



Call Changes explained

Learning the Ropes – Level 2

New concepts

- Row
- Place
- Rounds
- The balance point
- Open handstroke lead
- Pull and check

Row

A sequence in which every bell strikes once

1 2 3 4 5 6



The number 1 bell
is ringing first or
leading



The number 6 bell
is ringing last or
ringing behind

Place

- The position the bell sounds or strikes in the row.
- If your bell is striking **third** in the row you are in **third place**.

1 2 3 4 5 6

Place in the row

- In rounds all bells strike in their own place.
- The gaps between the bells should sound even.

Places

Lead 2nds 3rds 4ths 5ths 6ths

1 2 3 4 5 6

1 2 3 4 5 6

Rounds

The bells are rung in a sequence of descending notes starting with the treble and finishing with the tenor.

1 2 3 4 5 6

Rounds

The handstrokes ring first...

1 2 3 4 5 6

Followed by the backstrokes...

1 2 3 4 5 6

This is then repeated.

The rhythm of rounds

The handstrokes are followed by the backstrokes then there is a **gap of one blow** before the treble leads again.

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓
1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 - 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 -

The gap left before a bell strikes at handstroke when leading is called the **open handstroke lead**.

The balance

The balance is the point at which the bell is at rest vertically with the mouth facing upwards at the top of the swing.

Below the balance

- The bell is not swinging high enough to reach the balance point
- The bell will swing more quickly
- The bell will strike earlier

Above the balance

- The bell is swinging beyond the balance point
- The bell is swinging more slowly
- The bell will strike later
- Take care – not to hit the stay

Pull and check

- **Pull**

- Force applied to the rope as it moves downward
- This makes the bell swing higher
- The bell will ring more slowly and strike later

Check

- Force applied to the rope as it rises
- This makes the bell swing less high
- The bell will ring more quickly and strike earlier

All that jargon

- **Whole pull** – two consecutive blows.
- **Whole pull right** – two blows handstroke/backstroke.
- **Whole pull wrong** – two blows backstroke/handstroke.

Call Changes

The conductor calls two bells to change places.

1 2 3 4 5 6

“three to four”

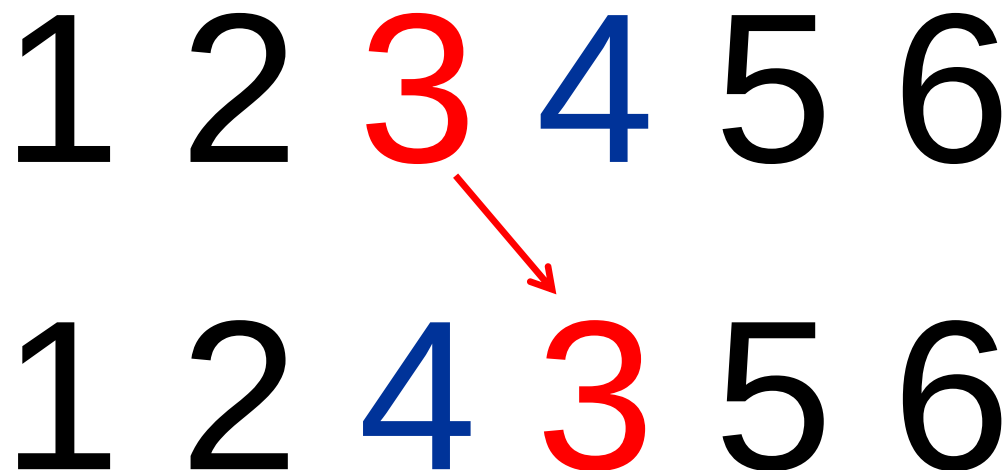
1 2 4 3 5 6

This means 3 follows 4.

What happens?

The call is made on the handstroke and the change takes place the following handstroke.

