



6. THE POSITION OF ATTENTION

When making a pipe, the piper will stand to attention, pipe at the ready in the right hand, the left hand at the side of the body. No salutes are ever given by the individual Piper or Piping Party.

7. TIMING

Whilst it is important to maintain the correct timing of the pipe, particularly when piping as a team or as a piping party, it is recognised that in some cases breathing control and lung capacity in the smaller cadets cannot be maintained. It is important however, that the correct sequence and spacing between the notes of the pipe are accurate and the sound clear and distinctive.

11. HOLDING THE BOATSWAIN'S CALL

The Boatswain's Call is held in the right hand between the index finger and the thumb. The buoy lies in the hollow of the right hand, the keel braced against the fleshy pad of the thumb with the hole of the buoy looking upwards. The thumb should press upwards against the keel, usually just by the shackle, but not wedged in the shackle, the index finger crooked over the top of the gun. The other three fingers are used to create the notes by closing and opening the airway of the hole of the gun over the hole of the buoy.



Diagram 1

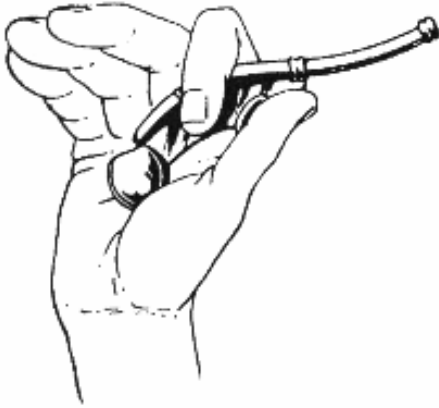
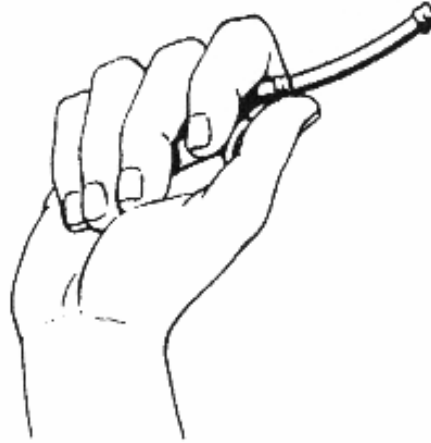


Diagram 2



12. BEFORE YOU START TO BLOW

The Boatswains Call is held securely and firmly between the thumb and index finger of the right hand. Diagram 1 shows how to make a low note. To make a high note the other three fingers should be bent curling over but not blocking the hole as shown in Diagram 2. You will only know when you have got it right when you start blowing the call.

13. HOW TO MAKE THE VARIOUS NOTES ON THE CALL

To make the high and low notes you need to control the breathing as much as the curling of the fingers. To produce a high note you must squeeze the air out as a tight steady stream whilst the fingers are curled down over the buoy (diagram 2), you also have to blow harder to produce a high note. To produce a low note the air must be gently and relaxingly blown out with your three fingers in the raised position (diagram 1).

A good way of describing this is by drawing bubbles, a lot of small bubbles to represent the high note and a few very big bubbles for the low note.

Some calls require a sharp finish, this can be achieved by putting your tongue over the end of the mouth piece. This practice should not be used for natural breaks in calls (where a breath is taken) as the result will be a popping sound at each break.



14. THE TRILL AND THE WARBLE

a. **The TRILL** – To obtain a Trill, put your tongue to the front of your mouth, the tip curled up behind the teeth and “role your R’s”. Try it without a Call. With the Call at the ready, at the same time as you blow into the Call, “roll your R’s”, the result will be a **TRILL**.

b. **The WARBLE** – The Warble is produced by flicking the tongue slowly up and down or from side to side over the mouthpiece. Not too slowly though and not as fast as you roll your R’s, with practice this results in a warble similar to that of a canary. It can also be achieved by a jerky blowing action into the mouth piece. The results in both cases will be a **WARBLE**.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Before you continue to learn the various pipes, it is important to master all these exercises. These are the basic sounds necessary to play a Boatswain’s Call. Good piping is achieved by good posture, good breathing and a good sense of timing.

15. THE PIPES

The “Still”

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

HIGH

LOW

Fingers closed over the hole, blow as hard as you can for eight seconds, the whole note must be on the same high note and stop blowing abruptly at the end of the eight seconds. The note must be the highest you can get, a high pitched piercing note.

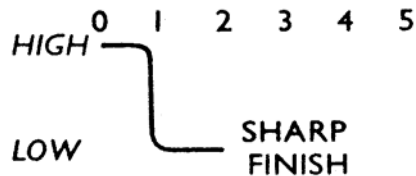
Reason for the pipe - The “Still” is used to call all hands to attention as a mark of respect, to order silence, to give an instruction. It is **ALWAYS** followed, after an interval, by the “Carry On”.

NOTES: Four occasions which the “Still” is or might be used.

1. Can be used in the vicinity of work to avert an accident.
2. At Colours and Evening Colours before the Ensign is hoisted and lowered.
3. As a mark of respect on the arrival or departure of a visitor who it is wished to honour but is not entitled to be piped over the side.
4. When it is necessary to give detailed Orders which requires absolute quiet.



