

Call Changes

Call changing is a way of ringing bells in different change rows that are called out by the conductor. Calls are **made** at the handstroke and **take effect** at the **next** handstroke. The list of change rows on page 3 indicates hand and backstrokes and shows a line between the backstroke of the “old” change and the handstroke of the “new” change. It also shows at which point – the handstroke before – the change is called.

Calls can be made as often as every handstroke. Usually, though, there are a few whole pulls between calls.

Bells can be called **down** to lead or **up** to the back. In Washington, bells are usually called down to lead. In both cases, one bell is told to follow another bell by a call such as “3 to 1”, “3 follow 1”, “3 after 1”, or “3 over 1”. These are examples of bells being called down to lead, since the 3 would move down, from ringing over the 2 in rounds, to ringing over the treble. The same call change could be made by calling “2 to 3”, which would instruct the 2 to move up toward the back, from ringing over the treble, to ringing over the 3. In both cases, the 2 and 3 would have switched places.

Bells can move only one position at a time, though sometimes several bells will be called to change position at once. For example, from rounds, this call is NOT allowed:

123456 5 to 1 (It would produce the change 152346)

This call IS allowed:

123456 3 to 1, 5 to 2 (It produces the change 132546)

When ringing call changes, there are many things that can and should be noted in order to avoid becoming lost and in order to achieve the goal of even striking:

- The position you’re in. For example, in the call above, the 3 moved into 2nds place, and the 5 moved into 4ths place.
- The two bells that are striking immediately in front of you, and the order in which they are striking. This is useful and important when the bell that you’re striking over is called away. For example, in the change row 132546, if you are ringing the 5, take note that you are following the 2 and the 3. The call “2 to 1” would call the 2 away from you, and you would then follow the 3, with the new change being 123546.
- The bells that are below you
- The bells that are above you
- Eventually, from a combination of sight and sound, you’ll be able to tell the order in which all the bells are striking.

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You should learn to recognize whether a call simply changes the bell that you're following, or if it causes you to change position as well, and if so, whether it moves you up or down. Knowing this allows you to anticipate the need to "hold up" the bell if you move up to the back, or to slightly "check" the bell if you move down to lead.

For example, from rounds (123456), the call "4 to 2" produces the change 124356, and affects the bells in the following ways:

- The 1, 2 and 6 are completely unaffected. They remain in the same position and follow the same bells.
- The 4 realizes that it is being called down to follow the 2, and so cuts slightly at the handstroke after the call is made. Then, having moved to its new position, 3rds place, it resumes ringing again at the normal 6-bell speed.
- The 3 realizes that another bell has been called down to follow the bell that it has been following, the 2. So it must hold up slightly at the handstroke after the call is made in order to allow the 4 to move down. Since the 3 is moving up, it knows it is now in 4ths place, and resumes ringing at the normal 6-bell speed.
- The 5 realizes that it does not change position and so does not need to either cut or hold up. But it must now begin to follow a different bell, since the 4 was called away. It knows that the 4 (the bell it was following) was following the 3; that the call moves the 4 below the 3; and that, as a result, it must begin following the 3.

Certain specific change rows have distinct musical qualities, and are given names. In call change ringing, the conductor will often call a series of changes that ultimately produce these named changes, and the specific change will be rung for several whole pulls while we all enjoy it. Two of these are noted in the changes shown on page 3: "**Queens**" and "**Tittums**".

Call Changes

	<u>Change</u>	<u>Call</u>
H	123456	
B	123456	
H	123456	
B	123456	
H	123456	3 to 1 (call made)
B	123456	
H	132456	(call takes effect)
B	132456	
H	132456	5 to 2
B	132456	
H	132546	
B	132546	
H	132546	5 to 3
B	132546	
H	135246	Queens [all the odd bells, then all the even bells]
B	135246	
H	135246	
B	135246	
H	135246	4 to 5
B	135246	
H	135426	4 to 3
B	135426	
H	134526	
B	134526	
H	134526	4 to 1
B	134526	
H	143526	2 to 3
B	143526	
H	143256	2 to 4
B	143256	
H	142356	5 to 2
B	142356	
H	142536	Tittums [the second half of the bells interwoven with the first half]
B	142536	
H	142536	3 to 2
B	142536	
H	142356	2 to 1
B	142356	
H	124356	3 to 2
B	124356	
H	123456	
B	123456	
H	123456	Stand
B	123456	