums	145236	12563478
Exploding Tittums	342516	45362718

## Exercise

On paper, write out the changes on 6 bells, starting from rounds, for the following changes.

- 2 to 3
- 4 to 5
- 2 to 5
- 3 to 5
- 2 to 4
- 3 to 4
- 1 to 5
- 1 to 4
- 1 to 3
- 1 to 2
- 4 to 3
- 4 to 2
- 4 to 1
- 2 to 1

What change does it end up in?

What named changes do you pass through on the way?

Answer: Starts in Rounds, passes through Queens, Devils and Backchange and ends up Whittingtons

**Archers**

5713468

**Barringtons**

35271468

**Boogie Woogie**

2579E641380T

**Bowbells**

13245768

**Burdette**

213546

31247568

(3124586790)

213546879E0T

**Emmanuel**

15926037E48T

**Gladstone**

435216

**Hagdyke**

341256

12563478

3412785690

1256349078ET

*43562178 (Exploding)**63542178 (Expl. - MJS)***Hereford Octaves**

1875296430

**Heywood's**

1286349750

**Jacks**

145236

16745238

1896745230

10E89674523T

**Jokers**

14325

154326

17654328

1987654320

1E098765432T

**Keg Meg**

125463

**Kennet**

153426

1539742860

**Kings**

(31245)

531246 also **Whittingtons**

75312468

9753124680

E9753124680T

**Priory/Intermediate**

132546

13254768

1325476980

132547698E0T

**Princes**

532146

75321468

9753214680

E9753214680T

**Princesses**

13527468

1357294680

135792E4680T

**Queens**

(24135)

135246

13572468

1357924680

13579E24680T

**Roller Coaster**

3216547

(14327658)

3216549870

**Roll-ups/Back Rounds**

43215

543216

76543218

9876543210

E0987654321T

**St. Michael's**

17652438

**Seesaw**

321456

43215678

5432167890

6543217890ET

**Tittums**

(31425)

142536

*342516 (exploding)*

15263748

*45362718 (exploding)**47362518 (reverse) 1627384950**5647382910 (exploding)*

172839405E6T

*675849302E1T (exploding)**31247568E90T (ripple)***Tommy**

314526

**Weasels**

14235

**Wedgewood**

431526

**Whittingtons**

531246

(12753468)

(1234975680)

531246E9780T

*135642E9780T (inverted)***Yeovil Octaves**

1864297530

**Unnamed changes**

125436

45612378

35271468

46123578

53721468

75123468

47362518

12463578

12643578

74635218

## Call Change Speed

*initial draft by Rodney G. Stevenson*

The usual way of coping with call changes has been covered at length elsewhere, so this is but another explanation of another way, based on changing speed for one blow.

The whole of ringing, even the most complex of methods, is comprised of ringing at one of three speeds, represented on the blue line as /|\ , with / being quicker as when going down to lead and thus a decreasing number of bells to follow, | being the “standard” speed as in rounds or covering, \ being slower as when going out the back and thus an increasing number of bells to follow.

For the vast majority of the time ringing call changes, for all the time between calls, every bell is ringing at standard speed |. It is only when a call is made that one has to determine if one's speed should change, and if so, whether to be quicker or slower for the one blow the change will take. And the way the call is said is the very key to which way to move, or not to move.

All the time you will have been watching two bells in front of you, your “primary” and your “secondary” bell, with your primary bell being the one you're following, your secondary bell being the bell that one is following and which you're keeping in your mind but not actively following.

If these two bells, and your bell, are not mentioned, you are totally unaffected and stay ringing at the same speed |, following the same bell, keeping your secondary bell in mind in case it is needed in the future.

If both these two bells are mentioned, they will have been reversed, so now your primary bell will become your secondary bell and your secondary bell will become your primary bell, and you will stay ringing at the same speed |.

If you are told directly which other bell to follow it will mean you need to ring slower \ for the one blow to allow that bell to get in front of you.

If your primary bell is told to follow you, you will need to ring quicker / for the one blow to get in front of what was your primary bell, to be following what was your secondary bell and now is your primary bell. You will need to find your new secondary bell, which is the one your new primary bell is following.

It is much more complex to read about than to do, so the following is intended as a “shortcut cheat” to accomplish what should be done by the primary/secondary bell system detailed elsewhere and briefly repeated above.

- If you are mentioned first in the call, ring slower to allow the other bell in front of you.
- If both the bells you have in your mind are mentioned, stay ringing at the same speed.
- If you are mentioned second in the call, ring quicker to get in front of the other bell.

As soon as you are ringing comfortably and striking well following the new bell, find your new secondary bell, to be ready for if you need it at the next call.

