

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star and beyond...

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star is a tuneful bell control exercise.

Purpose

Ringing tunes on tower bells provides the opportunity to practise counting blows and setting the bell accurately at hand and backstroke.

Ringing this well-known tune is a fun activity for a practice night and can be rung by bands who do not necessarily ring methods.

6 6 2 2 1 1 2
 3 3 4 4 5 5 6
 2 2 3 3 4 4 5
 2 2 3 3 4 4 5
 6 6 2 2 1 1 2
 3 3 4 4 5 5 6

Ringing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Each ringer will need sufficient bell control to set their bell at handstroke.

The ringers on bells 2, 5 and 6 will also need to set at backstroke.

Ringers who are less confident with setting at backstroke can take the treble, 3 or 4.

If you have a board in your tower, write the numbers up, or use large pieces of paper so that everyone can see the numbers.

Tip: If a ringer has difficulty setting their bell first time and your tune has a few extra twinkles, it is best for the next ringer to wait for them to set, to avoid too many clashing bells.

If your band successfully manages to ring this with everyone setting their bell correctly, you may wish to consider passing round the chocolate tin and having got the hang of 'Twinkle Twinkle' on 6 bells, here are some more tunes that you might like to try just for fun, and as a bell control challenge.

5 Bells

Jingle Bells

3 3 3
 3 3 3
 3 1 5 4 3
 2 2 2 2 2 3 3
 3 3 1 1 2 4 5

Mary had a Little Lamb

3 4 5 4 3 3 3
 4 4 4 3 1 1
 3 4 5 4 3 3 3
 3 4 4 3 4 5

Lightly Row

1 3 3 2 4 4
 5 4 3 2 1 1 1
 1 3 3 2 4 4
 5 3 1 1 5
 4 4 4 4 4 3 2
 3 3 3 3 3 2 1
 1 3 3 2 4 4
 5 3 1 1 5

Ode to Joy

3 3 2 1
 1 2 3 4
 5 5 4 3 3 4 4
 3 3 2 1
 1 2 3 4
 5 5 4 3 4 5 5

6 Bells

Old MacDonald had a Farm

3 3 3 6 5 5 6
 1 1 2 2 3
 6
 3 3 3 6 5 5 6
 1 1 2 2 3
 6 6 3 3 3
 6 6 3 3 3
 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
 3 3 3 6 5 5 6
 1 1 2 2 3

Down in Demerara (repeat twice)

6 5 4 3
 2 2 2 3 4
 3 3 3 4 5
 2 2 2 3 4
 6 5 4 3
 2 2 2 3 4
 3 5 5 5 6 6

Now the day is ended

4 4 3 3 2 4
 3 3 4 4 5
 4 4 5 6 3 4
 4 4 5 5 6

Frere Jacques

6 5 4 6
 6 5 4 6
 4 3 2
 4 3 2
 2 1 2 3 4 6
 2 1 2 3 4 6
 6 6 6
 6 6 6

London's Burning

8 8 5 5
 8 8 5 5
 4 4 3 3
 4 4 3 3
 1 1
 1 1
 1 2 3 3
 1 2 3 3

Ave Maria of Lourdes

4 6 6 4 6 6
 4 5 5 4 5 6
 4 6 6 4 6 6
 4 5 5 4 5 6
 6 3 3 4 4 5 4 5 2
 6 3 3 4 4 5 4 5 6

8 bells

Little Donkey

6 6 4 6
 5 5 3 5
 6 6 4 6 7
 6 6 4 6
 5 5 3 5
 6 6 4 6 1