



Die Bootsmannspfeife

Gebrauch der Bootsmannspfeife

Die Pfeife wird zwischen Daumen und Zeigefinger so gehalten, dass sich der kugelförmige Teil auf die Handfläche stützt. Die übrigen Finger werden über dem Luftloch geschlossen, um die austretende Luft abzdrosseln. Es ist darauf zu achten, dass das Loch dabei nicht zugehalten wird, sonst kommt kein richtiger Ton zustande. Es gibt zwei Haupttonlagen: „hoch“ und „tief“. Diese werden variiert, indem man die Stärke des Luftstroms und die Handhaltung ändert. Bei der offenen Handhaltung wird die Pfeife mit Daumen und Zeigefinger

gehalten, die übrigen Finger gespreizt, ohne den Luftstrom abzdrosseln. Es wird kräftig hineingeblasen. Für die Tonänderung bildet man eine Kuppel über dem Luftloch mit diesen Fingern, jedoch ohne es zu berühren. Der Ton ist umso höher, je kleiner der Raum über dem Luftloch ist bzw. je stärker hineingeblasen wird. Weitere Tonvarianten werden erzeugt, indem man die stark austretende Luft mit geschlossenen Fingern „abkneift“. Der Triller wird durch Vibrieren mit der Zunge wie beim Buchstaben „R“ hervorgerufen.



Die Kommandos:

Alle Mann klar zum Manöver

Seite

Boote klar: Jolle

Boote klar: Kutter

Klar bei Hängematten

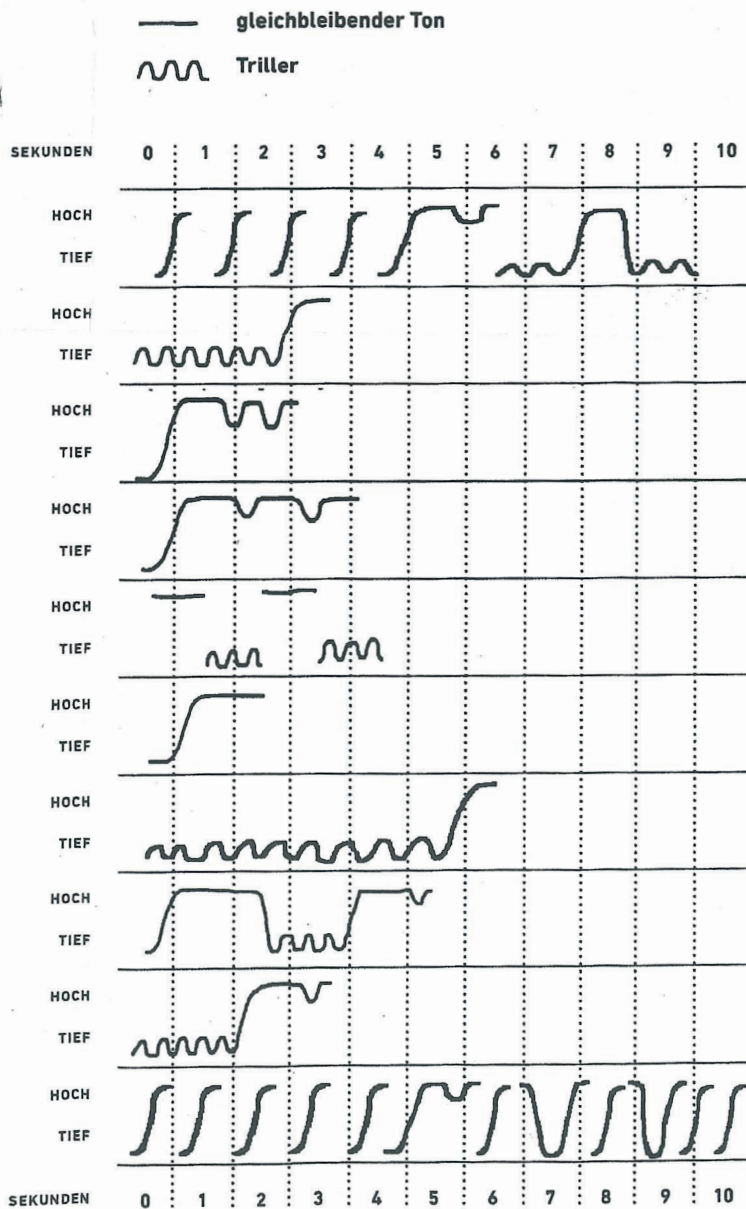
Pfeifen und Lunten aus

Flaggenparade

Ruhe im Schiff

Rührt euch

Alle Mann Schnaps empfangen





History of the Boatswain's Call

The Boatswain's Call or whistle, was once the only method other than the human voice of passing orders to men on board ship. Today more sophisticated communications systems exist but the Royal Navy, always believers in tradition, still use the Boatswain's Call as a mark of respect to pipe the Captain or special visitors on board, or for emphasising important orders.

