

## Quarter peals compared

*The Learning Curve for November 2006* (Vol 4, p 24) compared compositions of two quarter peal of Plain Bob Major, showing that although the 1280 looked simple on paper the 1264 was in some ways easier to call. Here we look at two 1344s compared to the 1264.

W	B	M	H	W	B	M	53246 H
-			-	32546			35426
-				54326			
-			-	43526			45236
-				52436			
-			-	24536			25346
-			S	53246			54236
-			-	42536			45326
-				53426			
-			-	34526			35246
-				52346			
-			-	23546			25436
-			S	54236			53246

### *1344 Plain Bob Major (6 unaffected)*

The 1344 is a six-part composition but more strictly it is a doubled three-part one since the third and sixth parts are different.

Memorising is easy – WHW x3 with a single at the end, all repeated. But how easy is it to track the coursing order while ringing, and what sign posts are there to help with calling?

In the 1344 the 6 is unaffected throughout so the coursing order always ends in 6, with only four figures to work with. That's different from the 1264 where the turning courses affected all five bells but they were separated by two four course blocks with both 5 and 6 fixed at either end of the coursing order, leaving only the three figures in the middle to work with. So for the conductor the 1264 has two easy stretches, including the final part, separated by harder bits whereas the 1344 is medium difficulty throughout.

The 1344 has a bob at W in every course and a bob at H in a lot of courses, so it's important to know when not to have a bob at H. In all cases it is when the 5 is back in its home position at the start of the coursing order.

The other thing to remember is when to put in the single at H instead of a plain lead. On paper it's easy – half way and end – but while you are ringing how do you know when that is?

Without the single, the bells would come round at the half way point, so they have been in the plain course for several leads, with the familiar coursing order 53246.

Spotting where to put the single at the end is a bit harder. The coursing order at that point is 54236 you have to recognise that a single will bring it round by swapping 3 & 4.

Many conductors find it easier to call from an unaffected bell, which is why they often ring 7 or 8. But not everyone likes ringing a heavy bell while also thinking about the conducting.

In the 1344 the 6 is not affected, so there is the option to ring that instead of 7 or 8.

Alternatively, a similar composition using calls at M & H rather than W & H leaves the 5th unaffected.

Again the singles are half way and end so they now replace bobs rather than a plain leads. So the sign post for the first one is not the plain course but 'a home short of the plain course' which is familiar to many conductors, ie 54326

W	B	M	H	W	B	M	53246 H
			-				52436
			-			52364	53624
			-				56234
			-			56342	53462
			-				54632
			-	S		54326	52346
			-				53426
			-			53264	52634
			-				56324
			-			56243	52463
			-				54623
			-	S		54236	53246

### *1344 Plain Bob Major (5 unaffected)*