



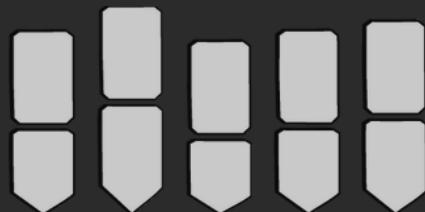
THE LOCK PICKING

STARTER GUIDE

SECOND EDITION



EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO KNOW
TO JUMPSTART YOUR
LOCK PICKING
JOURNEY!



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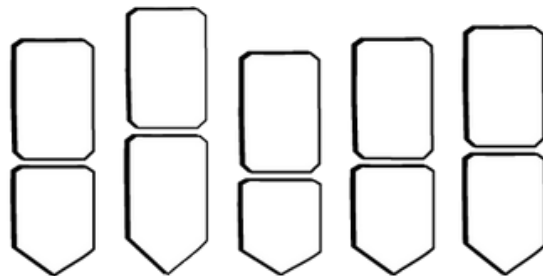
Art of Lock Picking

Presents

THE LOCK PICKING STARTER GUIDE

SECOND EDITION

BY RYAN BROWN



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YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS

For every great journey, there is an unusual beginning.

A moment of decision in which we walk the line between taking our first step forward or turning away and venturing in a different direction.

It is often at this line that we contemplate the value of stepping forward — its worth, its inevitable struggles, and its likely outcome.

However, what often deters us most from taking that first step is the unknowns — the questions to which we initially find no clear or direct answers.

It is because of these uncertainties that we often miss out on some magnificent opportunities.

The art of lock picking is no exception.

It is a craft that seemingly everyone wishes to venture in but at first glance is discouraged by the fog of mystery and vagueness surrounding it.

So let's lift the veil and look at lock picking in its truest form — unhindered by bias and mystery — so that we may take our first confident step forward in this exceptional journey that is lock picking!

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INTRODUCTION

Oddly enough the first headache inflicted by this craft typically isn't from picking a lock.

Rather it's caused from beating one's face repeatedly against the nearest hard object while trying to establish where to even freaking start.

The beginning is always the hardest step of any craft and lock picking with its extremely vague nature is no exception.

The purpose of this ebook is to strip away all of the fluff surrounding lock picking and to focus intensely on the beginning aspects of learning this skill. To give you the essential information that you need to get started but not overwhelm you with information that you can't yet use.

To begin we'll cover the essentials of lock picking tools to help you understand what lock picks are useful and what tools are worth investing in.

Then we'll jump into a basic — but very comprehensive — beginner's guide to lock picking that will cover the fundamentals of lock theory, why we can pick locks, and how to pick them!

To finish everything off, we'll quickly cover the legality of lock picking to help keep you safe from any unfortunate situations with the law.

As you'll soon see, lock picking is a simple skill to learn and once you get past the beginner stages of confusion and frustration, it truly is an addictive and fulfilling craft.

Let's get into it!



CHAPTER 1

LOCK PICKING TOOLS 101

This pick, that pick, what are all these different types of lock picks for?

What is the purpose of this squiggly pick or that squiggly pick? Is there a big difference between this pointy hook and that flat hook? What are the best lock picks?

But, most importantly, should you invest your hard-earned cash into all these different types of lock picks, and will they benefit your ability to open locks and progress your lock picking skill?

Let's tackle all of these questions and then go into the primary purpose of many of these different types of lock picks — their strengths, shortcomings, and when to best utilize them!



NOTE: This guide will discuss tools related to picking pin tumbler locks. While many of these tools are helpful for other types of locks, any advice given in this chapter is for the intent of using them on pin tumbler locks.

A TRUTH ABOUT LOCK PICKS

LESS IS MORE

Before we explore the various types of lock picks, I want to dispel a misconception that often influences new pickers. When it comes to lock picks, **the quality of your tools is far more critical than the quantity.**

The truth is, you don't need many tools to start lock picking. Most tools are simply nuanced versions of each other. Until you've gained experience, the slight variations in tool design won't drastically affect your lock-picking success.

In fact, they could hinder your progress.

One of our contributing blog authors Jesse has always put it best, ***“Lock picks are like fishing lures, they are meant to catch the fisherman, not the fish.”***

Sure that shiny new fishing lure with the red and blue feathers, polished metal spinners, and the scent of fresh dog turds looks like it would ABSOLUTELY slaughter that 10lb bass hiding under a log at sunset.

But the reality is, in the eyes of the fish, it's not likely that much more appetizing than any of the other lures you already have.





There is a dangerous mindset that plagues every craft, whether it be fishing or lock picking.

This mindset is that the **“tool make the player.”**

That lures or bait make the best fisherman and that having the ideal variation of lock pick for the right locks makes the great lock picker.

This mindset is dangerous because it bases your expectations and your perceived skill on your tools and not on what is important — like practice, knowledge, technique, and more practice.

So, if you are a beginning lock picker, it is best to stick with a couple of types of lock picks. Progressing your skills is about developing your senses and recognizing patterns based on those sensations.

When learning to pick a lock, swapping between 17 different tools will only give you 17 variations of the same feedback.

It can be very difficult to learn anything when the information you receive is constantly changing.

So even if you desire to own every pick ever made, for the sake of getting better — **RESIST** — at least as a beginner!

Grab a few high-quality picks or **small form lock pick set** from a quality manufacturer such as

Peterson that accommodates the style of picking you wish to do, then bunker down and focus on mastering those tools.

Now, this isn't to say that you can't nor shouldn't ever go nuts and buy a bunch of random lock picks.

One of the great joys of lock picking is collecting different lock picks and trying out new pick profiles. You never know which picks will be your favorites!

Just don't fall into the mental trap of thinking that a particular pick profile will make all the difference in your progression and skill.

So, with that out of the way, let us examine lock picking tools in detail. We will begin with my top recommended lock pick set for beginners.

Then, we will explore the two main styles of lock picking (**single pin picking and raking**) and the most effective lock picking tools for each style.

Finally, we will conclude this chapter by considering other important factors when purchasing lock picks. This includes aspects like steel type, pick thickness, shank height, and other key features of the tools.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: Many cheaper picks, like those found on Amazon, are simply stamped out of very soft and malleable steel that will bend and break very easily. Whatever route you go, invest in some degree of quality lock picks and stay away from Amazon! When it comes to the quality of the material used, remember that *it typically costs considerably less money to start with quality lock picks than replace cheaper ones several times over.*

BEST BEGINNER LOCK PICK SET

A FOCUSED SELECTION OF TOOLS

The Peterson GSP Ghost Set is hands-down one of the best beginner lock pick sets on the market.

Designed with the evolving beginner in mind, the GSP Ghost set has the perfect selection of tools for teaching you fundamental lock picking — but will also grow with you as you learn to pick more complicated locks.

There is no fluff, no unnecessary overlap — only the best tools, each serving a unique purpose.

Each pick is made in the USA from a specially engineered version of 420 stainless steel.

The lock picks also include very ergonomic and comfortable plastic handles molded onto each pick that will keep the picks from digging into your fingers.

However, if you find that the Peterson GSP Ghost Set is not quite your speed, I would highly recommend finding a set similar to its setup from another manufacturer or building one like it.



GET YOURS HERE



HOOKS

TOOLS OF THE TITANS

Our first style of lock picking is called “Single Pin Picking” (or SPP for short) and is, precisely as the name implies, **the act of picking a single pin at a time.**

It is the purest form of lock picking, as it takes a tremendous amount of skill, precision, and practice to develop and master.

Single pin picking is also significantly more reliable because you’re not just bumping and humping your way to an open lock like when raking.

Instead, you are moving components in a **precise and logical manner** and adapting your movements to how the lock responds. You can think of single pin picking like the Tango, where your actions are a response to your partner, and their movements are a response to yours.

Because single pin picking is precise and logical, you need a type of lock pick that matches these qualities.

You need a type of lock pick that is agile and maneuverable — that isn’t going to bump things unintentionally.

So, let’s look at a few picks that gush these qualities!



THE SHORT HOOK



The standard **Short Hook** is hands down the most versatile and valuable lock pick you can own and is an absolute staple to any picker's toolbox.

The power of this pick comes from its moderate "hooked" tip that is just long enough to set most pins with ease but short enough that it's easy to maneuver in the lock.

In addition to single pin picking, the Short Hook is also a great pick to use for other various techniques of raking — such as zipping, bitch picking, rocking, or reverse picking!

However, the one area in which this pick falls short is literally when it falls short.

Because it has a shorter profile, it sometimes may not have the reach to fully set shorter cut pins that are behind longer cut pins.

But regardless of this literal shortcoming, if you could only have one type of lock pick, the Short Hook should always be first in line to the party!

The Short Hook is also commonly referred to as the Peterson "*Hook 1*."

THE GEM



The **Gem** is another very popular pick that simply adds a short but pointy tip to the end of the short hook. This gives us a little more reach without sacrificing any of the maneuverability and agility of the beloved short hook.

Because of the extended tip, the gem is typically a good pick to have when dealing with paracentric keyways, heavy-ish warding, or locks with radical biting.

It also feels less clunky and makes it slightly easier to locate pins and stay within the pin chambers — this can be a real benefit for beginners who don't yet have a good grasp of the spacing between pins.

Additionally, because there is a slope at the tip, you can drag the pick across pins to probe and lift them rather than approaching them from below like flatter-tipped hooks.

However, because both the end of this pick and the tip of the key pins are pointy, pins can sometimes slip while being lifted. While this isn't that big of a deal, it can cause some frustration and confusion among beginners.

Regardless, the gem is a fantastic pick that finds a happy balance between the short hook and a deeper, more obstructive hook, like the deep hook.

THE HALF DIAMOND



The **Half Diamond** is essentially a hybrid between the Gem and the Short Hook. While not technically a hook, it does provide us with a pretty unique benefit while single pin picking.

The thing that makes this pick awesome is its ramp-like form.

If you can imagine for a moment dragging this pick across the pins — it will gently raise the pins as they go up the ramp and then gently lower them as they go down the ramp.

This can be extremely useful when trying to find binding pins.

However, the Half Diamond is a particularly fat pick and can sometimes be clunky and hard to maneuver within the keyway due to its broad base. This issue becomes prominent when trying to reach shorter-cut pins that are between longer-cut pins.

Also, because it is a particularly tall pick, it has a hard time fitting into keyways that are paracentric, small, or have heavy warding.

Regardless, it can be a good beginner pick and, if the conditions are right, can make quick work of a lock.

THE DEEP HOOK



The Deep Hook — if you didn't guess — has a longer hook that gives us a deeper reach.

The benefit of this added length is that it can reach further between pin stacks without bumping the adjacent pins.

This makes it a terrific weapon against shorter pins behind longer pins or when dealing with heavy warding and paracentric keyways.

Because of its reach, you can easily lift the pins without having to maneuver your pick through the warding!

However, there is a trade-off. Because the Deep Hook is longer, it is also much more intrusive and harder to maneuver.

So, it's not ideal to use a deeper type hook as a primary pick but instead as a secondary one.

If you find that you can't easily reach a pin with a shorter hook, you can swap over to a Deep Hook to solve your problems!

For Peterson lock picks, Hook 4, Hook 5, and Hook 7 are considered Deep Hooks.

THE PETERSON REACH

The Peterson Reach is a little bit of an oddball pick, but it really kicks some ass.

This type of lock pick is what we refer to as an “*offset hook*.” **The goal of an offset hook is to take the benefits of the short and deep hook but minimize their downsides.**

This is typically done by creating a curved-like shank that can pivot around pin stacks without bumping them!

The Peterson Reach is an excellent example of this and is literally curved! It also has a rounded tip that can make finding and lifting pins feel buttery smooth.

But sadly, nothing is perfect. The Peterson Reach has a thin and agile nature, which also makes it fragile. If you have a heavy hand — as most beginners do — you may find yourself snapping this poor guy’s little neck if you’re not careful.

That being said, the Peterson Reach is my favorite pick, and there are truly few locks that this little guy won’t absolutely slaughter!

I like to compare it with the killer bunny from Monty Python and The Holy Grail!



THE HOOKED DIAMOND

The **Hooked Diamond** is an interesting pick that you'll either love or absolutely hate — there really is no middle ground.

This pick takes the best parts of the short hook and the gem and blends them into the creature you see on the left.