The boatswain was the officer in charge of rigging, sails and sailing equipment. He therefore needed to issue orders more often than other officers and so the whistle was named after him.

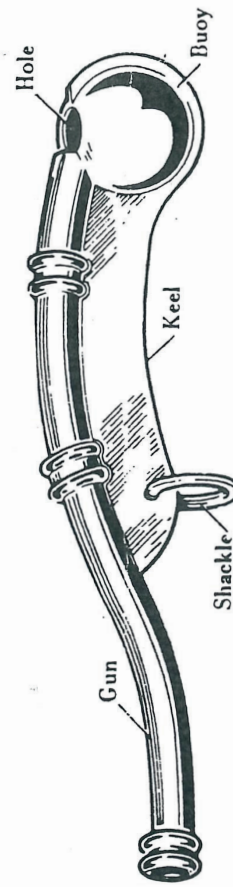
In the old days men were rigidly trained, almost like sheepdogs, to respond immediately to the piping of the Call. At sea, in moments of danger—particularly in storms—they could be counted on to hear the high-pitched tones of the Call, and react without delay. A shouted order may not have been heard above the sound of howling winds and lashing waves. Instructions to hoist sails, haul or let go ropes were conveyed by different notes and pitches.

It is known that the galley slaves of Rome and Greece kept stroke to the sound of a flute or whistle similar to the Boatswain's Call.

It was first used on English ships in the thirteenth century, during the crusades, and became known as "The Call" about 1670 when the Lord High Admiral of the Navy wore a gold whistle as a badge of rank. This was known as the "Whistle of Honour."

The ordinary whistle of command was issued in silver and often each officer had his own Call decorated with rope designs and ship's anchors.

Each section of the Boatswain's Call has a nautical name. The ball is the buoy; the mouthpiece is the gun; the ring is called the shackle and the leaf is called the keel.



Using the Boatswain's Call

The call should be held between the index finger and thumb, with the thumb 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 hole in position to throttle the exit of air from the buoy to

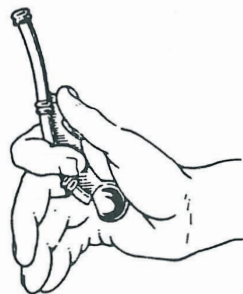
the desired amount. Care should be taken not to touch the hole of the buoy or the end of the gun, or the sound will be choked.

There are two main notes, the "low" and the "high" and there are three tones, the "plain", the "warble" and the "trill".

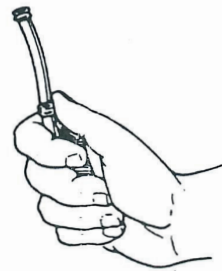
The plain note is made by blowing steadily into the mouth of the gun with the hole of the buoy unobstructed by the fingers. The plain high note is produced by partly throttling the exit of air from the buoy. This is done by wrapping the fingers round the buoy, taking care not to touch the edges of the hole. Intermediate notes can be obtained by throttling to a greater or lesser degree.

The warble is obtained by blowing in a series of jerks, with a result like the call of a canary. The trill is produced by vibrating the tongue while blowing, as if rolling the letter "R".

The Call can be tuned by scraping away and enlarging the wind edge of the hole in the buoy until it will sound if the mouth of the gun is held directly into a moderate wind.



How to hold
the Boatswain's
Call



Piping the side as a mark of respect

The best known use of the Boatswain's Call is for "Piping the Side", the signal of respect which, in the Royal Navy, is reserved for the Sovereign, senior Royal Navy officers and for all foreign naval officers. A corpse when being brought on board or sent out of a ship is also piped, but the Side is never piped at any shore establishment.

This mark of respect owes its origins to the days when captains used to visit other ships when at sea. On such occasions the visiting captain was hoisted aboard from his boat in a chair slung on a whip rope from the lower yard-arm, to the accompaniment of the pipe of the boatswain giving orders to the men manning the whip.



The Calls

Explanation of chart: Figures indicate time in seconds

— shows plain or true tone, ~~~~ warble, ~~~~~~ trill

The Side or Away Galley	high low	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	
Carry On	high low	0 1 2	
Stand Still or Stop Work	high low	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	
Call Brunn's Males	high low	0 1 2 3 4 5	
Away Boat	high low	0 1 2 3 4	
Haul or Hoist	high low	0 1 2 3 4	
Dinner or Supper	high low	0 5 10 15 20 25 30	
	high low	15 20 25 30	
Light to or Let go	high low	0 1 2 3 4 5	
Pipe Down	high low	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	