

10 ways to use a simulator

Simulators can save time and manpower whilst benefiting learners at the early stages of their ringing careers. They can provide the learner with practice at listening and bell control without the necessity of the whole band being present.

It is possible to have just one bell connected up with a single interface which is a cheaper option than having 6 or all the bells connected to the computer. However, with this system it will not be possible to use the simulator in all of the following ways – indicated by an asterisk (*) below.

1. When teaching on a tied bell the (computer generated) sound can be **switched on for part of the session** to enable the learner to start to hear his/her bell (*listening*).
2. **Ringng with one student and one helper.** The software rings rounds, the helper joins in and then the student joins in following the helper. This may be in rounds, or to learn to lead with the advisor ringing the tenor while the student rings the treble (*watching and listening*)*.
3. The learner can **ring the tenor behind** to rounds by ear by switching the simulator so that he is ringing the tenor. The helper may help the learner pull the bell off at the correct time. Later this can be extended to covering to plain hunt and methods (*listening*)*.
4. The learner can **ring rounds from any inside bell**, on any number of bells, with the other bells computer generated (*listening*).
5. As the sound is only audible inside the tower it is possible to **ring things that might not be acceptable on open bells to improve bell control** (*watching and listening*)* e.g.
 - a. Whole pull and stand.
 - b. 3 whole pulls and stand.
 - c. Tune ringing where the bells are pulled off and immediately set at the following back- or handstroke. See *Foundation Skills, Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*.
 - d. Kaleidoscope exercises may be practised on 4 or 3 bells.
6. **Leading may be practised** (*listening*).
7. An individual can learn to **hunt or treble bob the treble** (*watching and listening*)*.
8. **Rounds on more bells/ringers than are present.** For example with six ringers and six bells set the software to ring 10 bells. This is challenging for most people if the back bells are “unmanned” (*watching and listening*)*.
9. A band may **ring methods** on the bells in just the same way as they normally would, the only difference being that they will hear the sound computer-generated from the speakers instead of from the bells themselves (*watching and listening*)*.
10. **Methods** may be learned by an individual (*listening only*).