



WEAVING

There are five important rules to keep in mind when learning weaving:

- **There are no “left hand” or “right hand” bells!**
- **Exaggerate your movements.** When you are learning and practicing weaving, it is helpful to start with large, deliberate movements. As you become more familiar and proficient with the technique, you can work on making the movements and motions smaller and more refined.
- **Ring to the left/ring to the right.** Ring the bell in your left hand to the left of your body and ring the bell in your right hand to the right of your body. This will keep you from reaching over your ringing arm.
- **Step to the left/step to the right.** When you ring the bell in your left hand, step (or at least lean/shift your weight) to the left at the same time. Same with the right... when you ring the bell in your right hand, step (or at least lean/shift your weight) to the right at the same time. This allows your non-ringing hand access to the table without interfering with your ringing stroke.
- **Always put each bell back where it came from!** Each bell has its own “home” on the table. Remember to put each bell back in the same place you got it from, not just in the vicinity. If you are accurate with putting bells back “home” after ringing them, you will avoid the confusion/panic of a misplaced bell. (“Where is the G5?!”)

Three-bell weave:

Here’s a quick run-down of the most common type of weave, the three-bell weave. It can happen with any three pitches within a single ringer’s assignment (often a chromatic run like F5, F#5, G5).

- Choose three bells to use for this example and place them on the table in front of you. We’re going to number the bells, from left to right, bell 1, bell 2, and bell 3.
- Pick up bell 1 in your left hand and bell 2 in your right hand. Bell 3 is on the table with space to its left (the homes of bell 1 and bell 2).
- Ring bell 1 (remember the rules above - exaggerate your movements while you’re learning, ring to the left and step to the left since bell 1 is in your left hand).
- Ring bell 2 (this time ringing and stepping to the right). As you ring, you should notice that your left side passes bell 1’s home. Put bell 1 down in its home (be sure to leave the space for bell 2’s home). As you continue to move right in your ringing stroke, pick up bell 3 with your left hand.
- Ring bell 3 (this time ringing and stepping to the left). As you ring, you should notice that your right side passes bell 2’s home. Put bell 2 down in its home (be sure to leave the space for bell 3’s home). As you continue to move left in your ringing stroke, pick up bell 1 with your right hand.
- Continue practicing this pattern until you feel comfortable with it, and then practice weaving with more bells; soon, you’ll be weaving confidently in rehearsals and performances!

