Step by Step Guide on How to Pick Locks the Easy Way

HOW TO PICK LOCKS EASILY

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Introduction

Have you ever found yourself stuck because you have lost your keys and have you always wanted to pick locks but found yourself lacking the skills to do it?

Are you looking to learn a survival skill that could come in handy in the future, and have you so far been disappointed by the sparse knowledge on how to pick different locks in different ways?

If you have answered **yes** to the above questions, then you have come to the right place!

Picking locks is an old skill that has existed for as long as locks have existed. Locksmiths have always created locks and made them hard to unlock without their keys, and for a good reason. If they were to make locks easy to pick, then what security would they provide?

However, we tend to lose our keys or forget them more than we realize, and thus, you need to muster the knowledge on how to pick locks if you need to.

So, if you have always had questions like;

What is the mechanism of a lock?

How do I pick locks?

What different techniques on lock-picking should I learn?

What different tools do I need to pick locks?

And many more, then read on.

This book extensively covers the detailed process of picking locks, with diagrams to guide you further on mastering the skill.

So, this book will cover;

- Tools specially designed to pick locks
- A general process on picking locks
- Detailed step-by-step guide on picking different locks
- Step-by-step guide on using different everyday items to pick locks
- And many more!

So, without further ado, let us get started!

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Chapter 1: What Is Lock-Picking?

Picture this - you leave work very late and rush straight home. You are tired and hungry, and the last thing you want is to waste more time before getting home. So, you navigate through the city traffic expertly, finally get to your neighborhood, and then into your apartment block.

You park your car, rush out and run upstairs. Finally, you can take that warm shower and eat that warm meal, then slump into your couch and waste the night away in front of the TV. After all, you will not be going to work tomorrow. Then, you reach into your pocket or purse, fumble about for your keys.

Oh no! you lost them!

Suddenly, the hunger hits harder, the fatigue strikes more violently. How did you lose your keys! But that is no longer a priority. You need to get into your house first and fast before you can gather your thoughts. You fumble further in your pockets or purse. You have a hairpin, a paper clip.

So, now, how do you proceed?

Lock picking is the practice of manipulating the components of locks without their original key to open them. It often involves the use of several unconventional tools for many people, though professional lock pickers will often have a set of specialized tools specifically designed for the job.

The Essential Skill of Lock Picking

Many associate lock picking with criminal activity, and it is easy to be skeptical of people who are skilled in lock picking. But just as people well-versed in IT are not all hackers, not all people skilled in picking locks are criminals.

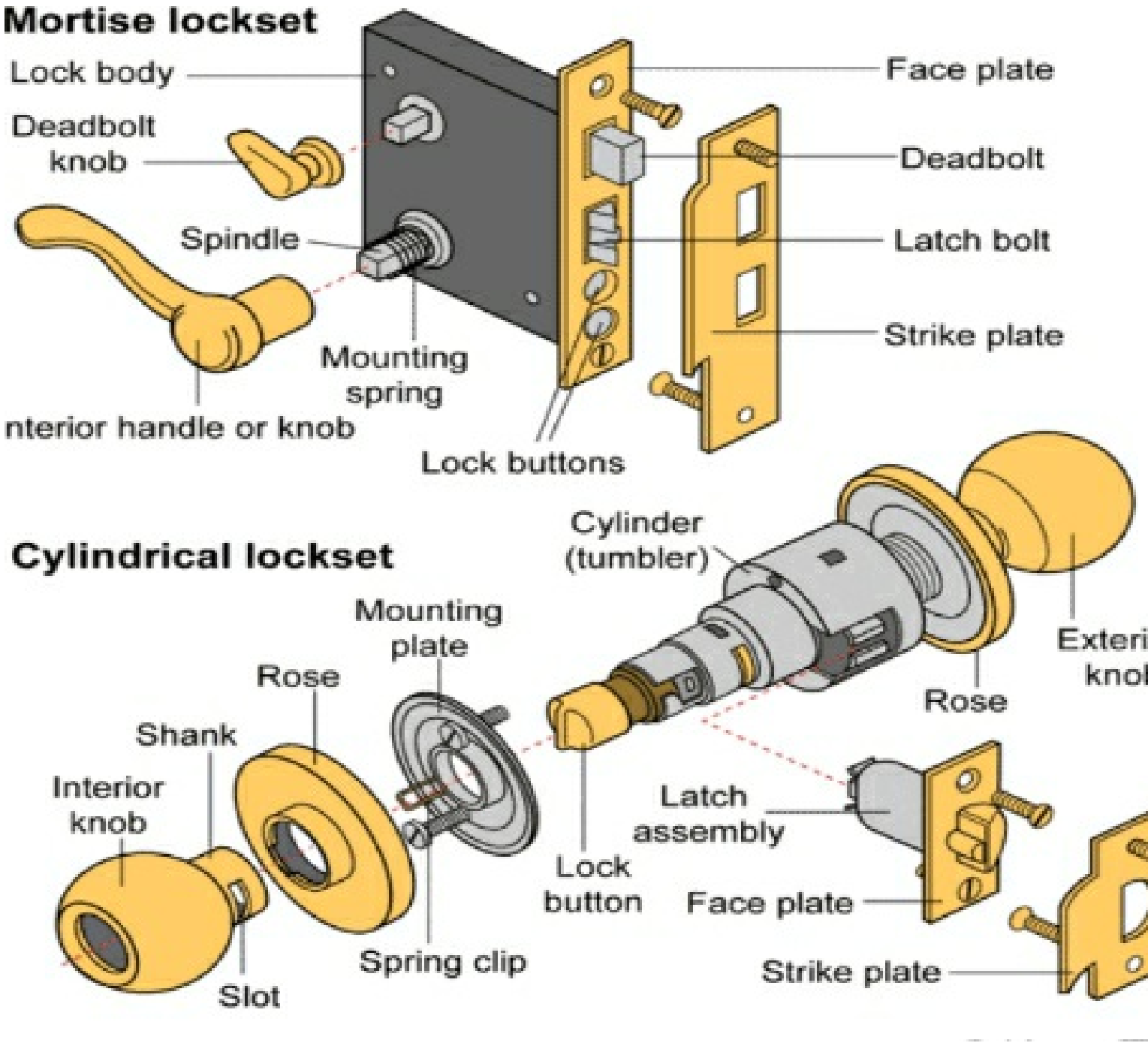
Indeed, lock picking is an essential skill for locksmithing (the science and art of creating and manipulating locks). Furthermore, there is a sport called lock sport, where people recreationally compete on lock picking.

However, for the most part, picking locks is a skill you should have if you need it, and you will encounter situations in life when you need it.

While you can manipulate simple locks with bobby pins and paper clips, there are specially designed tools that you can use to pick more complex locks.

However, before looking at tools for picking locks, let us look at what a lock is made up of.

Chapter 2: Parts of a Lock



Don't be fooled by the small size - a lock is a very complex piece of equipment. Locksmiths have perfected the art of making locks harder to open as time goes by; thus, many modern locks have many new additions that one cannot find in old locks.

Below are the common parts of locks:

Parts of a Cylinder Lock

Cylinder locks are locks that are commonly used in homes and households around the world. Below are parts of it:

1. **Cylinder**

The cylinder is also called the lock body and is the chamber into which you insert your key. The cylinder holds all the spring-loaded pins. When you lock it, it engages the pins that then keep the cylinder from turning.

The cylinder 'recognizes' the right key when the key matches the uneven edges, which pushes the pins up to their right positions, allowing you to open the door.

2. **Bolt/Latch**

The bolt is a piece of metal that stretches from the door into the frame and then holds it closed. When you turn your key into the close position, this is the metal that pushes into the space on the door frame to hold it shut.

There are two types of latches: spring bolt and deadbolt.

Spring Bolt - this bolt is often held in place by a spring. The spring, when then compressed, allows for the bolt to 'open' the door. When released, it pushes the bolt forward, thus closing the door. The doors with spring bolts often automatically lock when closed.

Deadbolt – this is bolt does not have a spring that automatically releases the bolt to close the door, hence the name deadbolt. Instead, the bolt will need to be moved by either the key or doorknob from one side. These bolts are considered to be more secure than spring bolts. Deadbolt locks often have a deadbolt plunger, which is a smaller bolt next to the deadbolt. Its function is to stop the lock from being picked open.

3. Cam

The cam is a cylindrical body with an extending arm inside the lock. When turned, it allows for the bolt to slide across and lock the door. It is linked to the other parts of the lock using the torque blade.

4. Strike Plate

The strike plate is a metal that is fixed to the door frame at the same level as the lock. It often contains the opening hole into which the bolt will get when the door is closed. Sometimes, the strike plate will have a 'lip' to guide the bolt in the correct direction.

5. The Box

The box is a small square hole from which the bolt extends. Its function is to hold the bolt securely in the doorframe when the lock is closed.

6. Keyway

This is the opening into which you insert your key, allowing you to push it into the lock cylinder.

7. Rotor

The rotor is a circular metal that sits inside the lock cylinder, it is often turned when one puts in the right key to release the bolt.

8. Cotter Pin

The cotter pin is a small piece of metal that allows the rotor to turn when the right key is placed in the lock. It is often put under pressure from a spring and aligns with the key's grooves to form the correct pattern that then releases the bolt.

9. Spring

The spring is added to the door lock to add tension to the cotter pin, thus preventing it from moving the rotor unless a given number of pins are moved to match the correct alignment.

10. Torque blade

The torque blade (6 in diagram 2) is a long piece of metal found inside a cylinder deadbolt lock. Its main function is to connect the inside of the cylinder to the latch key, allowing the cam to move the bolt.

11. Trim

The trim is a metal plate that protrudes from the door and contains the keyway. It will often be fitted under the doorknob or handle. While not a common feature on all lock types, it is common on cylinder locks.

12. Spindle

The spindle is the part of a lock that connects the door handle or knob to both sides of the door. It is a rod shaped like a square that releases a latch inside the door, allowing it to open once the doorknob is turned or when the handle is pushed down.

13. Rose

The rose is a round plate that sticks ahead of the handle leading into the lock. It serves as a cover for the lock's internal mechanisms and can also be a decorative element on the door handle.

14. Handle/knob

The handle or knob is the external part of a lock (though there are interior knobs or handles). The handles can be fitted separately or be included as part of the lock.

The knob mechanism is often done by twisting it to the left or right to open the door, while the handle mechanism is through pushing the handle down.

15. The Lock Plug

The lock plug is not a feature of all locks but is mostly found in locks used on desks and other furniture. It is a solid piece of equipment into which a lock is twisted to remain secure and stay in place.

Parts of a Padlock

The padlock is another common door lock. However, it is a portable lock that you can use on doors that do not have built-in locks but have metal frames that allow you to insert the padlock to secure it.

Padlocks are often used along with other bolt types as they are not considered very secure. This is because someone can very easily cut through the padlock shank with a bolt cutter.

The major parts of a padlock are seen in the diagram below:

Other Types Of Locks

Other types of locks include:

1. **Disk Locks**

The disk lock is like a padlock but is circular, with the body covering much of the shank to give more protection and make it harder to cut with a bolt cutter.

When speaking about the top of the keyway in a lock, we refer to the top part of the lock (the part facing the shank in the disk lock below). Meanwhile, the bottom of the keyway refers to the part on the lower part of the lock. In this diagram, it is the part facing the 'stainless steel' inscription.

2. **Wafer Locks**

3. Lever Tumbler Locks

These lock types are very unique as they use thin pieces of metal named levers for their locking mechanism (rather than springs and pins). The lock features several levers that hold the bolt in place when engaged. When opening using the right key, the levers will rise to the appropriate height, allowing the bolt to move back and thus disengaging the lock.

Fig: A Cross-Section Of The Lever Tumbler Lock

How it Works

Diagram A:

The tumbler (1) is the most important part of the lever as it holds the bolt (2) in place. The tumbler is then held in place by a spring (3). Part 4, called a projection, stops the bolt from moving back once the lock is engaged (in the locked position) as is above.

Diagram B:

When you insert the key and turn, the grooves on the key lift the tumbler(s) to a certain height, allowing the bolt to then slide backwards. Then, when you turn the door handle, the cam (5) slides forward.

As it does so, the lower part moves then the end part of the spring attached to the latch (6)moves back, thus allowing the latch to slide back, opening the door.

Now let's look at the different tools for picking locks in the next chapter.

Chapter 3: Tools for Picking Locks

Given the wide variety of locks that we have today, the set of tools that one needs to practice lock picking are wide and varied. Thus, you will see that some of these tools will work on specially designed locks, and you won't have much luck with them on other types of locks.

1. **Skeleton Keys**

Skeleton keys are also called warded keys because they are often used to open a type of lock called a warded lock.

Warded locks are a type of old lock that uses a set of obstacles to prevent the lock from being manipulated by anything other than the original set of keys. The skeleton keys allow you to by-pass the obstacles and reach the end of the locks to open them.

Fig: An Old-Style Warded Lock with a Key Inside

The skeleton key is often thin, but grooves at the end align with the wards you will manipulate.

2. **Curtain Pick**

A curtain pick is a type of lock pick used to pick the lever tumbler lock.

The lever tumbler lock can use three or five levers, which releases a bolt when pushed to a certain height. When closed, the levers prevent the bolt from retracting. Lever locks are some of the most common locks used in many doors around the U.S and the world.

So, the curtain pick allows the locksmith to lift the levers and enable the bolt to retract, thus opening the bolt. The pick is made of a thin metal rod but with protrusions that allow for lifting the levers.

3. Tension Wrench

The tension wrench is used to pick a type of lock called the pin tumbler lock or wafer lock.

The pin tumbler lock is the kind of lock that you will find in your drawer. It is made of a long cylindrical lock, inside which are pins and springs.

Fig: Cross Section of The Pin-Tumbler Lock

The tension wrench, then, is often used to apply force onto the lock plug . Once all the pins are picked, the tension wrench is used to turn and open the lock.

An L-shaped tension wrench is often used to apply tension to the bottom of the keyway (BoK). Other types of tension wrenches are shaped like tweezers and are used to apply tension on both BoK and the top of the keyway (ToK).

Fig: A Tension Wrench with Two Points, Used to Apply Tension on Top and Bottom of the Keyway

4. **Half-Diamond Pick**

This is one of the most versatile lock picking tools that you can find out there. The kit is often part of any lock picker's assembly of tools and can be used to pick several kinds of locks, including individual pins, wafer locks and disk locks.

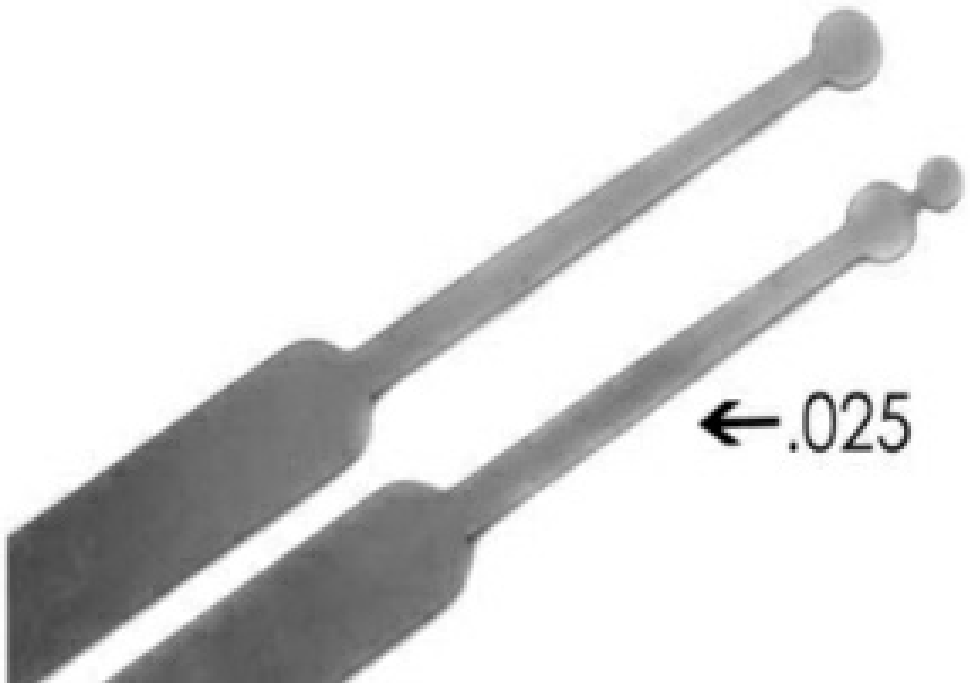
It is shaped like a half diamond and has angles at the base that can be steep or shallow, depending on the need. You will often get a set of around three half diamonds and a full diamond in a set.

5. **Hook Pick**

This pick is built like the half diamond pick, except that the tip is shaped like a hook rather than like a half diamond.

This lock is often the most basic of all lock picking tools and can be useful in picking all kinds of traditional locks, which do not need more sophisticated picking tools. In a set, you will find several hook picks of different sizes and shapes.

6. **Ball Pick**

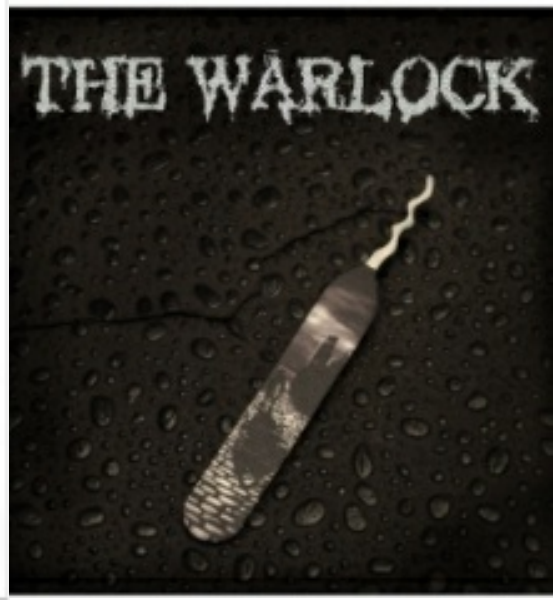


The ball pick is also similar to the half-diamond pick, but at the end, it often has half a circle or a full circle.

This type of lock picking tool is used to pick wafer locks.

7. Raking Picks

The rake pick comes in several different types, each with different grooves to be used in different locks.



Also called the rake pick, this lock picking tool is crude and straightforward. While the other tools above will often need delicate skills to handle, the rake pick is one you can pick and try on locks without needing to practice using it.

With the rake pick, you will slide it past all the pins repeatedly and bounce the tool inside the pins until they get to the shear line (the end where the plug with pins meets the locking cylinder).

You can also get some advanced rakes, which often have various pin heights and key positions and are easier to use than traditional rakes. These types are often made from the template of popular key configurations. Making the pins with the correct key design to a lock is not possible due to how keys are manufactured.

8. Decoder Pick

A decoder pick is a pick with several notches or protrusions at the end (much like a raking pick), except that the notches can be adjusted and are not fixed.

One can adjust the heights of the decoder pick notches, either by screwing them onto the base blade or by adjusting them from the handle once you have it in the lock. This makes it a convenient pick because when you adjust the heights inside the lock, they will configure the shape of the lock and make picking it a lot easier.

9. Bump Key

A bump key is a simple key that can be used to open a majority of pin locks. It is what is usually known as the 'master key.'

The bump key is often made such that each peak of the key is equal but has been cut down to the lowest key groove. Once the grooves are cut, the key is then hit sharply with a hammer to apply force. The force of the blow will then carry down to the length of the key and only move the driver pins while the key pins remain in place.

10. Pick Guns

This pick gun was invented by Ely Epstein.

This gun works this way:

You will insert a steel rod into the lock, after which you will then fire the gun, which is attached to the steel rod. The gun will then fire the rod against all the lock pins simultaneously, which then momentarily frees the lock cylinder and enables it to be turned with a tension wrench.

11. Tubular Lock Picks

Fig: A Tubular Lock with a Decoder (Top Right) and a Tension Wrench (Bottom Left)

This type of pick is used for opening a tubular pin tumbler lock.

The tubular lock pins come in similar designs, but only the sizes differ, including 6,7,8, and 10-pin locks.

So, you will only insert the tool into the lock and turn clockwise with medium torque (force). So, inserting the tool into the lock will push all the pins slowly down until they stop. This then leaves the pins behind the lock’s shear line. When you push the final pick down, the shear plane clears, and the lock opens.

The tubular lock pins also come with a decoder. The decoder helps a locksmith know how to cut a tubular key to the correct pin depths not to damage the locks.

Chapter 4: The Art of Lock Picking

After learning the tools, it is now time to look at how we will put them to use.

However, before we go into picking locks using specialized tools, we will first learn how to pick simple locks with some unconventional tools, like the bobby pin and paper clip. The reason for this is so that you can learn how to be comfortable with working in tight spaces before graduating to working with the more professional tools for more complex locks.

