

Using Kaleidoscope ringing

(Central Council Publication: *Kaleidoscope Ringing*, by Gordon Lucas)

Kaleidoscope ringing is a series of exercises made within two places. It can be started at handstroke or backstroke. The simplest form is “long places”, 4 blows in one place. This is followed by “place making” with two blows being rung in each place and then by “dodging”.

When these basic manoeuvres have been mastered they can be combined to form more advanced and complicated exercises.

- These exercises are designed to help the learner listen to all the bells, the whole compass.
- They help the learner develop a sense of the place they are ringing in.
- They can be used on small numbers of bells perhaps early in the practice when there are only a few ringers present.
- It is easy for the learner to hear and identify/hear his /her own striking as the bells move in and out of rounds.

Mexican Wave

What is it ?

A Mexican Wave is a simple form of Kaleidoscope ringing – sequential place making.

Why use it?

- It provides the first steps in learning to cover.
- It allows a learner to go into and out of the lead for just two blows at a time.
- It is a stepping stone between call changes and plain hunting.
- It helps to develop accurate striking.
- Two or three learners can ring at the same time.
- It can be rung for service.
- It provided an opportunity for very early calling as all the conductor has to say is “Go Mexican Wave” at a handstroke.
- It is fun and makes a little more variety than just call changes.

Teaching a Mexican Wave

Place your learners on non-neighbouring bells, e.g. 2, 4, 6, or 1, 3, 5 if the treble ringer can lead.

Stand in the centre of the circle facing the ringers.

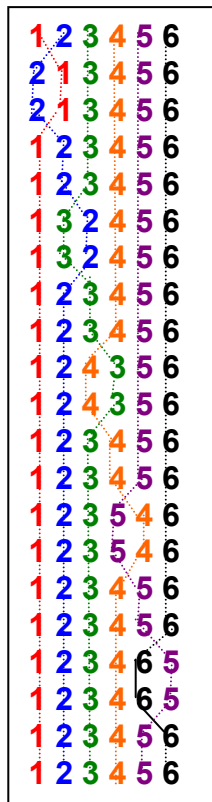
Explain that they will be changing places with a neighbouring bell for one whole pull starting at handstroke and then it is back into rounds.

Explain that the bell following the bells changing places will have to ring over a different bell for two blows, i.e. cover over a changing pair.

Say, "Treble and two go next time/handstroke . . . and back into rounds".

Continue with the rounds while you appraise performance. If the learner was too quick or slow/wide or close at any of the blows explain, advise and repeat until the striking is accurate.

Mexican Wave



Then move round, the next command is "Two and three go next handstroke . . . back into rounds". Next do the same with 3 and 4, 4 and 5, (and 5 and 6 if you wish).

When the striking is accurate give instruction for every move with several lots of rounds between each command.

When the band can strike this easily they can move on to changing every whole pull. At this time the conductor may still have to prompt each move i.e. "Go Mexican Wave, treble and two next handstroke . . . back into rounds . . . two and three next handstroke . . . back into rounds" etc.

The next step is to say "Go Mexican Wave, one and two . . . two and three . . . three and four . . ." etc.

When the band can manage with this reduced prompting the final stage is just to say "Go Mexican Wave".

At this stage you can use it for service ringing if required.

Variations on a Mexican Wave

- Start at backstroke.
- Ring each place twice: "Echo Mexican Wave"
- Put a dodge on either end of the places: "Dodgy Mexican Wave"
- Set a second "Wave" going before the first one has got to the back.
- Start from Queens.