

# Introducing *The Little Purple Ringing Book*

A trusty pocket guide packed with details of hundreds of methods, ranging in difficulty from Reverse Canterbury Doubles to Stedman Triples, on four to ten bells. With diagrams and explanations, it will tell you how to ring these methods and what to look out for; what is unusual about them and how their calls work.

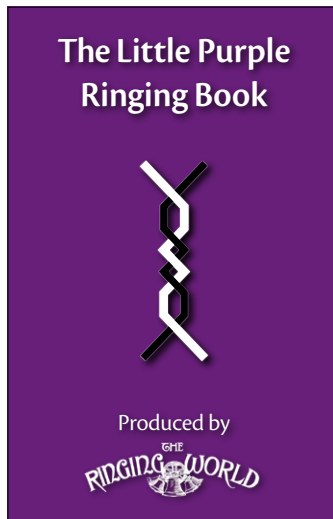
It will provide you with method ideas, teach you to call quarter peals, help you gain confidence on eight and ten bells, and guide you towards ringing simple surprise minor – progressing from the ‘blue zone’ to the ‘red zone’.

The Little Purple Ringing Book is a brand new publication from The Ringing World. It’s similar to the reference sections of the Ringing World Diary, but while the diary aims to cover all the most popular methods from call changes all the way to Orion Surprise Maximus and peal compositions, the ‘purple book’ goes into a lot more detail in a much smaller range. Reverse Canterbury Doubles is one of the simplest methods in the book and Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Major are the hardest. In between, there are details of 173 methods and 82 variations! But it’s much more than just blue lines – this A6 booklet is also packed with details, tips and explanations to help you understand and explore these methods and how they work: how to think about the new pieces of work involved; which calls to use; how to put touches together; and how you might use different or similar methods for variety or as useful stepping stones.

The purple book has five main goals:

- to help you progress to ringing simple surprise minor with confidence;
- to show you Stedman and how to ring it on five and seven bells;
- to expand your eight-bell repertoire;
- to introduce you to methods on ten; and
- to teach you to call quarter peals on up to eight bells.

You might not want to do all of these. This book is not a course which you have to follow. Instead, think of it as a resource full of ideas on what to ring, together with some help on how to ring them. Even if you’re happy at your current level, we think you’ll still find parts of the guide useful when you have a question or need inspiration.



In terms of Simon Linford’s ‘ski slope’ or ‘ringing zone’ levels of method ringing, the purple book helps you move from the **blue zone** of simple methods on six and eight to the **red zone** of surprise methods, conducting and ringing on higher numbers. We’ve tried to include everything that is commonly rung at this level, as well as lots of less familiar ideas and methods. Some are included simply to give variety, others because they can be useful stepping stones.

The key thing about moving between zones – particularly the ‘purple transition’ from blue to red – is that it involves changing how you think about methods. Lots of ringers learn Plain Bob and Grandsire as their first two methods and then try to ring Cambridge soon after. That can be a big leap because ringing Cambridge – or any other surprise method – requires thinking about methods in a different way. Many ringers learn Plain Bob and Grandsire using a **circle of work**, perhaps with some rules like ‘run out at a bob and make seconds next time’. This works for many fun methods, but

by the time you learn Cambridge, most ringers memorise a **blue line** as a sequence of pieces of work; it becomes useful to think in terms of **place bells**; you’ll need to develop better **ropesight** and bell awareness, particularly knowing when the treble is leading; and you’ll need fine **bell control** to execute those complicated bits of work.

But you don’t need to go straight from Plain Bob to Cambridge! There’s a world of interesting methods in between. On five bells these include the St Simon’s Group, the vast collections of doubles variations, interesting methods like Chase, Shipway and Antelope, and the Stedman family. On six bells, a few plain minor methods like St Clement’s and Double Oxford are commonly rung, but there are many more, from Double Court and Double Bob to Cumberland and Dewsbury. There are fourths-place minor methods, alliance minor methods, and many simple treble bob and delight minor methods that can be used as stepping stones to Cambridge and other surprise methods.

That’s a lot of methods and many are rarely rung (at the moment!). We’ve marked popular methods in the book: their names are written or underlined in blue or purple, to make sure you don’t accidentally learn something and turn up as the only person who knows it. If it’s not underlined, check beforehand!

Have you always wanted to know how to call a touch? There are

instructions on how to call almost all the doubles methods in the book, two and a half pages just on calling Bob Minor, and whole pages dedicated to calling Bob Triples, Grandsire Triples and Bob Major.

As you get comfortable ringing methods on higher numbers you’re moving out of the scope of the purple book. But the simple methods on eight, nine and ten are very helpful to learn the ropesight and bell control you’ll need for surprise minor ringing. So as well as the difficult examples of Stedman and Double Norwich, the book includes methods like Little Bob, Kent and Oxford Major, Plain Bob and Grandsire Caters, and Plain Bob, Little Bob and Bastow Royal.

At just A6 size the purple book can fit in your pocket, and at just £6.50 it’s a bargain! Buy it now and never be without it – until it wears out and you have to buy the second edition, that is ...

A6 size: 148 mm (h) × 105 mm (w). 56 pages.

**Just £6.50 (incl UK p+p)**  
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### Sixths-place methods

Double Court	Single Court	College	London Bob	Dewsbury

**Sixths-place methods** are methods where a place is made in sixths while the treble leads. In the methods on pages 22 and 23, seconds is made over the treble's lead. Sixths-place methods are not rung as much, but have their own distinct character. **Double Court** is a particular favourite of all discerning ringers!

Unlike seconds-place methods, in which the calls affect the three bells at the front of the change, in sixths-place methods, the affected bells are those at the back. See the diagrams opposite, and note that fifths are made at singles.

### Calls

Double Court  
also Single Court and London Bob

Bob	Single

College  
also Dewsbury, Reverse Bob and Canterbury

Bob	Single

### Alternative frontworks

Just as with St Simon's Doubles, any plain minor method with a three-pull dodge on the front can have the dodging replaced with an alternative frontworks. Here are three:

St Clement's	Childwall	Buxton

**Method names**

St Clement's	Childwall	Buxton
St Nicholas	Heatherslade	Gower
Double Oxford	Thelwall	Pinehurst
Stanstead	Everny	Newton
College	Wavertree	Rodbourne
London	Lytham	Westlcott
Dewsbury	Jervaux	Kings College

### Naming conventions

Methods named **Double** are symmetrical front to back. For example, if you make seconds over the treble at the lead-end, someone will also make fifths under it at the half-lead. If there's a three-pull dodge on the front, there will be at the back too. **Single** means there is only plain hunting below the treble.

Hereward and London Bob (pages 22 & 24) are **reverses** of each other, meaning they are front-to-back reflections of each other. The reverse of Plain Bob is called **Reverse Bob** – a simple line, but deceptively tricky to ring!

On five bells, Plain Bob with places in 3-4 is called **Reverse Canterbury**. However on six, Plain Bob with 3-4 places is called **Single Canterbury**. Double Bob with places instead of all of the 3-4 dodges is called **Double Canterbury**. Confusingly, Reverse Bob rung with 3-4 places is simply called **Canterbury**, so Single Canterbury and Canterbury are reverses of each other.