Picking a Lock Using a Bobby Pin (Hairpin)

Do not wait to call a locksmith when you find yourself locked out of your house because you have lost your key. The bobby clip can easily pick the common house door lock , the cylindrical lock, as long as you follow the simple steps below:

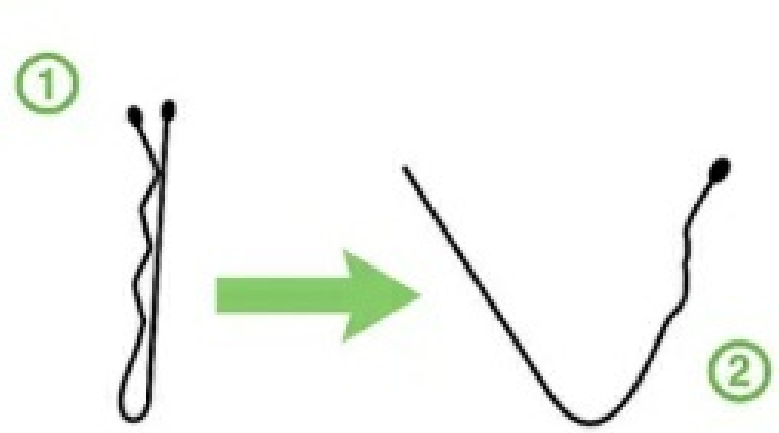
Tools

2 bobby pins

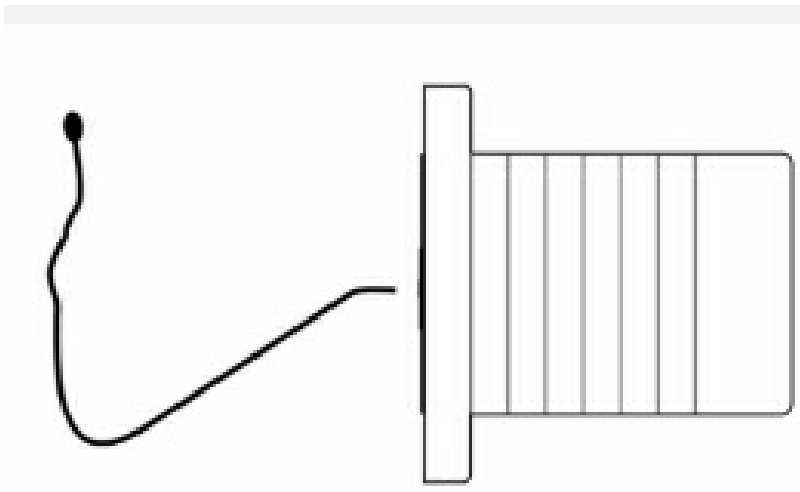
A pair of pliers (optional)

Procedure

1. Start by preparing your tools. First have two bobby pins, one to act as the lever, the other as the raking pick. Pull apart one of the bobby pins so that it is a long metal piece.

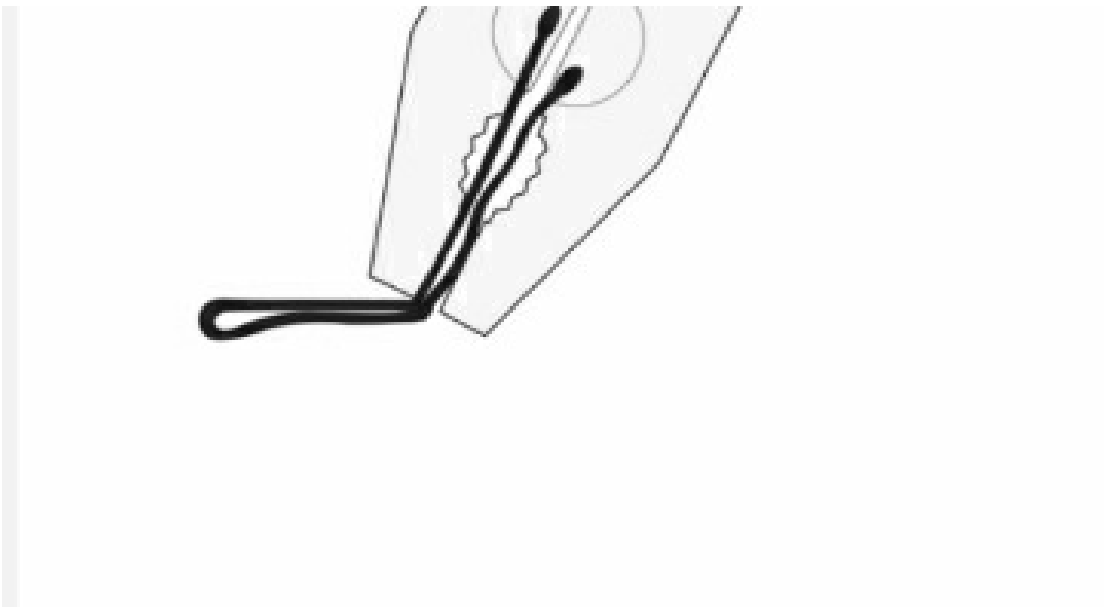


2. Once done, begin to strip off the rubber ends outside of the locks so that you can get a clear way inside the lock as the rubber knobs will only get in your way.
3. Then, insert your pin slightly into the lock (about one centimeter in) and use the lock to bend the pin, with the flat side facing up. Then, push the rest of the pin to the left to bend the pin slightly to the side. Don't bend it too much, just a couple of millimetres off to the left.



4. Then, push one end of the pick into a handle. However, create a loop at the end to make the pick easier to hold when you use force once inside the lock. Fold it like the image below.

5. Then, take the other bobby pin, which will act as your lever. Bend it into a right angle, either using a pair of pliers or your bare hands. The lever will act as the key, which you will use to turn the locks once you have used the other pin to move the lock pins.



The picture above shows your lever, which you will use to apply tension at the bottom of the keyway.

6. Take a moment to visualize the inside of the lock. Often, a pin is made up of two parts, the barrel and pins. The barrel is the chamber where the flat end of the key inserts.

The pins, meanwhile, are the small metal cylinders that push into the barrel and hold it in place until a key displaces them. When you insert a key, the pins are cut halfway, and once the mark line is up with the barrel, you can then turn the lock.

Thus, when you use bobby pins to unlock the lock, you will manually push the pins with your lock, while your lever lock is used to move the barrel so that the pins don't fall back in place.

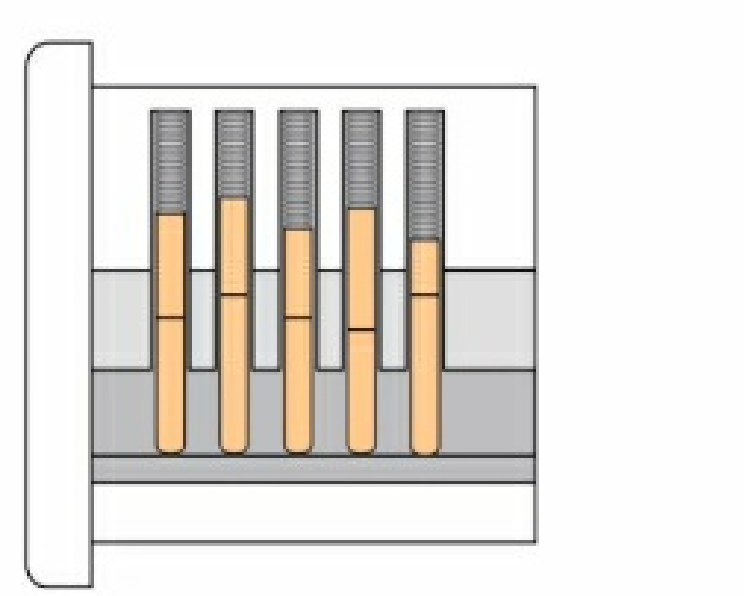
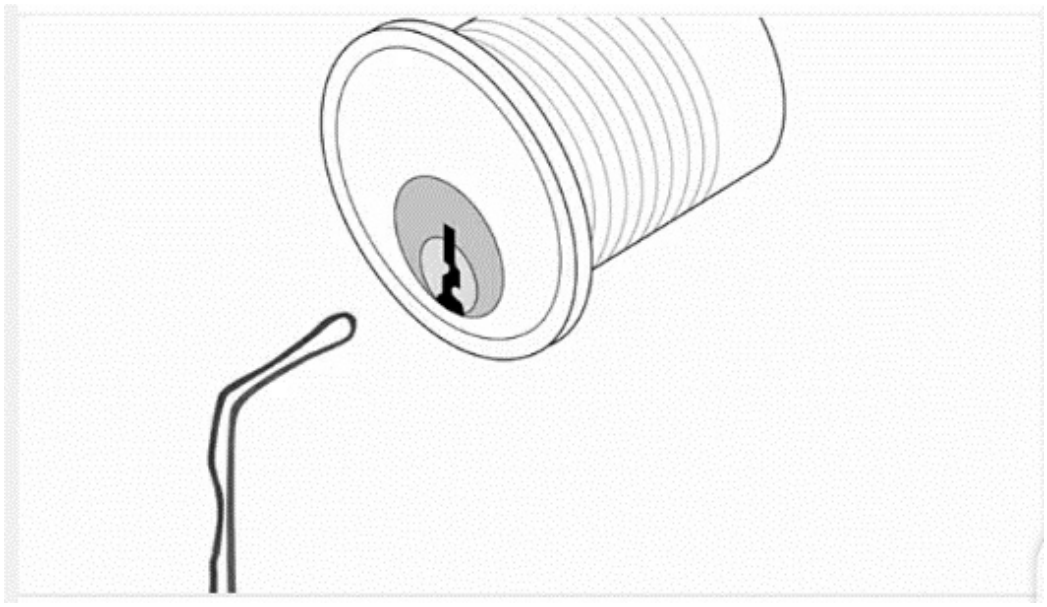
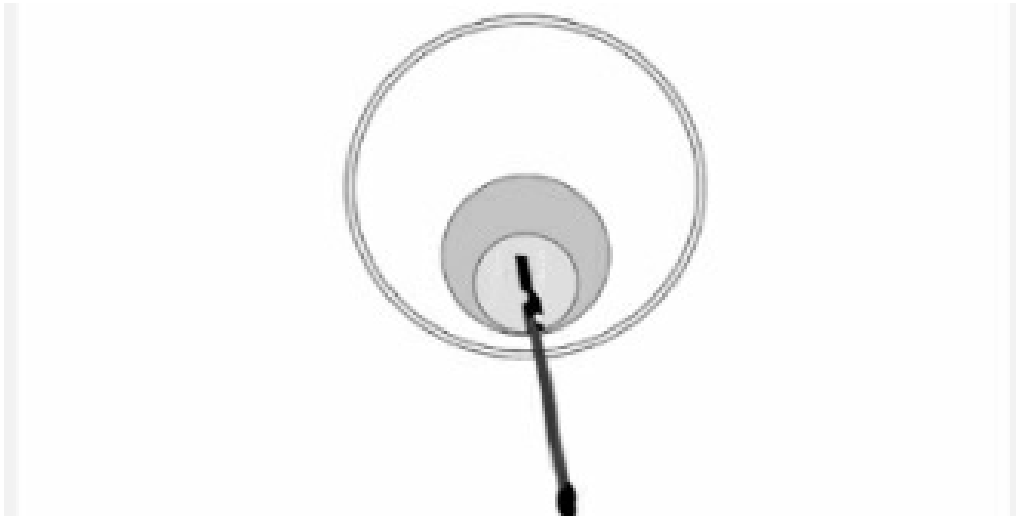


Fig: Cross Section of a Normal Cylinder Door Lock

7. Now, we get down to work. First, you will insert your lever into the bottom of the lock (use the closed bent end) and try to get it as deep into the lock as possible.

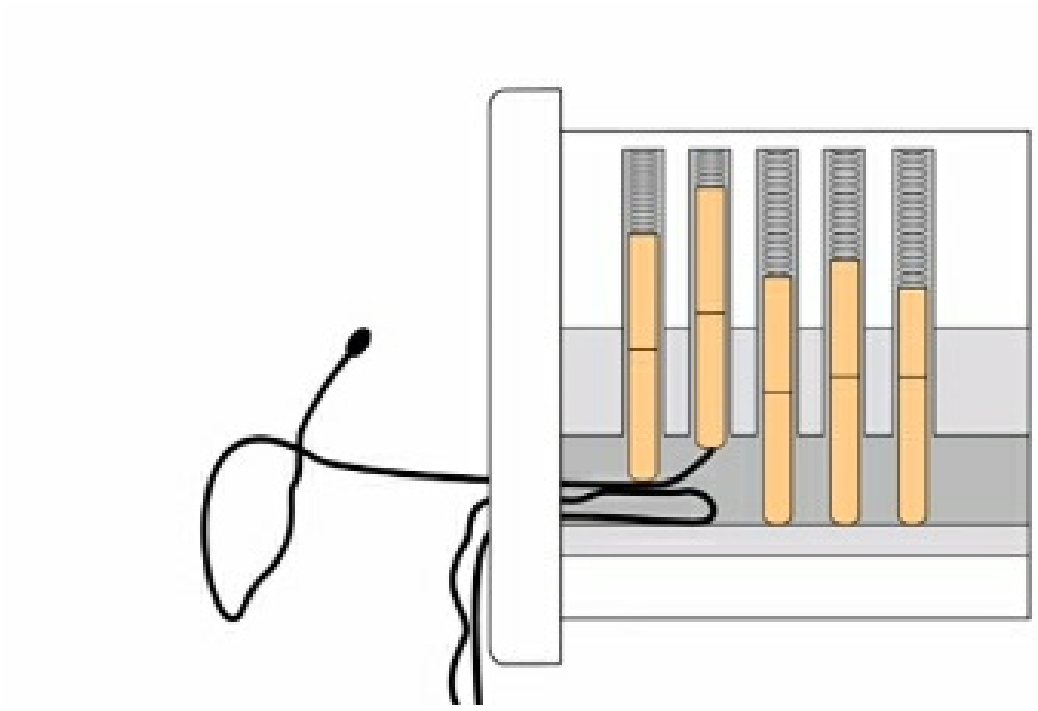


8. Then, turn the lock slightly in the direction you would when opening it. The lock won't move far, but the pressure is critical, and you will need to maintain this through the lock picking process. However, don't apply too much pressure on the barrel as there are pins trapped in it that will need to be loose enough to move.



9. Once you have your lever in place, insert the pick, with the bent side facing up, and begin to feel for the pins. You will do this by moving your pick up and down. The pins are on the top half of the lock.

Thus, as you feel for them, you will move up when you push the pick upwards. Often, you will not get the pins the first time and will need to feel around for them, but that is okay; after all, you cannot see them, and it may be hard to get them the first time.



If you feel the pins are not moving, loosen the tension on the lever, then try again.

10. Once you have identified your pins, push them up until they all click. If some are more resistant than others and cannot move, keep consistent pressure on the lever and gently push the pin up until you get an audible click.

This click means you have matched the split in the middle of the pin with the barrel. The pin will now move away from the lock. Once you have one pin in place, you will feel the lever turning a bit more easily. This means it is facing less resistance with one pin out of the way.

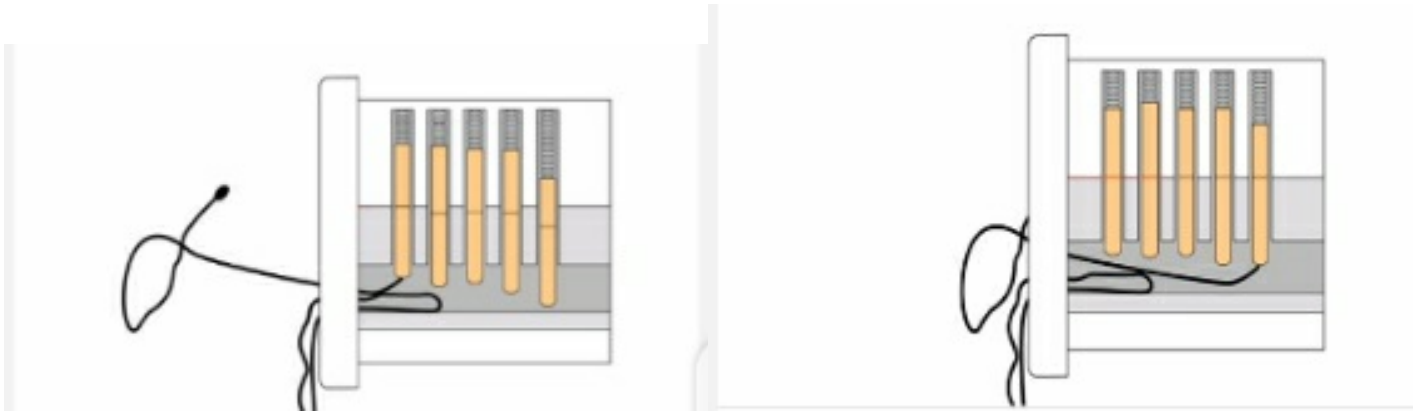


Fig: In Diagram 2, We See the Pins Aligned Along the Shear Line.

Repeat the process for the rest of the pins until you hit the shear line at the end. When you move the final pin out of the way and turn your lever as you would when you open the door, the door will open, and you will get a way into the house and rest after a long, hard day.

How to Pick a Lock Using a Paper Clip

Another everyday item that you can use to pick either the cylindrical lock or a padlock is a paper clip.

Using a paper clip works in a similar way to how you would use a bobby pin in that you will need to have two of them, one to act as a tension wrench that you will slide at the bottom of the keyhole and the other as your raking tool. However, there are some differences, as we will see below.

Tools

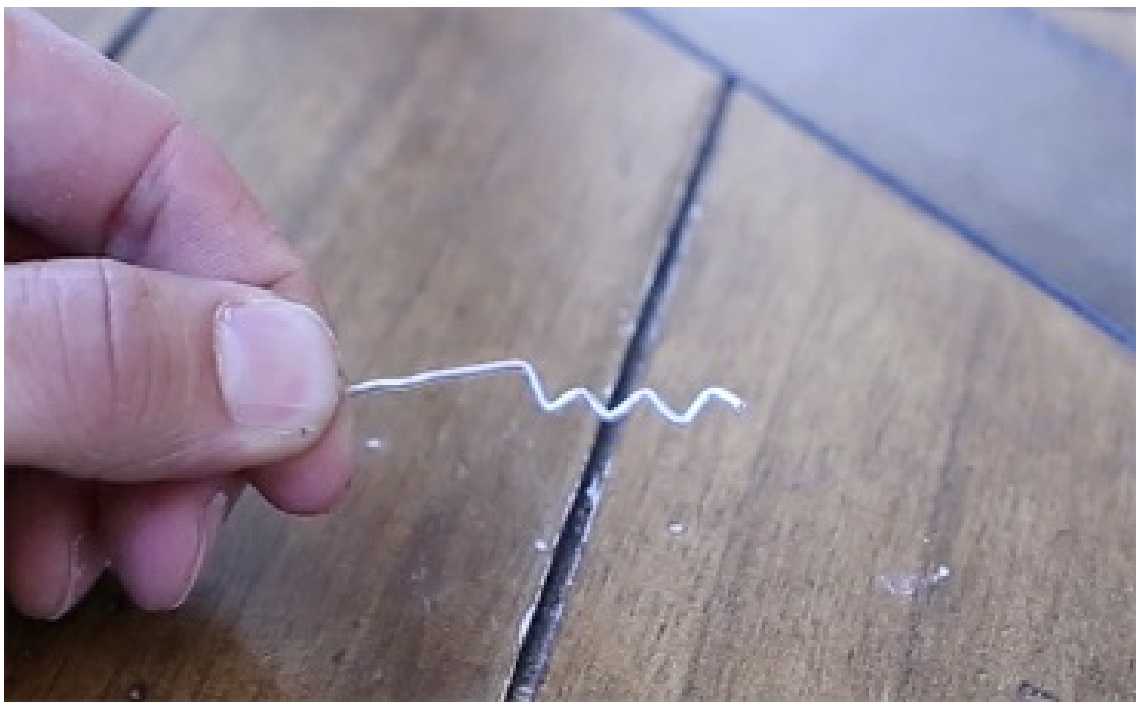
2 metal paper clips

a pair of pliers

Procedure

1. So, the first step is to make your tension wrench. Using the pliers, straighten one of your paper clips out, but leave one end still bent, which you will bend at a 90-degree angle to form a handle.

2. Then straighten out your second clip. However, rather than straighten it out completely, bend the long end of the pin at a 90-degree angle. Then, move the pliers down the bent end and twist again to form a ridge. Keep bending the clip until you get three ridges, as seen below.



3. Then, once complete, insert your tension wrench into the bottom of the keyhole. This part is also called the shear line. Rotate the keyhole with some slight pressure, just enough to move it out to the side (ensure you do not apply too much pressure lest you bend the clip out of shape.) Using a tension wrench is important in lock picking as it stops the pins from falling back in place once you begin raking.

4. Turn the wrench in the direction the lock opens, then hold it to apply the tension.
5. Then, take the raking pin with the ridges and insert it to the top of the keyhole and begin raking, which means inserting the pin into the keyhole and removing it quickly as your jiggle the pick upwards while inside the lock. Do this repeatedly so that you may offset a few pins.

As you do this, keep the pressure on the tension wrench as letting the pressure go would not pick the lock.

Ensure that as you move your raking pick quickly, you are not too forceful. Doing it quickly does not mean using more force, but rather slick and smooth motions. Keep doing this repeatedly until you get the 'right feel' of the correct amount of pressure you need to apply. Very few people can pick a lock well on their first try, anyway.

6. As you rake, keep trying to locate your pins inside. Most American locks will often have at least five pins which you will need to displace to unlock the lock. When you insert your raking pick, you will often feel these pins against your lock, which will tell you where to depress them.
7. Apply rotational pressure to the tension wrench as you depress the pins by pushing the raking pick in almost the opposite direction of the tension wrench pick. You should feel a certain clicking sound as the pins move to the unlock position as you do this.
8. Jiggle with the pins until you get each pin to unlock. You will need to rake around with the pins severally as a beginner, so don't lose patience if it takes you much longer to unlock.

As you jiggle, apply more pressure on the tension wrench. When you hear a snap or click, rotate the tension wrench in the direction the lock opens towards to unlock the lock finally.

