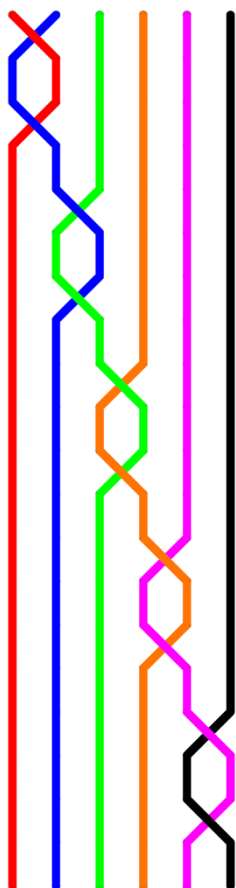


Mexican Wave



Purpose

Mexican Wave is a simple form of kaleidoscope ringing which involves sequential place making. It is good fun to ring and can be rung on any number of bells.

To ring Mexican Wave, ringers should be able to ring steady rounds and make places.

Bells change places without a call, so this is a step on from call changes.

Ringers will need to count places and keep track of what the bells in front of them are doing, as they watch for their turn to make places.

It helps to develop accurate, rhythmic striking.

An inexperienced band can ring Mexican Wave and once perfected, it can be rung for services.

It can help in learning to cover and developing ropesight.

Ringers can practise using basic calls by saying 'Go Mexican Wave' and 'Thats' all' at handstroke.

Teaching Mexican Wave

Although the band do not need a lot of experience to ring Mexican Wave, it does help to place the band well to give the exercise the best chance of success.

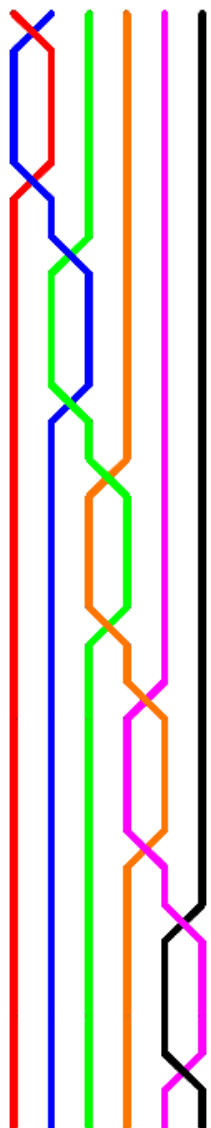
A ringer on the treble who can lead steadily, and more experienced ringers on bells in between those who are new to ringing will help the stability.

- Stand in the middle of the ringing circle, facing the ringers. Explain that the bells will be changing places with a neighbouring bell for one whole pull, starting at handstroke, then return to rounds.
- Explain that if they are following bells which are changing place, they will have to ring steadily, covering the changing pair, ringing over a different bell for two blows.
- Ask the band to start ringing rounds, allow these to settle until striking is accurate.
- Say 'Treble and two, go next time, handstroke.... and back into rounds'... continue with the rounds and offer feedback on the performance. If the ringers would benefit from a further attempt, repeat until the treble and 2 are striking this change cleanly.

- Moving round, the next call is 'two and three, go next time, handstroke... and back into rounds'. Offer helpful feedback and repeat if needed.
- Work round the circle, asking 3 and 4 to make the change, then 4 and 5, then 5 and 6.
- When the striking is accurate, start from the beginning, giving instructions for every change, with a few rounds in between each change.
- Once the band can strike this easily, move on to changing every whole pull, with only one whole pull of rounds in between. You may still need to prompt each change.... 'Go Mexican Wave, treble and 2 change next handstroke... back to rounds.... 2 and 3 next handstroke... back to rounds' etc
- Once the band can ring Mexican Wave with reduced prompting, the final stage is just to say 'Go Mexican Wave' with all the ringers knowing when it's their turn to change.

As an exercise, this can be a fun addition to practice night, and it's quite possible to modify it or introduce variations as confidence grows.

Variations



Start at backstroke.

Each pair of bells changes place twice – 'Echo Mexican Wave'.

Make each change long places (four blows) – 'Long Place Mexican Wave' (see left).

Use a dodge instead of places – 'Dodgy Mexican Wave'.

Add a dodge either side of the places – 'Double Dodging Mexican Wave' (see right).

Start a second wave before the first one has finished, keeping going until someone says 'that's all', so that the waves are ringing continuously.

Use call changes to call the bells into Queens, then start Mexican Wave.

Start the wave from the back, beginning with 5 and 6 making places, finishing with the treble and 2 – 'Reverse Mexican Wave'.

