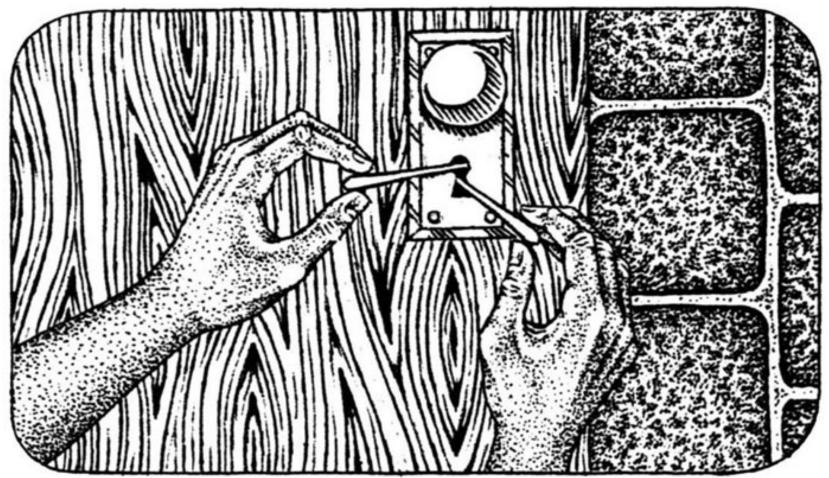
# Ten Things Everyone Should Know About Lockpicking & Physical Security



**Deviant Ollam** 

**Black Hat Europe – 2008/03/25** 

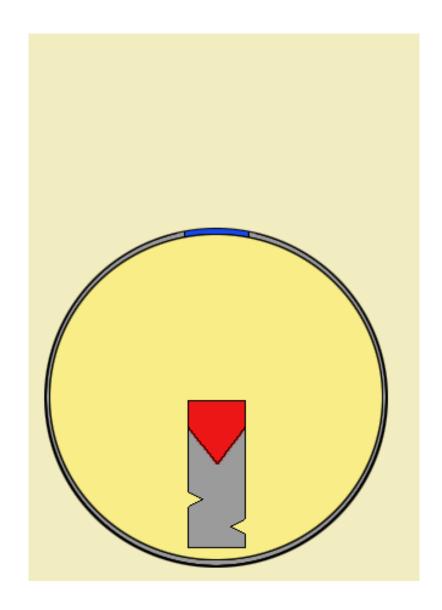


#### 1. Locks are not complicated mechanisms

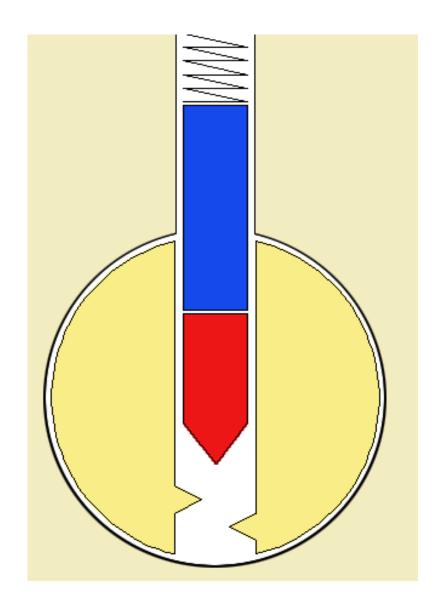
- Simple components
- Simple operation
- Efficient & resilient