Note: DO NOT use too much force when using the paper clip, as the paper clip might break. Paper clips are not very sturdy and will break easily. If one breaks inside your lock, then that means you will have to replace the lock.

How to Pick a Lock Using a Penknife

Yet another everyday item that you can use to pick a lock is a penknife. A penknife could be used to open certain handle locks. However, this tool is bulky and is unlikely to yield much if the lock is tiny.

So, you can use your penknife or a simple butter knife. For a small keyhole, a thin knife with a sharp point might be necessary as a tension wrench only.

Tools

A knife- a penknife or butter knife will do

A thin piece of metal for raking, if needed

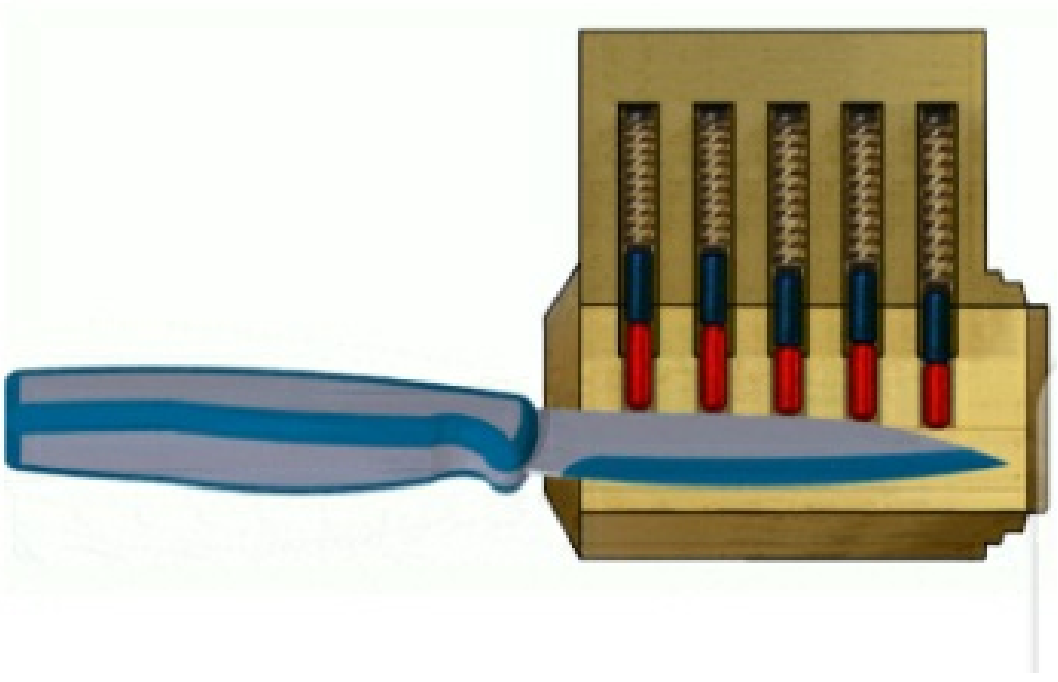
Procedure

There are two ways to use a knife to open a lock, and we will look at both.

<u>Method 1: The Knife as the Raking Tool</u>

1. The first method involves using the knife as the raking tool. So, insert your knife as far into the lock as you can until you feel the knife tip hit the back of the lock.

2. Next, apply some light turning force in the direction the lock opens. This turning motion applies a binding force to the pins, allowing you to use the knife to raise them to the height the key would typically raise them to.



3. Once done, it is time to wriggle. Gently begin rocking your knife up and down while also moving it slightly in and out of the lock. Do this continuously for as long as possible (preferably 15-20 seconds).

4. If the lock does not open in that time frame, remove the knife and begin the process once again. Each time, apply different degrees of force. (However, don't be too forceful –lock picking is often more successful when using lighter pressure).

Method 2: The Knife as a Tension Wrench

In this method, we will use the knife only as of the tension wrench, meaning that we will insert the knife to the bottom of the keyhole slightly and then use it to turn the bottom of the keyhole slightly.

1. Insert the knife to the bottom of the keyhole and apply slight twisting pressure.

2. Then, insert a straightened bobby clip or any other raking tool of your choice to the top of the keyhole.

3. While still holding the knife in the slightly rotated position, rake your pick across the pins in the keyhole. As you do that, wriggle the knife slightly. (Don't apply too much pressure as you do not want to break the knife or the pick.)
4. Raise your pick slightly to lift the pins, then quickly pull the pick out of the lock-in that it pushes across all picks. This method is called zipping, and it ensures that you hit the pins with enough force, which then offsets them. If the lock does not open, remove the knife, reapply the rotation force, insert the pick and try again.

Now let's get a bit professional by looking at how to pick locks using professional tools.

Chapter 5: How to Pick Locks with Professional Tools

Having looked at how to pick locks with everyday house items, we now look at how you can use professional tools to open locks. Professional tools will make lock picking much easier for you, so it is critical to know how to work with them.

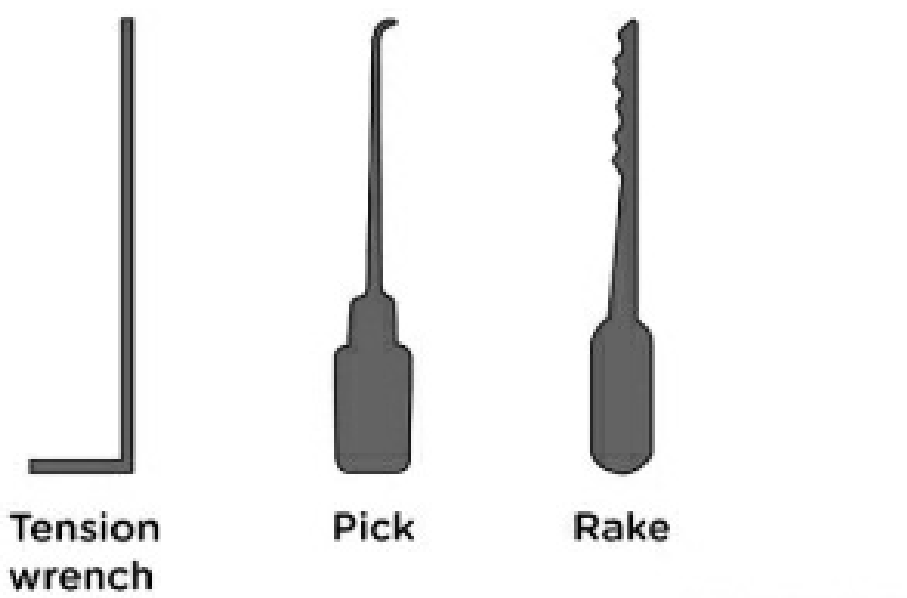
First, we look at how you can use the pick and tension wrench. Since we now have a fundamental understanding of how locks work, it is now time to look at how to pick them with a toolset.

How to Pick Cylindrical Locks with a Tension Wrench, Rake and Pick

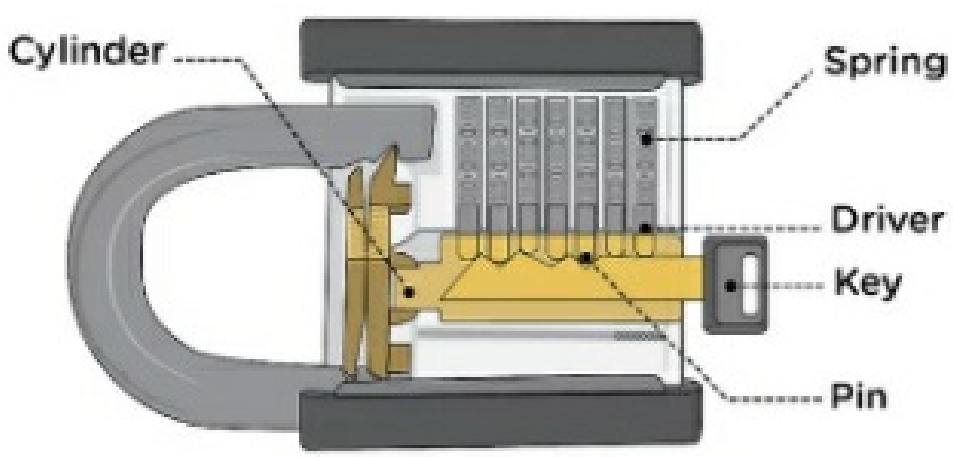
For this process, we need the hook pick, rake and the tension wrench, and of course, our cylindrical locks.

Procedure

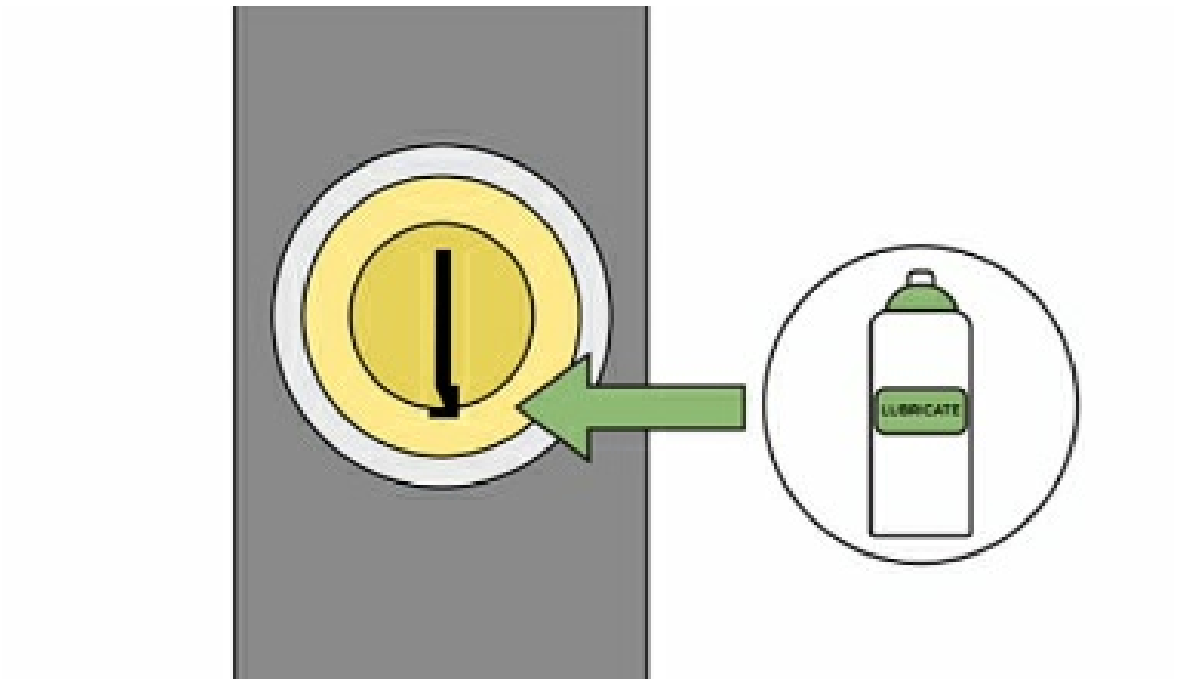
1. Begin by gathering your tools. In this instance, you will have your tension wrench, picks and raking tools. Additionally, you also need a lubricant, such as lubricating graphite, whose use we will cover later.



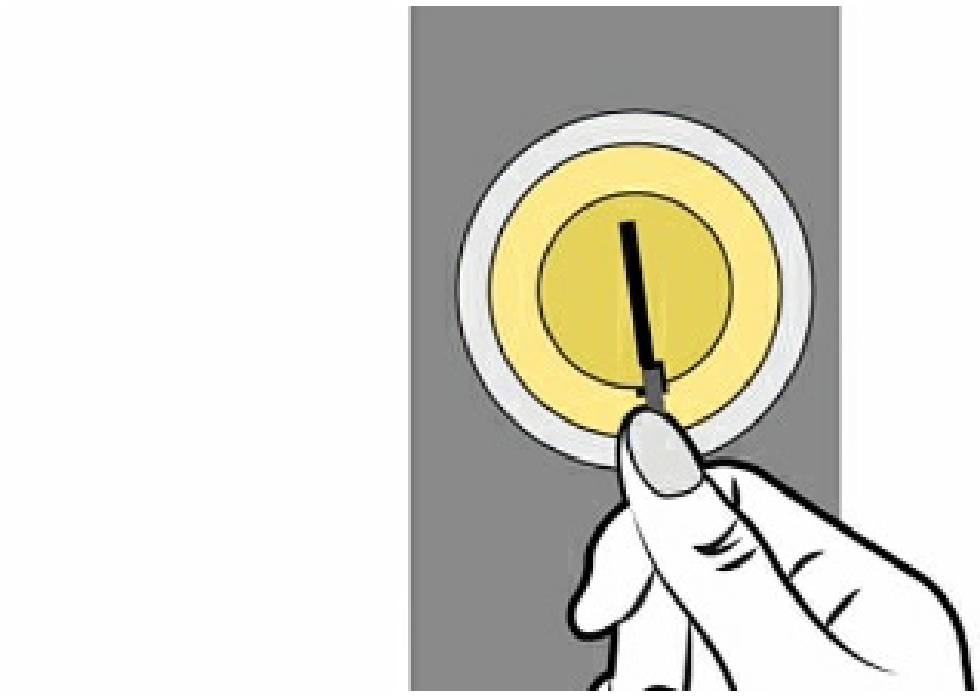
2. Envision the inside of the lock. Having a mental image of how the locks is built is the second step.



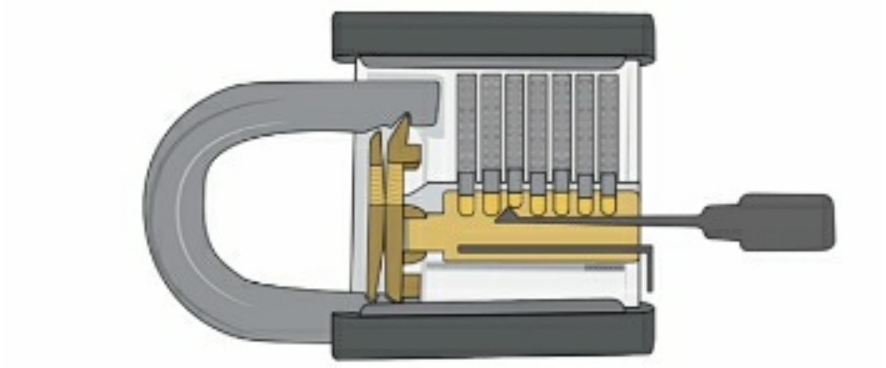
3. Once you have a mental idea of the lock mechanism, lubricate the lock. This is important because the lock's pins may be frozen, perhaps due to lack of usage for a long time. Also, dirt makes the lock hard to manipulate. So, the lubricant softens the passageway for you to manipulate the locks. You could also lubricate your picking tools with grease.

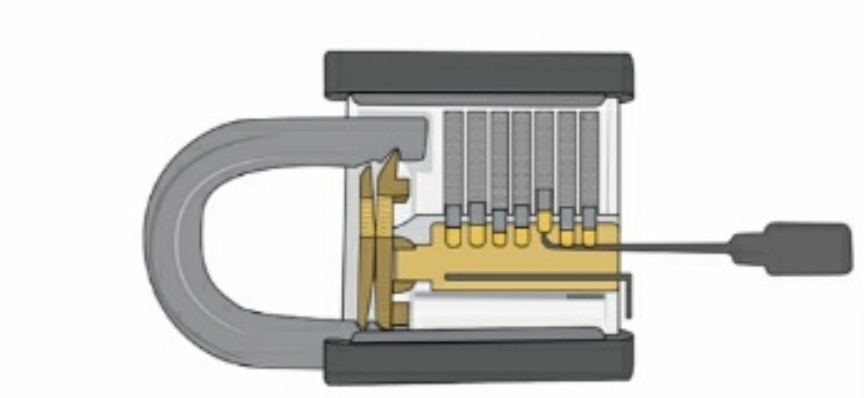


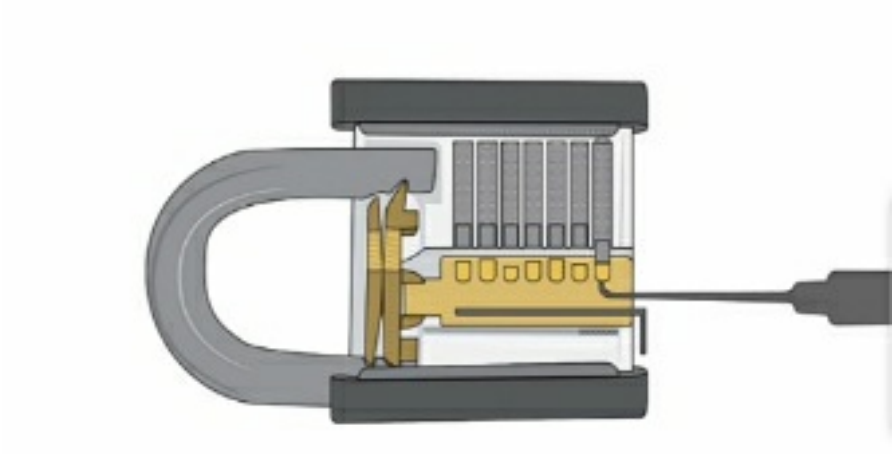
4. Now, insert your tension wrench to the bottom of the keyway and apply slight force to the direction that the lock opens. This is so that once you begin to pick the pins, the tension wrench prevents them from falling back into the locked place.



5. Insert your rake and identify the pins. Push it all the way until it hits the back of the keyway.



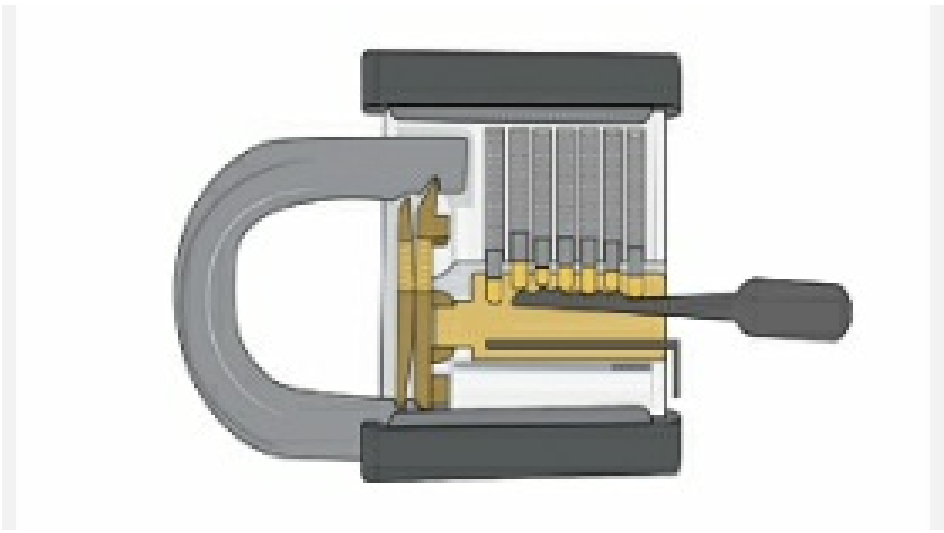


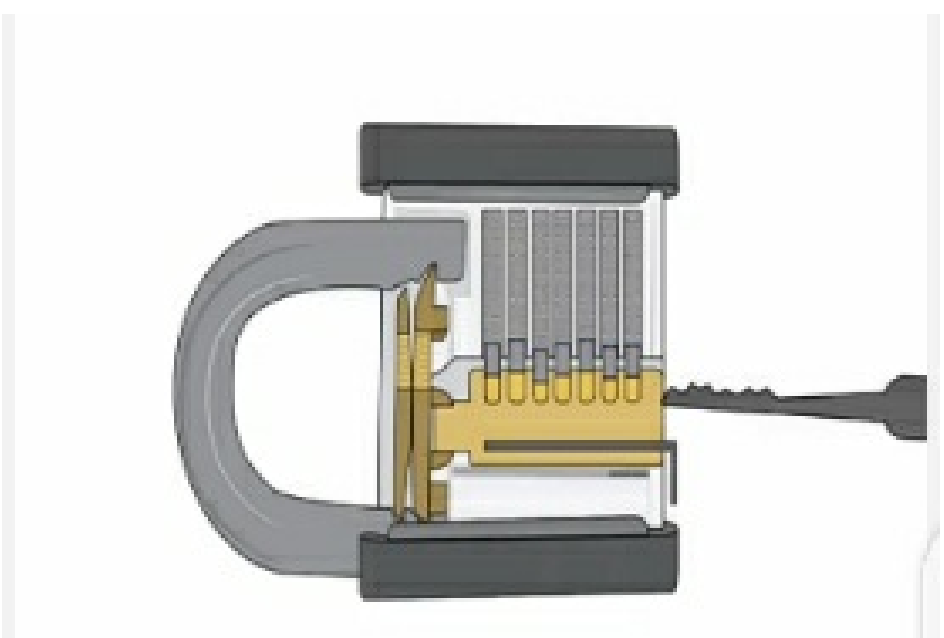


6. Then, apply upward pressure to the pins with the rake and gently snap the rake in a scrubbing motion as you pull it out. Ensure that you bump all the pins as you pull the rake out.
7. Once you have removed your rake, insert it again and repeat the motion of scrubbing and bumping all the pins until they have set. At this point, you will turn the tension wrench, opening the lock.

However, after four or five such attempts and the lock does not open, remove the rake and tension wrench completely and let the lock go. If you do not hear the pins click back into place, then you had been applying too much pressure on the tension wrench. Reapply the tension wrench, but this time, be gentle with the tension you apply. Once you bump all the pins, the plug should allow you to rotate the lock as a key would fully.

