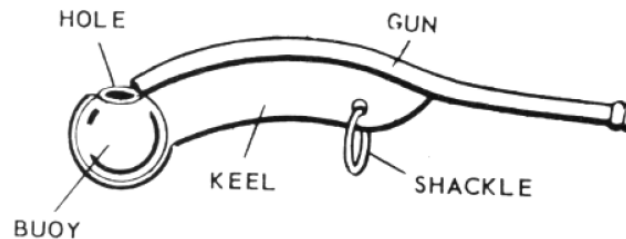


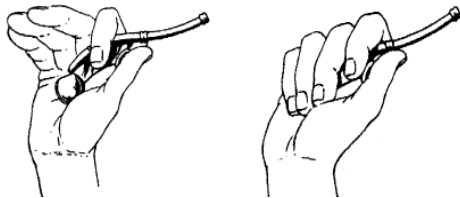
Boatswain's Pipe



A boatswain's call is a pipe that is made of a tube (called the gun), that directs air over a grape-sized metal sphere (called the buoy) with a hole cut in the top (called the hole). The player opens and closes the hand over the hole to change the pitch.

The boatswain's call was a way to pass commands to the crew when the voice could not be heard over the sounds of the sea. Because of its high pitch, it could be heard over the activities of the crew and bad weather. It is now used in the traditional ceremonies.

Sea Scouts should know the Boatswains Calls. Orders given are known as pipes. The expression, to pipe, means to make a sound on the boatswains call and to give a spoken order, which may qualify it. Some pipes are orders in themselves and do not require any verbal addition.



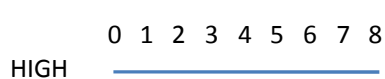
The Boatswains Call is held securely in the right hand between the thumb and forefinger. Thumb in line with the keel and the forefinger gripping over the top of the gun. The remaining three fingers are used to alter the note sounded by bending until they touch the base of the thumb, taking care not to block the hole.

Playing the notes

Hold the mouthpiece just inside the lips; do not grip it with your teeth. Raise your fingers well away from the buoy and blow, not too hard, but with sufficient strength to produce a LOW clear note.

To produce a HIGH note, bend the other three fingers until they touch your thumb (make sure they are closed together), closing over the buoy and blow much harder. This should produce a much shriller note, but take care not to throttle the note.

The Still

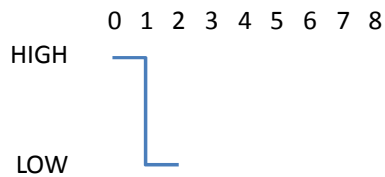


Fingers closed over the buoy; blow hard for eight seconds. Begin & end abruptly.

LOW

Meaning: To call hands to attention as a mark of respect or to order silence. The Carry On always follows it.

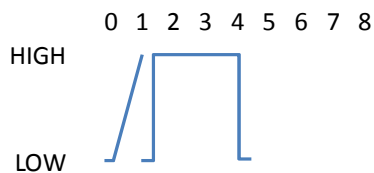
The Carry on



Blow the HIGH note for one second then drop down to the LOW note for one second and finish abruptly. Do not let it trail away.

Meaning: Literally "Carry On". Used after the Still.

General Call



Start LOW, work quickly up to a HIGH and break off abruptly. Start again at the LOW, quickly up to the HIGH for two seconds, then quickly to a LOW. Finish abruptly.

Meaning: This pipe will require a verbal order. For example: "Stand-Easy".

Other Calls

Haul: The most basic of calls, crews of warships were not allowed to sing work songs or shanties so the pipe coordinated the sailors.

The Side: Or Away Galley, descends from the tradition of hoisting officers aboard ship in a chair. This call remains in use as an honor given to officers when embarking or disembarking.

Away Boats: Would be used to order ship's boats to leave the ship's side.

Call the Boatswain's Mates: The boatswains gang to report.

All Hands on Deck: This is the call that would be used to signal the entire crew to assemble on deck.

Word to be Passed: Command for silence, an order to follow.

Pipe Down: Dismissal of all the crew not on watch.

Dinner or Supper: Called the crew to this meal.

Ref: *Wikipedia*

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