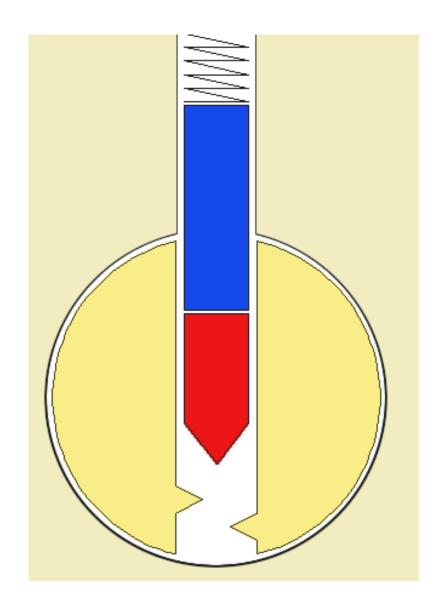




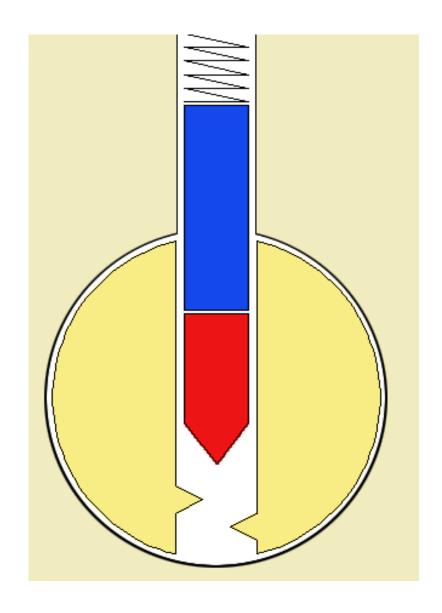




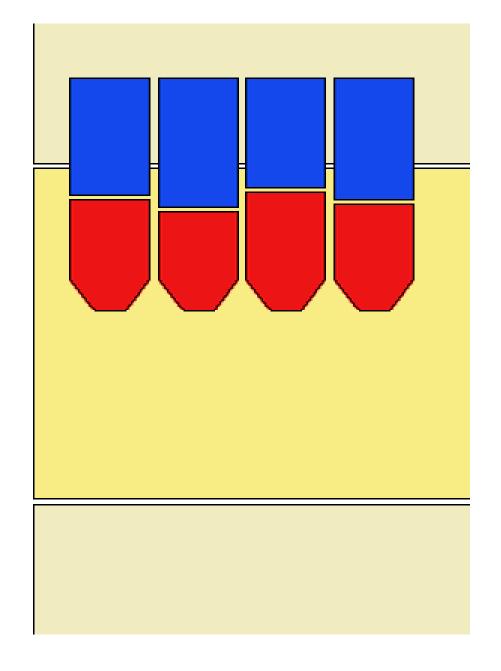












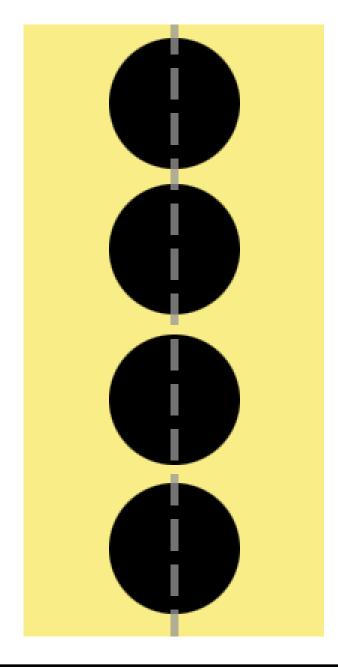


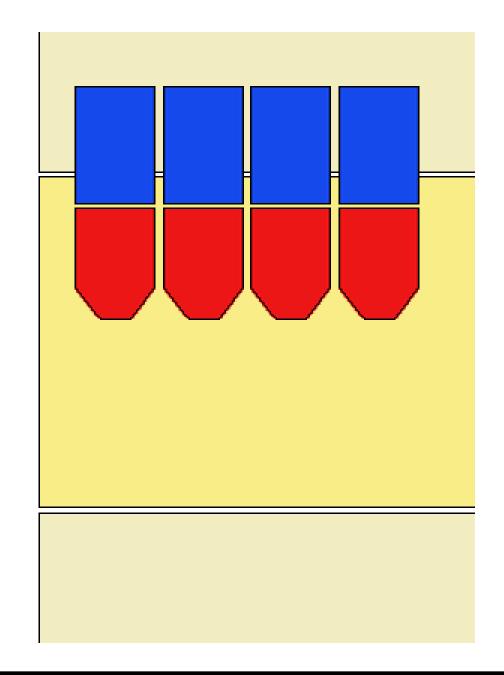
### 2. Most locks are wildly easy to pick