Alternatively, instead of the rake, you can use the hook pick. After inserting your tension wrench, use the hook pick to identify the pins. Use the hook of the pick to feel the pins as you push them upwards. Once done, identify the binding pin, which is the pin that gives more resistance than the other when you apply tension.





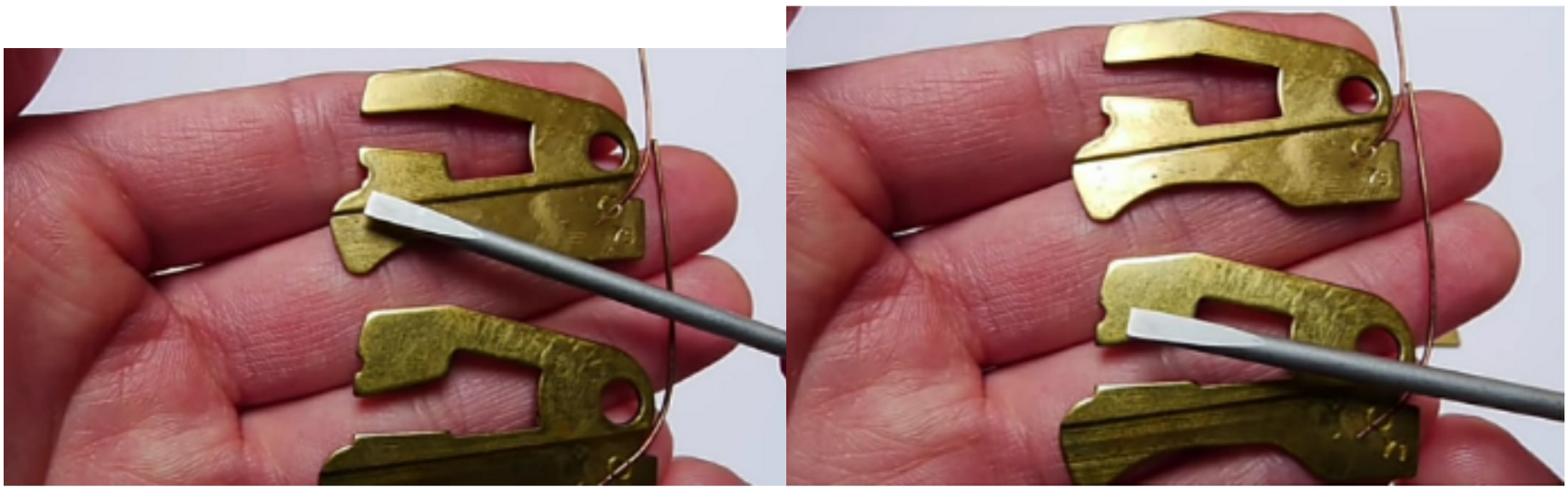
Lift the binding pin with your pick and gently nudge upward. Eventually, when the pin moves up to the shear line, the tension wrench will turn slightly. Move on to the next pin and repeat the process until you have lifted all binding pins. Once you lift the last pin, the lock should disengage and open easily. You will need to apply more pressure to turn the lock to open it.

Chapter 6: How to Pick a Lever Lock

Lever locks are traditional locks that follow the pin cylinder as the most commonly used commercial lock. These locks use a series of levers with different heights that need to be lifted so that the bolt stamp can move, thus unlocking the lever.

There are several lever locks, though the most common is the 3 lever lock and the 5. However, there is also a six lever lock.

These locks, especially the five and six lever locks, are difficult to open as the levers also tend to have what is called 'false gates'. When disassembled, the levers are as below. The parts shown by the screwdriver are the false gates.



False gates are cuts on the levers that let the locking bolt retract but do not fully open the lock when you pick. When picking, the false gate will give you a feeling that you are opening the lock when in reality, the bolt has only minimally retracted to the false gate. Thus, practice is necessary for this.

Below is a simple procedure to do this:

To pick the 5 lever tumbler lock, youll need the following tools:

Tools

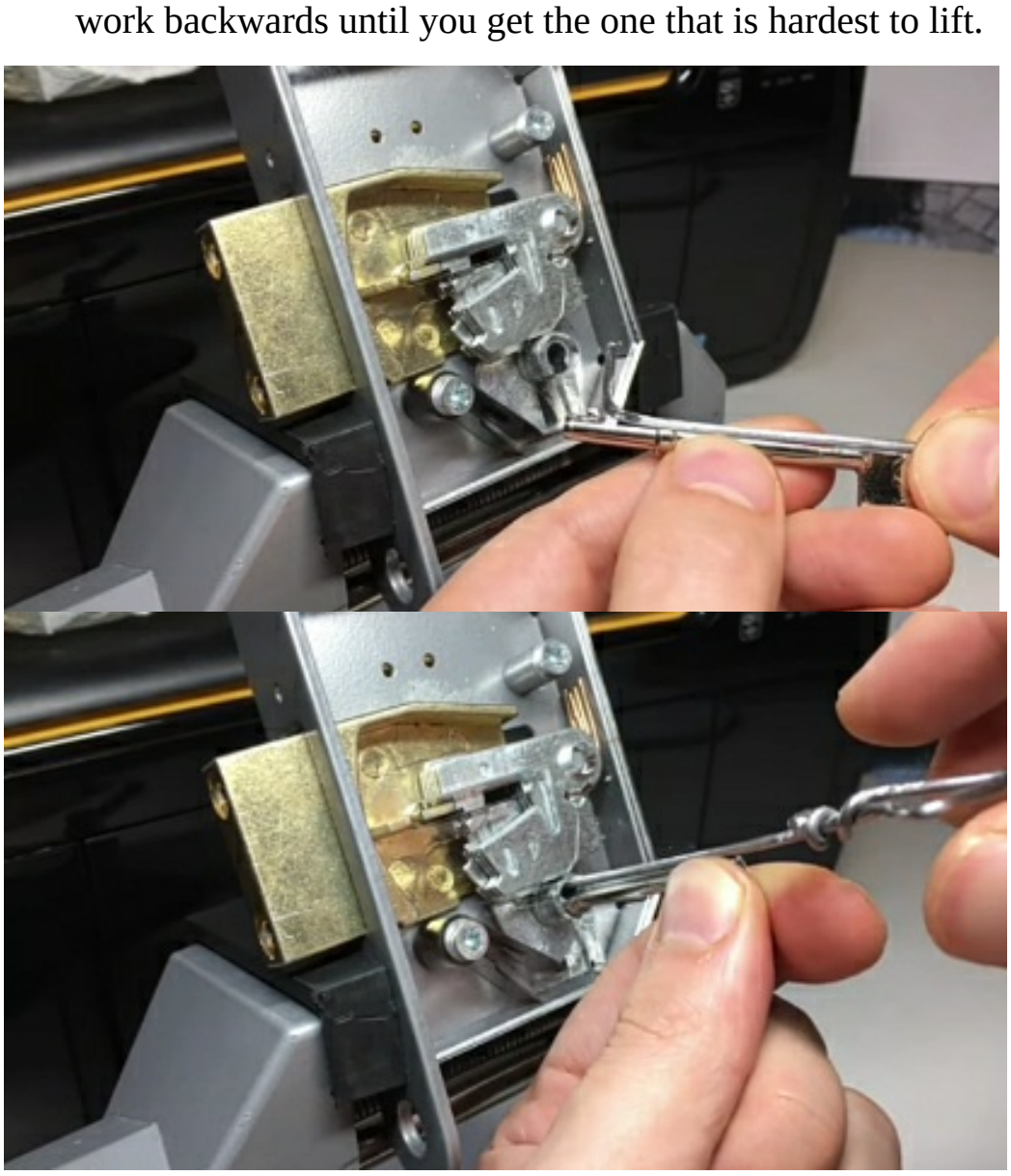
A hook pick.

A tension tool, preferably one made out of an old lever tumbler key

Procedure

1. First, insert your tension wrench into the lock and turn in the direction that the lock opens. Push the wrench to the end of the keyhole, which will also move the notch at the end of the lock.

2. Hold the tension wrench in the place that it stops turning with moderate tension.
3. Insert your pick and begin to push upwards on each lever. Begin with the lever furthest from you and work backwards until you get the one that is hardest to lift.



Alternatively, you can also insert your tension wrench and pick simultaneously and turn the lock with the pick inside. This makes your pick a makeshift curtain pick.

4. Lift this lever slowly until the bolt begins to move just slightly. This is the binding lever. When you lift it and hear a click, you have now set the lever to the right height, which also helps you by-pass the false gate.
5. Now, repeat this process for each of the remaining levers. Once you have set all the levers, then use your tension wrench to turn and unlock the door.

For easier unlocking, you can also use the curtain pick. The curtain pick is specially designed to pick lever tumbler locks as it has a hook pick and the tension wrench together. You can then adjust the position of the hook pick once you have the pick inserted into the keyhole to lift the levers until the lock unlocks.

Chapter 7: How to Pick a Tubular Lock

Tubular locks are often common in computer locks, elevators, bicycle locks and several other machines such as vending machines.

Specialized picks can help you pick apart this lock quite easily. However, many people believe that these locks are not very secure because they can easily be picked apart repeatedly.

So, what tools do you need here?

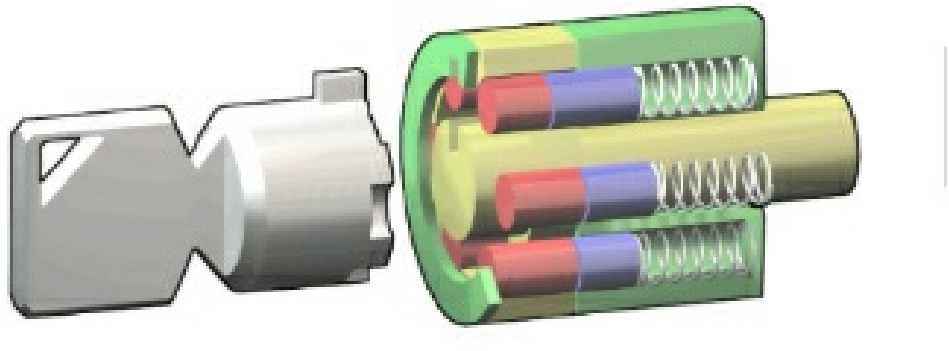
Tools

A tubular lock pick

Procedure

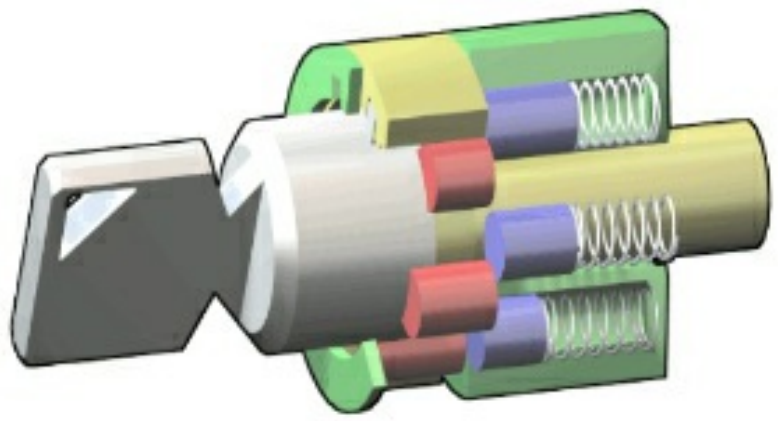
1. First, before trying to pick a tubular lock, you will need to learn how the tubular lock works. Usually, the tubular lock pins are shaped circularly, horizontally, unlike regular locks.

Its key is circular and open in the center, with grooves on its outer side. Most common tubular locks often have between 6-8 pins. So, count the number of pins in the lock before you purchase the tubular lock pick.



In the diagram above, we see that when the lock is engaged, the key pushes the key pins (red) and the driver pins (blue) towards the front, which prevent the plug (yellow) from being rotated.

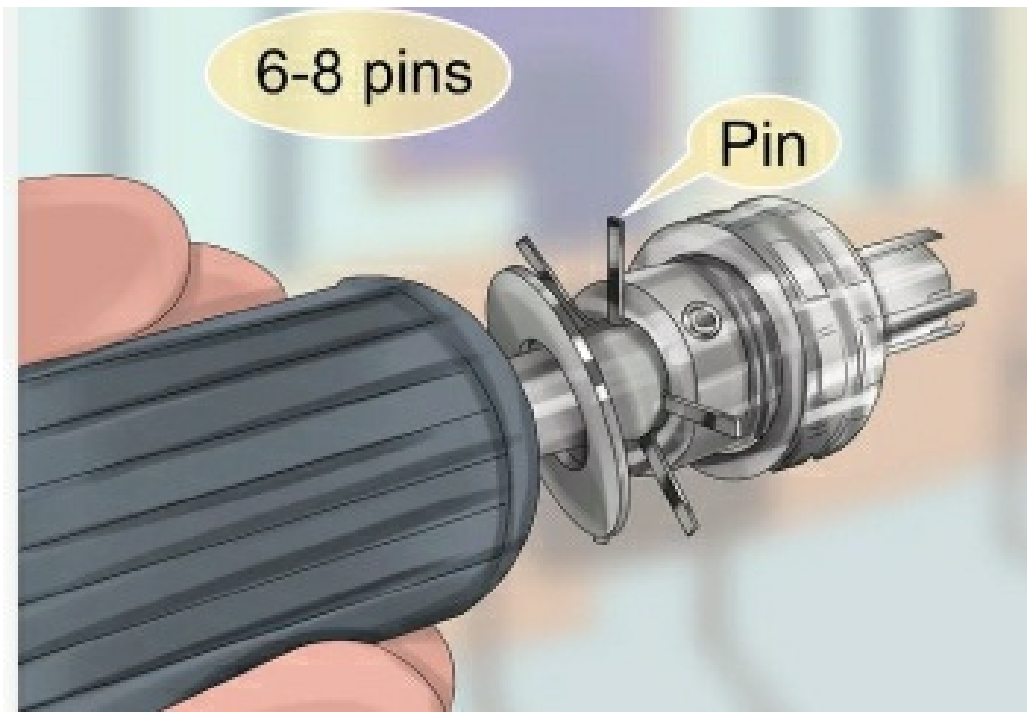
When you insert the key (see below) , the protrusion on the top of the key will fit into a rectangular gap shaped to its size in the lock. This then causes the grooves on the keys to align with the pins. When you insert the key, the gaps that are usually between the key pins and driver pins do align with the shear plane, which seperates the plug from the outer casing (green). When the pins align correctly, this then allows the lock to turn.



2. Now, the tubular lock pick will let you use minimum effort to open the lock in minimum time without the key. This pick is often attached to a circular metal piece that fits into the keyway.

It has several wires (needles) known as pick wires, which you can retract or protrude. If your tubular lock has 6 pins, then you will get a tubular lock pick with 6 needles, if it has 8, then go for one with 8 needles.

Fig: Two Tubular Picks with a Key Decoder and a Pick



3. The wires are controlled from the bends ahead of them. They should have a threaded bolt that you can tighten or loosen. The tubular pick will also have a metal ring which you will use to align the needles to the same height.
4. Now, once you have your tubular lock pick calibrated, it is time to get down to work.
5. Place the pick into the lock, then ensure you apply even pressure straight down.

6. Then, insert the pick slowly into the lock, which allows the picking needles to engage the corresponding pin stacks. As you do that, apply some left to right turning force to the lock, and the lock should pop open.

7. If this fails to disengage the lock after the first few tries, press the L- bends on the needles as you would in a normal pick, sort of trying to pick the springs in the lock. If it still fails to work, remove the tool and recalibrate it.

Now, if this fails to work, you might still need a few more practices to get it right. However, if you want, you can try another tool.

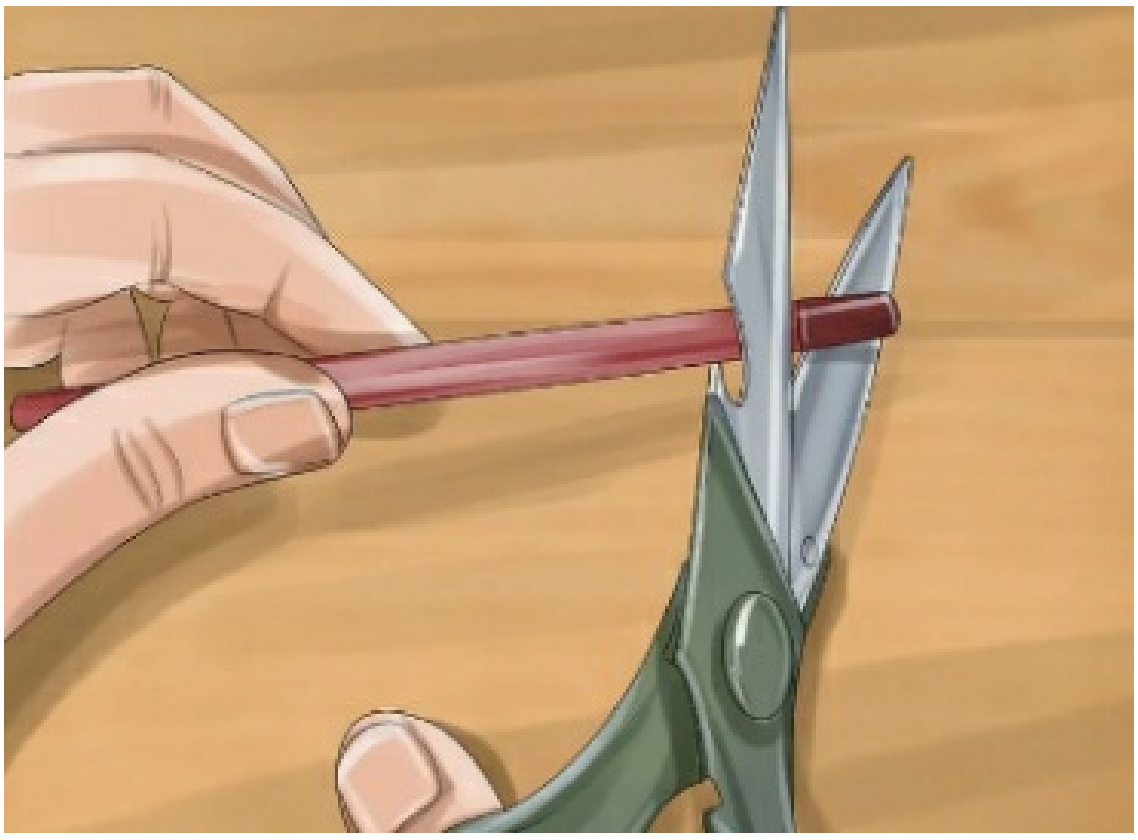
Picking a Tubular Lock with a Ballpoint Pen