Now the beauty of this pick is the profile and how it affects the pins changes as you alter the angle.

When slightly angled, this pick offers a similar slope to that of the gem — which gives us the benefit of being able to slide it across pins. This makes the pick slightly more maneuverable because we don't have to lower it as far to get it under each pin stack.

However, when we remove the angle, the tip of the pick begins to flatten out and rise, which makes lifting pins very easy and reduces any chance of slippage.

Because it has a very wide offset, it easily pivots around pin stacks without touching them, making setting those short pins in the back an easier task!

However, all of these perks packed into one pick do come at a cost. It is a fairly fat and bulky pick that may not fit into small or paracentric keyways.



RAKES

HUMPS AND BUMPS

Raking is the act of manipulating multiple pins at the same time with the goal of bumping them to the shear line and setting them as quickly as possible.

It is a type of lock picking that is very imprecise and unpredictable.

Raking a lock is much like a funny dancing man. If we jump off our previous analogy of single pin picking being like the Tango, raking is much more like club dancing. You do whatever the hell you want, and whatever happens... well, it happens.

Because the goal of raking is to manipulate as many pins as possible, the best type of lock pick is one that touches the most pins at any given moment.

This is why most rakes have tons of humps and bumps along their shafts.

However, the downside of rakes is that they are almost useless against locks with security pins and sidebars — so don't expect to be able to rake your way to lock picking mastery!

With that, let's look at four of the most common rakes for causing havoc in the lock!



THE BOGOTA



The very first rake on this list has to be the **Bogota**, which is arguably the most powerful and commonly used rake out there today.

The Bogota slaughters locks when used in a scrubbing manner and can be even more powerful when the angle is changed while raking. This makes setting those short-cut pins in the front or back a breeze. Check out the Bogota animation [here](#).

But what makes this rake so effective is the rounded and polished peaks that reduce friction and allow it to slip and slide within the lock like a buttered-up fat kid farting through space.

Because of its triple peaks, it can also manipulate several pins at the same time, and with each pass through the lock, it has the chance to set each pin three times — with the exception of the rearmost pins.

The Bogota thrives against high-low-high-low pin cuts, which is something many other rakes cannot claim. However, like all rakes, it's basically useless against any moderate-quality locks with deep-cut security pins and will sometimes struggle against locks with very high tolerances.

Common names for the Bogota are the "*Bogie*" by Peterson or "*Pagoda*" by SouthOrd.

THE SNAKE RAKE



The **Snake Rake** is one of the oldest rake profiles and still makes many pickers' list of best pick profiles.

Being a staple in many beginner and advanced lock pick sets, it is a very powerful little rake to have.

While the Snake Rake only has two tiny peaks of different heights, its effectiveness comes from its smaller profile.

Unlike the Bogota, the Snake Rake is very short. This not only gives it the ability to be used at various and more extreme angles while raking but it can also be used in smaller and more paracentric keyways.

Other common names used are the "Double Rake," "C Rake," and the "Squiggly Rake." But regardless of all these alternate names, most lock pickers refer to it as the Snake Rake.

THE CITY RAKE



The **City Rake** gets its name from its resemblance to a city skyline and has a very similar profile to that of the bitting of a key. Can you see it?

This particular rake is used slightly differently than the typical rake. Rather than scrubbing the pins as we do with the Bogota or Snake Rake, the City Rake is used in a rocking manner.

While rocking, a slow scrubbing-like motion can also be applied to ensure that the different peaks have the chance to touch and set other pins. **Combining rocking and mild scrubbing can turn this pick into a powerful little tool** — check out the animation [here](#)!

The rocking motion allows it to rotate around the center of its profile, making it very effective against locks with longer pins in the front and back and short pins in the center.

However, like all rakes, the City Rake performs poorly against locks with tighter tolerances, small keyways, or security pins. This pick is also not very powerful at scrubbing on its own but can be used in that manner if desired.

Other common names for this rake are the “*L Rake*” or the “*Long Ripple*.”

THE BATARANG



The Batarang is one of the few picks that was designed around this style of zipping.

It has two peaks to give it two chances to set each pin per zip, and each peak is radically sharp so that it can violently throw pins to the shear line.

However, one of the fatal flaws of this pick is its tendency to break where the beginning of the rake meets the shank of the pick.

This makes this pick pretty weak against tighter keyways, paracentric keyways, heavy warding, rusty and corroded locks, or essentially anything that has a chance of snagging the pick on the way out.

Manufacturers have recently begun to reinforce the bottom of these rakes to help diminish this weak point.

The Batarang is also widely known as the "*S-Rake*," "*Triple Rake*," or "*Camel Back*."

TURNING TOOLS

THE HEART OF LOCK PICKING

It is said that lock picking is 90% how you use your tensioning tools (turning tools for the purists) and 10% everything else.

I tend to agree.

With the exception of practice, tensioning is the single most important aspect of lock picking, yet it is the most overlooked and undervalued.

As a beginner, developing your skill is directly correlated to developing your sense of feel and identifying the feedback the lock gives you.

To this end, it is important that when starting out, you do everything in your power to maximize the feedback you are receiving. This will help you to identify what certain feedback means and, as a result, significantly improve your lock picking skills.

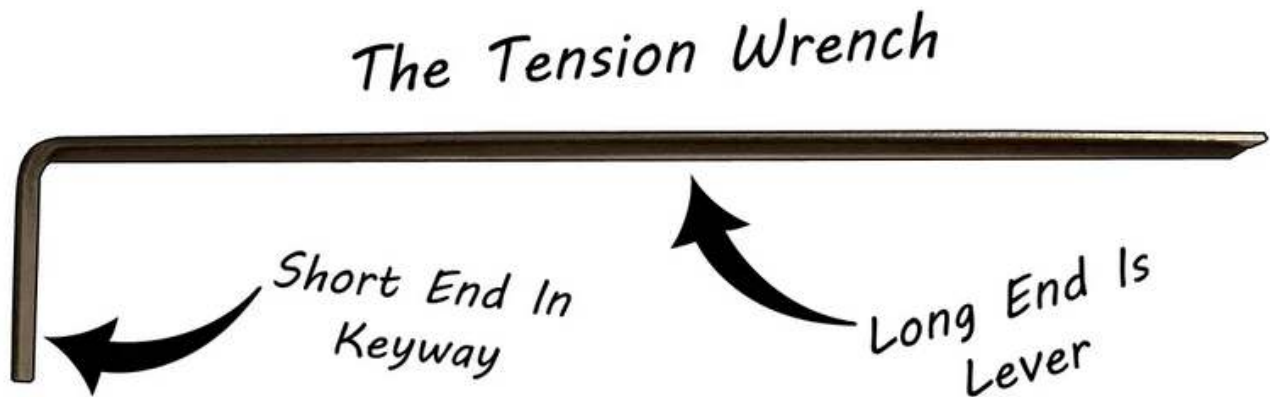
In this section we'll look at the different types of turning tools and the characteristics they can have that will affect the feedback you receive as a picker.

THE TENSION WRENCH

The tension wrench is a very simple creature that is typically nothing more than a flat strip of steel that has been bent to a 90-degree angle and consists of both a short and long end.

The shorter end is typically long enough to enter at least halfway into the length of the keyway. This is the section of our wrench that will act similarly to the blade of the key and turn the plug.

The longer end will act as a lever that we pickers will use to apply force to the plug.



The tension wrench is designed and intended to be used at the bottom of the keyway (BOK) and is the ideal tool for picking a lock in your hand.

It is by far the most common turning tool found today and is the bread and butter of any good lock picking set!

There are tons of variations of the tension wrench from its style, size, and length. **But let's take a gander at the three main types of tension wrenches and the differences between them.**

THE STRAIGHT WRENCH

First up is the straight tension wrench! This little guy is nothing more than a flat piece of steel with a 90-degree bend applied to a single end.



Now to fully understand the purpose and power of the straight wrench, it is absolutely critical that we understand three things:

- 1** Our turning tools provide us with more feedback – vibrations – than any other factor in lock picking.
- 2** We as pickers want to do everything in our power to use a turning tool that will provide us with the most feedback possible.
- 3** The turning tool that will provide us with the most feedback possible will be one that is the thickest and stiffest.

Because the straight wrench is a straight piece of metal, it will not flex and will remain rigid while you apply torque to it, thus providing you with a maximum degree of feedback!

I understand that it can be kinda tricky to put this into context without something to compare it to. So, let's look at a tool that is the exact opposite of the straight tension wrench.

Something that is thin, floppy, and springy — the twisty wrench!

THE TWISTY WRENCH

While these twisted wrenches have their benefits — which we'll touch on in a moment — they're absolutely the worst wrench you could use to develop your skills. The twist acts as a spring and dampens the vibrations moving through the wrench.



To better illustrate this, think of the springs and shocks used in a car's suspension system. If you were to hit a pothole, the springs will absorb and dampen the vibrations you feel as a driver. However, if you were to take out the springs and drive over that same pothole... well, let's just say you as a driver would know you hit it.

Remember that when it comes to picking, feedback is everything. We want to feel every pothole, speed bump, and potential crack in the road as we metaphorically drive our lock picks up and down the pins of a lock.

So why then would we ever use a twisty wrench? Well, it can provide us with a pretty cool advantage that I like to call variable tension.

Because these wrenches have the ability to flex, the amount of tension being applied to the core can be controlled by us — the picker — AND, in some small degree, by the lock.

Depending on how we affect the lock with our pick, variable tension allows the core of the plug to more easily fight back – or what we call

counter-rotate – and balance the forces on the lock.

This can be extremely helpful in situations like raking where the ability for the pins to slightly control the tension is way more important than feeling feedback.

Another slight benefit is that the twisty wrench can be more comfortable because your finger rests on the flat side of the wrench rather than the edge.

THE DOUBLE-ENDED WRENCH

Last up is the double-ended tension wrench.

This little guy is really nothing more than two straight tension wrenches packed up into one tool.



Naturally, this 2-in-1 tool can give us the advantage of carrying fewer tension wrenches and can really cut down on the bulk of our everyday carry lock pick sets.

However, this benefit typically comes with a catch.

Because they are made out of a single piece of metal, both sides are typically the same thickness and width — making them identical in size. As you can see in the image on the last page, the only difference between each side is the length.

So really, the only question that remains is, "Why is there a short end and a long end?"

LONG VS. SHORT TIP

If you pick up any set of tension wrenches, you'll likely notice that the tip that goes into the keyway will come in a variety of different lengths.

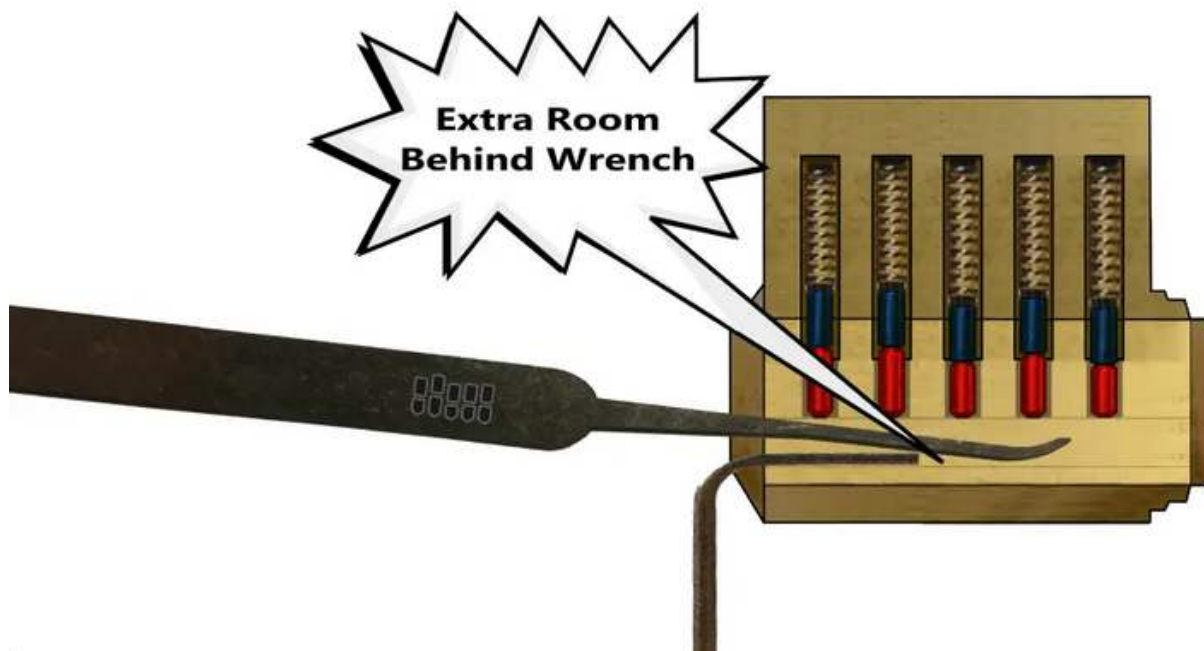
So what is the purpose of longer and shorter wrenches, and when should we utilize each?