- Common faults
- Easily exploited
- Anyone can do it

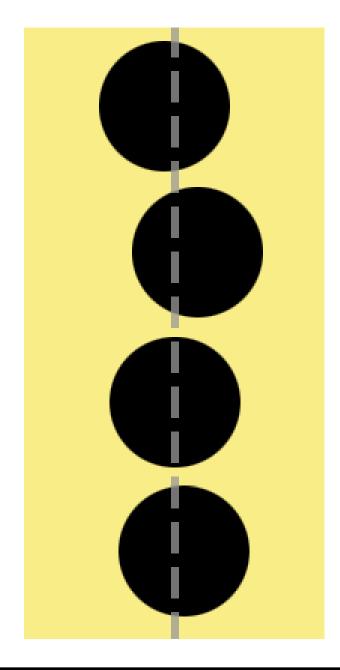


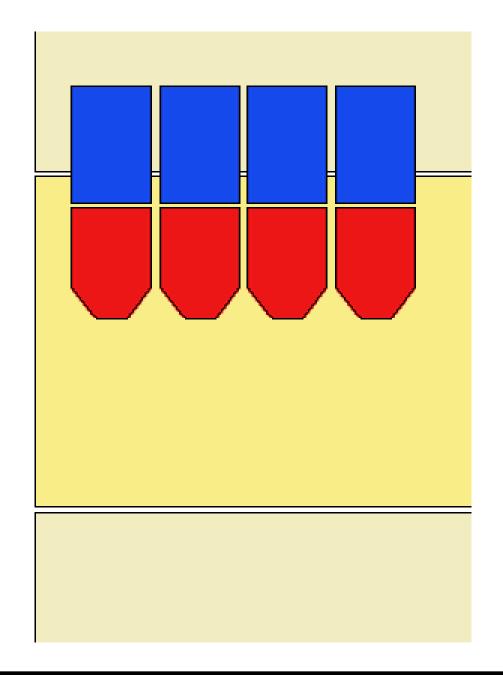




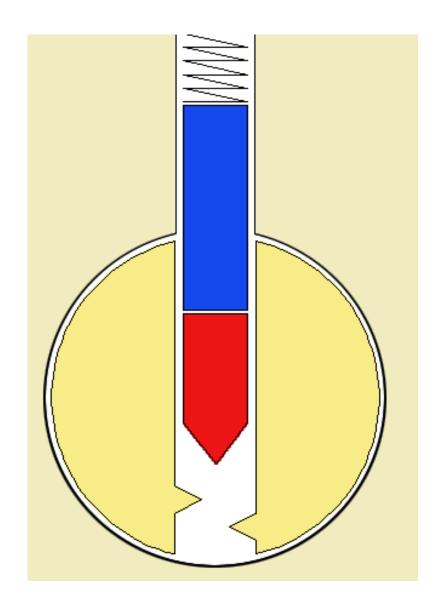






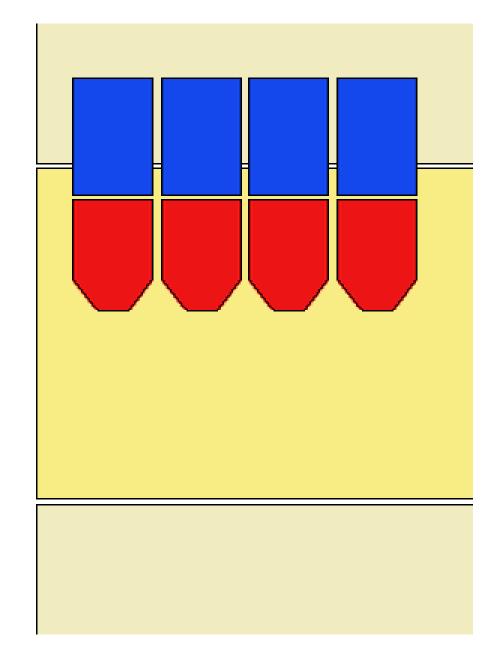








## **Picking**



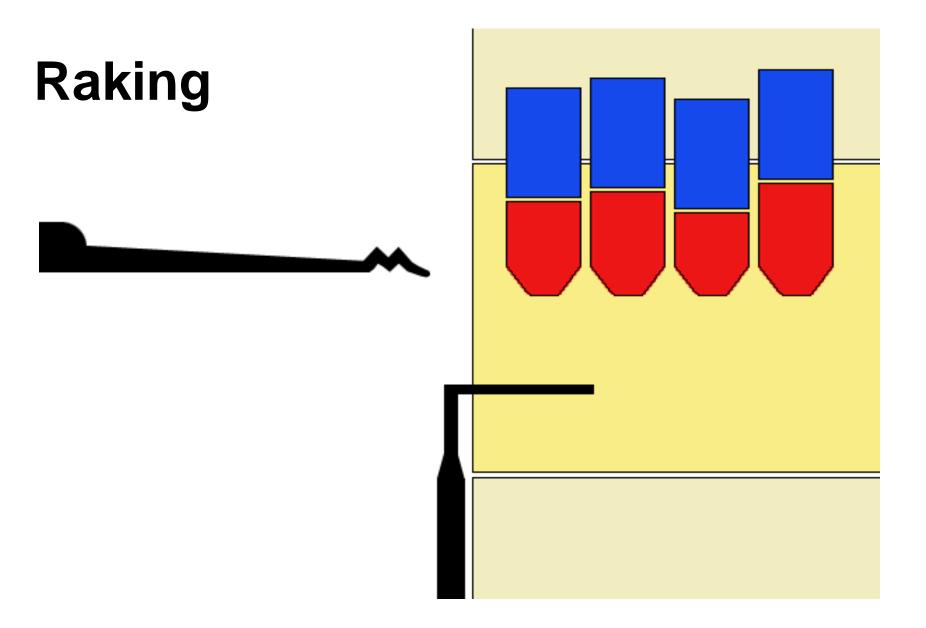


#### **Demonstration**

- Everyone Cross Your Fingers
- Think "No Demonstration Effect"
- The Two Biggest Errors...
  - Too much wrench pressure
  - Lifting pins too far up









### 3. Unpickable doesn't mean invulnerable

- Combination instead of key
- Pins arranged in other formats
- Different keyway orientation

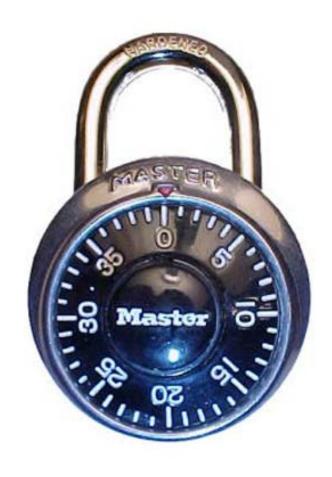






### **Combination Locks**

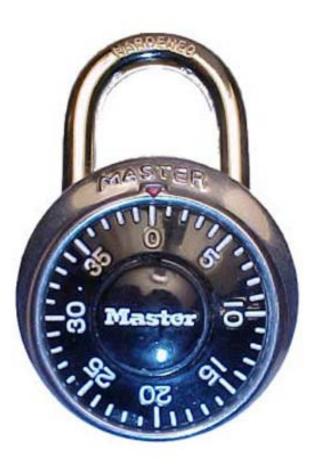
Show of Hands





### **Combination Locks**

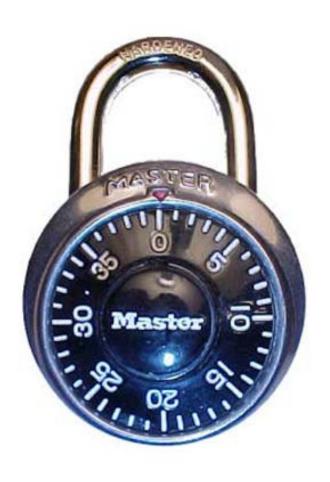
- Show of Hands
- Immensely popular in the USA
  - Schools
  - Gyms
  - Etc.





### **Combination Locks**

- Show of Hands
- Immensely popular in the USA
  - Schools
  - Gyms
  - Etc.
- These Locks Provide Essentially Zero Security













### **Padlock Shims**

- Simple
- Cheap
- Buy Online
  - 20-pack for \$25
  - Shim stock metal
- Homemade
  - Aluminum Cans



### **Tubular Locks**

- Still traditional pin stacks
- Pins simply arranged in unconventional pattern
- Need specialized tools (well... sometimes)





Low-tech Kryptonite bypass (bic\_pen.avi)



### **Dimple Locks**

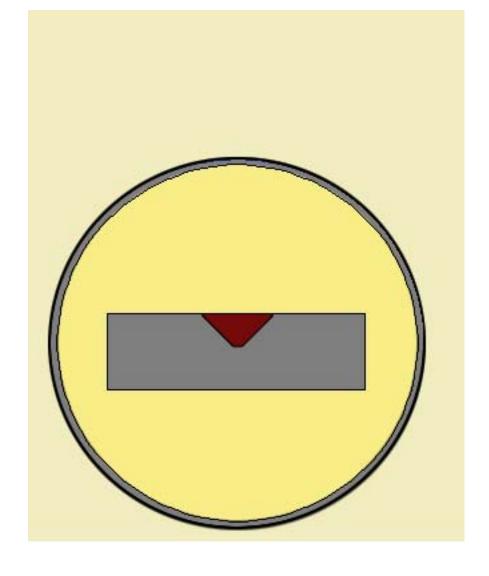
- Traditional pin stacks
- Horizontal keyway





### **Dimple Locks**

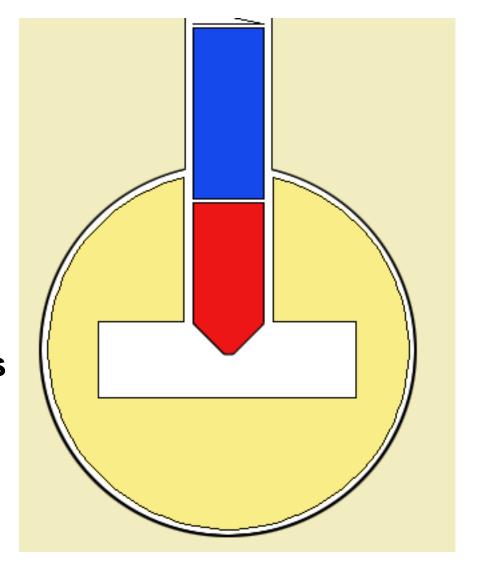
- Traditional pin stacks
- Horizontal keyway
- Nearly impossible to insert usual pick tools





### **Dimple Locks**

- Traditional pin stacks
- Horizontal keyway
- Nearly impossible to insert usual pick tools
- Other means to bypass
  - Impressioning
  - Bump keying





