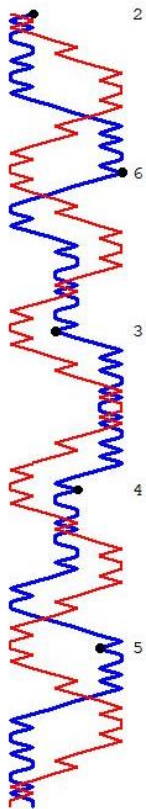


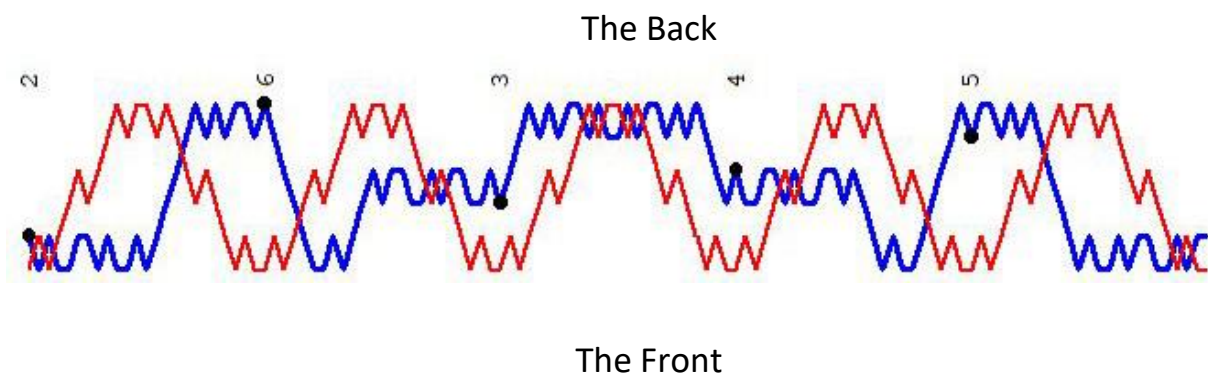
# Learning to Ring Cambridge



The first thing to say is that everyone's learning style is different. Some ringers learn and remember methods as a series of verbal prompts; others are much more visual and commit the blue line to memory and follow it in their head like following a route on a map. For this reason, do please ignore anything below that does not work with your style.

The traditional way of printing out a method is as a blue line shown vertically as on the left.

If you are happy working with it vertically, that's fine, but many people find it helpful to rotate the picture anticlockwise as shown below:

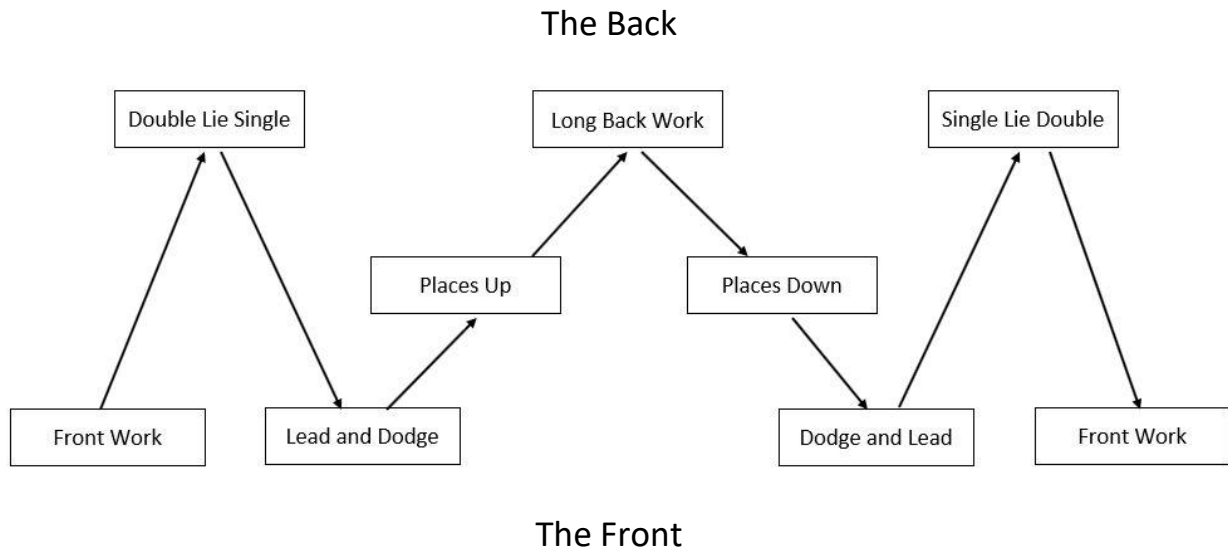


Shown this way it makes more sense to talk about going *up* to the back and *down* to the front.