Tools

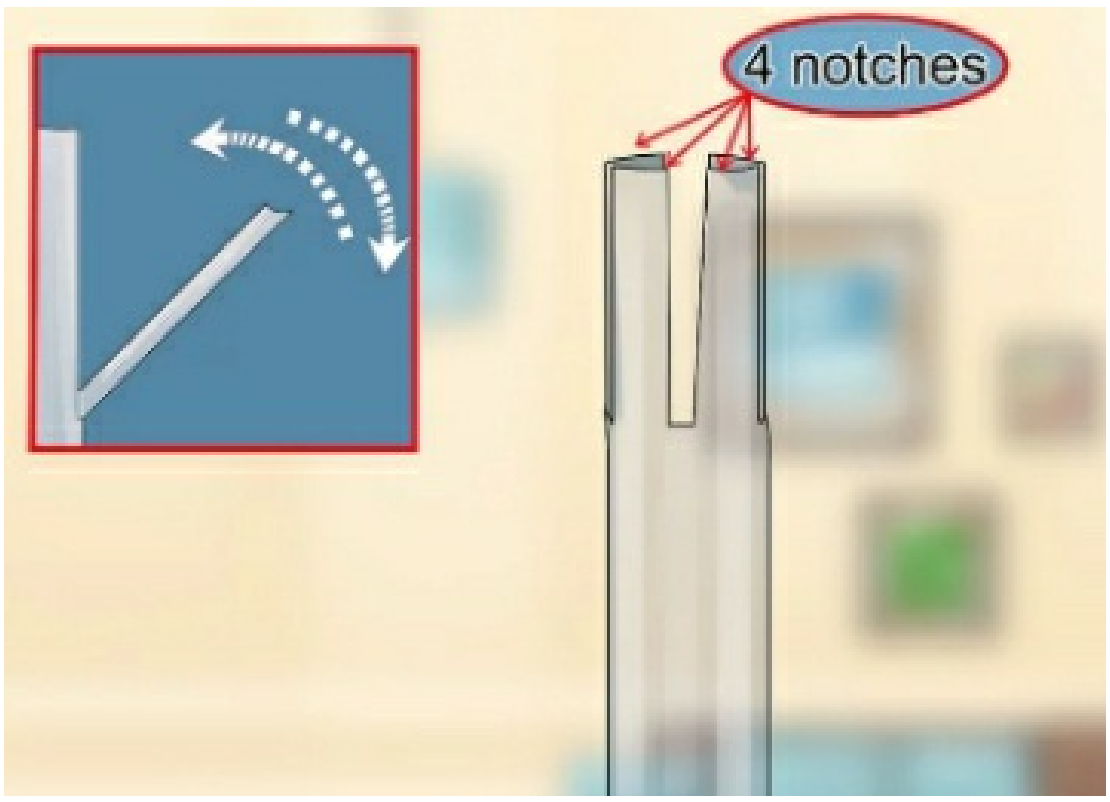
A ballpoint pen

Procedure

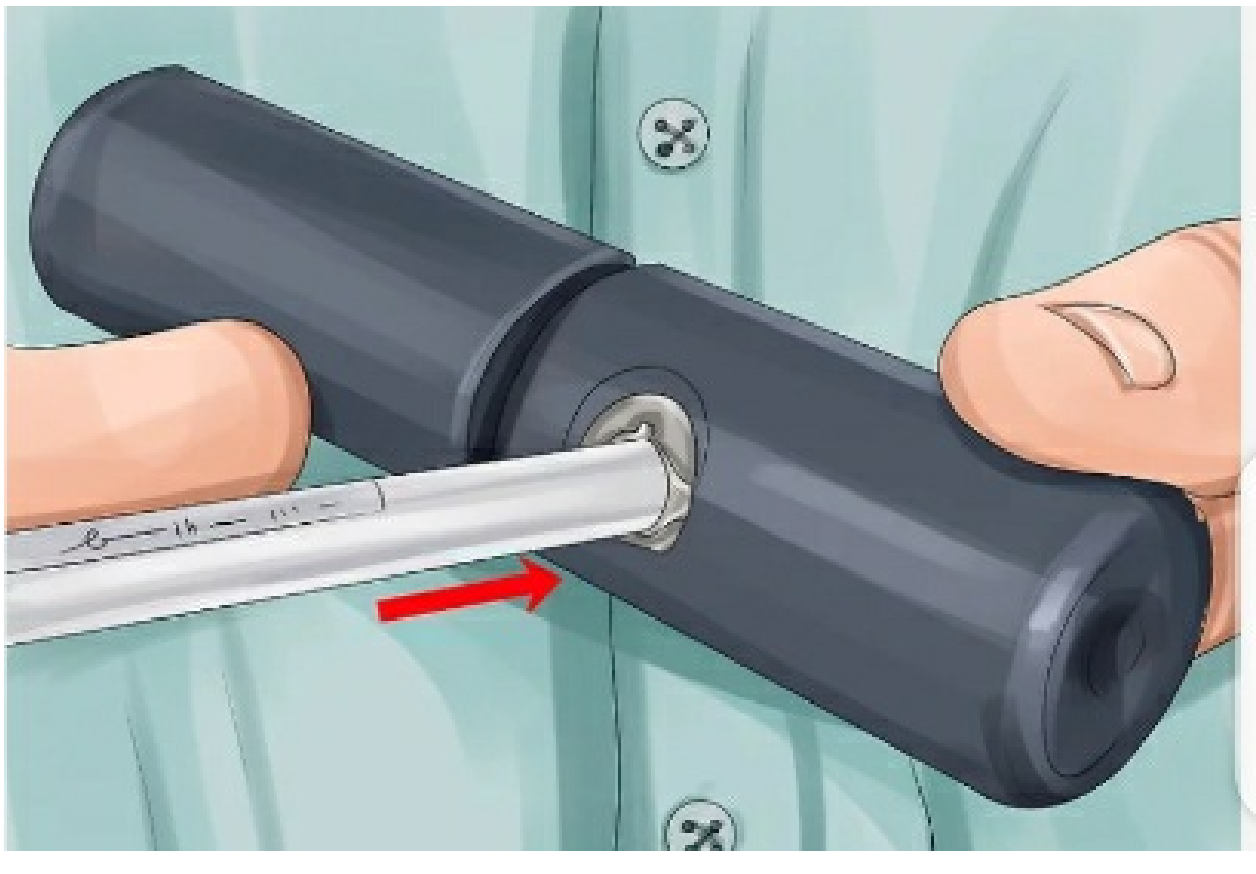
1. First, pick a ballpoint pen whose external diameter is the same or a little smaller than the opening of the lock. Remove the ink tube and then cut off the end of the ballpoint with a pair of scissors.



2. Cut four vertical notches into one end of the pen tube. The notches should run down the sides of the pen. This is to ensure that the pen is flexible when you slide it into the lock.



3. Once complete, slide the pen into the opening of the lock. Push the pen as far in as it can go in the lock. If need be, apply more pressure to get it inside. If it seems that the lock will not allow the pen to go any further even though it hasn't gone in deep, try to make the notches on your pen longer or clean the lock to remove any potential dust that may have built up inside the locks.



4. Once you have your pen firmly inside the lock, begin to fumble about with the pen inside the lock. Shake it as firmly but as gently as you possibly can. If the pen hits all pins, it should unlock the tubular lock. Repeat the process, but the tubular lock pick is your best bet if it fails to open after several attempts.

Chapter 8: How to Pick a Skeleton Key Lock

A skeleton key lock is a vintage type of lock common in old houses and antique chests. Their keys often have very thin and slim bodies with a big round handle, hence the name skeleton keys.

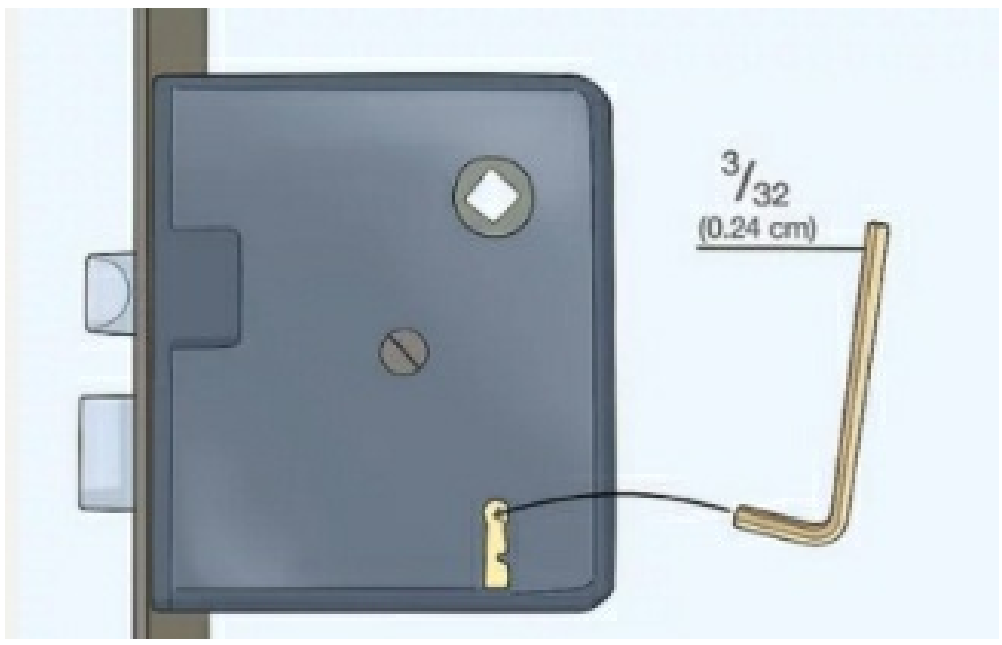
The lock will often easily be opened by many modern skeleton keys used as bases for other lock picks, but you have other alternatives too as you will see below.

Tools

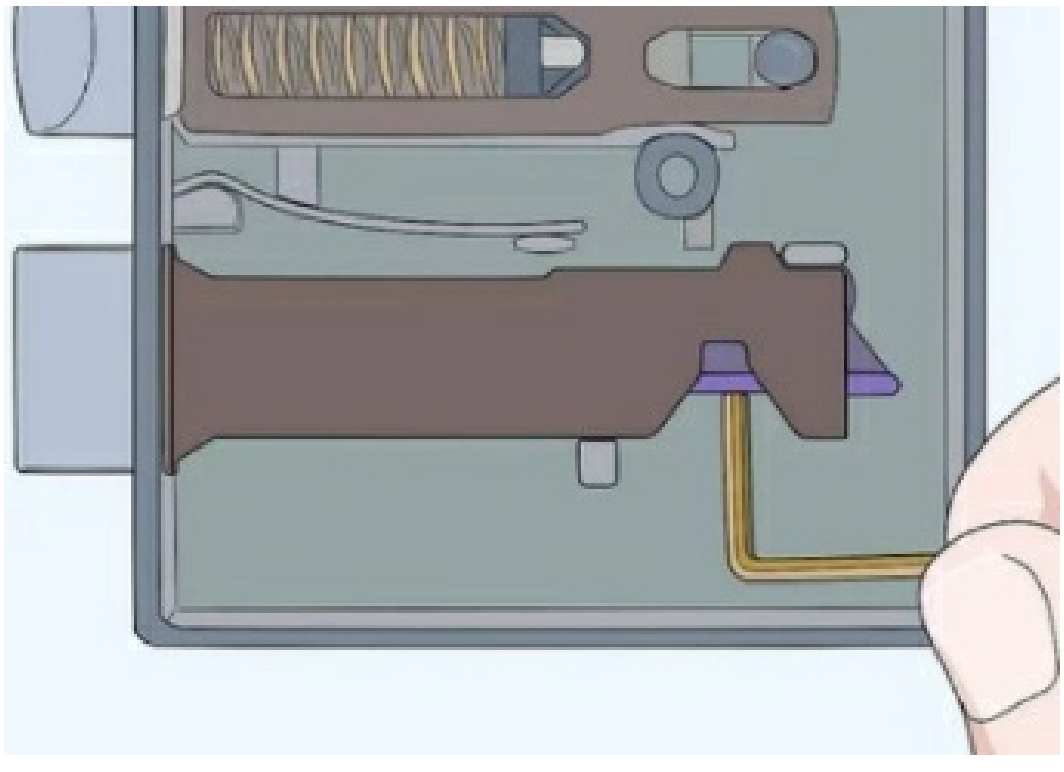
Two Allen wrenches, measuring about 3/32 inches (0.24 cm), though you might want to measure the skeleton key lock before buying. However, the above is the standard.

Procedure

1. Before getting started, it would be wise to either coat the wrenches in grease or lubricate the lock hole before proceeding.
2. Once it is done, insert your first Allen wrench into the keyhole and find the lock lever. Fumble about with the inside of the hole to find the lever. The lever will be located on the nearest side of the lock, the side facing you found at the top.

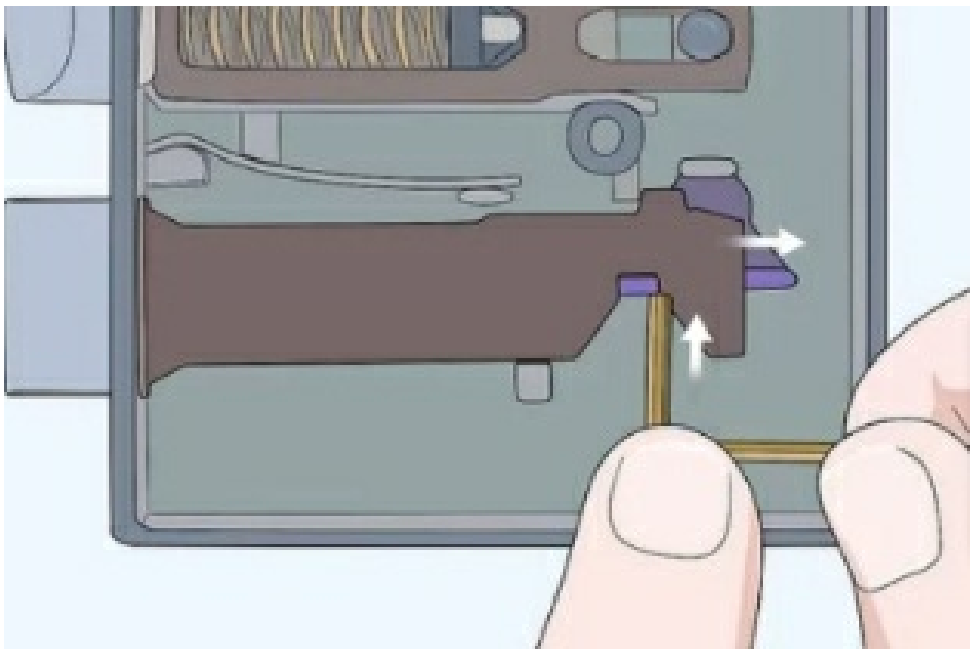


3. When you find it, hold it in place with your Allen wrench and as you do that, keep pushing it upwards.

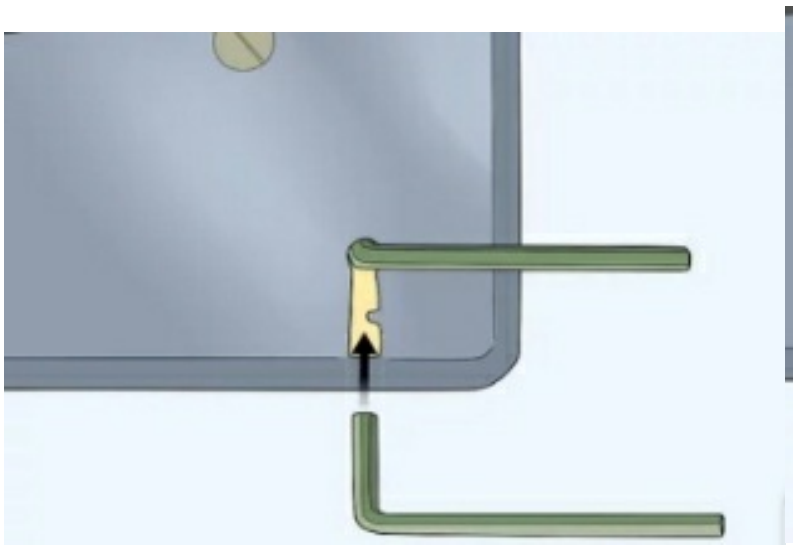


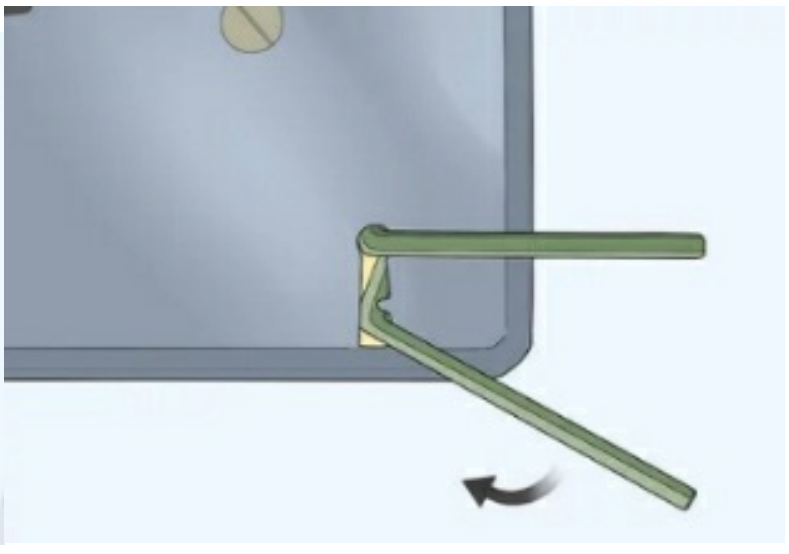
Pro tip: for best results, use your weaker hand to push the lever up so that your dominant hand can come in with the second wrench and work the deadbolt.

4. After you have your lever on hold, pick the other Allen wrench and insert it into the lock hole with your dominant hand. You will hook the second lever behind the first one. If it cannot fit, find a smaller wrench or another strong but thin piece of metal.



5. Once you have it inside, twist the second wrench or wire clockwise as it remains positioned behind the first Allen wrench. As you turn it, you will feel the deadbolt resistance. Keep pushing until the deadbolt slides back and the lock finally opens.





6. Once the lock opens, remove the Allen wrenches, and you have access to what's behind the lock!

Chapter 9: How to Pick a Master Lock

The master lock is a high-security padlock used most times, either in garages or sheds. They are often easier to pick than the other locks around here and are perfect for beginners.

The master lock has 5 stacked pins with two in every stack – upper pins are called the driver pins, while the lower pins are called the key pins. The driver pins sit on the core of the keyway, with different lengths to match different cuts in the key. The driver pins sit between the shear line and obstruct the keyway from turning until the right key is inserted.

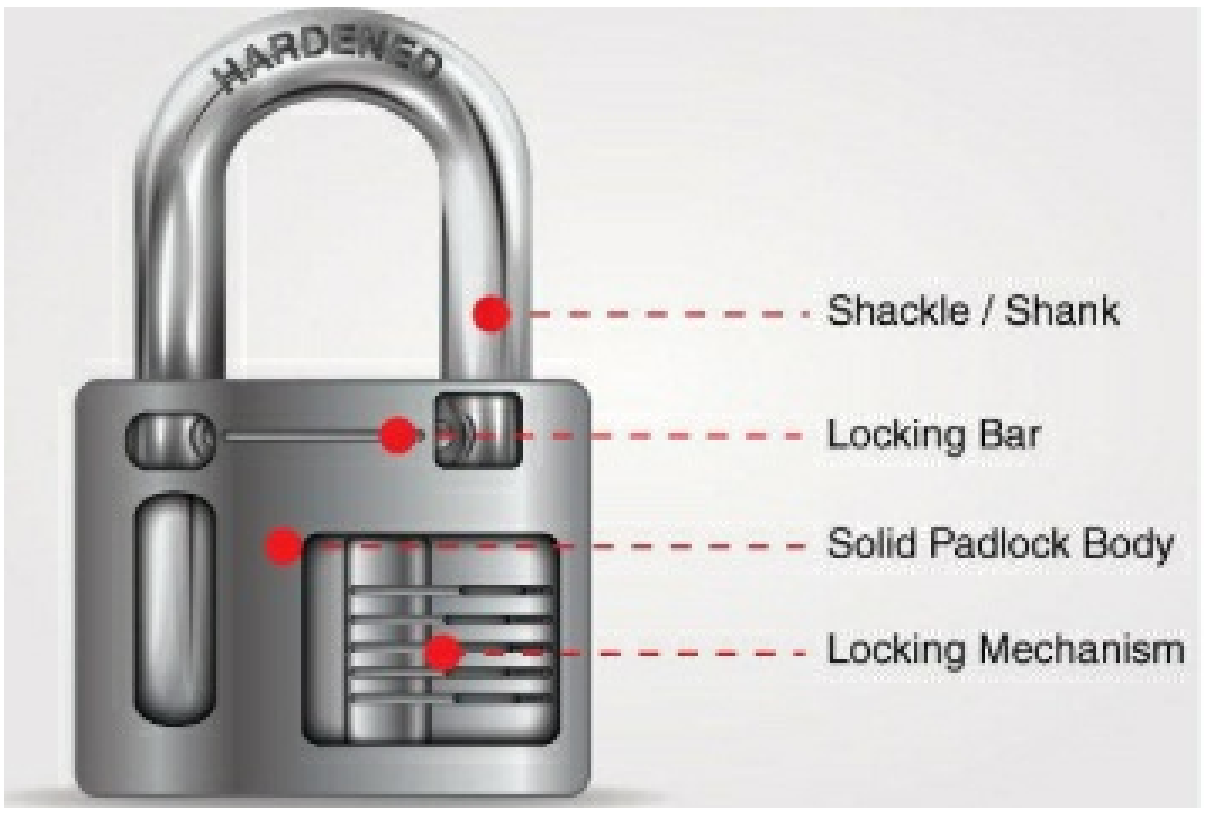


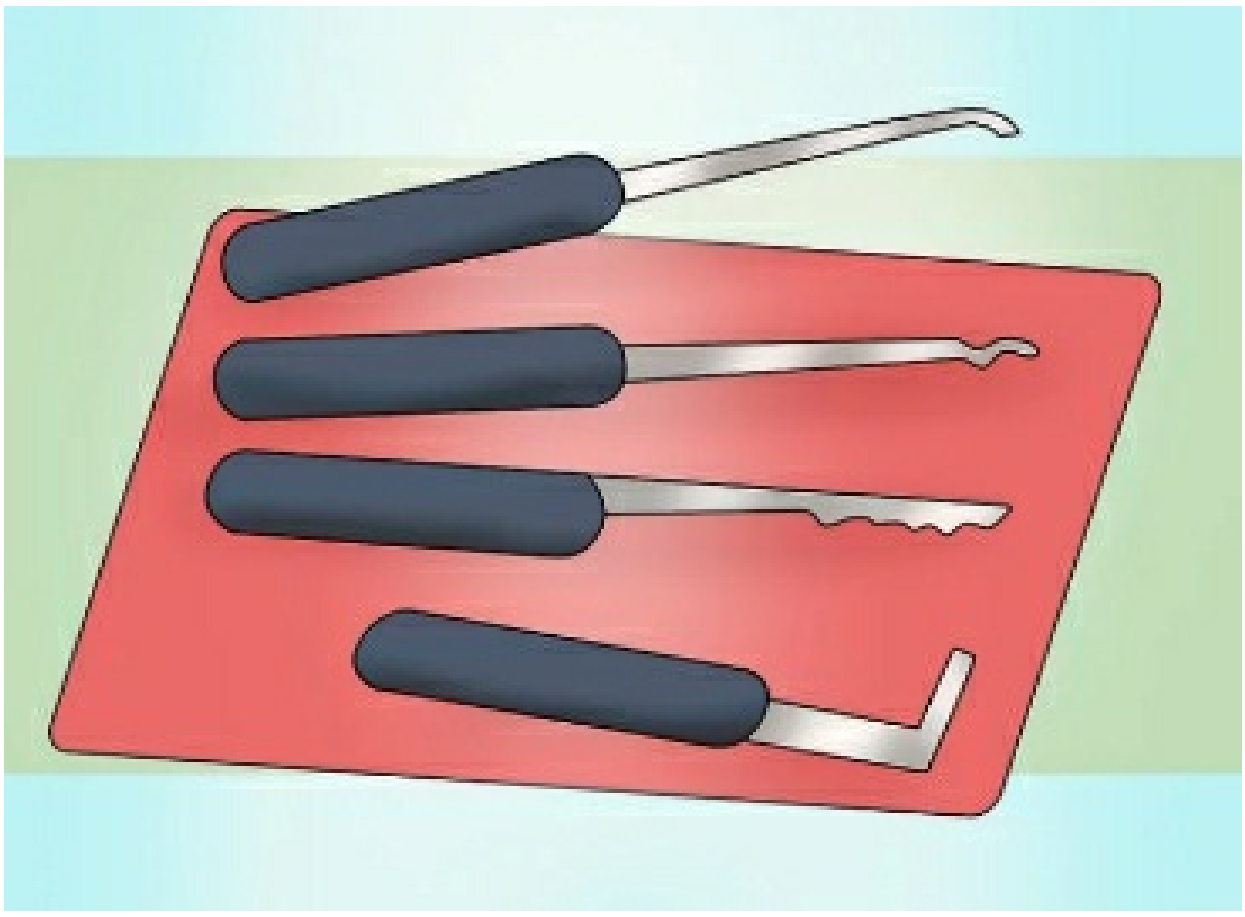
Fig: Parts of the Master Lock; The Five Pins Can Be Seen Clearly in the Locking Mechanism.