Barry Wels & Laz impressioning a dimple lock (dimple.avi)



### 4. Minor changes make a big difference

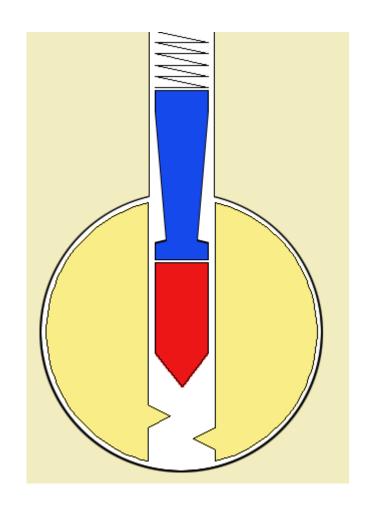
- Specialized pins
- Unshimable padlocks





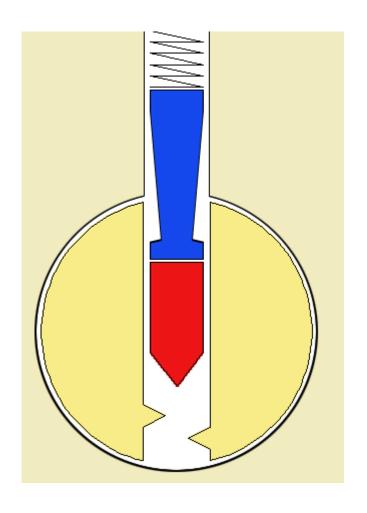


Mushroom



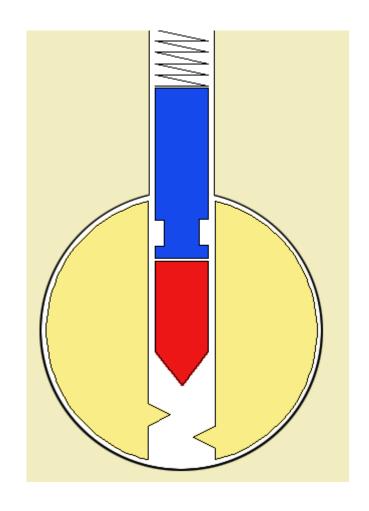


Mushroom



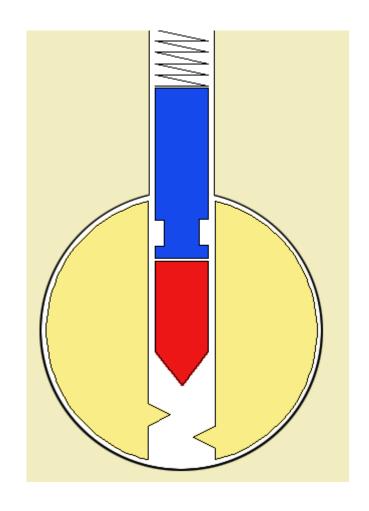


- Mushroom
- Spool



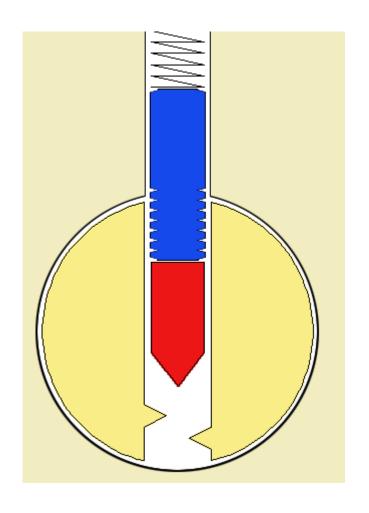


- Mushroom
- Spool

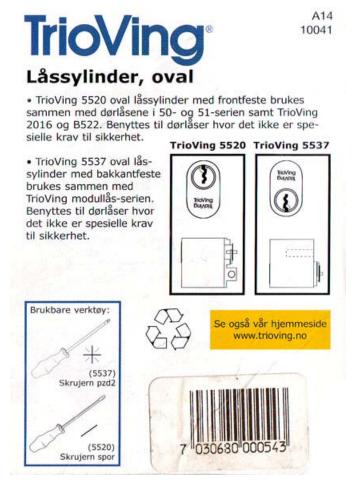




- Mushroom
- Spool
- Serrated







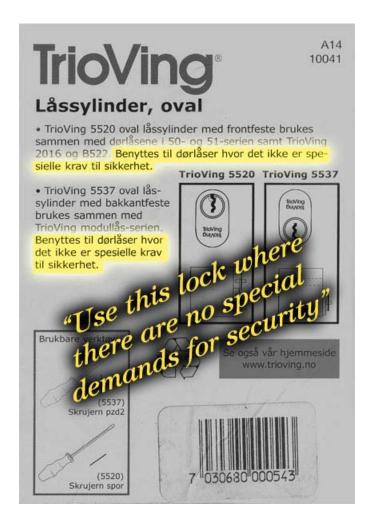


















### **Un-Shimmable Padlocks**

- Collar / Boot
- Double-Ball Mechanism
- Key-Retaining Locks
  - Less Convenient
  - Less Popular
- Can still have combination dials
- Size doesn't always equal security
  - Resistance to Brute Force
  - Not Always Resistant to Finesse











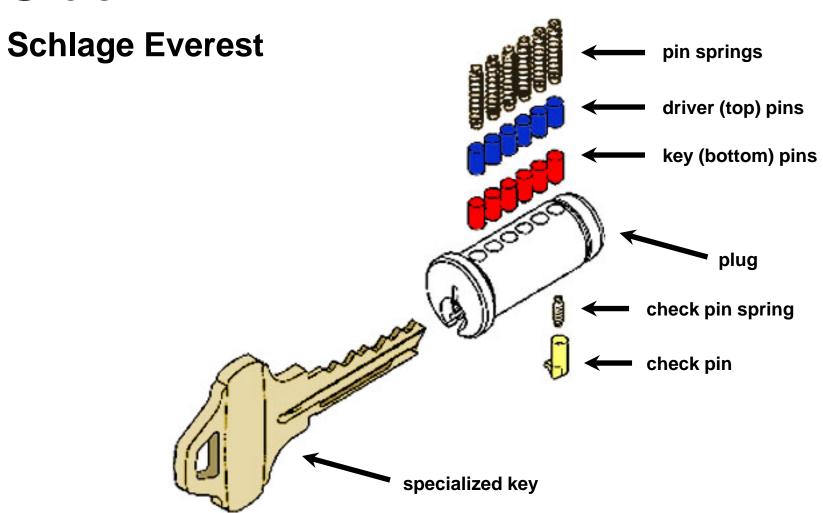
### 5. Advanced features aren't a panacea