THE SHORT TIP

When using a tension wrench, you want to take up as little room in the keyway as possible. This also includes how far into the keyway your tension wrench reaches.

In most locks, you don't want your tension wrench to reach more than halfway into the keyway.

This is because the rearmost pins in the lock require the most leverage to lift.



If you take up too much room in the rear of the keyway with the tension wrench, you may not have the leverage you need to fully lift and set a pin.

This is the sole purpose of shorter tension wrenches. To give you just enough metal to tension the lock, but little enough to still be able to maneuver your pick in the rear of the lock!

THE LONG TIP

So, if we want to take up as little room in the keyway as possible, why would we ever need a longer tension wrench?

The reality is there are quite a few locks that have some very strange features, including recessed keyways or something extruding from the face of the lock that would block our tension wrench.

In a nutshell, some locks need a tension wrench with a longer reach to appropriately and successfully tension them.

The Master Lock 911 is a great example of a lock that has both a recessed keyway and obstacles that extrude from the face of the lock.

While not radical, some shorter tension wrenches may not have the reach.



A good rule of thumb:

- **Short Wrenches:** The keyway and lock features are flush with the face of the lock.
- **Long Wrenches:** Recessed keyways or any obstructing features extruding from the face of the lock.

That will about do it for length. Now, let's tackle our final two characteristics — thickness and width!

WRENCH THICKNESS & WIDTH

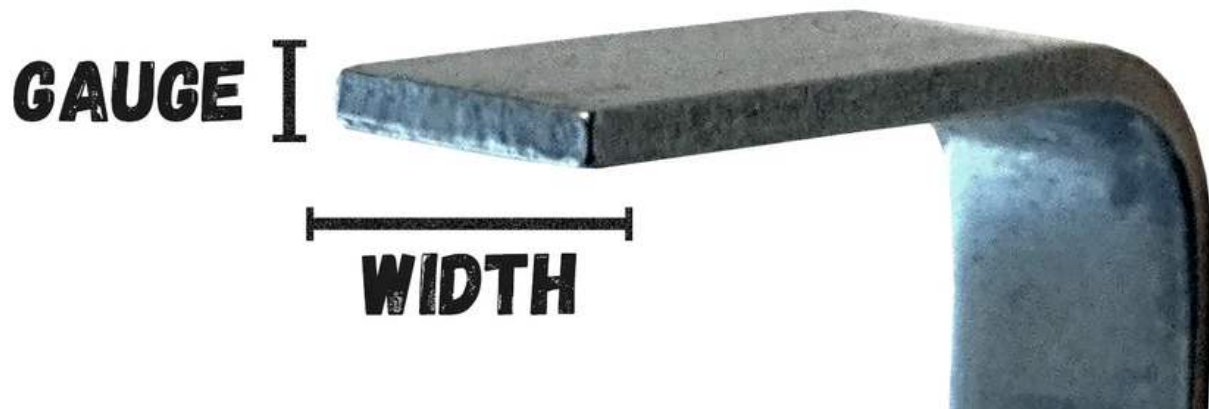
Every lock is different in a variety of ways — including its keyway. Some locks have small keyways, and some have big ones. Some locks are tight with tons of warding, while others are wide and open.

The point is that there are a TON of keyways with different shapes and sizes. As a result, we need different-sized tension wrenches.

If you use a wrench that is too small, you risk wedging it in the bottom of the keyway and binding the core.

If you use a wrench that is too big, you may not have any room left to use your pick.

However, if you use one that is just right, it will tension the lock without binding the core, and you'll have room to insert and maneuver your pick!



Most tension wrenches fall between .020" and .030" thick.

Additionally, there are typically three widths of wrench:

- **Thin:** 0.1" or 1.5mm
- **Medium:** 0.11" or 2.75mm
- **Thick:** 0.13" or 3.5mm

This being stated, there are many other widths available, but in general, most manufacturers offer a bundle with variations of thin, medium, and thick wrenches.

With that, let's move on to our final turning tool — **the Pry Bar**.

THE TOK PRY BAR

A Pry Bar is an amazing tool that tensions the lock from the top of the keyway (TOK) rather than the bottom of the keyway (BOK). This solves many frustrating problems.

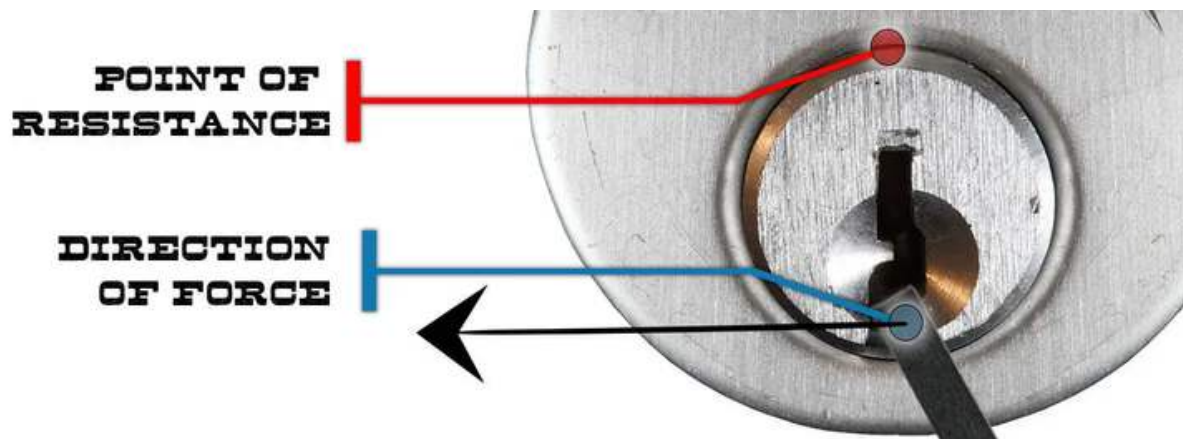
Firstly, TOK turning tools like Pry Bars are much thicker pieces of equipment.

As we learned in the last section, thicker turning tools typically provide cleaner, crisper, and more amplified feedback!



Secondly, when we move our tensioning tool from BOK to TOK, we create a LOT more room in the keyway to maneuver and leverage our picks.

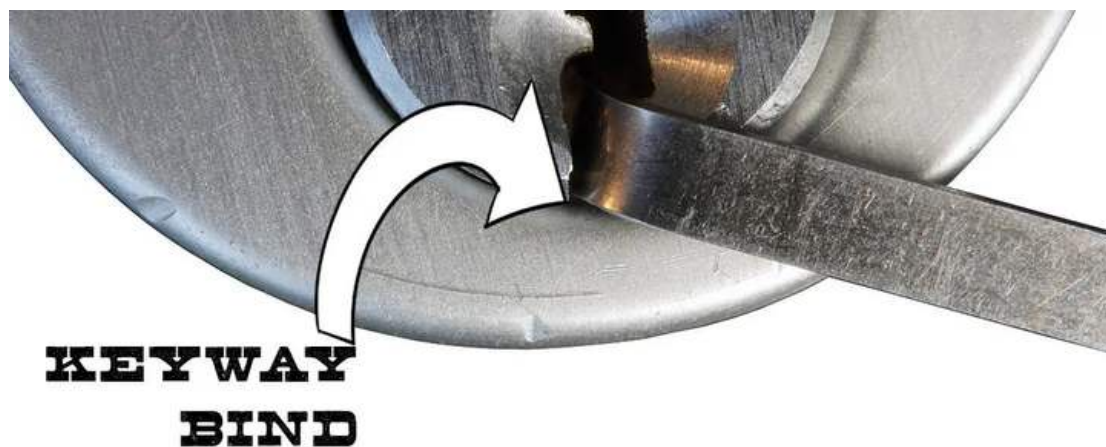
A general rule of lock picking is that the more space there is for your tools to maneuver in the keyway, the easier that lock will be to pick.



Thirdly, we are tensioning closer to the shear line—also known as the point of resistance — which applies more evenly distributed forces throughout the lock.

This can reduce issues such as friction, false feedback, and the possibility of binding the plug.

Lastly, you never have to worry about binding or rubbing your turning tools on the keyway, as seen below!



If you do end up grabbing a Pry Bar, I recommend starting with .040" as it will cover the broadest range of locks as a beginner.

So that's it for tensioning tools for now! A couple of different widths of non-twisted tension wrenches and a Pry Bar for top of the keyway tensioning are all you need!

CHAPTER 2

CHOOSING YOUR FIRST LOCK

When learning to pick locks, there is nothing more important than selecting the correct first lock.

If you start with one that is too easy – which can happen even as a beginner — you likely won't learn much. However, if you get one that is too hard, you might be in for some pain.

While challenging yourself is crucial to getting better, picking locks that you don't yet have the developed senses and skill to pick is only going to frustrate and perhaps even deter you from continuing to pick locks at all.

Patience has its limits, and its limits are like beating your head against a wall... one way or another, you are eventually going to lose.



Lock picking is supposed to be fun, and the quickest way to get better is to make sure that it stays fun.

Having a little structure in what kinds of locks you should be picking -- and at what stage — can make all the difference in the world.

So, let's first take a look at a common trap that many beginners fall into and then look at a couple of good options for your first lock!

VARIETY IS THE KEY

HUMPS AND BUMPS

There's an age-old saying,

"If you spend your whole life only reading 'The Cat in the Hat,' then '50 Shades of Gray' will be 'hard' material."

Maybe that's not the saying, but regardless, the same principle applies to many aspects of learning lock picking.

Many pickers in their early stages, including myself, make the fatal mistake of picking the same lock repeatedly with the false notion that the lock is getting easier because they are getting better at picking.



While there is a tiny inkling of truth to that, it is more true **that by picking the same lock over and over again, you are simply memorizing how that lock is picked.**

Every lock is different, and every lock is a puzzle. Thus, every lock is a different puzzle. The more time you spend solving that "one" particular puzzle, the less that puzzle becomes about utilizing the skills it initially took to solve it the first few times.

It instead becomes something very dangerous.

It becomes a mindless sequence of motions that not only no longer requires much skill but also something that begins to numb you to the feedback the lock is providing.

When you can pick a lock through memorization, your brain will stop interpreting any feedback that isn't in coherence with how that lock has been picked before.

Picking that lock is no longer about listening to what the lock has to say and more about waiting for it to say what you want to hear.



Teaching your brain to ignore important feedback is a very nasty habit to fall into.



So don't make this fatal mistake and keep your locks fresh.

It's significantly better to pick 100 different locks once than it is to pick the same lock 100 times.

BEST BEGINNER LOCKS

NOT HARD, BUT NOT EASY

THE MASTER LOCK 141D

One of the greatest challenges many new lock pickers face is learning how to sense and interpret the feedback a lock gives while picking. Because of this, **the ideal lock for a beginner will provide consistent and clear feedback.**

Now, this can be a challenge when it comes to cheaper standard pin locks.

Sometimes they can be made so poorly that there is too much slop in the core and as a result, trying to pick these locks is almost like sticking your pick into a bowl of mashed potatoes.

It feels mushy, and the feedback is very dull, making it very hard to learn or accomplish anything.

This dilemma is what brings us to our first practice lock, the Master Lock 141D.

While it may look like something you would find securing a little girl's diary, it is hands down one of the best locks you can have as a beginner.



[Get Here](#)

The Master Lock 141 has a black plastic cover, four standard pins, a wide-open keyway, and a lightly spring-loaded core. It also has decent tolerances compared to other cheap standard pin locks of its type.

MASTER LOCK #7

Now that you understand how the picking process works, it's time to hone those skills with a Master Lock #7.

This lock is very similar to the Master Lock #3. It has four standard pins, poor tolerances, an open keyway, and a light spring-loaded core.