Unlocking The Master Lock

Tools

A tension wrench

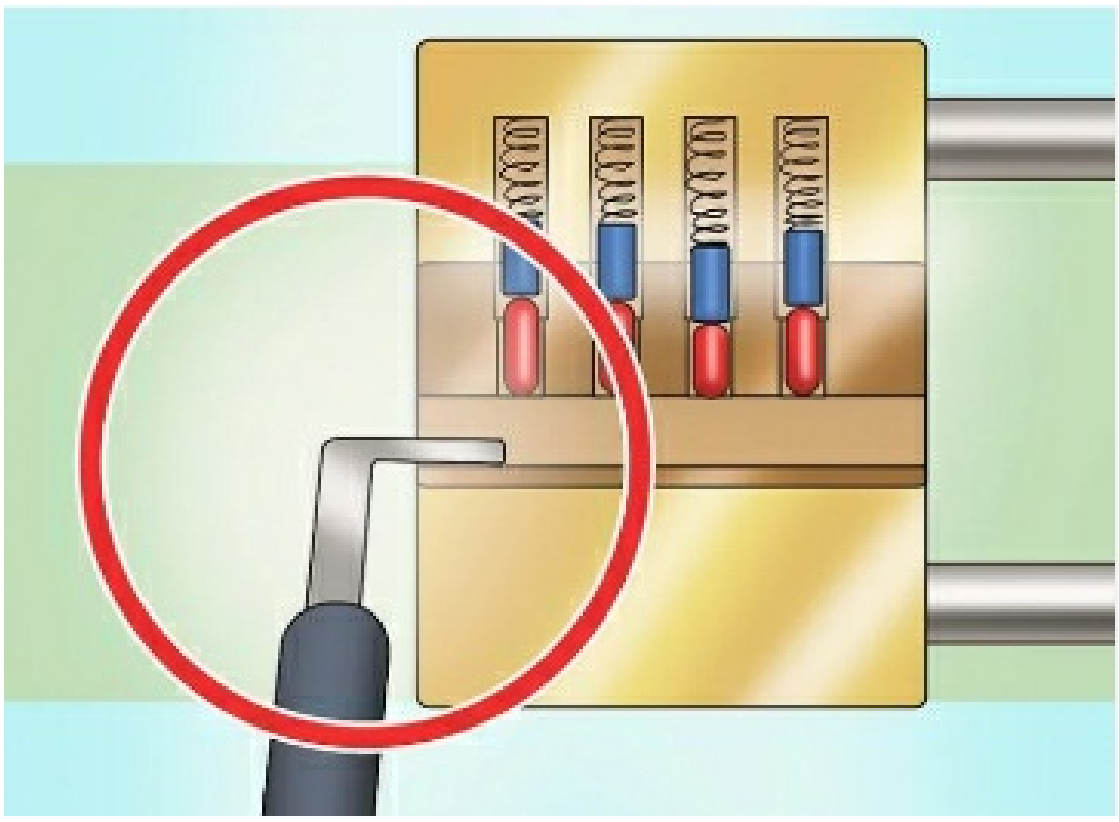
A rake



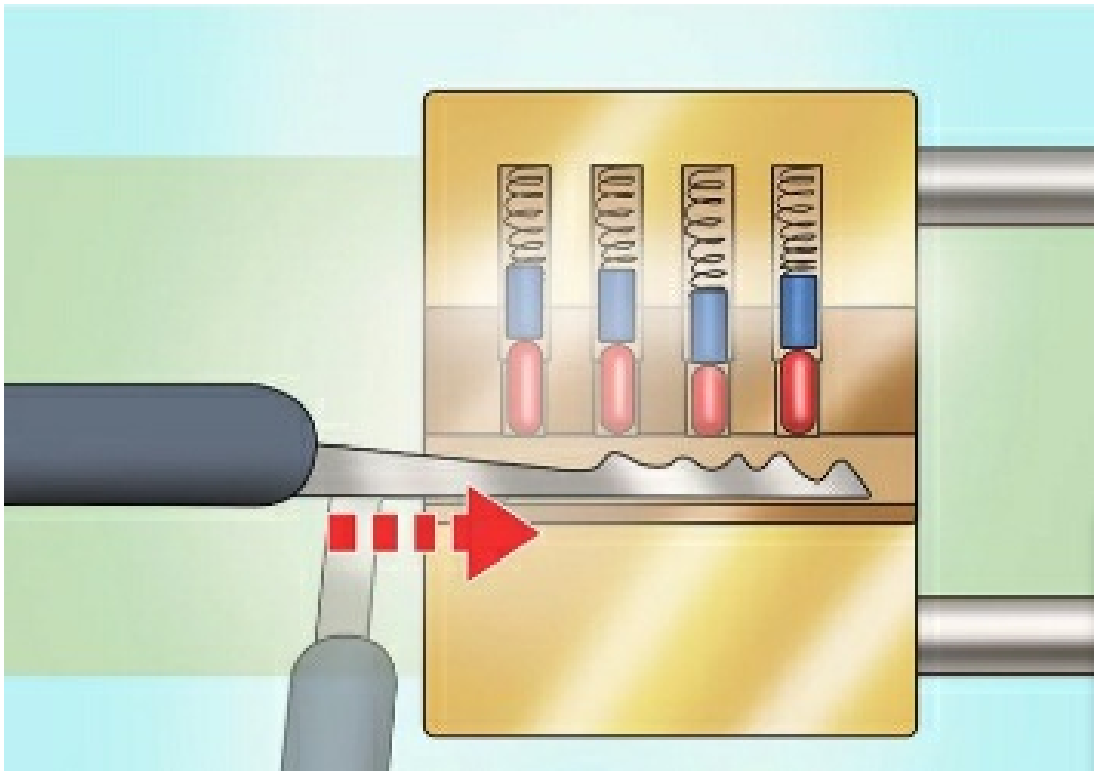
Procedure

1. The first step is to insert your tension wrench to the bottom of the keyway. Insert the short end and slightly twist the lock as you would with a key.

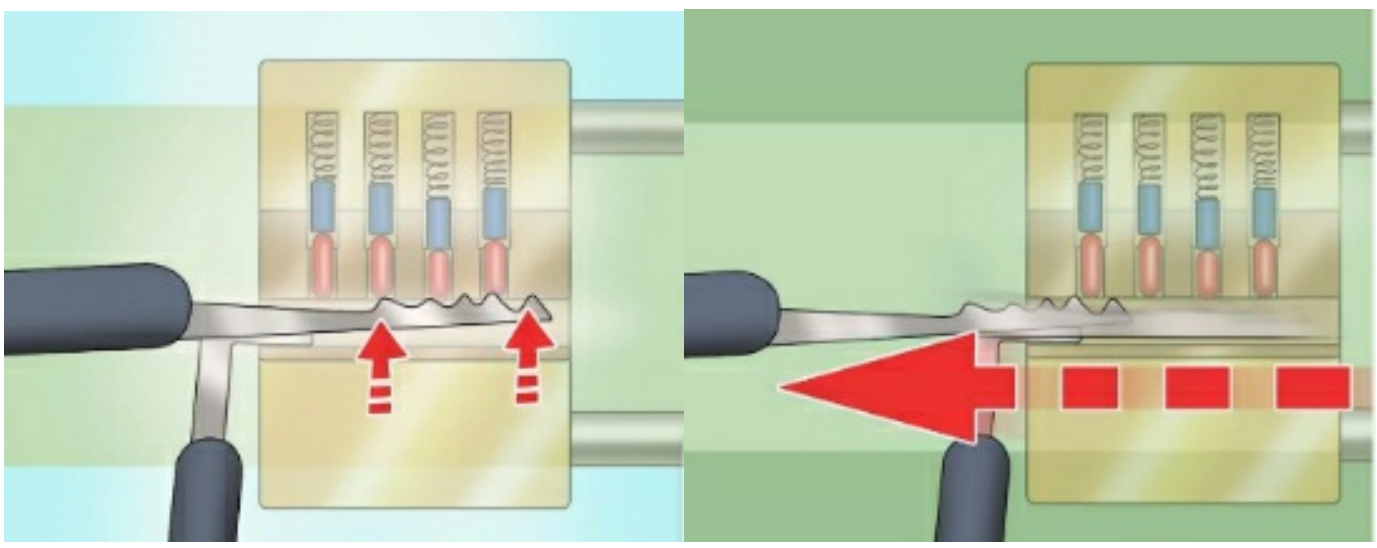
Keep the tension force light. Twist it in the direction of a key when you open the lock. Hold it in place.



2. Get your rake tool and insert it into the lock. Push it as far into the padlock as possible.



3. Begin raking. Push the rake up and down on the pins of the lock. With each motion, pull the rake out swiftly. Do not let go of the tension wrench pressure. Instead, keep scraping on the padlock pins with the raking tool until the lock opens.



4. If it does not open after 20 seconds, remove the tension wrench and begin the process again. Ensure you apply light pressure once more, or else you will fail to get the master lock to open if you twist the tension wrench with too much force.

Chapter 10: How to Pick the ABUS Lock

The ABUS company is a well-known international manufacturer of advanced locking mechanisms. They often have their locks designed to the pin tumbler system, but they have gained a reputation for being quite difficult to open.

However, you can learn how to pick any ABUS lock with enough practice, the right tools, and some patience.

Below, we look at how you can learn to pick ABUS 55/50 brass padlock.

Tools

Two tension wrenches

A hook pick

Procedure

1. Your first step is to place the tension wrench at the bottom of the keyhole.

2. Then, find which way to turn the cylinder. You will use your tension wrenches to turn around the cylinder either right or left. The cylinder will move either way, but it will abruptly stop if you turn it the wrong way. If you turn it the right way, however, it will be more flexible. That is the direction that you will hold your tension wrenches.
3. Apply and hold the tension wrenches with some light force.

4. Then, with your free hand, slide the hook pick into the upper part of the keyhole and begin to press upward on each pin as you move the hook pick further inside the lock. Find the pin hardest to push up (the binding pin) and focus on it.

5. Push on the binding pin repeatedly until you hear a short click. When this happens, then it means that the pin has been set, meaning it has been aligned with the shear line.
6. Once you have your binding pin set, repeat step 5 with the remaining pin. As you do that, continue to hold the wrenches in position, applying the force to prevent the pins from dropping back in place.
7. When all the pins are set, twist the cylinder further with the tension wrench, and your lock will disengage. If it fails, remove the tools from the lock, and recalibrate it before trying again.

When repeating the process, hold the tension wrenches to varying degrees of force. This is because the lock will fail to open if you apply too much force onto the cylinder. So, vary your force slightly each time you resume picking.

Chapter 11: How to Pick a Combination Lock

A combination lock uses a series of numbers rather than pins to engage its lock mechanism.

Combination master locks will often have up to 64,000 different potential configurations, making the lock tedious to pick. On average, lock pickers estimate that to manage to put all these configurations, one will need about 180 hours (or seven days, 12 hours). That sure is a lot of time. However, despite all these, you can still figure out how to pick them with minimum attempts.

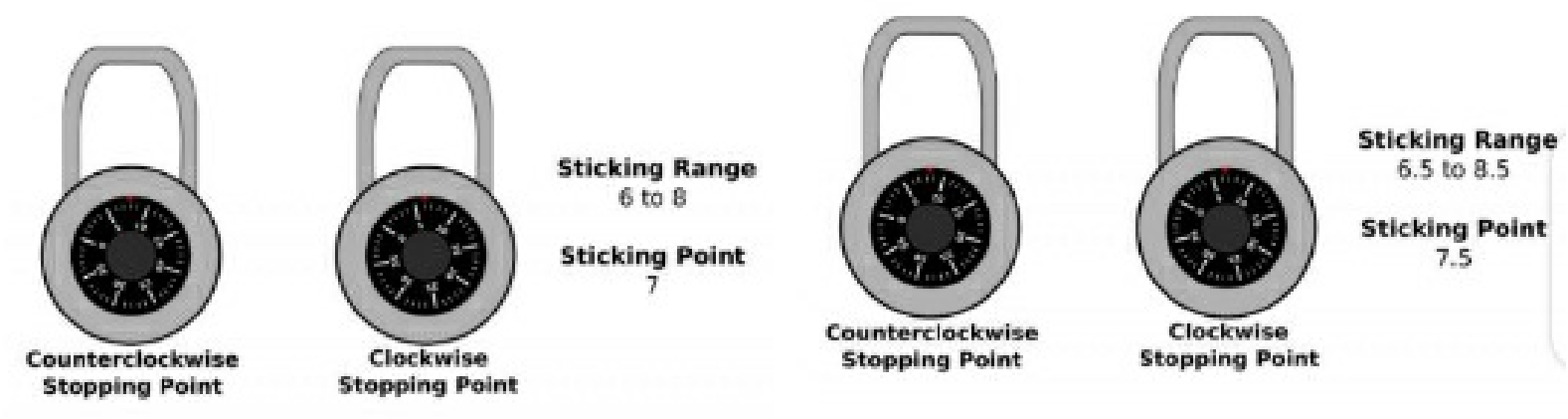
This guide will help you trim down your potential combinations to just 80, which will take you significantly less time than the 180 hours you would take otherwise. Additionally, this guide does not include manipulating the internal mechanisms for this type of lock. Most of the work we will do on this lock will be outside, so no picking tools here!

Procedure

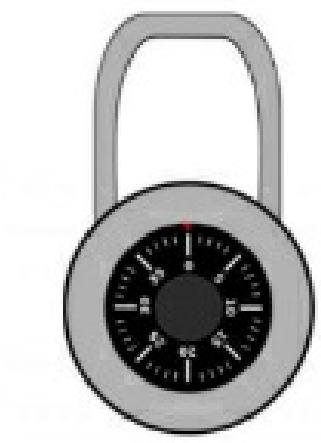
Now, when trying to pick a combination lock, the model of the lock is critical, as is the serial number. So, before we begin, turn the lock around to find the model. Note, however, that this method will possibly not work with models which begin with 800 or 908. Though you could try, there is no guarantee.

1. The first step, once you have your model number, is to set a common starting point. This is called clearing the lock. It is when you rotate the dial at least thrice past the zero mark in a clockwise manner. When you stop, also stop the rotation at the zero mark.
2. Place tension on the shackle by holding it with the index finger of your holding hand and pulling it up (shown below). Pull up gently on the lock's shackle (don't apply too much pressure lest it makes it impossible to turn the dial. Also, don't apply too little pressure as the dial will turn freely without affecting anything inside).

3. Begin to rotate the dial slowly to the left (anti-clockwise). If the dial remains stuck at zero, release the tension from the shackle and then rotate the dial one or two numbers to the left. Once done, reapply the tension on the shackle and rotate the dial further to the left.
4. When rotating in the anti-clockwise direction, you will come to the point where the dial will no longer freely rotate and will be stuck between two numbers. Write that number down. Then, rotate the lock clockwise (to the right) then back again as you hold the shackle pressure. So, for example, if your anti-clockwise rotation stops at 8, the clockwise stopping point then could be 6. So, our sticking range will be 6 to 8.



5. To find our sticking point, we will take the number between our sticking range, in this instance, 7 .
6. So , after finding our first sticking point, we need to find our second sticking point. Release upward tension of the shackle and then turn the dial anti-clockwise until you pass the higher number of the last sticking range. Above, our sticking range was 6-8. So, we will rotate the dial to 9.
7. Once your dial is on 9, apply upward tension on the shackle, then turn it to the left until you get to the point when the dial jams. Note down the stopping point here. With the tension still applied, rotate the dial to the right until it jams once more and records the stopping point. Then, record the sticking range and determine the middle number.
8. Once done, we will then move to find the third number of the combination. Repeat steps 3-7 of turning the dial anti-clockwise and finding the sticking point, all until you have ten more numbers recorded. This brings our sticking point figures to 12. Below is an example of 12 sticking points and their sticking ranges (note these figures will be different when you do it. What is important is that you follow the instructions in this procedure).



Sticking Ranges:	Sticking Points:
2.5 - 4.5	3.5
5.5 - 7.5	6.5
9 - 11	10
12.5 - 14.5	13.5
15.5 - 17.5	16.5
19 - 21	20
24.5 - 26.5	25.5
26 - 28	27
29 - 31	30
32.5 - 34.5	33.5
35.5 - 37.5	36.5
39 - 1	0

9. Our figure shows that we have fractions and whole numbers (seven to five). We will then work with the whole numbers and leave out the fractions. This leaves us with 0,10,20,27 and 30.

10. As we see, all the numbers except 27 all end with the same number – 0. This odd number is the third number of our combination.

11. To find the first number in the combination, then, we need to determine the possibilities of the first number. There are about ten possibilities.

12. So, we will take the third number and divide it by four (the number of combination numbers. So, we will divide 27 by 4 to get 6, with 3 as the remainder. Write 3 down (note that these locks will always have either number between 0-3 as the remainder, so 0, 1, 2 and 3. Anything else means that you may have been doing it wrong.)

13. Once done, we get down to trying to find the ten possibilities for the first number. Add four to the remainder and then note this down. So 4+3 = 7.

14. Then, add four to the result again. So 7+4 = 11. Add four again and again until you have ten numbers. The tenth and largest digit should be a number that you can find on the dial. So, below we do the math;

5. 11+4=15(4^{th}), 15+4=19(5^{th}), 19+4=23(6^{th}), 23+4=27(7^{th}), 27+4=31(8^{th}), 31+4=35(9^{th}), 35+4=39(10^{th}).
6. These are our ten possibilities, meaning that one of them is our first number of the combination.

15. Now, we move to find the second number. Once more, we go back to our remainder, which was 3. We will subtract two from this three (since it is our second number). Note, though, that if your remainder was 0 or 1, you would add two to it. If the remainder is 2 or 3, we subtract two.

16. So, taking away 2 from three leaves us with 1. We will then add four to it until we have ten possibilities. So we have 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33 and 37. We will then narrow down this number by removing a number within the two of our third numbers, which was 27.

So this means we remove 25 and 29. So now we have eight possibilities – 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 33 and 37.

17. Once we have these possibilities and an inevitable third number – 27, it will now be about using the combinations until one works. So, for example, the first try will be 3-1-27, the second will be 7-5-27. In this pick, the combination ended up being 19-5-27.

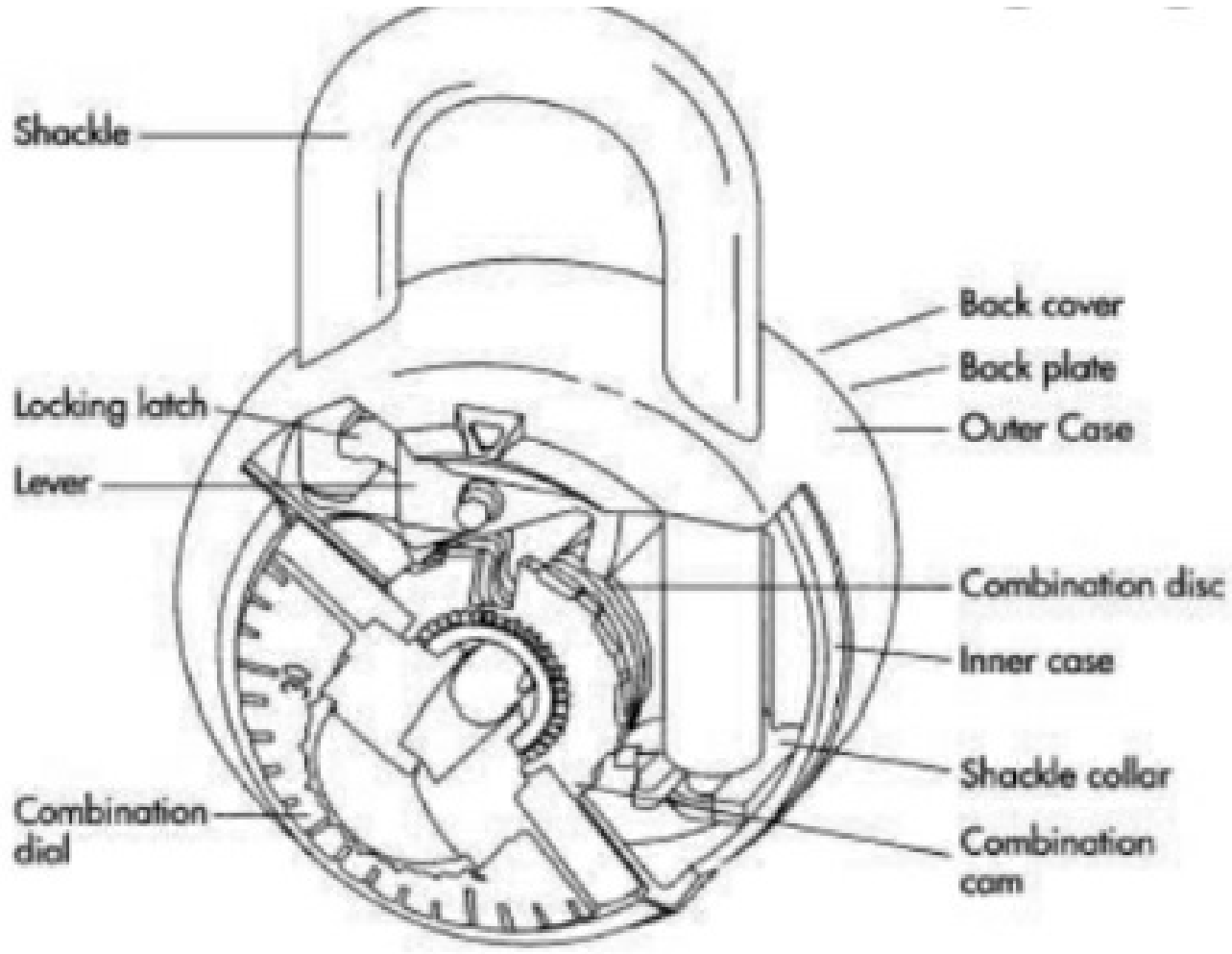
18. Once again, do not focus on the numbers as they will vary from lock to lock. Instead, take the procedure and apply it to your combination. With the right amount of luck, you could crack the combination in a few minutes.