- Sidepin... the industry's first attempt
- Sidebars... good and bad
- Mul-T-Lock dimple system
- Abloy's rotating disks











#### **Schlage Everest**



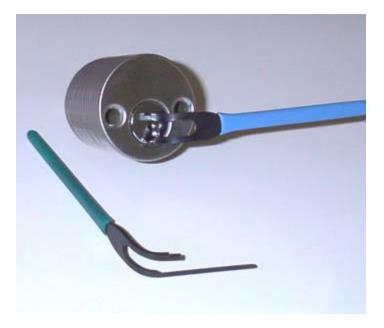


#### **Schlage Everest**





#### **Schlage Everest**

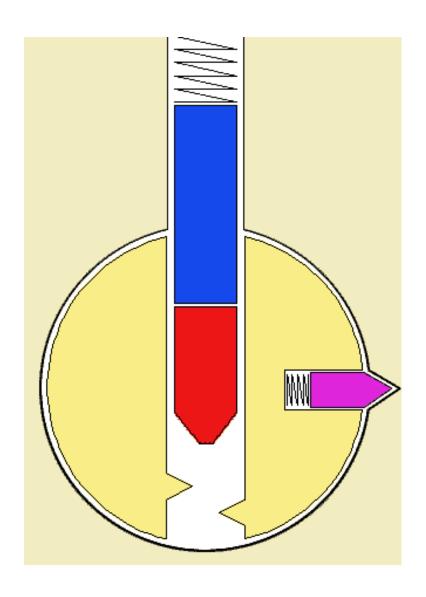


specialized "finger wrench"



modified Everest key

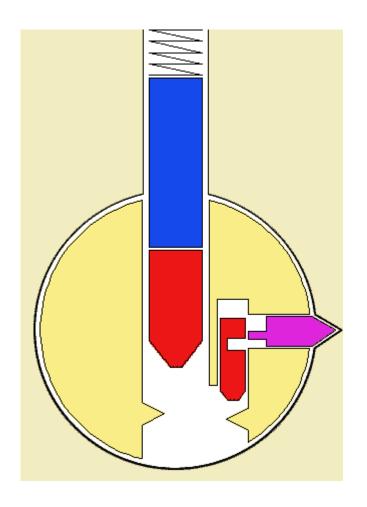
- Similar to side pins
- Restrict plug movement
- Harder to pick than pin stacks