However, its keyway is smaller, much smaller.

This small keyway will not only refine your skills but teach you the art of finesse—which is an important cornerstone to lock picking.



[Get Here](#)

You will learn how to squeeze and maneuver your picks in very tight spaces and be forced to learn how to leverage the most out of your picks.

MASTER LOCK 140D

Now it's time to bump up the difficulty a bit to a lock that has slightly higher tolerances... oh, and a few security pins—YIKES!

Security pins may seem scary at first, but they are nothing to worry about, and as you'll learn, they can actually make the lock much easier and more fun to pick.

There is nothing like counter-rotation in the morning to make you feel alive!

The Master Lock 140 is an excellent introduction to spool pins as, like the #3 and #7, it has a very open keyway, light spring tension on the core, and terrible tolerances.

These practice locks have a four-pin core and typically include one standard pin and three shallow spool pins (the shallower the spools, the easier the pick.) However, there have been cases in which there are sometimes fewer spools, but in most cases, there are three.

This lock can sometimes throw new pickers for a spin, but regardless it will teach you a critical lesson in how to tension spool pins and help you better understand the feedback locks provide.



[Get Here](#)

MORE LOCKS?

These three locks will get you going, but if you need a few more to keep you going, check out my [**lock progression list here**](#).

Remember that every practice lock is a lesson, and to truly get good at any craft is to receive as many lessons as possible. Avoid picking the same lock over and over and instead venture off to other locks as best you can.

CHAPTER 3

HOW TO PICK A LOCK

Alright, so now that we have covered the essentials of lock picking tools and the best beginner locks, it's finally time to bunker down and learn how to pick a lock!

Alright, so now that we have covered the essentials of lock picking tools and the best beginner locks, it's finally time to bunker down and learn how to pick a lock!

But first, what exactly is lock picking? Simply put, lock picking is a non-destructive way to open a lock without using the original key.



This can be done in a variety of different ways, but all have the same goal in mind — to mimic the key by using something other than the key.

But in order to mimic a key, we must understand how a key works in a lock. This is done by first understanding how a lock itself works.

This lock picking guide will instill within you a deep foundation of how locks work and how you can begin to defeat them!

Let's get started and learn lock picking!

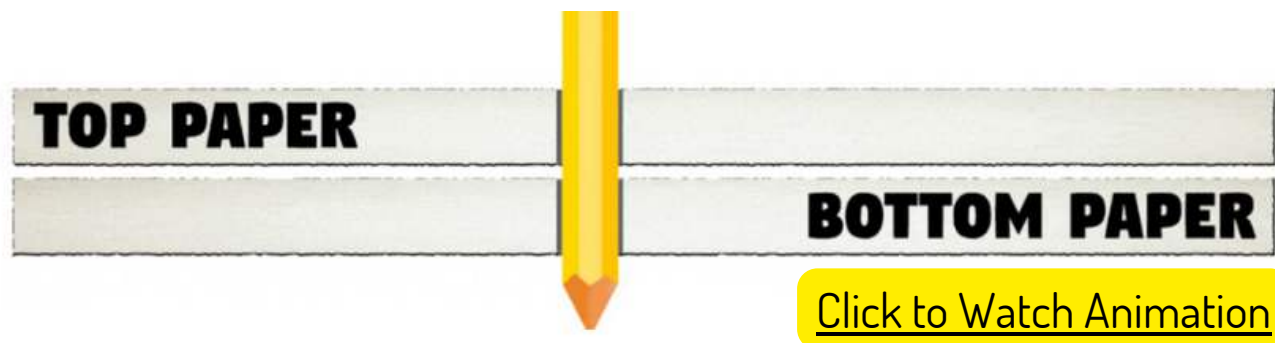
THE SIMPLE LOCK

I WOULDN'T BET YOUR LIFE ON IT

Imagine for a moment that you have two pieces of paper, one sitting on top of the other.

Now, with very little effort, you could take that upper piece and slide it around the top of the bottom piece, and it would move freely with very little resistance.

However, if you took a pencil and stuck it through both pieces of paper, they would become bound to each other and would no longer be able to move independently of one another. Essentially, they would become “**locked**” to each other.



This little paper model, as demonstrated above, is the simplest example of how most locks function.

But let's dive a little deeper and take a closer at what is truly occurring. Obviously, the two pieces of paper are bound to each other because there is a pen crammed through both of them.

However, what is also true, and more important to note, is that **we have also obstructed the space between them** — that is, the line that separates the two pieces of paper.

This line is what we refer to as the shear line and is the absolute foundation of how all locks work and, as we will soon see, the key to defeating them!



The moment that we remove that obstruction — the pencil — from the shear line, the two pieces of paper will once again be able to move freely.

But locks aren't flat, and they sure as hell aren't made from paper and pencils, so let's change a few things and add a few more components to this simple lock and see what we get.

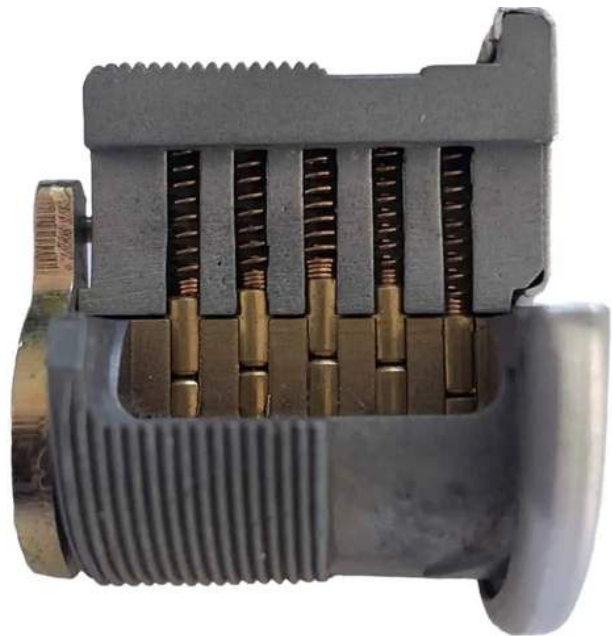
THE PIN TUMBLER LOCK

NOW WE'RE TALKING

There are a ton of different types of locks roaming the world today — from the tubular locks that you find on vending machines to combination locks securing safes.

But of all these types of locks, only one is king...

...The pin tumbler lock!



The pin tumbler lock is an extremely simple design that makes up over 90% of the locks used throughout the world.

Additionally, if you can learn to pick a pin tumbler lock, you can essentially transfer that skill to any other type of lock in one way or another!

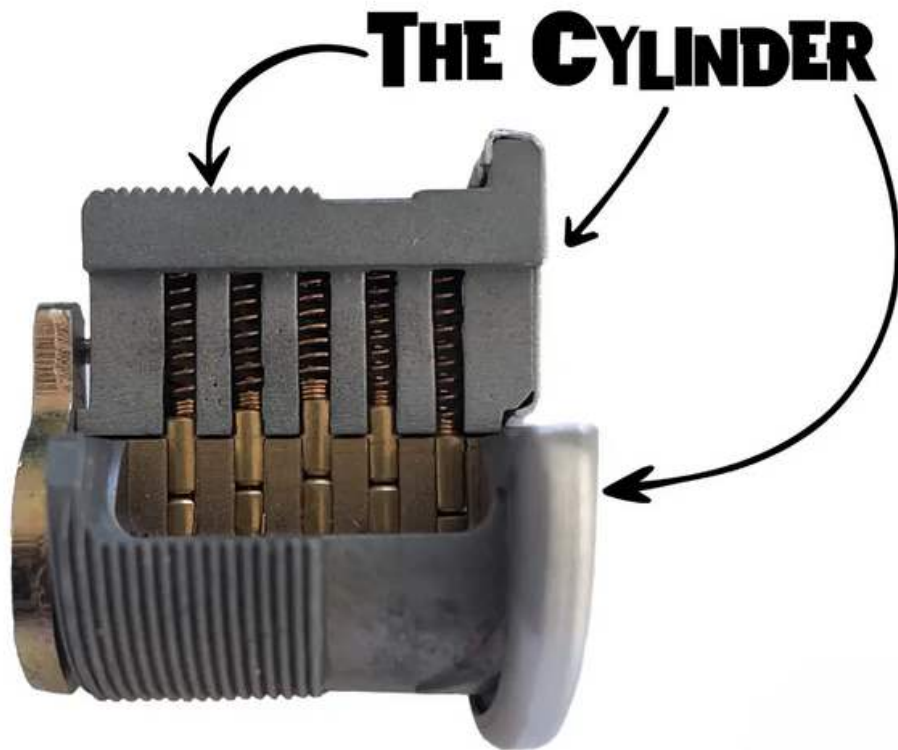
These two reasons alone make the pin tumbler the best type of lock to begin your lock picking journey! With that, let's dive a little deeper into how the pin tumbler lock works!

These locks are made up of 6 primary components that we affect while picking. Let's quickly go over each of them!

THE CYLINDER

The **cylinder** of the lock is nothing more than a little container that houses the rest of the components. This part is typically what slides into a door or padlock.

If you jump back to our simple paper lock above, the cylinder of the pin tumbler lock is the top piece of paper if it were wrapped around the rest of the lock.



Everything silver (or grey) in the image above is a part of the lock's cylinder.

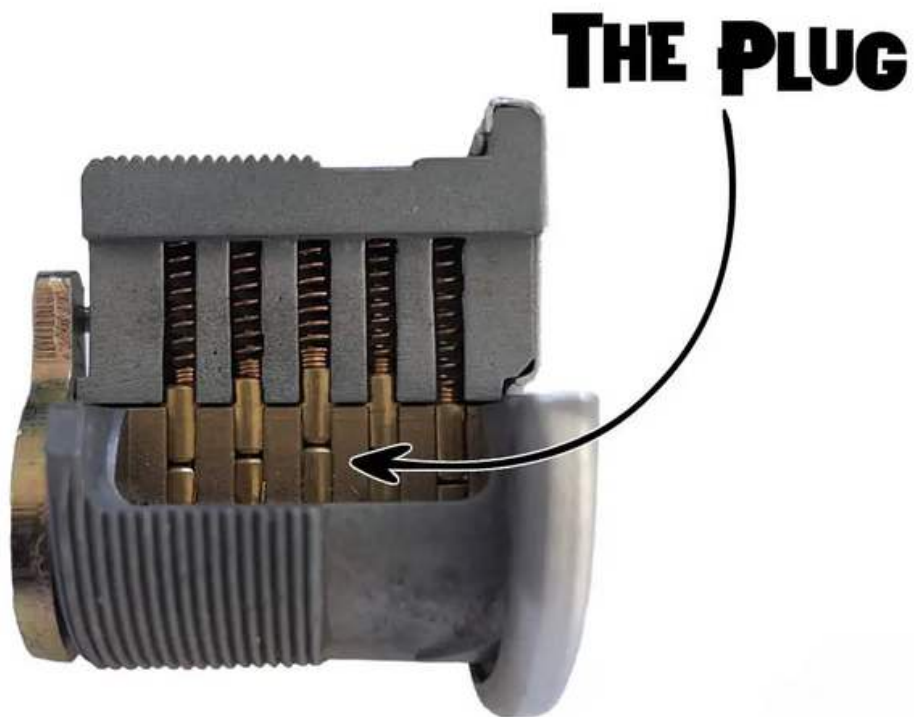
It has a sequence of holes called pin chambers that hold a series of pins (called pin stack). More on these "pins" in a moment.

The cylinder creates the upper limit of the shear line and can also be referred to as the shell, housing, or body of the lock.

THE PLUG

The **plug** is the bottom piece of paper from our simple lock.

However, rather than shearing across a flat surface like in our simple lock, the plug is a cylinder that rotates freely within the housing, creating a rotational shear line.