However, if you do not want to get into the math of finding the combination lock, there is another hack you can try to crack the combination lock. Below we look at it.

Shimming a Combination Lock

Shimming a combination lock is more in line with the traditional lock picking that we have looked at – using a tool to manipulate the locking mechanism.

Shimming is using metal to pick the shackle of the combination lock. Shimming often means that when you insert your shim to the lock, it retracts the spring-loaded catch that holds the shackle in place.



For example, in the diagram above, when we put a shim on the shackle and slide it into the hole into which the shackle moves, it will push the locking latch back. With tension applied to the shackle, this will push it up, thus, opening the lock.

So, what would we need here?

Tools

A pair of scissors

A disposed can of soda

Procedure

1. The first step is to study your lock carefully. Identify the place where the locking mechanism is. Many modern combination locks are built to resist shimming, but it remains possible to open most of them. Often, in many combination locks, the lock of the shackle is on the left side (when the dial is facing you, which is the right side up).

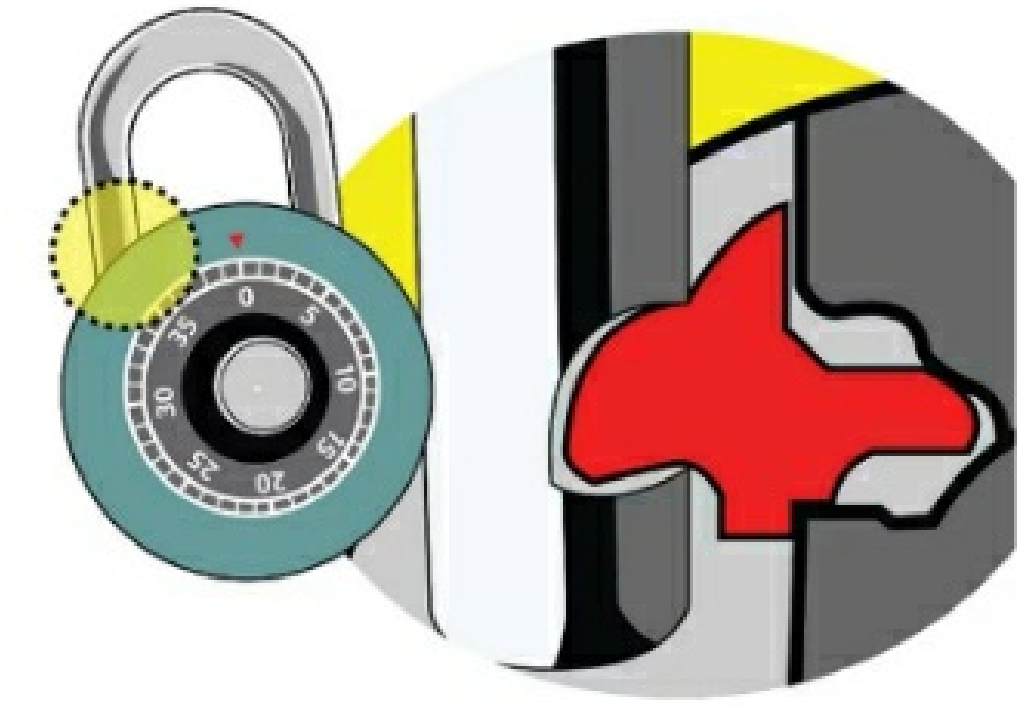
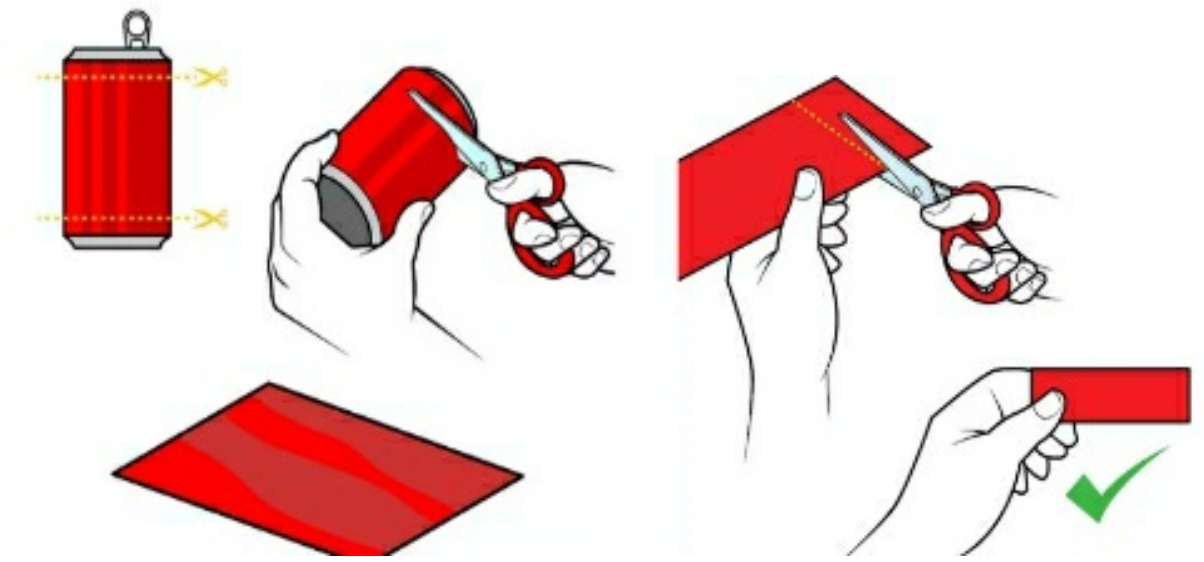


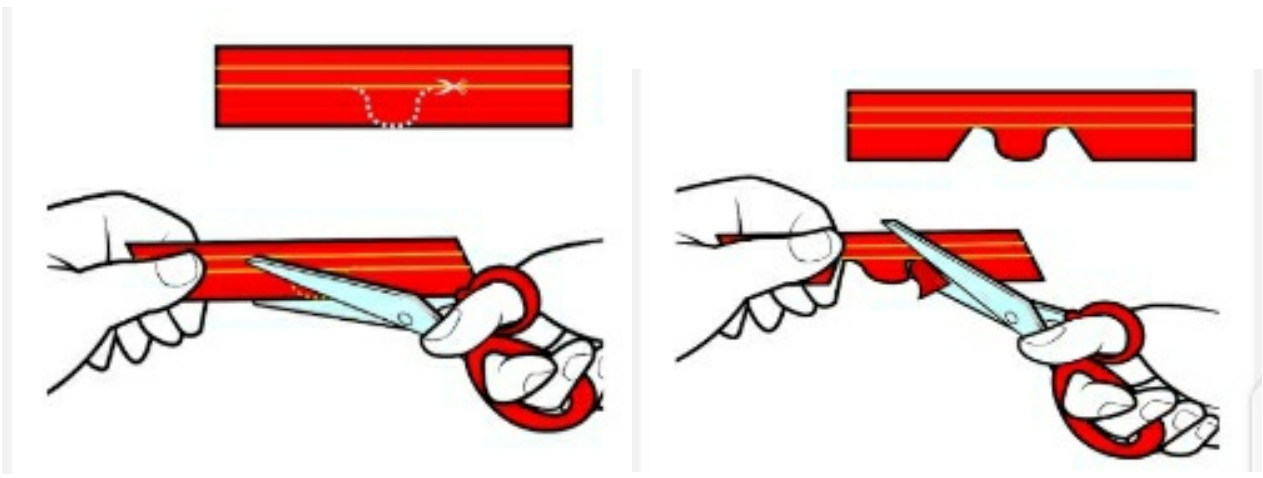
Fig: The Red is the Latch Inside the Lock, Holding The Shackle (Left) While the Other Side is Connected

to the Lever. When we Shim, we will Try to Slide the Shim Between the Shackle and Latch and Pull.

2. Once done, take your soda can and a pair of scissors and cut a shim for yourself. Cut the top of the soda can, cut down the length, and remove the bottom. You should have a sheet of aluminium, which is what the body of the can was.

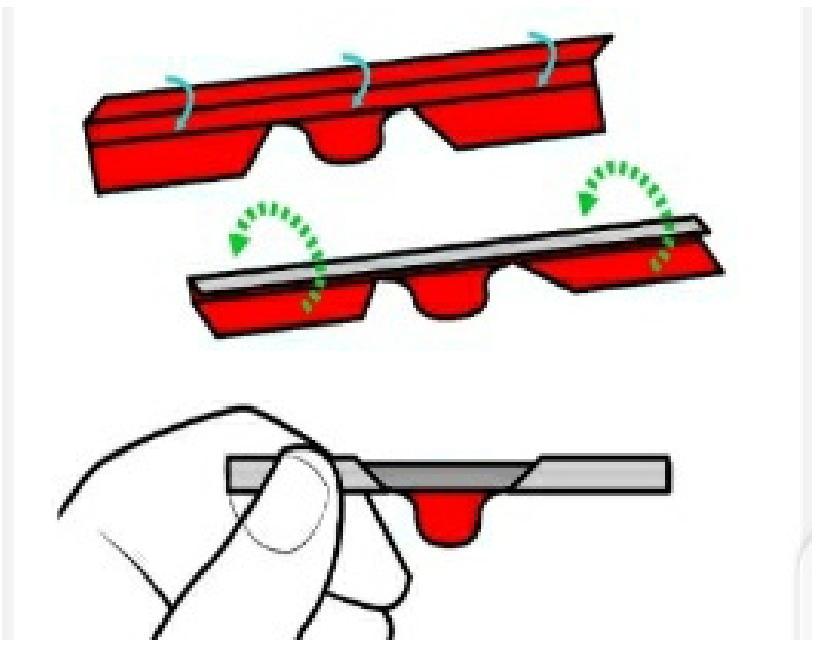


3. Cut a strip of the can horizontally, then trim any ragged edges of the strip that you have cut.
4. Once you have smoothened out your edges, cut two curved incisions into the strip horizontally. The area between the cuts should resemble a U (however, don't cut it to the top. Halfway up is okay).



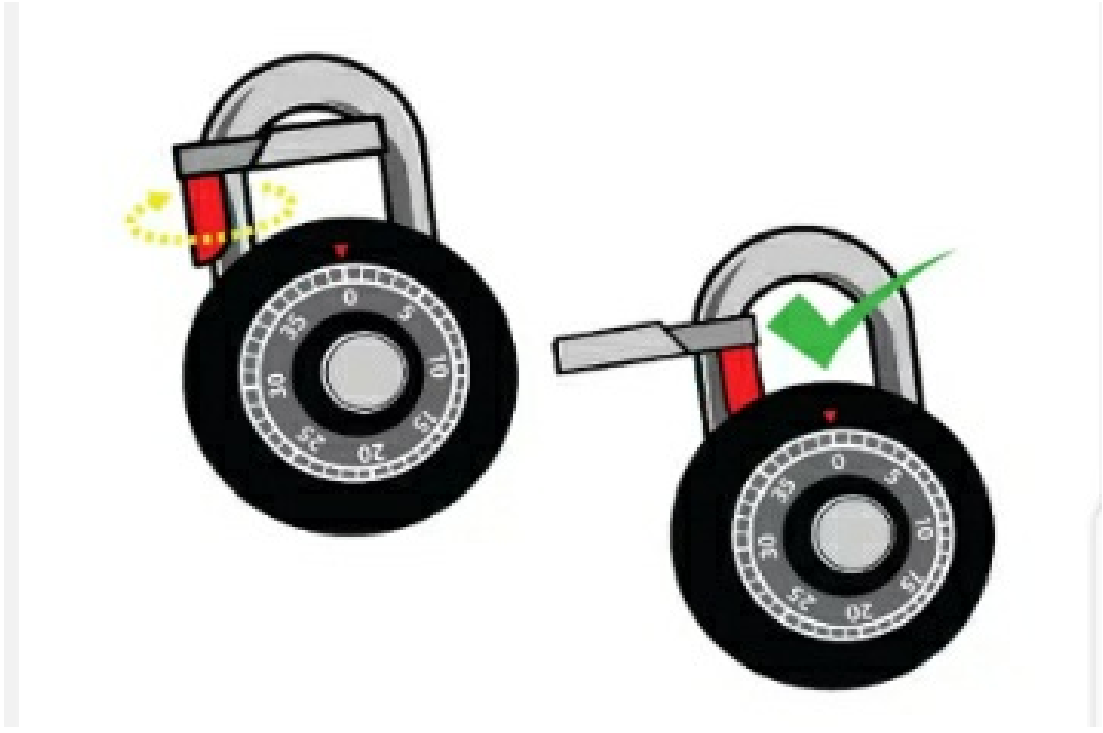
5. Once done, fold the sides of the strip to make a handle. The 'U' part of the strip should be the only part sticking out, as shown below.

The folded sides will act as your handle on the shim so that you don't cut your hand with the sharp edges of the metal.



6. Once done, gently fold the shim around the lock's shackle. The sticking part of the shim should face downwards, facing into the area where the shackle locks.

Fold the shim around the outside first so that it molds into the shackle's shaft. Once done, turn the shim around such that the U is inside the shackle and your handle is on the outside.



7. Push the shim down, push the shackle as far up as possible, and hold it in place with one of your fingers. Then, work the shim down into the crack between the shim and the lock itself using your free hand. Do not rush the process and take your time. Try to work the shim as far down as you can.

8. Once it pushes into the lock, pinch the shim with one hand, then use the other hand to push the shackle down before pulling it up with some force. The lock should open.

Another third way to get the combination for a combination is using its serial number.

Using The Serial Number

This third step does not involve any ingenuity or tools but rather going straight to the manufacturer.

1. First, you need to identify the lock's serial number. If its serial number is written on it, write it down.
2. Take the lock to your local distributor, who should be able to contact the manufacturer to prove your ownership and provide the combination. However, note that you may not be helped if the lock is

attached to an object, e.g., a safe or box. Also, you will get charged for this process.

3. You can also contact the manufacturer through their website and find out if they can submit to you the combination. Often, they will need you to fill and submit a lost combination form, which a notary should acknowledge. (A notary is a person with legal authority to approve the legitimacy of a signed document.)

So, once you fill your lost combination form, you will need the notary to look at it and approve it before submitting it to the combination lock manufacturer.

4. Once done, you will copy your lock on a copier with the serial number beside it, then send it to the manufacturer by mail. If you can go to the manufacturer physically, then do so. However, if your lock is attached to an object, you will need to show proof of ownership or that you have a right to access what is behind the object protected by the combination lock.

As we see, unlike other kinds of locks, the master combination lock has a long process to open, so it is best to try and not forget the combination, or else you are in for a long day or two!

Chapter 12: How to Unlock a Car Lock

One of the worst things, aside from losing your house keys, is losing your car keys. There is quite nothing as scary as having your means of getting back home inaccessible because you do not know where your key is.

Like all other locks, car locks are often built to resist unlocking attempts, but you can still work around that. Additionally, cars also have different types of locks – wafer locks, pin tumbler locks, etc. Thus, tools for unlocking them are as varied as the vehicles themselves.

However, the methods we are going to look at will be dependent on the car make and model, as well as the year of manufacturing. For example, if the car was manufactured before 1992, the method would work. Cars manufactured after 1992 have many components on the door, such as electronics or wires, which make some of the methods below hard to practice on them. They also have a different locking mechanism.

For the other cars (post-1992), picking the lock with lock picking tools should be your first option.

Additionally, most of them will involve bypassing the lock completely and trying to manipulate the car locking mechanism instead.

Unlocking a Car Using a Slim Jim

A Slim Jim is a slim strip of metal with a notch on one end and a handle on the other. They are about 24 inches long (60 cm), and some 0.79-1.57 inches wide (2-4 cm) and are built specifically to help unlock cars whose keys are not available or when one cannot find a lock pick.

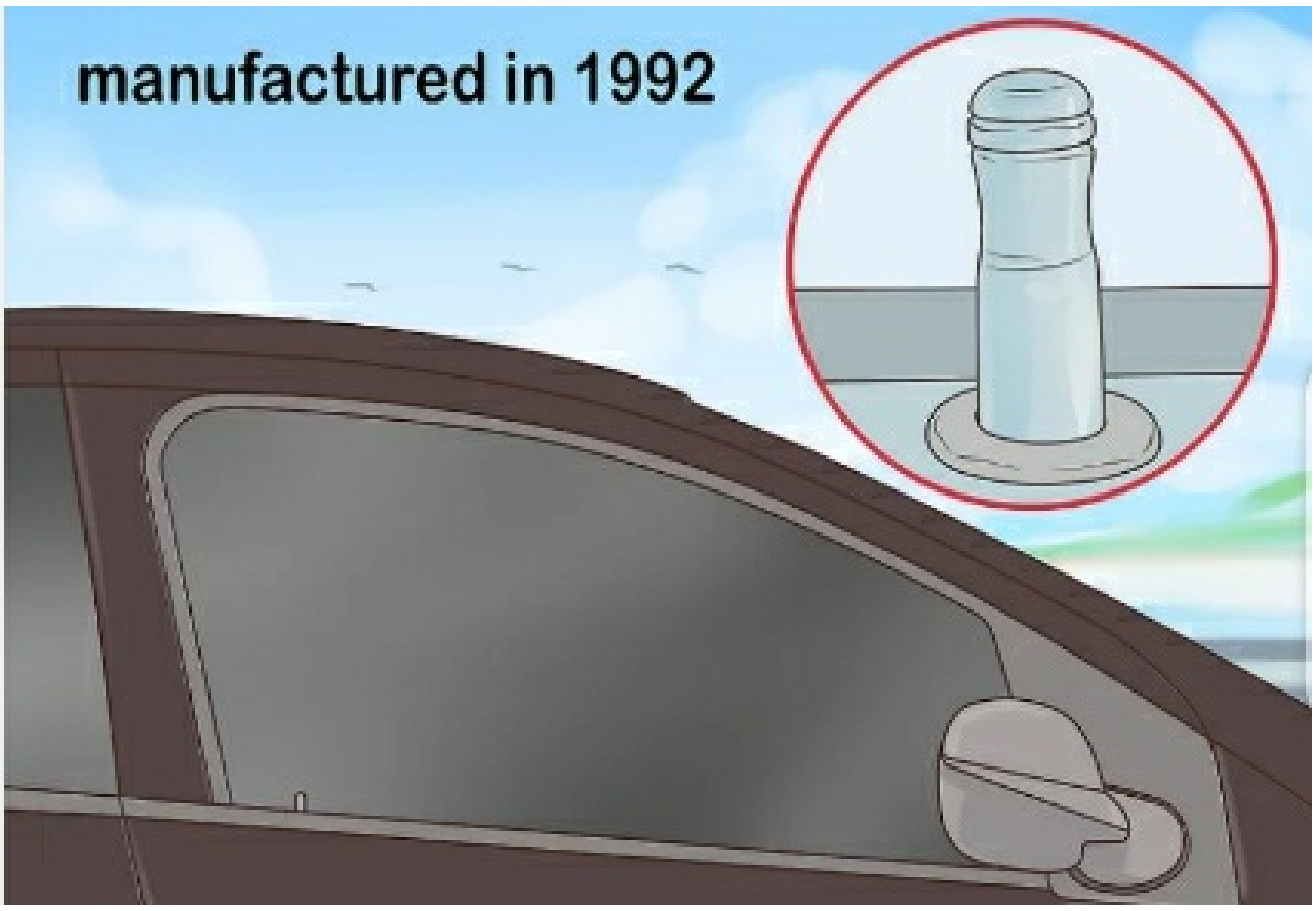
Fig: A slim Jim

Now, the downside of the slim Jim is that some states restrict the use of Slim Jims for private use to prevent their usage in crime and fraud. Thus, owning one can be seen as evidence of criminal intent in some states. So, ensure you read your laws with regards to the individual ownership of such lock picking tools.

However, the Slim Jim does not manipulate the lock directly. Instead, it operates directly on the car door levers, as we will see below.