**Finger Pins** 

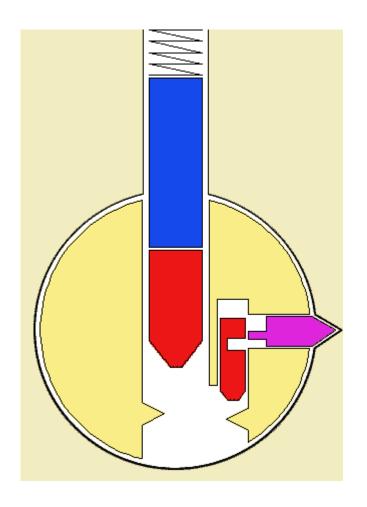






**Finger Pins** 

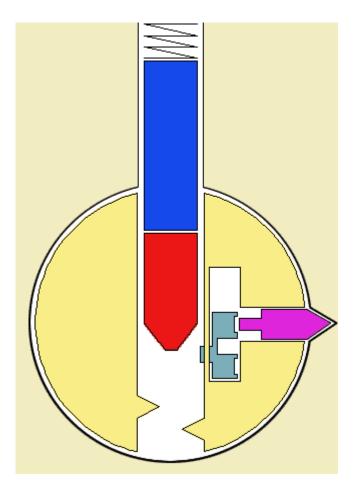






#### **Sliders**

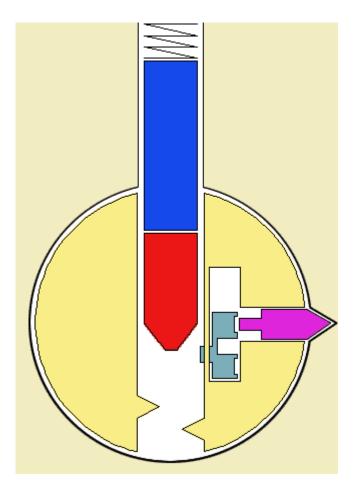






#### **Sliders**

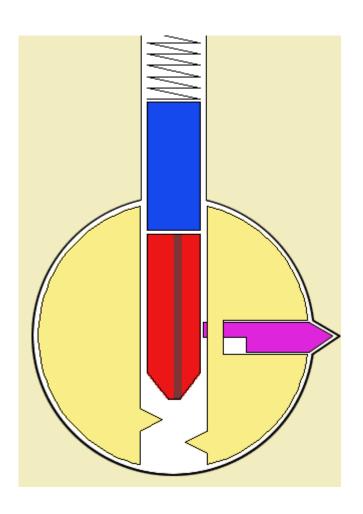






#### **Rotating Pins**

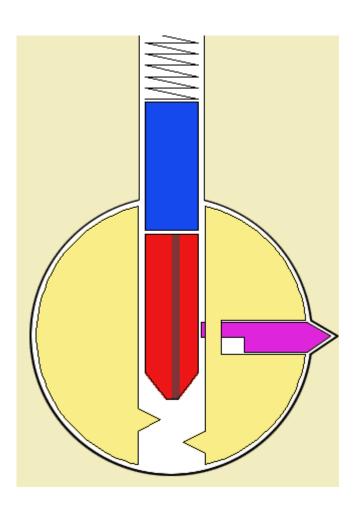






#### **Rotating Pins**







# **Advanced Dimple Lock**

Mul-T-Lock

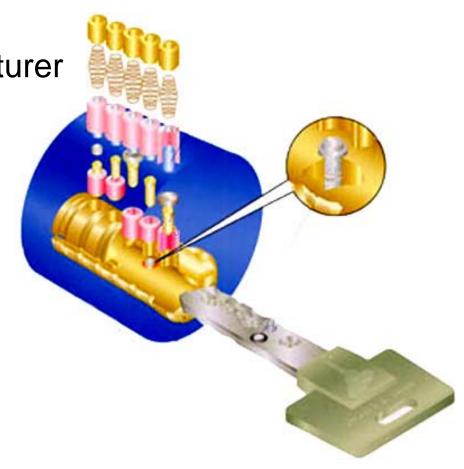
Developer & Manufacturer

Patent Holder

Exclusive Distributor

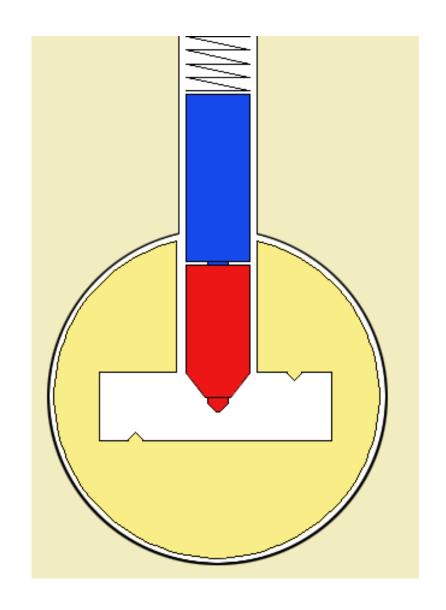
#### Specialized Design

- Pins Within Pins
- Can't Impression



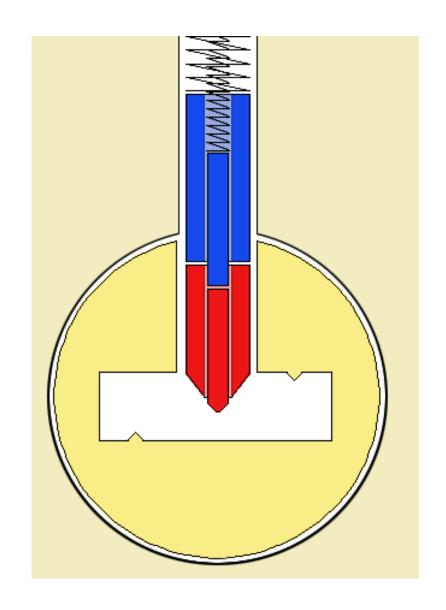


Pins within pins



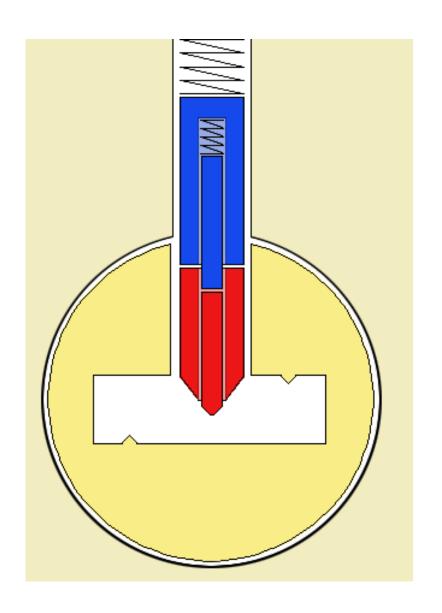


- Pins within pins
- Imagine the inside

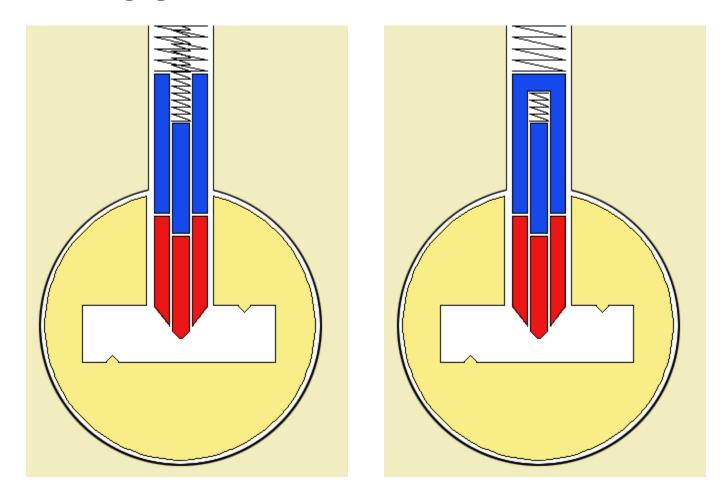




- Pins within pins
- Imagine the inside
- In fact, this is the actual mechanism



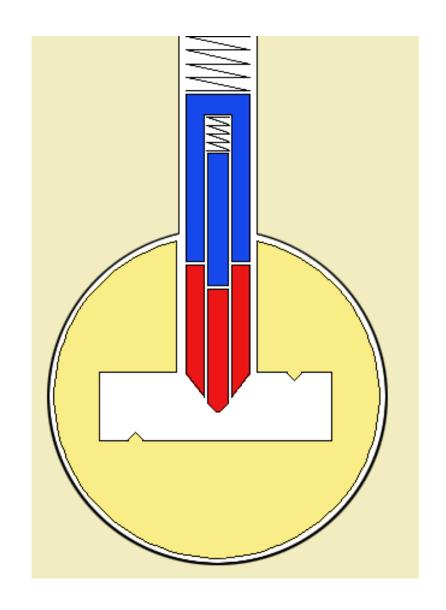




see the difference now?