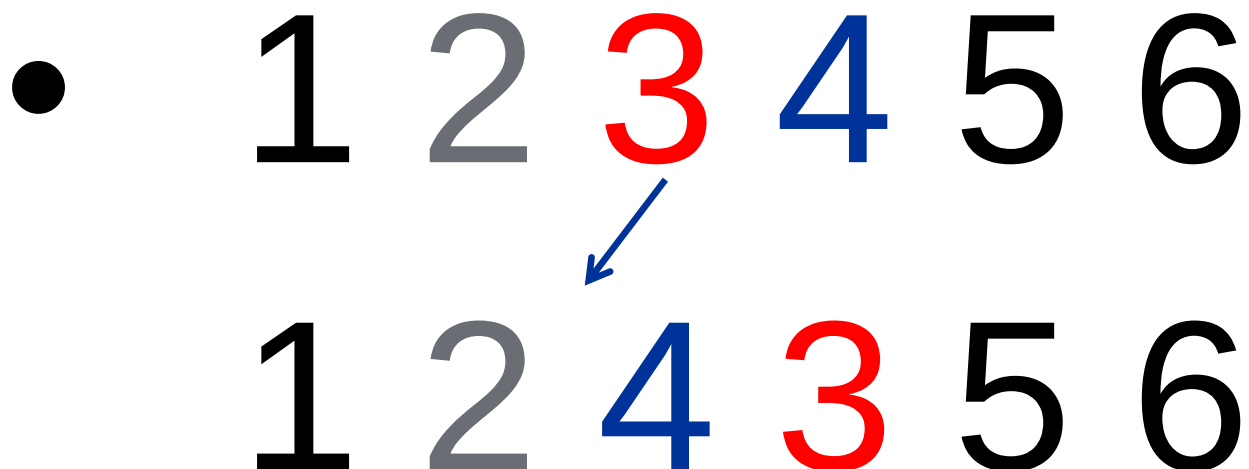
What happens – the 3



- The 3 holds up, rings more slowly for one blow and rings after the four
- The three is now in 4ths place

What happens – the 4

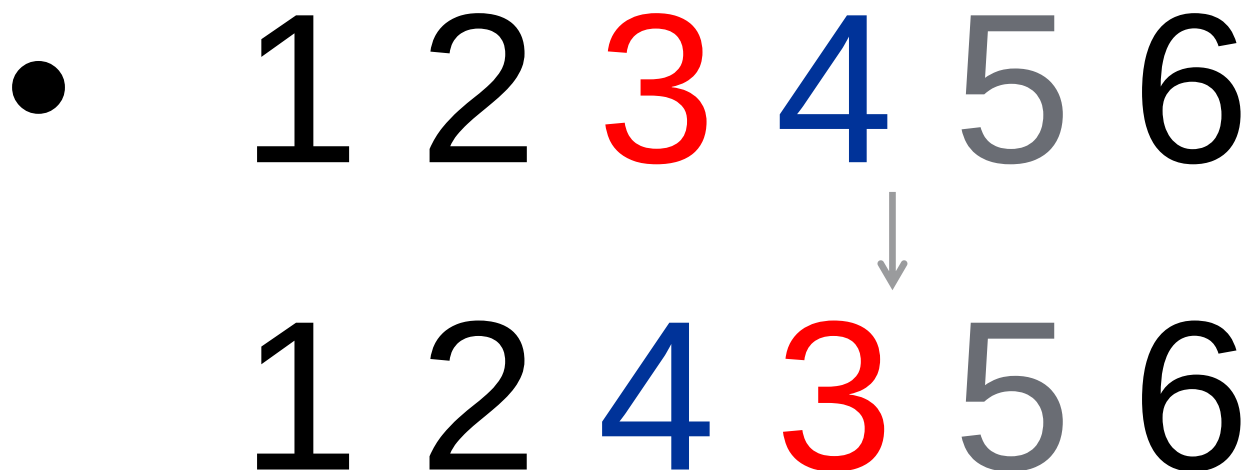
- The four needs to know which bell the 3 is following



- The 4 checks in and rings more quickly for one blow and rings after the two
- The four is now in 3rds place

What happens – the 5

- The five needs to be able to hear their place in the row



- The 5 rings at the same speed but is now following a different bell
- The 5 is still in 5ths place

Call change sequences

Queens

1 3 5 2 4 6 or 1 3 5 7 2 4 6 8

Tittums

1 4 2 5 3 6 or 1 5 2 6 3 7 4 8

What does that mean?

- **Too wide** – the gap between you and the bell you are following is too big
- **Too close** – the gap between you and the bell you are following is too small
- **Close it up** – ring closer to the bell you are following
- **Hold up** – leave a bigger gap after the bell you are following
- **Check it in** – ring more quickly to follow another bell
- **Clip** – the sound made when bells are ringing too close to each other

Happy Call Changes!