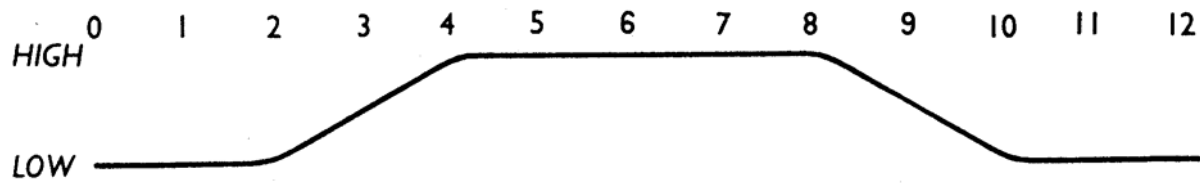
The "Carry On"



Blow the high note for one second then drop to the low note for one second and finish abruptly. Do not let it trail away.

Reason for the pipe The "Carry On" is used in conjunction with the still and may follow a verbal order.

"Piping the Side"

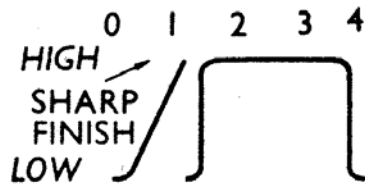


Start low and work up to the high note gradually, continue the high note for four seconds and gradually return to the low note.

Reason for the pipe – In years gone by, when gangways were much more cumbersome and "wooden" ships' decks were high above the water-line, the only method of coming aboard when the ship was not alongside, was to climb ropes or a rope ladder. This was not considered suitable for Captains and Senior Officers, many of whom were portly and generally unfit. It was therefore necessary to hoist these personages in-board into a boat or a special chair. The first call gave the order for the lowering of the chair over the side so that the Senior Officer was not kept waiting but could get into the chair immediately the boat was alongside. The second call was given to hoist the chair. Orders were passed to the seamen manning the falls (ropes for hoisting or lowering the chair) by the "Boatswain" on his Call. The low note indicated to the men on the falls that they were to hoist or lower away slowly and carefully, (until the chair was well clear of obstructions) and the high note told them to work faster. Nowadays, ships carry gangways which can easily be rigged, so the need to hoist has ceased but the custom of piping still remains.



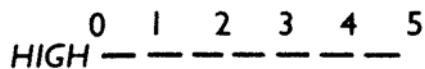
The "General Call" or "General Orders"



Start Low and work quickly up to the highest note, then break off abruptly, which will take a second, again start at the Low note, work up quickly to the high note which should be continued for two seconds, then come down quickly to the low note and finish abruptly.

Reason for the pipe - This pipe will require a verbal order. This is known as "passing the pipe", literally the word pipe refers to the spoken word. This pipe is NOT followed by the Carry On.

"The Hail"

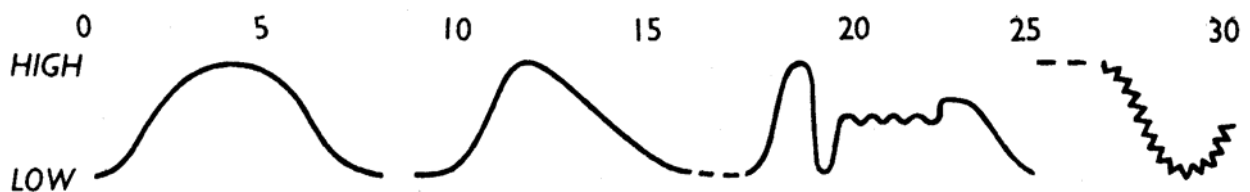


LOW

Sound between five and seven short sharp high notes, or until the pipe is acknowledged.

Reason for the pipe – Used in Sea Cadet units to call the Boatswain's Mate, it may be used to attract the attention of a particular person in an unobtrusive manner, for example the coxswain of a boat, other members of the gangway staff or to call the Officer of the Day (OOD).

The "Dinner Call"

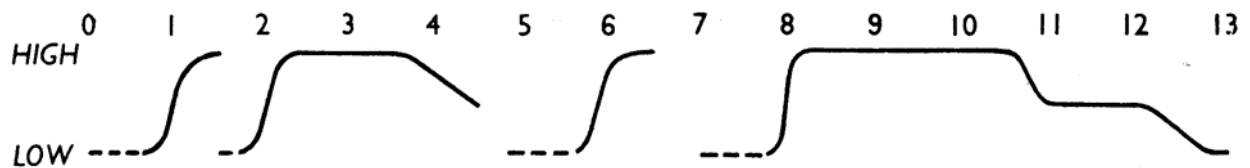


This pipe is for the experts. It is long and requires plenty of practice and breathing control if it is to be piped well.



Reason for the pipe - The pipe is sounded for Officers Dinner. It is NOT Followed by a verbal pipe. For the lower deck, for breakfast, tea and supper times, the “**General Call**” will be piped followed by a verbal pipe such as “**Hands to Breakfast, Tea or Supper**”.

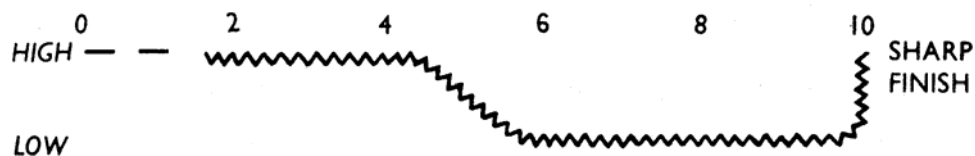
The “Stow” or “Special Call”



This pipe is also for the experts. It is long and requires plenty of practise and breathing control if it is to be piped well.

Reason for the pipe— Precedes the “Calling of the Hands” and is followed by the order “Heave Ho, Heave Ho, Lash up and stow, All Hands turn out”.

“Pipe Down”



Although the two notes before the long trill are only short notes, they should be sounded with great emphasis to attract attention to the rest of the pipe.

