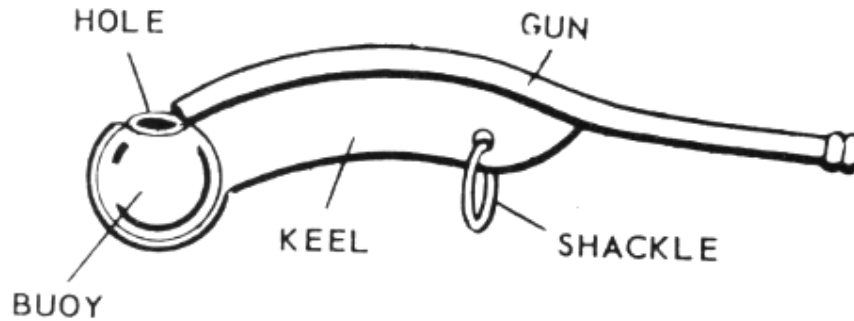


## THE BOATSWAIN'S CALL

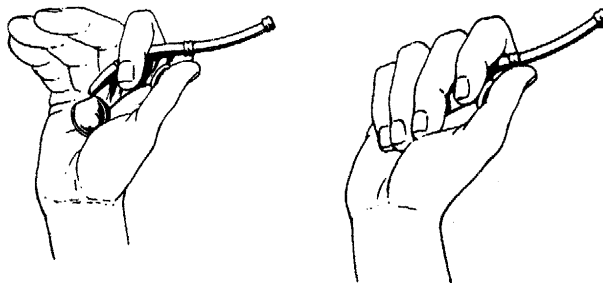
Piping is a Naval method of passing orders and information, and every Sea Cadet should know how to use a **Boatswain's Call** and how to pipe an order. Orders passed are known as **Pipes**. The expression, **to pipe**, means to make a sound on the boatswain's call and to give a spoken order, which may qualify it. Some pipes are orders in themselves and do not require any verbal addition.

The use of the Boatswain's call in English ships can be traced back to the days of the Crusades (AD 1248). In former days, the call was worn as a badge of rank. From 1485 to 1562, it was worn by the Lord High Admiral of England. From 1600, the call has been used throughout the English fleet as a method of passing orders.

The Boatswain's call with its parts labelled.



The Boatswain's 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. See the diagrams.

### 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.

It is important to practice these two exercises until you become proficient. Practice changing from a LOW note to a HIGH note and back to a LOW note again.

Ordinary Cadets are required to be able to play three calls:

	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	
High	—————	Fingers closed over the buoy; blow hard for eight seconds. Begin & end abruptly.
Low	<b>Still</b>	<i>Meaning:</i> To call hands to attention as a mark of respect or to order silence. The Carry On always follows it.
	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	
High	┌───┐ │   │ └───┘	Blow the HIGH note for one second then drop down to the LOW note for one second and finish abruptly. <b>Do not let it trail away.</b>
Low	<b>Carry On</b>	<i>Meaning:</i> Literally “Carry On”. Used after the <b>Still</b> .
	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	
High	/───┐     │ └───┘	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.
Low	<b>General Call</b>	<i>Meaning:</i> This pipe will require a verbal order. For example: “ <b>Stand-Easy</b> ”.