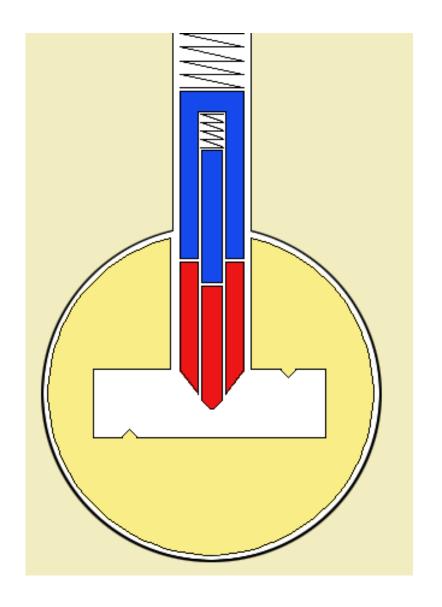


Standard Operation



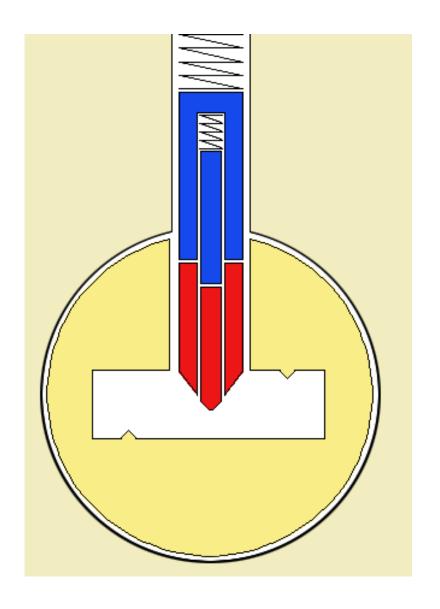


- Standard Operation
- Overlifting





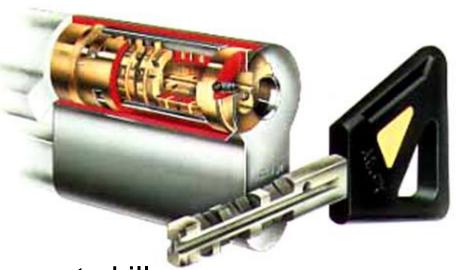
- Standard Operation
- Overlifting
- Michaud Attack





# **Rotating Disks**

- Tremendous Security
  - Mimics a safe lock
- Very Difficult To Pick
  - Takes much time and great skill
  - Specialized tools required



# **Rotating Disks**

- Tremendous Security
  - Mimics a safe lock
- Very Difficult To Pick
  - Takes much time and great skill
  - Specialized tools required
- Falle Tool
  - Manipulates disks individually
  - Decodes cut orientation
  - Numerical key values



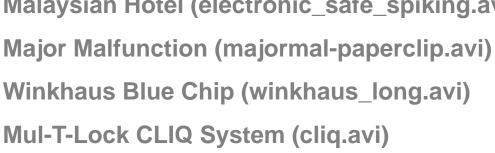
Barry Wels picking a rotating disk lock with Mike Glasser (rotating\_disk.avi)



### 6. Adding electricity isn't magical

- Hotel safes
- **Deadbolts**
- Access control systems
  - Magnetic door locks
  - Passive IR sensors
  - The Wiegand pitfall











## A problematic access control door

Magnetic lock





### A problematic access control door

- Magnetic lock
- Large gap





## A problematic access control door

- Magnetic lock
- Large gap
- IR Sensor





## Zac Franken... the Gecko project





### 7. Safe locks vary as widely as door locks

- Mechanisms
- Certifications
- Resistance to other conditions
- Amazing electronic models







## **Safes**

#### Mechanism Operation

- Wheels, Gates, & a Fence
- Direct Entry Fence vs. Nose & Cam

#### Insurance Ratings

– Underwriters' Labs (TL, TRTL, TXTL + ##)

#### Fire Safes

- Often terribly weak hardwareAlso not typically rated for electronic media

#### Compromise

- Manual or Robotic Manipulation
  Manipulation-Proof Safes (S&G 8400)
  Electronic Mas-Hamilton X-07 & X-09









### 8. Bump keying is a real problem...

... but one with real solutions



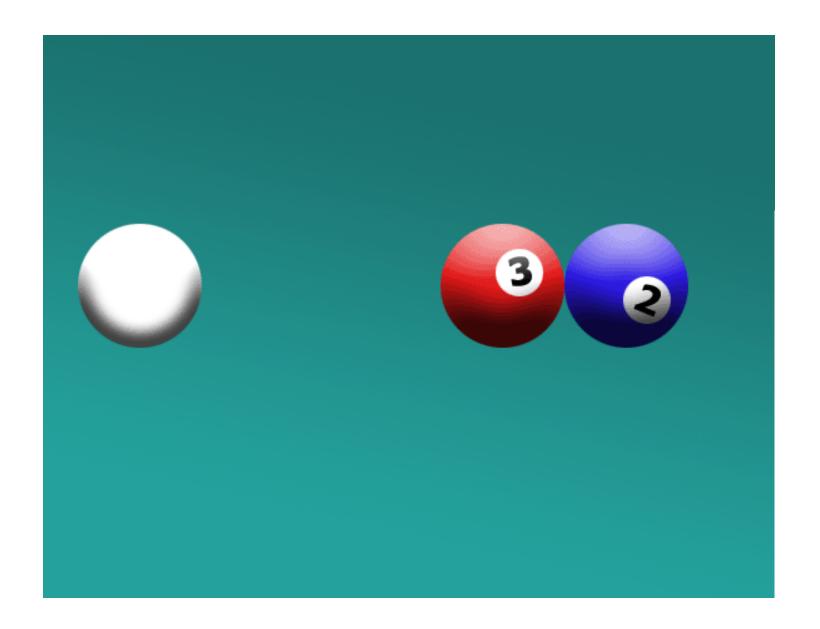




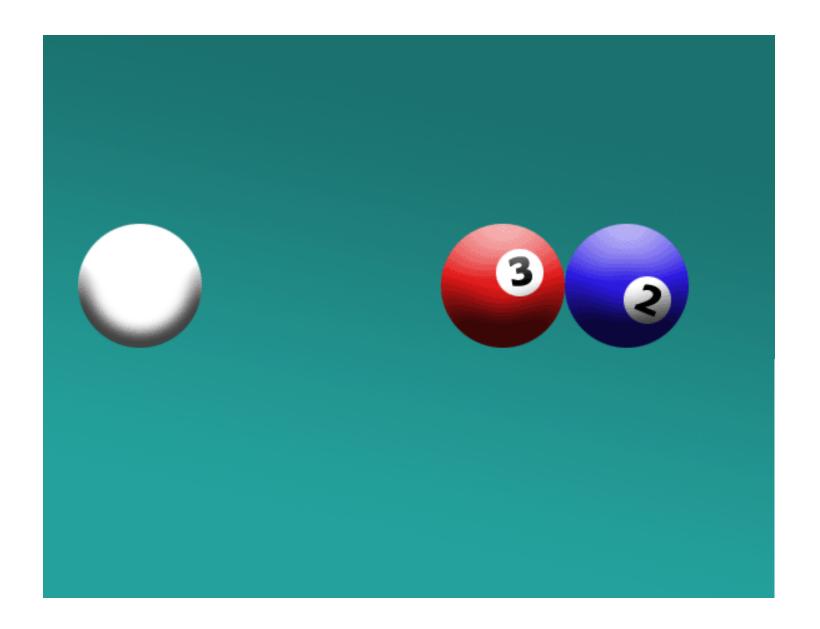
# The "Bump Key" Attack

- Popping a lock open with a special key
- Takes little skill, almost no training, no special tools
- Vast number of locks are vulnerable
  - The media (and public) is finally taking notice
- Exploit closely related to physics of a pick gun
  - Best explained via billiard ball analogy.