In order to make sense of a complex blue line like this, many people find it helpful to break it down into 'blocks' which can be learnt and remembered as separate pieces of work and then strung together to make the whole. However, just as with cataloguing books in a library, there is more than one way to break it down into manageable blocks.

## Where the Work takes Place:

The 'traditional' way to break down surprise methods is into blocks according to where the work takes place i.e. front (1-2), middle (3-4) or back (5-6). If you do that with Cambridge Minor, this is what you get:

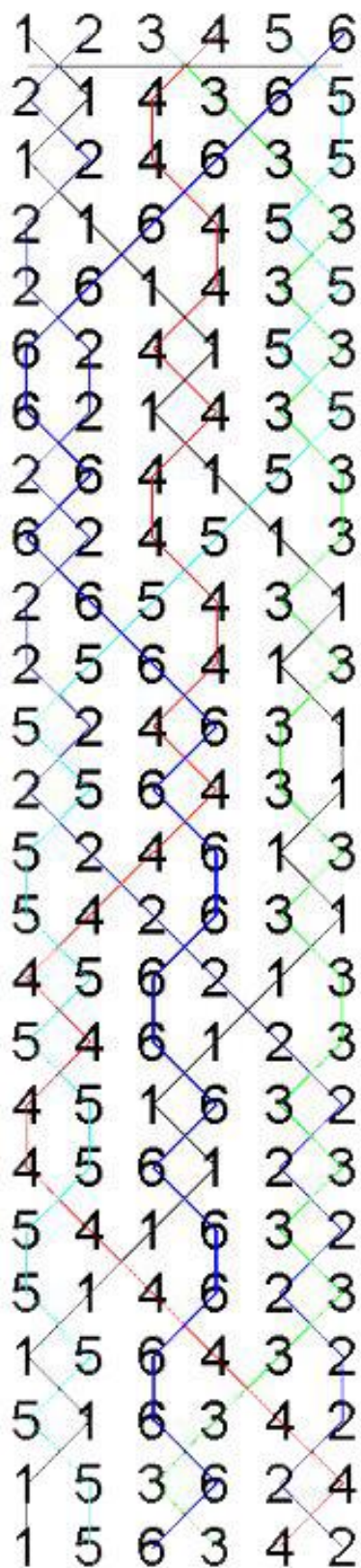


If you compare this with the Horizontal Blue Line above you can see that, with a little adjustment of the scale, if you printed these blocks on clear plastic you could lay it over the top of the blue line. All we are doing is giving a name to each block of work to make it easier to talk about and, for those of you who remember in words rather than pictures, easier to remember.

The one big disadvantage of breaking the blue line down in this way is that it gives no indication of where each bell starts. To avoid that problem, many people advocate learning a method by place bell:

## Place Bell:

This involves dividing the method into blocks, one for each place bell. You can do this by examining the first lead of the method with each place bell shown in a different colour as shown on the page below:



The entire method is here in just one lead so long as you know how to read it!

Follow the path of the second from the first line to the last line where it ends up in sixth place.

Now go back to the top line again and follow the path of the sixth to the last line where it ends up in thirds place.

Now go back to the top line again and follow the path of the third to the last line where it ends up in fourths place.

Now go back to the top line again and follow the path of the fourth to the last line where it ends up in fifths place.

Now go back to the top line again and follow the path of the fifth to the last line where it ends up in seconds place and you are back where you started.

There are some significant advantages to learning a method by place bell and one serious disadvantage:

#### Advantages:

You will know where to start whichever bell you ring.

You will understand when someone shouts across the Tower: "You're fifths place bell".

You'll find it easier to splice methods in the future.

#### Disadvantages:

It can be more difficult to see the whole picture. For example, in a plain course:

Apart from the second, the front work is rung as a single piece of work in 1-2, not two halves:

Apart from the fifth, you ring 'single lie double' as a single piece of work.

Places up and places down both start and finish with a dodge.

How you reconcile these pros and cons is up to you. Personally I learnt by the 'traditional' method of splitting the method into blocks according to place and then added the place starts to my memory banks at a later date. Thus, when I ring, I ring a block at a time but mentally say "x place bell" to myself at each lead end. In other words, I do both!