



Conduct Grandsire Doubles – 2

Last month, we looked at the basics of calling Grandsire Doubles, and how to call some simple touches from the observation bell. This second article based on Heather Peachey's notes looks at other touches, called from other bells.

6-call 120 from a fully working bell

This isn't as hard as you think, if you remember a few useful points, some of which were mentioned last month.

- The leads alternate, plain-call-plain-call- etc
- The observation bell makes 3rds at the plain leads and dodges with the ex-hunt bell at calls
- The pair that dodge in 4-5 at the plain lead are the pair on the front for the call.

We'll take as an example a 120 with 3rd as observation bell. You will ring the 2nd and be working on the front with the 4th at both singles. We'll work through it lead by lead.

In the tower, you can see where the other bells are, as the starting point for what happens next. As you read this description, without the visual cues, you might find it easier to keep track if you jot down on paper where each bell is as you come to each lead, as in Figure 1. At the top is a fragment of the work to remind you what the bell in each place does. The columns are **Hunt, 3rds, Down, Up**.



Figure 1: Figures of the first few leads

Because the 3rd is observation, there must be a call at the first lead end, when it will double dodge 4-5 up. You are in the hunt, so call a bob at your handstroke in 5ths, to double-dodge 4-5 down with the observation bell (the 3rd). The 4th and 5th, dodged together at the previous lead, and the 4th comes down first, so goes into the hunt at the bob.

The next lead is plain. You dodge 4-5 up (your 'auto-pilot' confirms this as you pass the observation bell and then the Trebles). 4th is in the hunt and the 3rd is observation bell making 3rds, so your dodge must be with the 5th.

You now know there is a call at the next lead and you will be on the front with the 5th as your partner. It goes down to the front before you, so it will go into the hunt at the bob, and you will make 3rds unaffected. Call the bob at your handstroke lead.

At the next (plain) lead end, you will dodge 4-5 down with the 4th – it has to be that bell as the 5th is in the hunt and the 3rd is the observation bell.

As you leave the front, you pass the 4th, then observation bell, then the Trebles and then reach the back, where the 4th joins you for the dodge.

You both course down to the front, with you first, so you will make long 3rds at the single. Call at your handstroke in 2nd's over the 4th.

The 3rd is the observation bell, so is double-dodging 4-5 up with the 5th, which comes out of the hunt and is the first of the pair down.

Follow a similar pattern of logic to work out the second half of the 120. The final single will feature you making 2nd's and going into the hunt while the 4th does long thirds, and the following lead brings up Rounds.

If you put the single at the call that brings you out of the hunt, instead of when you are on the front, then you do the same work in each 60.

Calling (any) touch round

Now let's develop your confidence by playing with some shamelessly false touches. Remember that on a practice night the objective of each touch should be to give specific ringers practice at the skills they need. Whether or not the touch is true is of secondary importance.

You can ring any bell, but the 4th is a good one to begin with. Call a random sequence of calls and plain leads (but don't start with two consecutive bobs or it will come round in short order – to see why, write it out). After mixing the bells up, bring it round like this. Call the 4th (yourself) into the hunt at the first opportunity. Wait until the 5th comes to meet it on the back, where a call will make them double dodge together. That leaves the 2nd and 3rd on the front, and if can you get them in the right order, the touch will come round. If the 2nd comes down first, calling a bob will put it into the hunt and you are done. If the 3rd comes down first, then you need to call a single so the 2nd makes 2nds, and again enters the hunt, under the 3rd.

That's all! Just make sure that you have a confident "I meant to do that" look and nobody will think it was a lucky accident!

9-call 120s

These 120s also involve a repeated pattern of calls with either the 3rd or 5th as observation bell. They are a bit harder to keep track of when calling them, but a little knowledge makes it easier. The general pattern is "SBSp" repeated twice more. You can start anywhere, provided all sets are identical, ie you may call any of:

SBSp x3, BSpS x3, SpSB x3, pSBS x3

Let's see how to keep track of the calling, and the other ringers, using the skills discussed above. Ring the 3rd, and call 5th observation.

In this family of touches, the observation bell double dodges up at both singles, and makes 3rds at the bobs and plain leads. So with the 5th observation, the first lead must be either a bob or a plain lead. So your choice is between BSpS and pSBS. Let's take the latter, and start with a plain lead. The 2nd stays in the hunt, the 5th makes 3rds. The 4th dodges up with you in 4-5, then follows you down to the front, where the pair of you (3rd and 4th) will be at the first call.

You now have a run of 3 consecutive calls to make: SBS. At the first (S) you make long 3rds, and the 4th goes into the hunt. At the second (B) you and the 4th are together again, this time at the back. The 5th (observation) must make unaffected 3rds, so the 2nd goes into the hunt. The 4th precedes you to the front, where the final call of the three (S) puts **you** into the hunt. It is easier when you realise that calls at consecutive

leads keep the bells in the same pairs, together alternately on the back and front.

The following lead is plain. You're in the hunt (don't try to dodge!). The 5th makes 3rds, and the other two dodge 4-5. Which one comes down first? The 4th made long thirds as you went into the hunt, so it must dodge 4-5 down, and be the first bell down for the following lead.

Work out for yourself what the work will be for the other two parts of this 120.

Think of these 120s as sets of three consecutive calls separated by plain leads, each of which change the partnerships. During each block, your work with your partner is either front-back-front or back-front-back. You can also note that the coursing order (omitting the hunt bell, which is 'glued' to the Treble) is:

- The bell on the front that **didn't** go into the hunt (the observation bell after a bob)
- The former hunt bell
- The 'other one' (the observation bell after a single)

240s

Heather's favourite 240 is Morris's, which like the 9-call 120s has blocks of calls with a plain lead between each.

Call: S S S B S S S p x3

You can count the blocks of three singles with the "front-back-front with my partner" method, but between the two blocks in each part there's a bob that keeps you with your partner for a total of seven leads, ringing all the possible changes with that partner twice. Finally the plain lead causes a change of partners. You partner each of the three other bells in turn. No bell does the usual 3rds/double-dodge type of observation work, but the 3rd does the same work in each of the three parts. It is a beautifully logical 240. Enjoy it unfolding.

'Nesting' touches

Finally a bit more fun for the adventurous! Heather was once told by a Grandsire genius, John (Womble) Hutchings, who sadly lost his life to a fatal asthma attack in the late 70s, that it was 'impossible' to lose a length of Grandsire through mis-calling it! He said that if you know you have made an error, you simply 'nest' another extent that begins with the wrong call you made, inside the one you're having the problem with, and then when that ends, you finish off the original one correctly! Figure 2 shows the idea, but if you are still confused, let's see how it works.

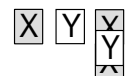


Figure 2: Touch Y nested inside touch X

Say you intend to call 120: BpSpBp, BpSpBp, and you forget who you're ringing the singles with and suddenly realise that you've called BpSpBp, Sp... Don't panic. The first block BpSpBp was fine, but you called S instead of B next, so you need another touch beginning with S. Let's suppose you decide to insert the 120: SpBpBp, SpBpBp, starting it with the S that you just called in error. When you get to the end of this inserted touch, just revert to calling the first extent, starting with the bob that you should have called! The combined touch is:

BpSpBp, SpBpBp, SpBpBp, BpSpBp,

Does it mean you could never mis-call it? It takes concentration to keep track of where you are in the nesting process. And what if you make another mistake?

Tail End