

Flags are made of wool bunting or nylon. It is correct to call all flags “bunting”. In conversation and when giving orders remember the following: -
--A flag is worn not flown. A flag is “made” not “hoisted”. A flag is “struck” not “hailed down”. Bunting is made flying free and not broken out as in the case of the Union Flag ashore. When making colours they are to go up smartly, when striking they come down slowly. In Sea Scouting, colours are made at the first parade of the day and usually struck at sunset. Of course, in the Troop the meetings usually take place in the evening and in theory colours should not be made. As a compromise between theory and necessity, we make our colours at the commencement of the meeting and strike them at the close.

When at anchor the Ensign is worn at the ensign staff at the stern, or taffrail; the Burgee at the main masthead; the private signal, at the main starboard spreader.

Note: Do not wear any two flags used as colours on the same halyard.

Code signals are hoisted at any time when there is enough light for them to be recognized and at any point where they can be best seen. Signal halyards are usually rove through blocks attached to the yardarms or spreaders.

“Dressing ship” is an ornamental display of flags flown in addition to the regular colours, when the ship is at anchor. Signal code flags are the only flags which should be used for this purpose.

Side Boys

“Side Boys” is the term applied to a detail of Sea Scouts, in charge of the Troop Leader, which falls in at the gangway as a Guard of Honour- to receive distinguished visitors.

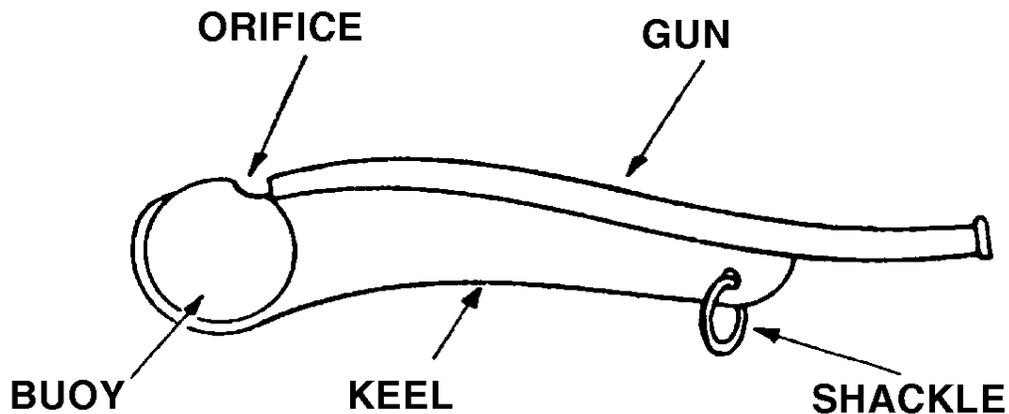
The tradition of having side boys in the ceremonial originated in the custom of posting a guard or side-party to keep unwelcome visitors from coming on board a ship. In the Navy today, a side-party is told off to keep the sides of the ship clean; to prevent boats being tied up alongside, and for ceremonial purposes to form a guard of honour for important visitors.

Piping the Side

This is the survival of an old custom of European navies. Centuries ago, when ships were under the command of court favourites rather than practical seamen, these worthies considered themselves too good to walk on board the ship. Accordingly they were hoisted aboard in a chair. The motions of the chair were controlled by the bos'n's pipe with the calls "Hoist away", "Lower away" and "Secure". In the Side Boys of today and the Bos'n and his pipe we see what is left of the custom.

The call is piped twice. The first pipe is given as the visitor arrives, and the second as he "comes aboard."