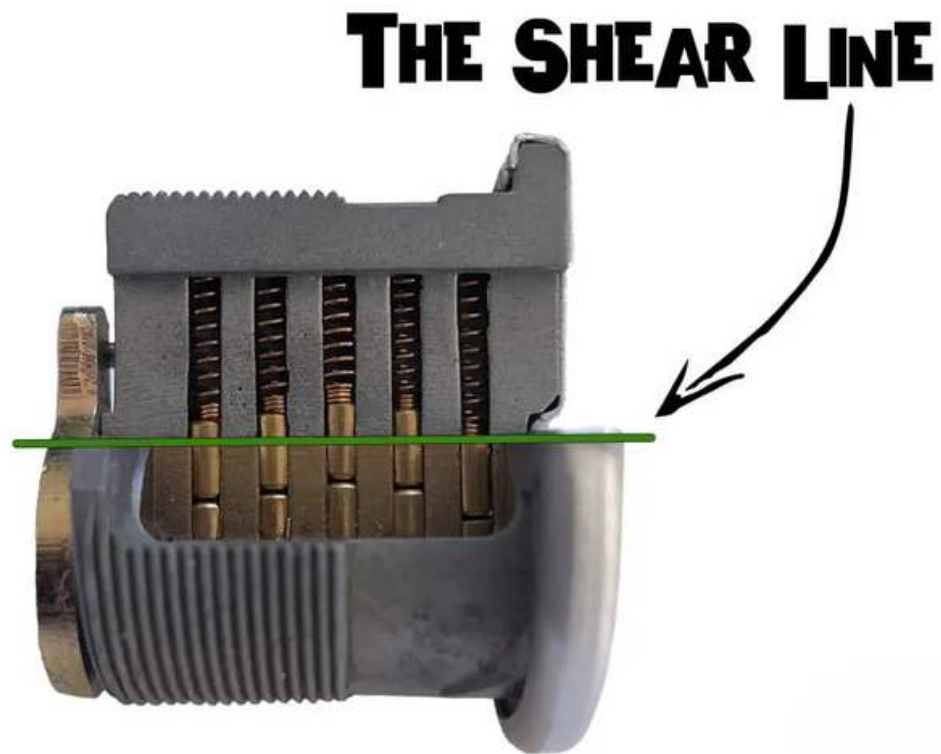
The front of the plug is where the key is inserted, while on the back, there is either a cam or tailpiece that rotates with the key and retracts the latch to open the lock when rotated.

Also, like our simple lock, the plug also has a series of holes drilled down the center called "pin chambers" that allow small pins to enter and exit—obstructing the shear line.

The plug creates the bottom limit of the shear line!

THE SHEAR LINE

The **shear line** is the physical gap between the cylinder and the plug (**green line**). It is the conceptual line in which the plug rotates in the housing.



If you look at the image above, you'll notice that pins block the line (they sit in the plug and the cylinder at the same time).

If this line is obstructed in any way, the plug and cylinder will become “locked” to each other, and the plug will not turn.

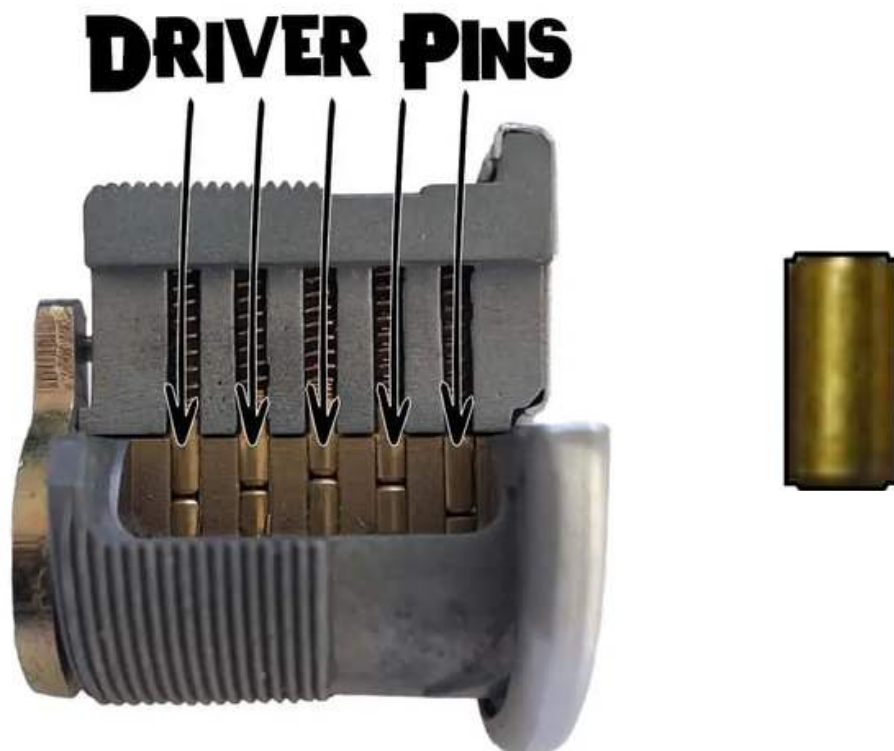
Only when the shear line has been cleared of any obstructions will the plug once again be able to rotate freely.

The shear line is one of the most important concepts to understand when it comes to lock picking! Don't worry, we'll come back to the shear line in a moment.

THE DRIVER PINS

The **driver pins** are the upper set of pins.

When there is no key inserted into the plug, the driver pins will obstruct the shear line—or that is to say, they sit somewhere between the cylinder and the plug. This obstruction is exactly what we saw with the pencil in our simple paper lock.



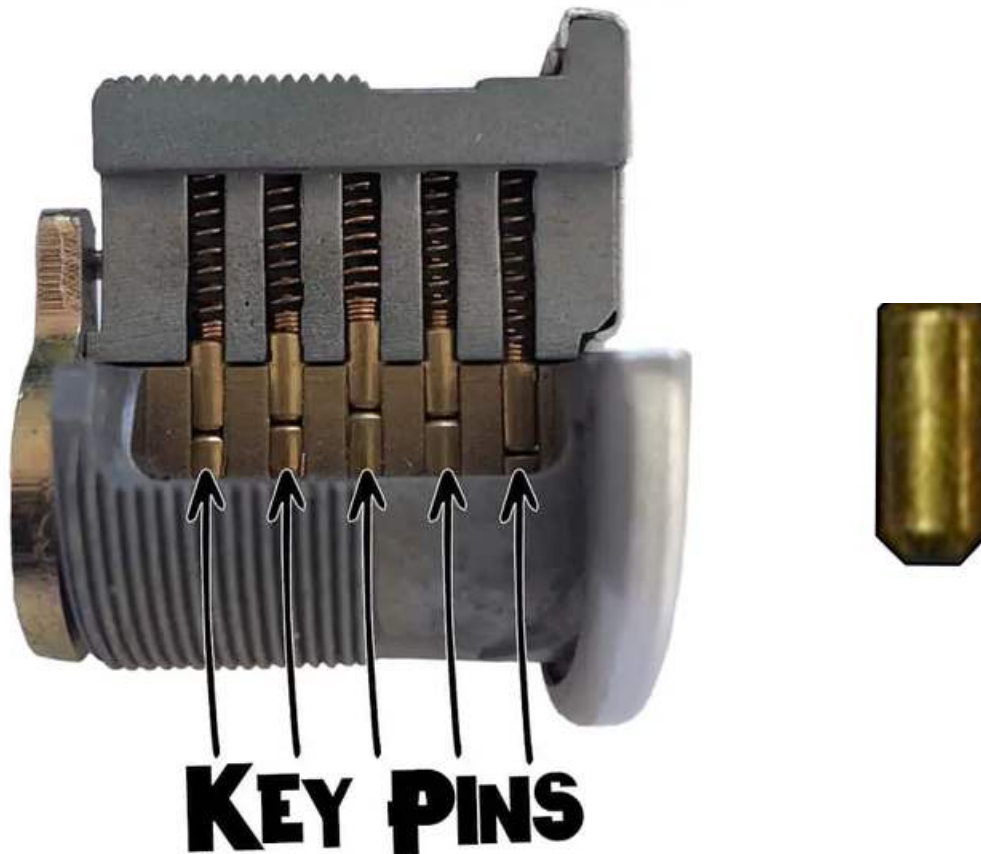
This obstruction is the reason that a lock can be and remains locked without the correct key.

When the plug is sheared (rotated) without using the key, the pin will be scissored between the cylinder and the plug, **causing it to bind and thus stop any further rotation.**

The driver pins sit between the key pins and the springs, and unlike the key pins, they are usually all the same length.

THE KEY PINS

The **key pins** are the bottom set of pins that always sit within the plug and do exactly as their name suggests — to make contact with the key when inserted.



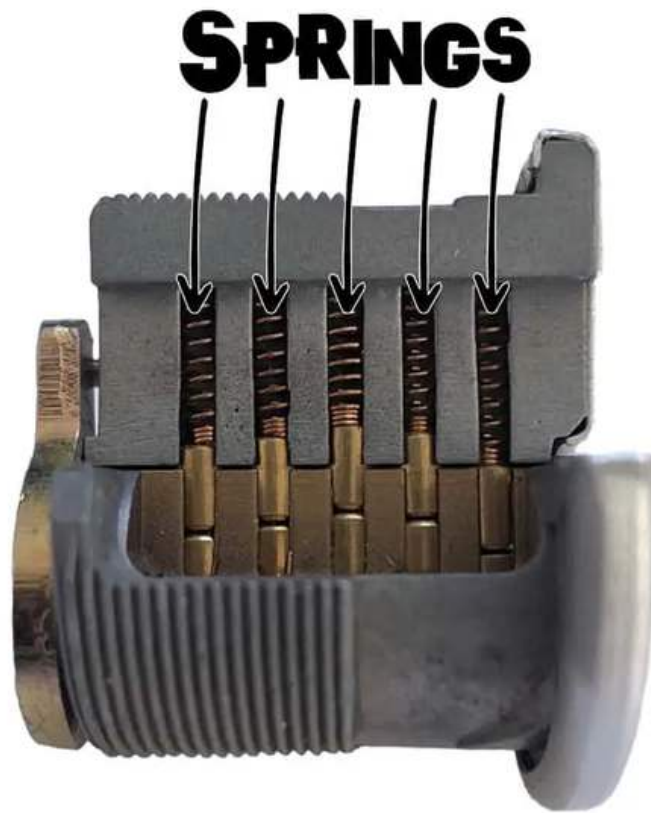
These pins are a variety of different lengths so that only the right combination of key cuts — the divots on the key — can raise them flush with the shear line. We'll learn more about this in a moment.

The key pins' bottom tips are rounded off to some degree to help reduce friction from the key sliding underneath and raising them. Without these rounded tips, the key would stagger and jump while you insert and retract it from the lock.

THE SPRINGS

The **springs** do what springs do best — push things.

Within the lock, their primary purpose is to force the pins into the plug and ensure the driver pins are obstructing the shear line when the key is not present.



The springs play a vital role in the operation of the lock and ensure it continues to function over the years.

Without springs, even a very light buildup of dust or corrosion could cause enough friction to bind a pin in a chamber. This could cause a number of issues, including disabling the lock.

As we'll also see in a moment, the springs also help the key read the pins and allow us to create a coded key system!

WARDING

The lock's **warding** is essentially the shape or formation of the keyway, and this shape protrudes through the entirety of the lock.

Keys are manufactured to fit their lock's exact warding shape. This is an added security feature as it only allows the user to insert keys with that exact same warding.

It also helps hold the key snug in the plug when inserted.

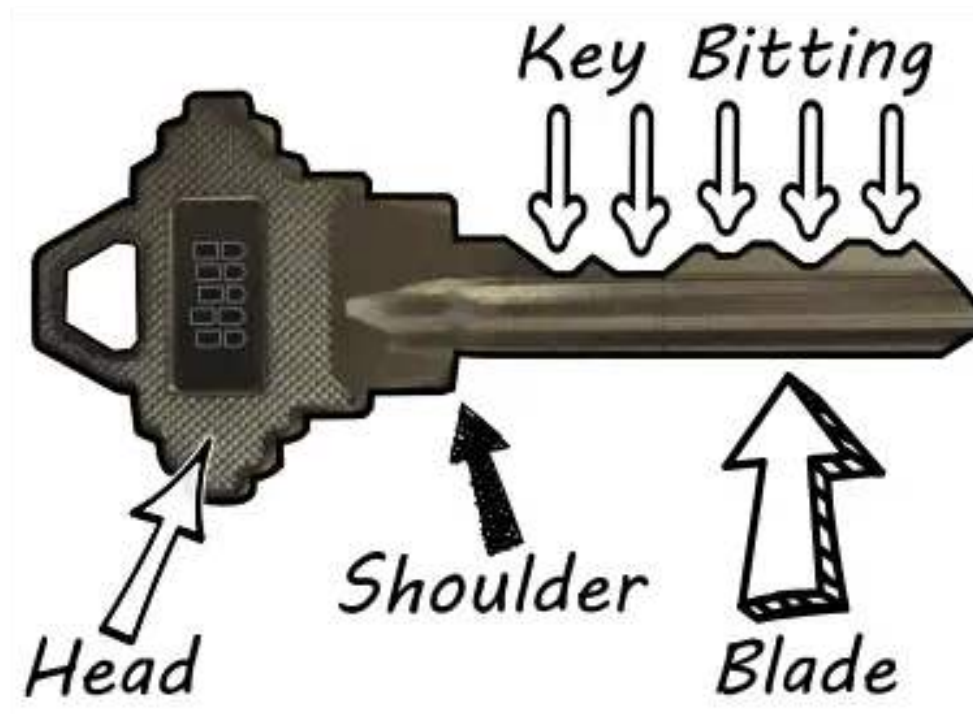


Manufacturers can sometimes get really creative with the warding.