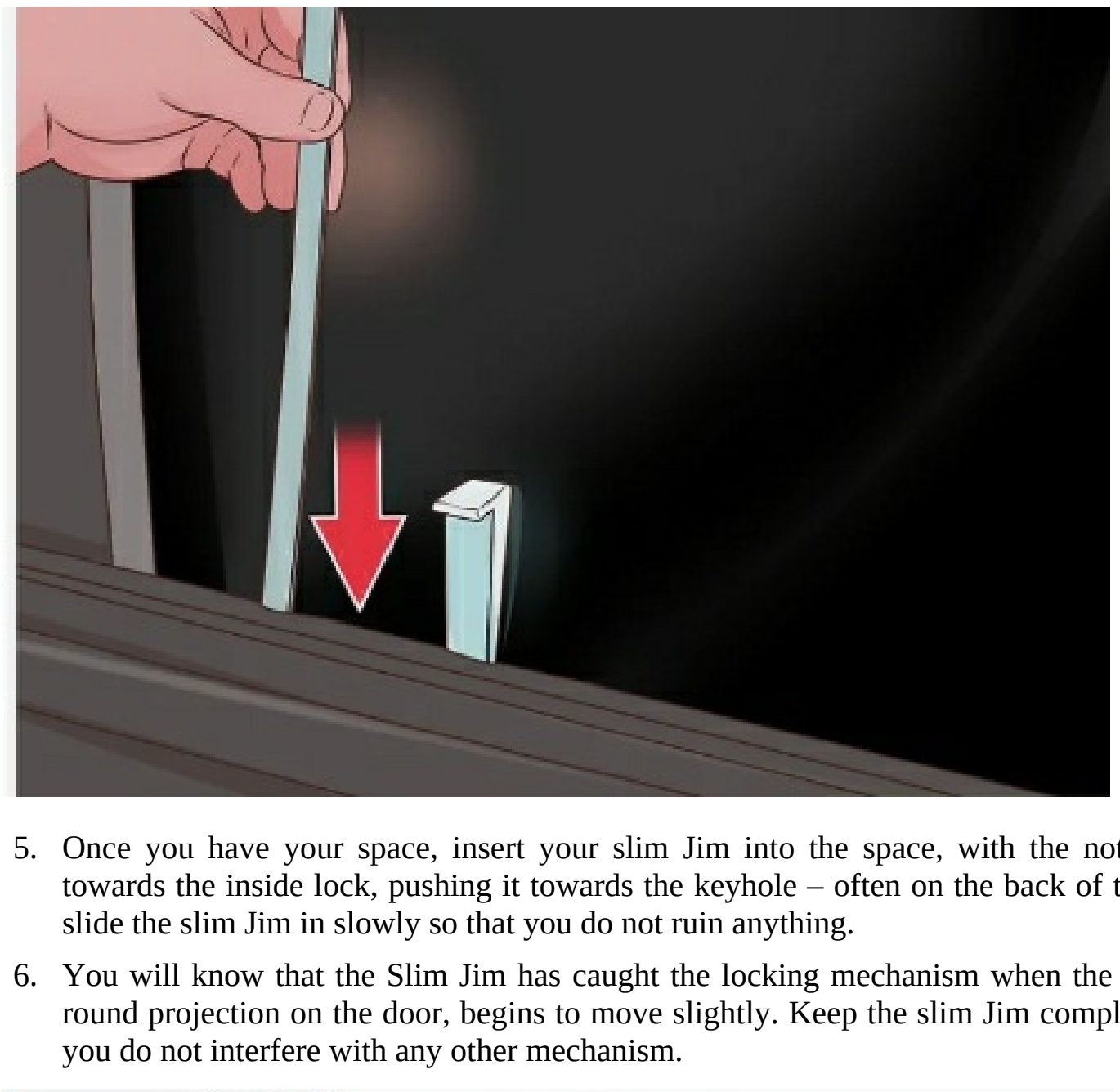
Procedure

1. First, ensure that your car has the upright lock, which sticks out from the window, in the area where it meets the door.

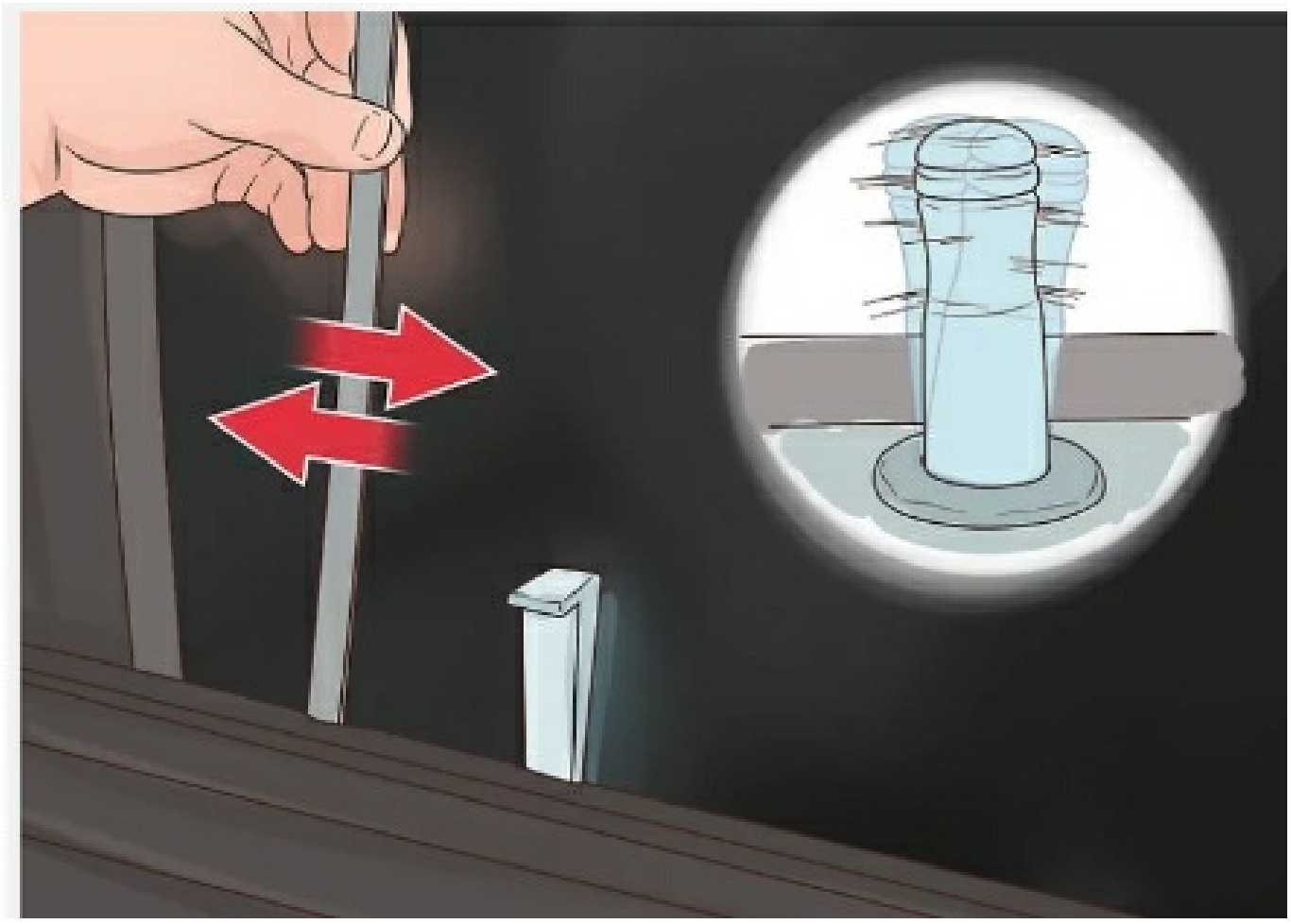


2. Try to manipulate the door from the passenger's side. Locksmiths use this method because the damage will be on a door that you do not frequently use if you damage the door.
3. Once you are on the passenger's side, put a wedge between the car window and the weather-strip. The weather-strip is a rubber strip that runs between the door and window. It is often used to stop water and dust from getting into the car.

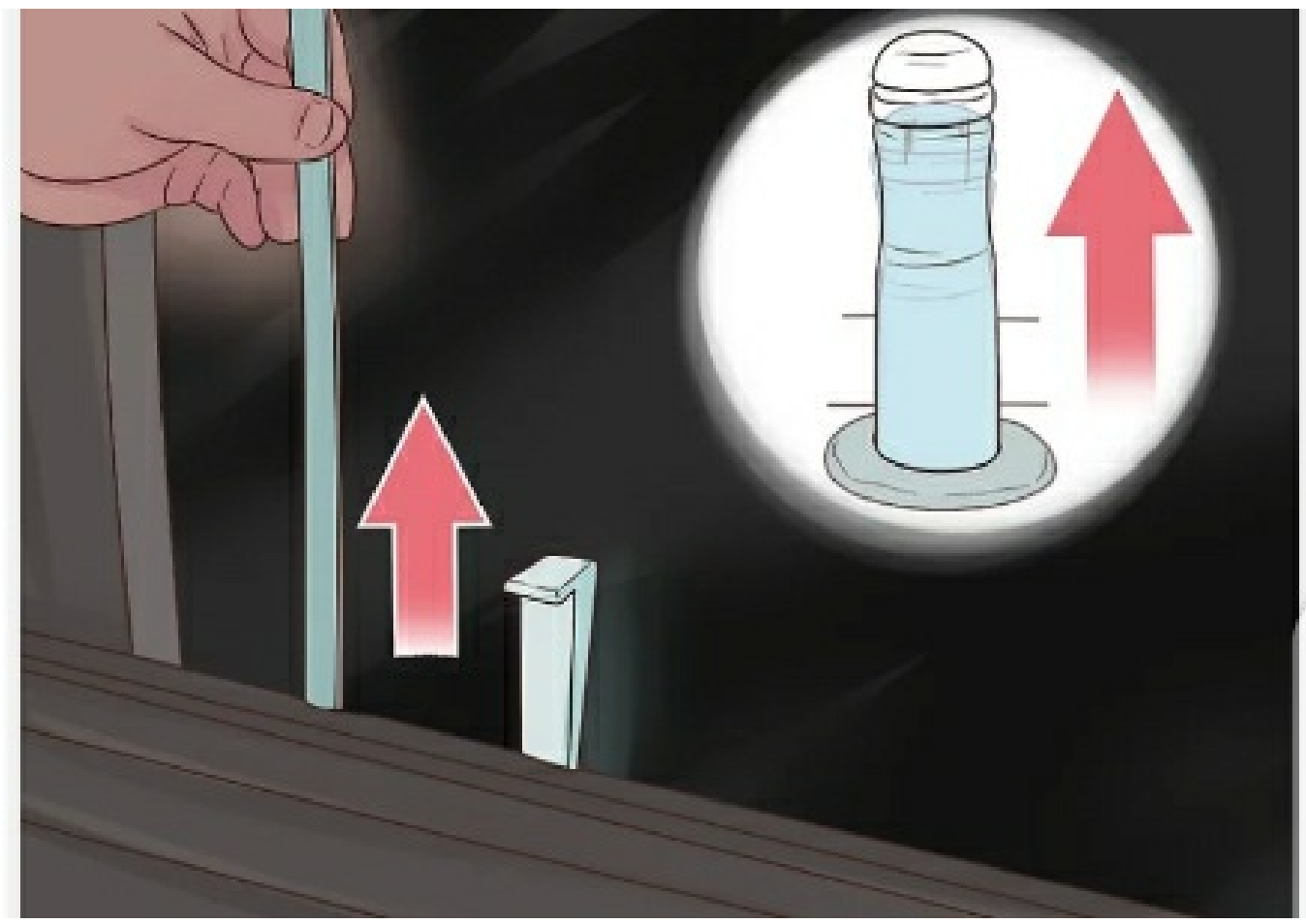
4. The wedge will create the space that you need to insert your slim Jim. There are wedges specifically for car doors, but you can also use the normal door wedge. Find a rubber wedge as a wooden wedge could leave shreds and splinters in the car door.



5. Once you have your space, insert your slim Jim into the space, with the notched end sliding in towards the inside lock, pushing it towards the keyhole – often on the back of the door. Ensure you slide the slim Jim in slowly so that you do not ruin anything.
6. You will know that the Slim Jim has caught the locking mechanism when the locking mechanism, round projection on the door, begins to move slightly. Keep the slim Jim completely vertical so that you do not interfere with any other mechanism.



7. Now, begin to pull the Slim Jim upwards repeatedly until the door unlocks. If you have caught the locking mechanism, you should see the door locking cylinder move upwards as you move the Slim Jim.



8. Once the locking mechanism shifts up, you should be able to open the door. Remove the slim Jim, and do not forget to also remove the wedge! Keep your movements slow and smooth so that you do not cause any unnecessary damage.
9. If you cannot get the car door to open in the first few attempts, you should stop as you could cause damage costlier to repair. Instead, call a locksmith to help you open the door.

Note: an important thing to note when using the slim Jim is that the notches will often come in various shapes. Thus, when purchasing one for your vehicle, you can ask the car spare parts store to suggest the best Slim Jim for your vehicle.

Also, when using the slim Jim, it could very easily leave permanent damage to your car. Thus, be extra cautious with the equipment. Any wrong move could result in a damaged weather stripping, meaning water and dust getting into the vehicle. You could also damage the door mechanism or wires inside the door. The biggest risk here, though, is breaking the car window. Do not apply too much force against the car window when sliding in the slim Jim and trying to pull.

Using Auto Jigglers (Car Bump Keys)

The other method you can use to unlock your car is the use of auto jigglers. Auto jigglers are a set of car bump keys that can manipulate various locks and open them.

The double wafer is the best and most common type of auto jiggler key and will work with most modern vehicles up to 2005.

This method is not hard and has no drawn-out procedure. Instead, once you get access to the bump key, you will insert it into your car's lock and try various moves until you manage to unlock your car.

Using a Screw Driver

The other tool you can use to open your car door is the screwdriver and a metal rod with a hook.

Procedure

1. The first thing you will do is insert the screwdriver between the door and the car body and try to separate the door from the car's body. Use the part on the window to try and separate the door from the car body.

If your car does not have the edge around the window as above (some Subaru cars and other sports vehicles do not have them), then be careful with the pressure you apply on the window. Don't push too hard against the glass.

2. Once you have created enough space between the car door and the body, insert your metal rod and try to reach the locking mechanism on the window. In the diagram below, the metal rod is used to pull the door while the screwdriver is used to reach the lock. If your screwdriver is small enough to reach the lock, you can use it. However, ensure you hold the door with something strong.

3. Once you reach the locking mechanism on the car door, begin to try and pull it up, and that will be it. The car door will be open in no time. This method can quickly get the car door open, but it may not be as effective as the other methods that we have seen and are about to see .

Using a Shoe String

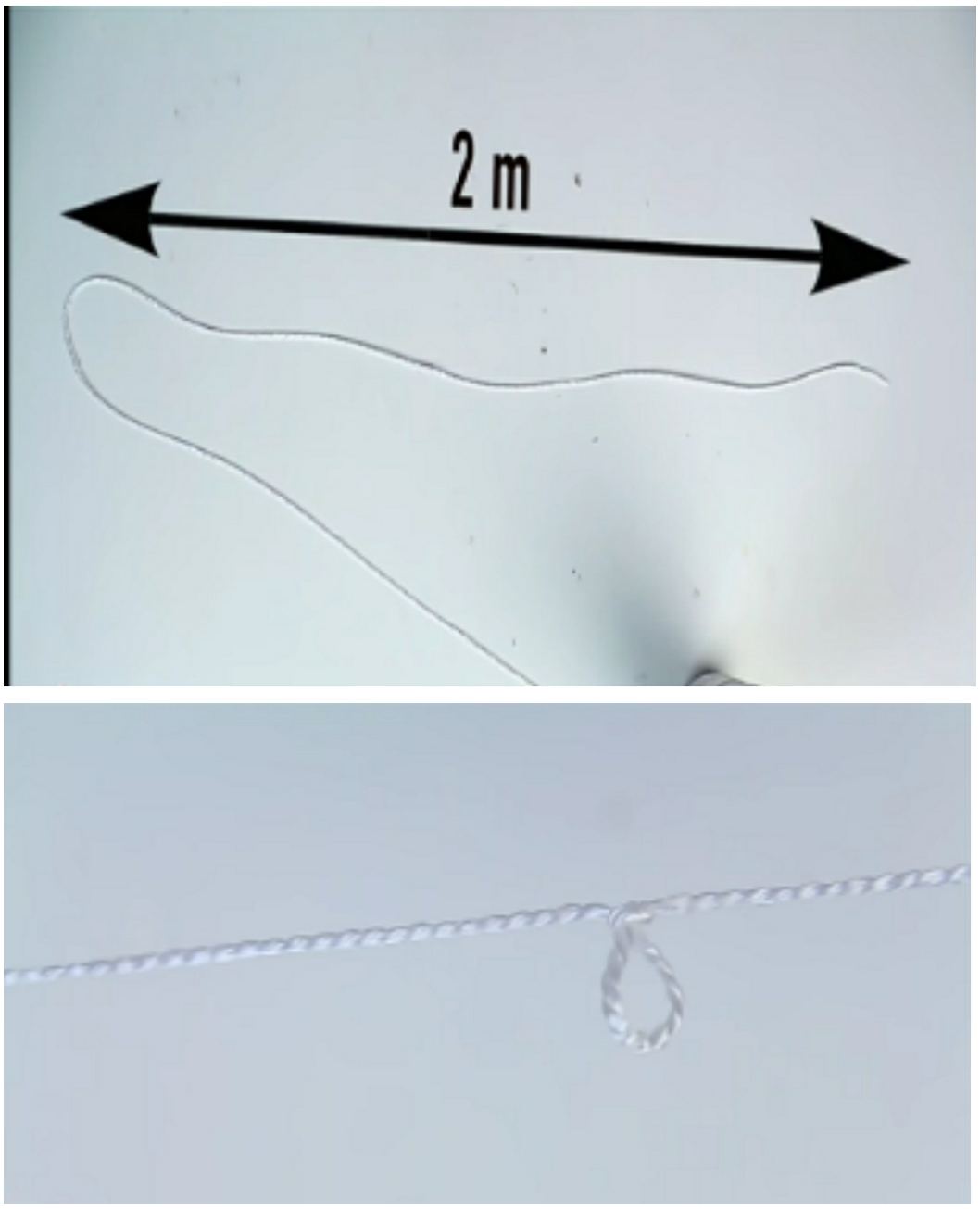
This method of unlocking always gets many people gasping as it seems unorthodox and impossible. However, it is really something that people can do and have done in the past.

Note that it can only be used on cars with an upright locking mechanism as above.

So, once you have your shoestring, this is the procedure;

Procedure

1. The first step is to tie the string into a slip knot, which is a knot which is a knot with space that can be collapsed when you pull either side of the string. Make your slip knot but don't tighten it.
2. Ensure that the rope is long enough such that when you have part of it inside the car, you still have enough to hold onto comfortably when on the outside. It should be at least 2 meters long. Note I said shoe string, but you can use any other strong and long string for this purpose.



3. Then, proceed to your car and begin to slide the slip knot into the car from the upper corner of the door, as shown below. Take your time to ensure that your slip knot is on course with the upright lock of the car.

4. Slowly slide the string down the window until it is low enough for the slip knot to wrap around the locking mechanism.

5. Pull the string such that you tighten the knot around the mechanism properly. Once you have secured your knot, pull up the string, and the knot will pull up the upright lock mechanism, thus, opening the door for you.
6. If you do not get it the first time, don't fret. It takes patience and skill to be able to use a string to open the door. Often, you will have trouble getting the string down to the lock and sliding the knot around the lock.

The other method of picking your car lock is, of course, using a bobby pin or any other straight piece of metal pick. As with how you would open a pin tumbler lock, insert one pick on the bottom of the car door lock to act as a tension wrench. Then, use the second pick to work the pins, moving them up and down until the lock clicks and opens.

So, perhaps you might be thinking, 'all this seems like too much work'.

How much will I pay for a locksmith if I do not want to take the risk?

Well, car locksmiths tend to charge between $60-$85, which is not that much if you consider yourself not willing to risk breaking your car.

Generally, though, on average, hiring a locksmith tends to cost between $85 to $ 175, with most coming in, on average, at $129. However, you could get some for as low as $30 to $85, though for after-hours services, you could cough up to $100 to $250.

If you are locked out of your house, though, the charges are often between $65 to $185. This is costlier than car unlocking, but if you think it is not worth the risk, then hire a locksmith. At the end of the day, there is nothing to lose by letting professionals do their work.

Still, the skill of lock picking is relevant and will come in handy for you in the event you are not close to a locksmith. So, there is also nothing to lose by learning a survival skill like this.

Conclusion

The art of lock picking is misunderstood and, unfortunately, too quickly looked at with suspicion. Yet, it is a practical and useful skill that will be valuable at various points in one's life.

There is no doubt that misguided people out there give lock picking a bad name. Burglars, car thieves, and tricksters all use this noble skill for their selfish agendas, creating suspicion around lock picking.

Someone once said that even with the number of lock pickers we have, lock picking as a means to steal is rare because most people are good people. Yet, as we have seen, picking locks is no different a skill than coding on computers. It involves manipulating the complex workings of security features, yet it is important because it allows for better enhancement.

This is not an easy skill to learn, and practice is key if one wants to become a maestro at this art. The number of tools needed to open the different locks has surprised some of you, but there is no one tool for all jobs as with any other profession.

Thus, I hope this book has been a great introduction for you to pick locks, and I trust that you will put your lock picking skills to good use.

Good luck!