The Use of the Boatswain's Call

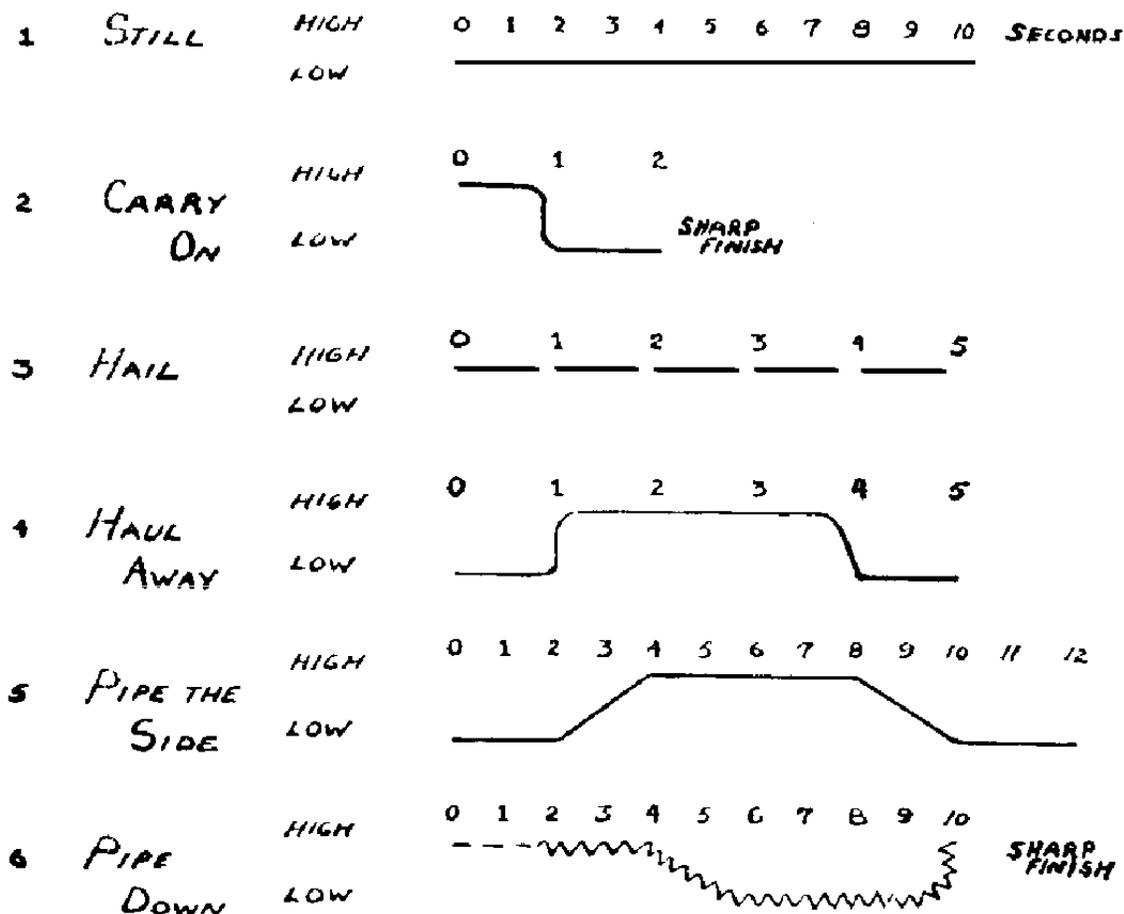


Parts of the Boatswain Call
(pronounced *bo's'n*)

As far as English ships are concerned, the Bos'n's Call can be traced back to the days of the Crusades 1248 A.D. Probably owing to the fact that it has always been used as a method of passing orders, it was in former days also an honoured badge of rank. In English ships and fleets as far back as 1485 A.D. it is known that it was the badge of rank of the Lord High Admiral of England, who was at that date John De Vere, Earl of Oxford. It also can be traced as having been worn in action and used by Sir Edward Howard, son of the Earl of Surrey, who as Lord High Admiral was killed in action with the Chevalier Pregent de Biodoux off Brest in 1513.

It was in memory of this event that a Whistle of Honour was presented by the Queen Mother of France to the officer who commanded the French galleys on this occasion. There are also other instances to be found of the whistle having been used as a badge of rank up to the year 1562, when it was still worn by the Lord high Admiral of England. From this time onward it reverted to its original use, and was employed as a method of passing orders. About 1671 we find it referred to as a "Call", and it is by this name that it has become known.

The expression "To Pipe" really refers to the act of singing out the order required, in conjunction with the use of the "Call", but nowadays the entire procedure is generally known as "Piping". The Parts of the "Call" are named as shown in the sketch.



PIPING CHART

A “Call” can be tuned by scraping away and enlarging the wind edge of the orifice in the “Buoy” until the “Call” will sound if the mouth of the “Gun” is held directly to a moderate wind.

Now let’s have a look at the diagram of the “Call”. The call held between the index finger and thumb. The thumb should be on or near the shackle. The side of the buoy rests against the palm of the hand, and the fingers close over the gun and buoy to control the air coming out of the buoy. There are two main notes, the “high” and “low” and there are two tones which we are going to concern ourselves with. These are marked on the chart as a straight line for the plain and a wavy line for the trill.

The plain low note is obtained by blowing steadily into the mouth of the gun with the hole of the buoy unobstructed by the fingers. The plain high note is made by closing the fingers around the buoy, but take care not to touch the edge of the hole or the end of the gun. The trill (wavy line on chart) is produced by vibrating the tongue while blowing the call, as in rolling the letter ‘R’.

Chapter VII

The Sea Scout Troop

“Sea Scouts. Having in my own boyhood been brought up by my brothers with a good deal of sea-going work on board various small yachts we owned from time to time, I realized the extraordinary value of this training.”

B.-P.

Troop Headquarters

The meeting place of a Sea Scout Troop may be known as a Landship. Just how you will equip your landship will depend on size of the room in which you meet, the storage space and the funds available.

As nearly as possible it should be arranged to represent the deck of a vessel. What kind of a vessel will depend on what the Court of Honour decides. They may choose the replica of the deck of a steamship, naval vessel, sailing vessel, frigate or other ship.

It is not advisable to have too elaborate a set-up which would eat too deeply into Troop funds for the initial installation and for maintenance, nor which would involve a great deal of time for the duty Patrol to set up each meeting.

The sketches will give you some ideas for laying out your “deck”. The plainest of landships is simply an outline of a ships deck marked on the floor with chalk. within the confines or boundaries of this deck the Troop activities take place.

Equipment

To carry out adequately the Sea Scout programme your landship will need to be equipped with the following minimum equipment:

- A ship’s deck outline.
- A mast with yard arm and gaff.
- A Union Flag (Jack), a Red Ensign.
- A Ship’s bell, Port and Starboard gangways.