Extreme warding adds another layer of security as the more extreme it becomes, the harder it is to pick — at least if you don't know what you are doing!

THE KEY

The purpose of the key is to lift the pins to the correct position and remove them from obstructing the shear line.

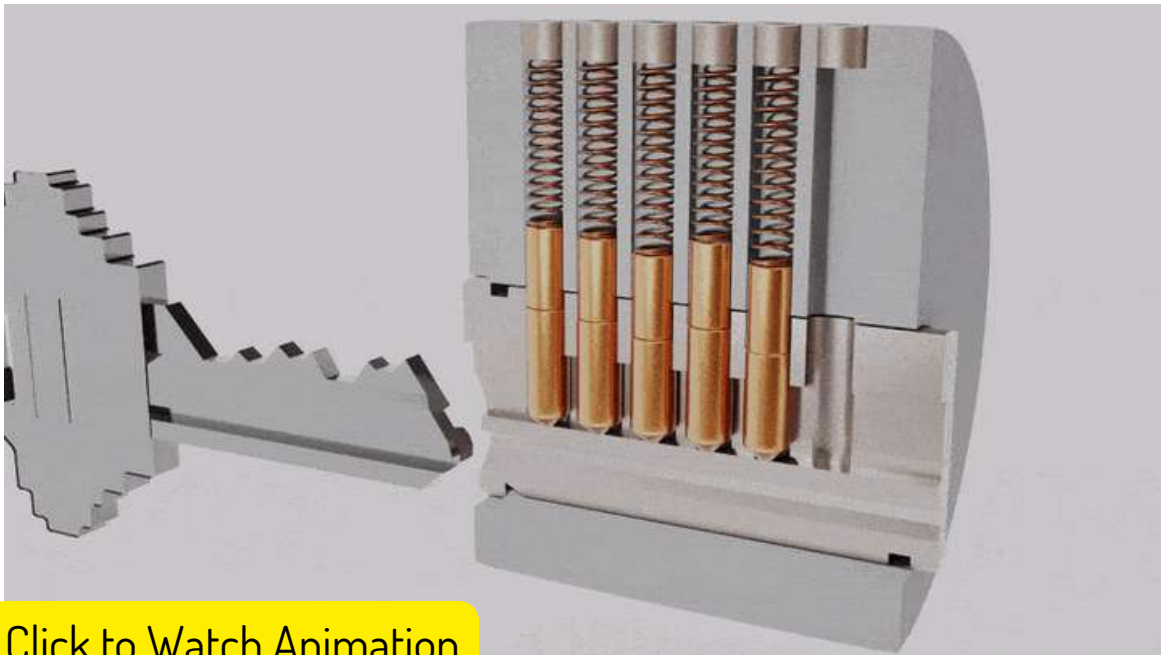


- 1 The Blade:** This is the long section of the key that is inserted into the plug of the lock. It is also shaped to match the warding.
- 2 The Bitting:** These are the cavities that are cut into the blade of the key. These cuts are essentially a combination that, when matched with the correct length of the key pins, will open the lock.
- 3 The Head:** This huge part of the key gives us the leverage to rotate it within the lock.
- 4 The Shoulder:** This gives the key a lateral restriction that aligns the key perfectly with its matched key pins. Without this, we wouldn't have any idea how far to push the key into the lock.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Alright, now that you understand the core components of the pin tumbler lock, let's take a look at how everything works together to make a fully functioning lock!

The following image to watch the animation of the pin tumbler lock in action!



As you can see, when the key is shoved into the plug, it pushes upward on the key pins.

Because the bitting of the key and the lengths of the key pins have been cut to match, the key pins will rise flush with the shear line, causing the driver pins to exit the plug fully.

When the gap between the key pins and the driver pins is precisely that of the shear line, the key can rotate the plug to disengage the lock.

In short, the key has removed all obstructions — the pins — from the shear line!

By understanding this process, we can begin to see what we have to accomplish to pick a lock

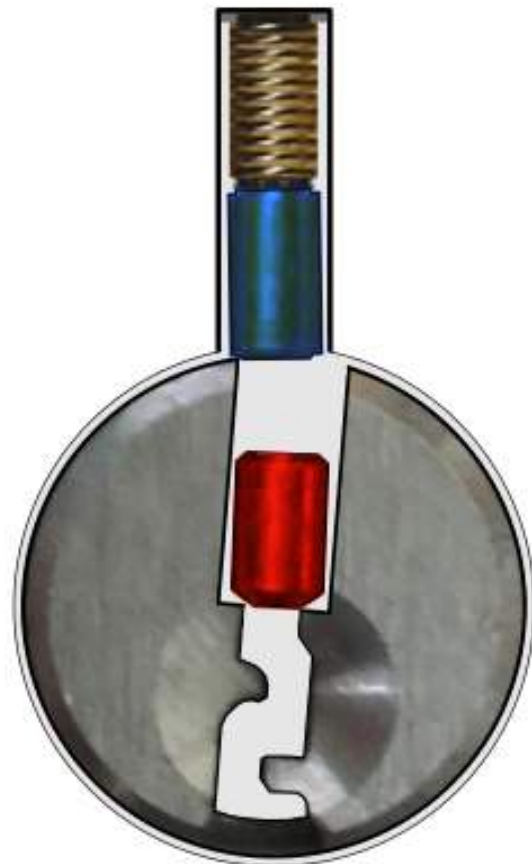
In essence, lock picking is simply the act of mimicking the key by manipulating the pins to the same state they would be at if the correct key were inserted

But how do we do that? How can we hope to keep four or five pins from obstructing the shear line without the constant pressure of the key?

How do we keep them from falling back into the plug?

Let's briefly take a moment to look into why we can pick locks in the first place.

The answer is pretty cool!



WHY WE CAN PICK LOCKS

PERFECT FLAWS

No matter how hard you try, you can never create two things exactly the same. In some way, there will always be something different between them — perfection is impossible

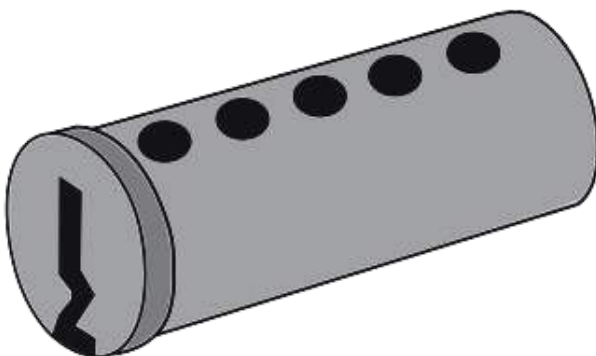
This also applies to the manufacturing of locks and their components. No two locks, pins, or springs are the same.

They will always vary in some way from each other and their original design.

However, because of this variance, things will also never fit together perfectly, and there will always be some degree of slop between components.

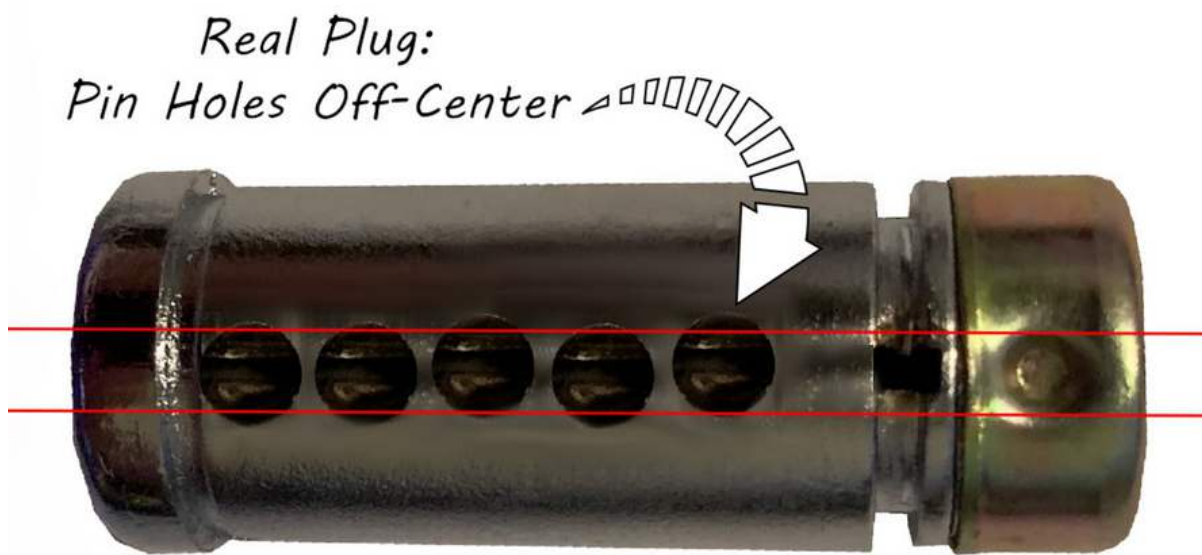
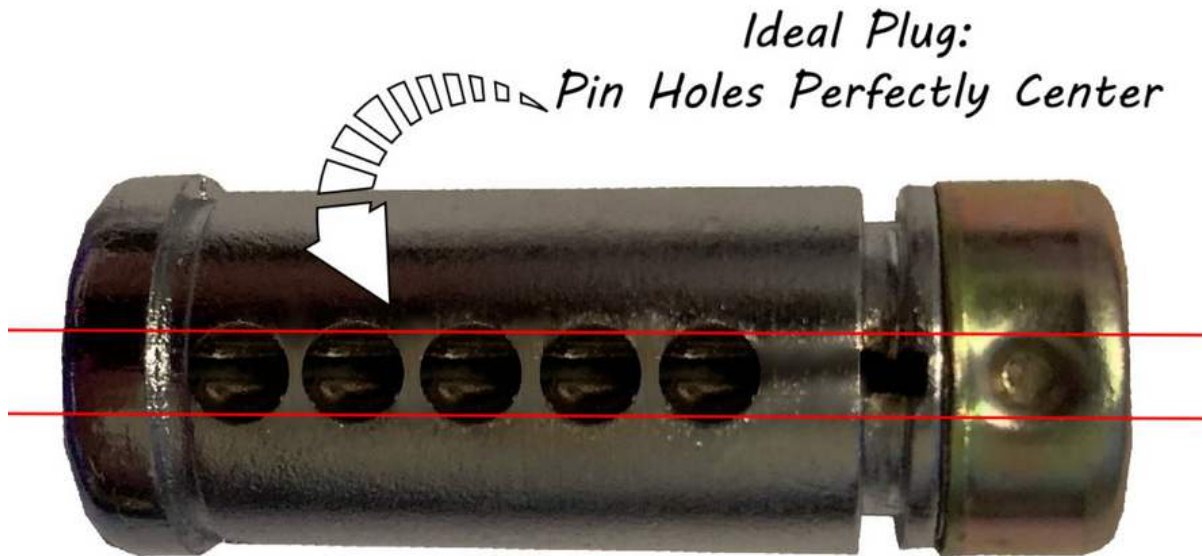


But it's this slop that gives us the ability to pick locks and when it comes to the pin tumbler lock, **the imperfect drilling of the pin chambers is what makes lock picking truly possible!**



During the production of the plug, the pin chambers are drilled down an imaginary centerline so that they are lined up perfectly with each other.

But remember, nothing can be done perfectly and as a result, these pin chambers are drilled slightly off-center and are misaligned from one another.



But how do misaligned holes help us pick locks?

There is a concept that we lock pickers call “binding.” Imagine sticking a screwdriver into the keyway of a lock and trying to rotate the plug like it was a key.

But because the driver pins are still at the shear line, they will stop the rotation of the plug and, in the process, become bound between the housing and the plug.

This is binding.

However, because of inaccurate drilling, some pins will bind before others.



The furthest pin off-center in the direction of rotation will be the first pin to bind and stop the rotation of the plug.

This pin that is the first to bind is what we call “the binding pin.”



If you have to, read through this section once more and be absolutely certain that you understand the concept of the binding pin. As you'll see in a moment the binding pin is the literal key to lock picking!

Key Takeaway: Because perfection is impossible, the pin chambers on the plug are drilled off-center. This creates a binding defect when the plug is rotated. Because there is a binding defect, one pin will bind before the rest and with more force. This pin is called the binding pin.

GETTING STARTED WITH TENSION

PERFECT FLAWS

It's finally time to learn how to use your first tool — the tension wrench!

This little guy does two very important things:

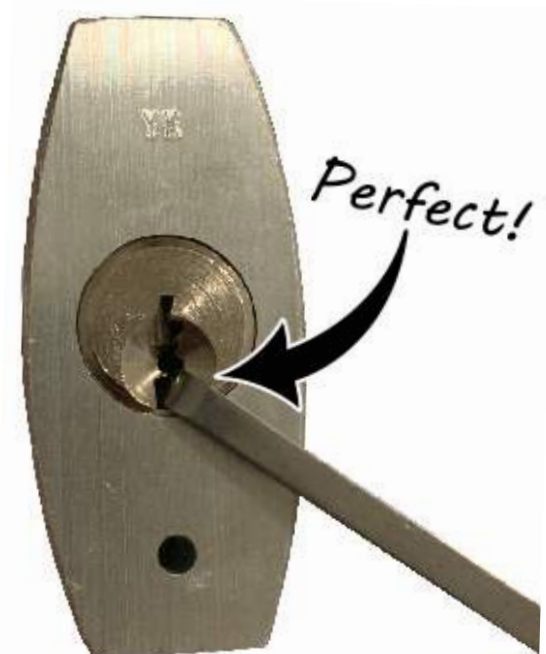
1. **Firstly**, it gives you the leverage to rotate the plug and create a binding pin. Remember, the binding pin is the key to lock picking.
2. **Secondly**, it holds the pins that you lift with your pick above the shear line — much like the key

Here is how it works!

You begin by placing the tension wrench into the bottom of the keyway and applying a very light degree of force in the direction that the key would turn to disengage the lock — typically clockwise.

Also, by light force, I mean something similar to the amount of force that it takes to press a key on your keyboard. It's that light.

This light degree of force — or tension — is typically enough to create a binding pin. This is where you learn the importance of the binding pin!



If you take a pick and lift that binding pin to the shear line — or the height that the correct key would lift it to — the bind will break, and the plug will continue to rotate ever so slightly until it binds on another pin — the next binding pin.

However, something really cool also happens!

Because the plug slightly rotates when the driver pin passes the shear line, there is a small ledge that is produced by the plug that the driver pin can set on.

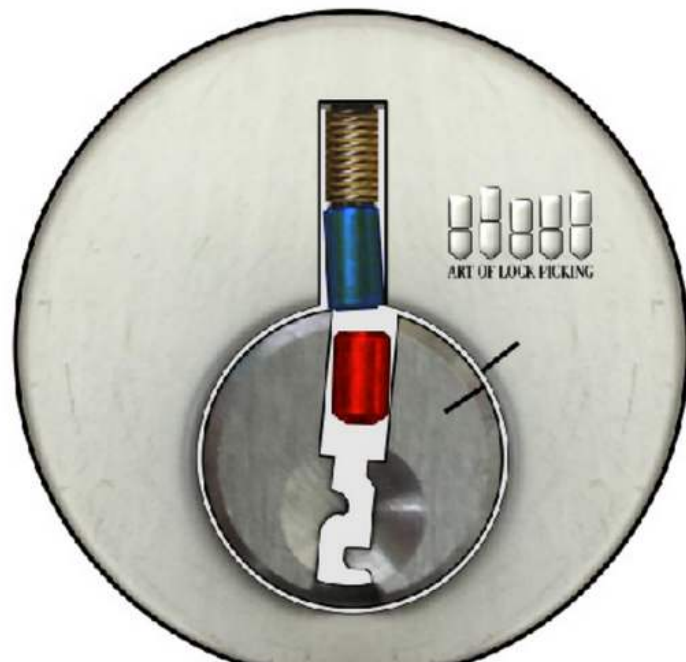
This is called “setting a pin” and as a result, the driver pin stays above the shear line and out of the plug!

To help fully understand setting a pin, check out the animation below!

Lock picking is simply the act of creating binding pins and setting them at the shear line.

It really is as simple as that!

So now that you fully understand the purpose of the binding pin and what you are trying to accomplish within the lock, you can finally start cramming your picks into some keyways and learn once and for all how to pick a lock!



[Click to Watch Animation](#)

INTRODUCTION TO SINGLE PIN PICKING

THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN FOR

Alright, now that all the conceptual crap is out of the way, we can finally learn our first style of lock picking — single pin picking!

Single pin picking, SPP for short, is the style of lock picking in which you locate and set one pin at a time.

While SPP is not always the quickest method of bypassing a lock, it is the most reliable and most skillful. If you truly wish to get good at lock picking, focus on single pin picking to develop your lock picking skills.

STEP 1: USE TENSION TO CREATE THE FIRST BINDING PIN

Remember, to set pins at the shear line and successfully pick a lock, you have to apply a light rotational force to the plug and create your first binding pin.

To do so, **start by inserting the short end of your tension wrench into the bottom of the keyway and applying very light tension to the plug.** Be certain to maintain this force on your tension wrench throughout the entire process of picking the lock.



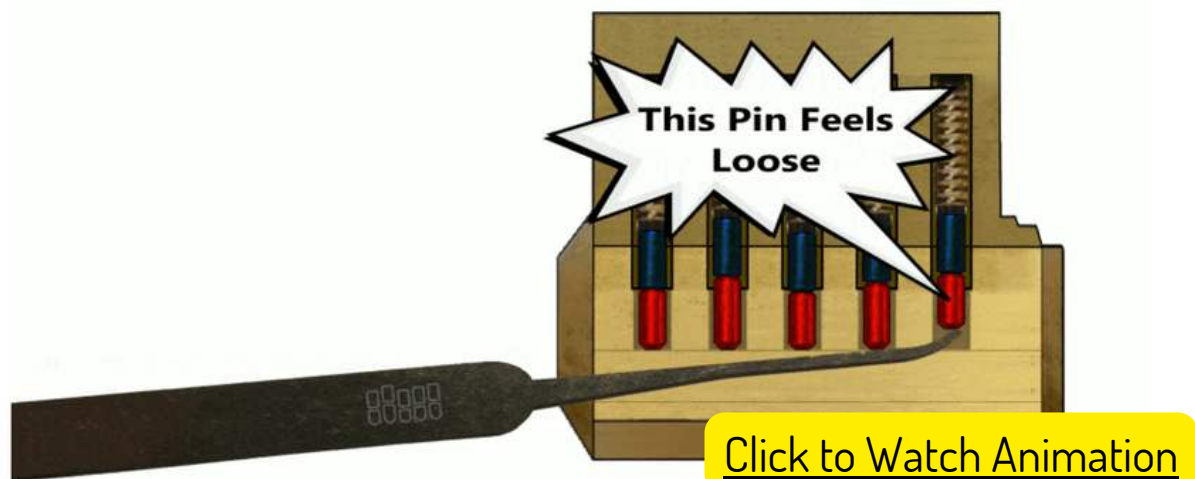
STEP 2: LOCATE THE FIRST BINDING PIN

Now that you have created your first binding pin, you have to find it! But how?

Because the binding pin will have more “binding” force on it than the other pins, **the binding pin will be stiffer and harder to lift than the other non-binding pins.** So basically, you are just looking for a pin that is not loose!

Insert your hook-type pick all the way into the lock and locate the rearmost pin. Very gently begin to lift each pin and gauge how it feels.

Continue to probe each pin until you find the pin that doesn't feel like the others and is more difficult to move.



STEP 3: LIFT AND SET THE FIRST BINDING PIN

Now that you have found the first binding pin, you have to set it!

Gently lift the binding pin until you feel a slight rotation on the plug or hear an audible click. Either of these two indicators typically indicates a successfully set driver pin!

STEP 4: LOCATE AND SET THE SECOND BINDING PIN

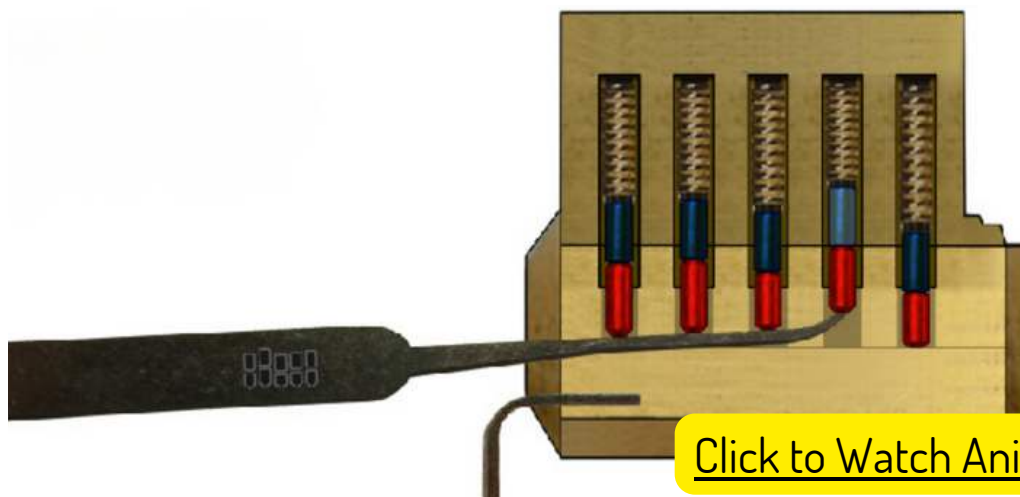
You have located and set your first binding pin, but now the lock is binding on a new pin.

Repeat the same steps of gently lifting each pin until you once again locate another pin that feels stiff and difficult to move. As before, gently continue to lift that pin until you feel a slight rotation on the plug or hear an audible click.

STEP 5: REPEAT THE PROCESS OF LOCATING & SETTING BINDING PINS

Continue the process of locating binding pins and lifting them to the shear line.

Once every pin has been set, there will no longer be any obstruction to the shear line which will allow the plug to fully rotate and the lock to open!



Key SPP Note: If you can no longer find a binding pin, you have likely overset or underset a pin. Release the tension to let the pins drop and restart the process over again. If you still can't find a binding pin, try applying slightly more force to the plug!

INTRODUCTION TO RAKING

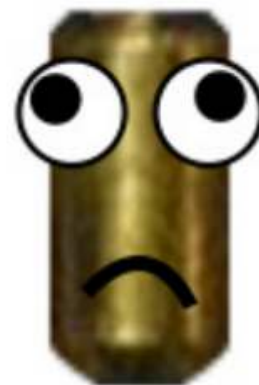
THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN FOR

Up next is our second style of lock picking — raking!

Raking is a very volatile and radical style of picking whose goal is to bump as many pins to the shear line as possible in the quickest amount of time.

While it can be a lot of fun and is a very quick method of bypassing many basic locks, it will only get you so far and can become almost worthless when you start getting into locks with additional security features such as sidebars and security pins.

There are several different types of raking. The method we are going to cover is called scrubbing and is basically the same motion as brushing our teeth!



STEP 1: APPLY TENSION TO CREATE A BINDING PIN

The first step is once again creating a binding pin. Insert the short end of your tension wrench into the bottom of the keyway and apply a very light force to the plug!



Important Note: Be careful with your tension wehn raking. While you can get away with heavier tension during single pin picking, too much tension while raking can result in a broken pick.

STEP 2: INSERT LOCK PICK AND SCRUB THE PINS

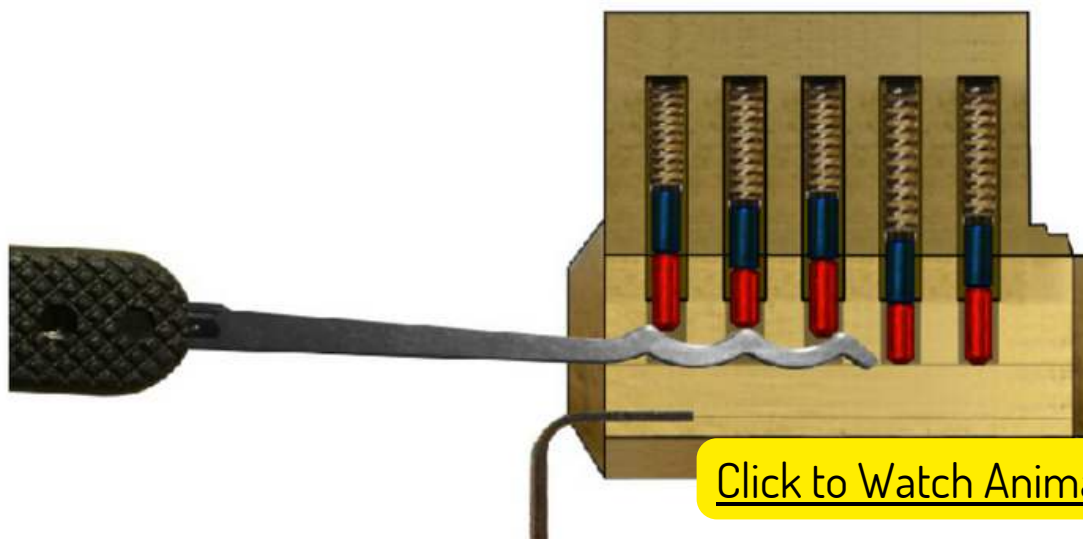
Next, insert your rake all the way to the rear of the lock and gently lift upward so that your pick slightly lifts the pins.

With a decent amount of speed begin to scrub the pins as if you are scrubbing the top of your teeth with your toothbrush. Change the angle, the height, and the speed of your pick as you rake.

If the lock doesn't open within 10 seconds, release tension to reset the lock and begin again. It's very common to have to reset the lock several times before you successfully rake a lock.

Continue scrubbing the pins until the plug rotates and the lock opens!

If you still can't manage to rake your lock, try to apply slightly heavier or lighter tension. Raking is truly more about applying the right tension than it is about lock pick control!



Before we conclude this starter guide, let's quickly cover the legality of lock picking to help keep you safe from any unfortunate situations.

CHAPTER 4

LEGALITY & ETHICS

So is lock picking illegal?

Do we as hobby lock pickers need to hide our lock picks deep within our dresser behind that weird grouping of socks we never wear?

In short, most likely not!

I'm happy to inform you that **in most countries and 94% of the United States, the purchase and possession of lock picks is perfectly legal.**

Let's take a moment and look into why and how they are considered legal in some places and not in others.



Note for Non-US Pickers: This section will primarily focus on United States lock picking laws. While I wish that I could host an entire database of lock picking laws for every country, it would be impossible to maintain. That being said, the legal terminology used below is common throughout the world in describing laws related to lock picking. Knowing these can better help you understand your local laws

KNOW YOUR LEGAL TERMS

To truly understand lock picking laws, we have to break down three simple legal definitions that govern the possession of lock picks.

Don't worry they are pretty straight forward:

Not Illegal: In some states, like North Dakota, there are no specific laws regarding lock picks or locksmithing tools. In these states lock picks are not mentioned by any laws, thus possession of lock picks is not illegal.

Prima Facie Evidence: Prima Facie is a fancy Latin term that essentially means, “guilty until proven innocent.” In states enforcing prima facie evidence, merely possessing lock picks is intent to commit a crime — regardless if you were or not. So if you are caught with lock picks in these states, you may have to prove that you had no intent to use them in a malicious manner. For this reason we can consider them illegal in these states.

Must Show Intent: In most states, and most of the world, owning lock picks is 100% legal. It is only when you use them in an illegal way that you will find trouble. Lock picks in these states are seen by the law in the same light as a screwdriver or hammer. All of these tools can be used illegally, but until you show intent to use them in a malicious and criminal manner, they are just seen as tools.

Always remember that the best way to protect yourself from the law is to know the law.

Not every cop nor attorney knows every law, so knowing your local laws could one day save you from an unfortunate situation. Know the law so you can safely play within the limits of the law.

Also in general, just don't do anything stupid and follow the golden rules of lock picking — which is the topic of our next lesson. These golden rules will help guide your actions from doing anything that could potentially get you into any form of trouble

US LOCK PICKING LAWS

In the US there are six states that have unique laws regarding the possession of lock picks. Three of these states have specific laws directly restricting lock picking tools.

These states are:

Mississippi: Possession of lock picks is **legal** so long as they are not concealed. However, once you put them in your pocket it becomes intent to commit a crime. If you live in this state and own lock picks, leave them at home

Tennessee: Possession of lock picks is **legal**, however, Tennessee has some very strict laws to prevent locksmith fraud. If you live in this state it is illegal to use your skills for any sort of profit unless you are a licensed locksmith. If you don't have a license be sure to keep it a hobby.

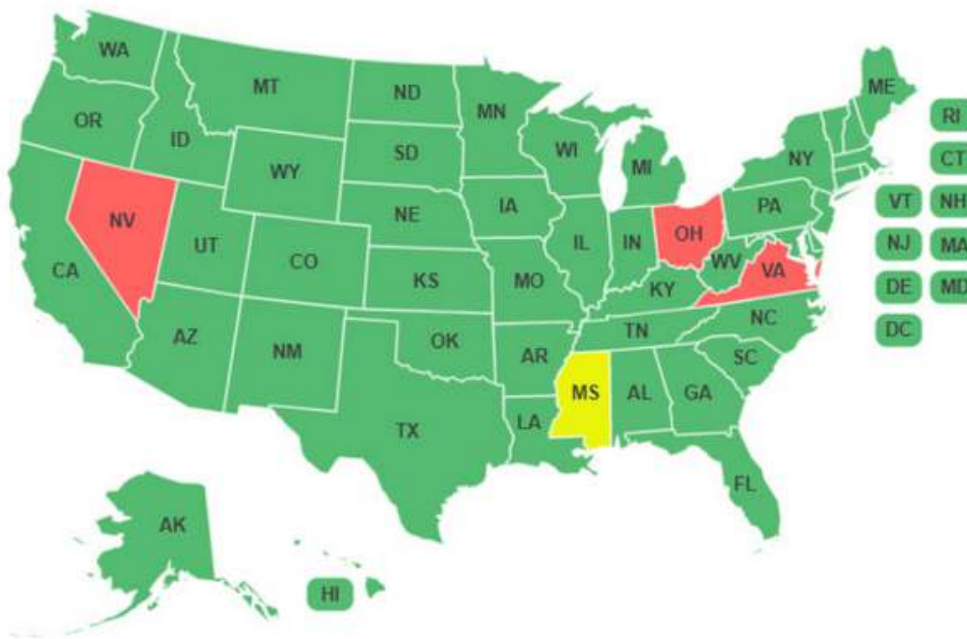
Illinois: Possession of lock picks is **legal**, however, the possession of 3 bump keys is illegal.

Nevada: Illegal; Possession can be prima facie evidence of criminal 4 intent. You may have to prove noncriminal intent.

Ohio: Illegal; Possession can be prima facie evidence of criminal 4 intent. You may have to prove noncriminal intent.

Virginia: Illegal; Possession can be prima facie evidence of criminal 4 intent. You may have to prove noncriminal intent.

Below is a link to our interactive map containing current United States lock picking laws — along with current law excerpts to help you better understand your local laws.



[Click Here](#)
to check out your local lock picking laws!

THE GOLDEN RULES

THOU SHALL NOT PICK

Your good friend Betsy calls you up one day in a complete state of panic. She has just locked herself out of her apartment and is in desperate need of your lock picking skills.

The question is...

Can you ethically help her — or just as importantly, could you possibly face legal issues if you did?

The answer?

No, you ethically and legally can not help her. As a matter of fact, to do so would violate the 2 Golden Rules of lock picking



Rule 1: Never pick a lock that you don't own nor have permission by the owner to pick.

Rule 2: Never pick locks that you rely on or that are in use.

While these two rules may seem self-explanatory, they aren't as black and white as they appear. Let's jump into what they mean and how they can keep you out of trouble!

GOLDEN RULE #1

Rule 1: Never pick a lock that you don't own nor have permission by the owner to pick.

This rule is pretty straight forward. It's a common-sense rule that anyone would naturally follow to keep out of trouble. But there is often a little confusion when it comes to the "owner" part.

Let's go back to our example with our friend Betsy. Why is it that we can't help her? She is giving us permission, right?

While it's true she is giving us permission, the fact is that **she is not the owner**. She is the tenant renting that apartment and lock from the owner.

Her permission to pick that lock is legally and ethically the same as walking up to some stranger's home and sticking your pick in their door.



A great way to always ensure you are never violating Rule 1 is to ask yourself, "If this lock had to be replaced, who would pay to fix it?" If you have that person's permission to pick the lock, it's fair game. But until then, keep your picks clear and you'll never have to fear dropping the soap.

But even if you had permission from the landlord to pick Betsy's lock, it would violate our next Golden Rule.

GOLDEN RULE #2

Rule 2: Never pick locks that you rely on or that are in use.

While lock picking is a very gentle means of bypassing locks, it's still pretty harsh to the locks themselves. Picking can cause abnormal wear on the internal components of any lock and in some cases permanently break them. This is especially true with beginner's whom are typically much harsher with their tools.

The point is that practicing on your in use locks can permanently disable these locks. By doing so you could disabled yours or somebody else's security and can no longer secure the property — as is a locks purpose.

You also stand the chance of locking yourself out of your own home if the lock all of the sudden stops working.

In any case, fixing it could prove costly. It's just best that you follow Rule 2 and only pick locks that are not in use. But even if you had permission from the landlord to pick Betsy's lock, it would violate our next Golden Rule.

Note

There are those emergency exceptions — such as locking yourself out of your home. In these situations, so long as you are fully following Rule 1 it is acceptable to utilize your skills. But do so understanding that there is a chance that you could break your lock and you have fully considered that and are willing to accept the consequences

GOLDEN RULE #3

Rule 3: Know Your Local Laws Regarding Lock Picks

I know that I said there were only 2 golden rules, but I'm adding this one for good measure.

While the first two rules will keep you safe in terms of utilizing your skills, knowing your local laws will keep you safe in regards to owning and carrying lock picks.

Knowing the law will always give you the upper hand. It allows you to fully and earnestly enjoy lock picking to its full extent without any fear.



Remember, stick to your practice locks and follow these three easy rules and you shouldn't ever have to deal with any nonsense.

WHAT IS NEXT?

I hope that this little ebook broke any confusion or frustration that you may have had about getting started in this awesome craft!

While it takes a lot of time and practice to master lock picking, it truly isn't as hard as it first seems.

By simply practicing 15 - 20 minutes a day, you'll find yourself accomplishing things with those little metal tools that you likely once thought impossible.

But beyond this guide, what's next?

As your skill grows, so should your knowledge.

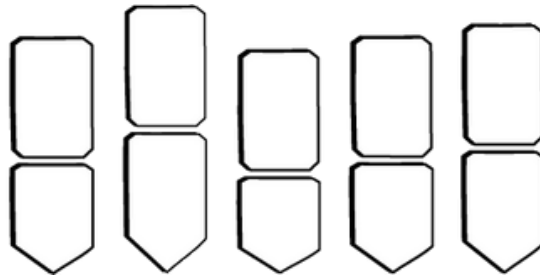
Consider joining a lock picking community like The [Art of Lock Picking Academy Facebook Group](#). We have a very active community full of new and experienced lock pickers, all helping each other become the best that they can be!

Also, be sure to check out our [Academy](#) for new guides, techniques, and tips!

If you have any questions, comments, or any awesome ideas of how I can make this beginner's guide better, feel free to throw me an email [here](#). I always love to hear from you guys!

Until next time,
Happy Picking!!

VISIT US AT



WWW.ART-OF-LOCKPICKING.COM

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This Information is strictly to inform and not to be used in any malicious manner. Pick locks you own or have clear permission from the owner of that lock to pick. Know your local laws and stay safe!

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