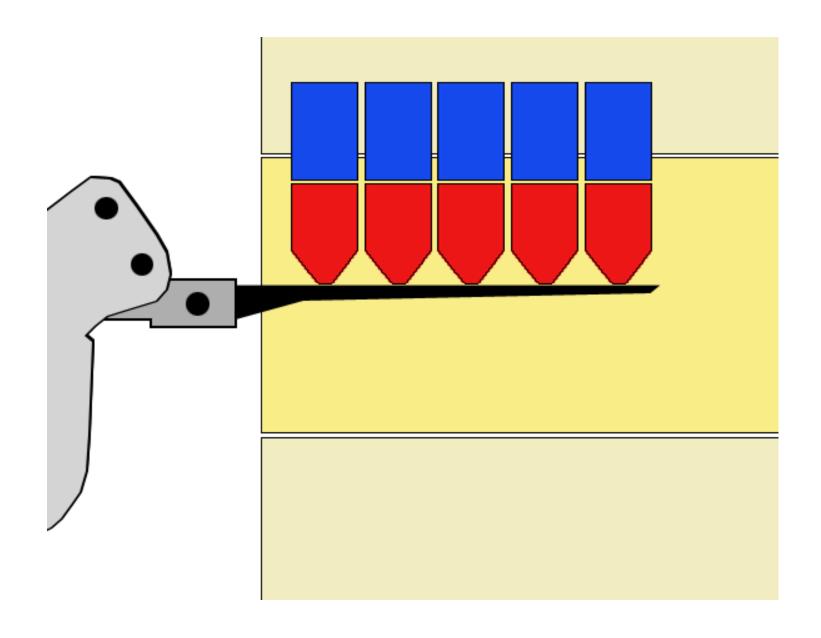






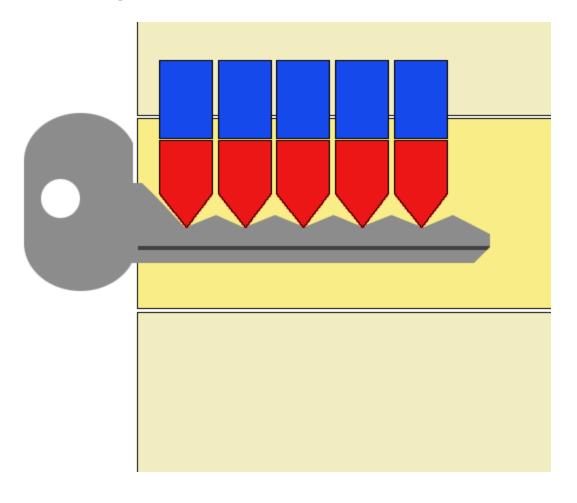






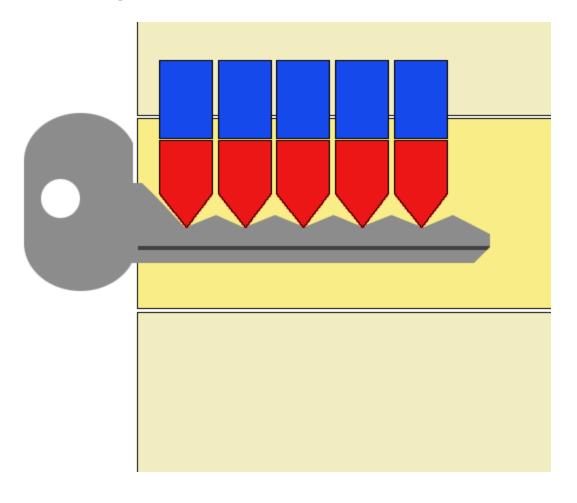


# The "Bump Key" Attack





# The "Bump Key" Attack





## Countermeasures to Bumping

#### Certain High Security Mechanisms

- Sidebars in Schalge Primus
- Slider-based sidebars in Evva & Scorpion
- Pins Within Pins (newer Mul-T-Lock models)
- Rotating Disk locks (Abloy & clones)

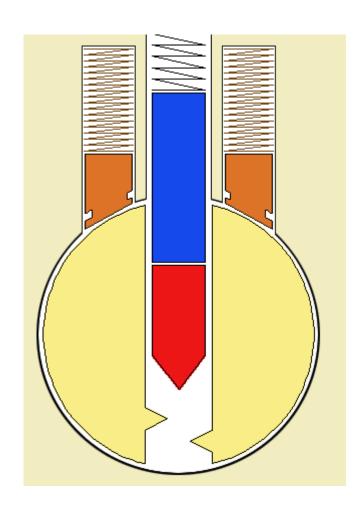
#### Other High Security Locks Don't Help As Much

- Assa V10 Twin is "exploitable" geographically
- It is theoretically possible that Medeco locks could be bumped (given adequate knowledge beforehand)
- There is a risk of information leakage in mastered systems

#### New Approaches

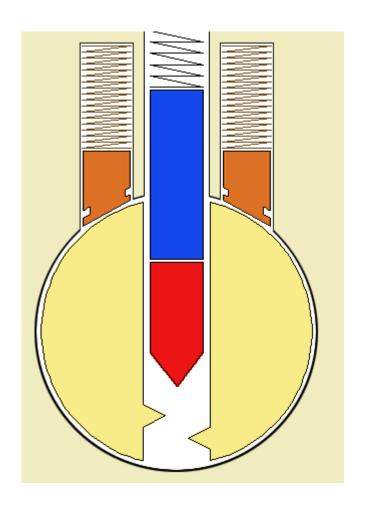
- Trap Pins
- Shallow Drilling
- Top Gapping
- Fluids & Gels





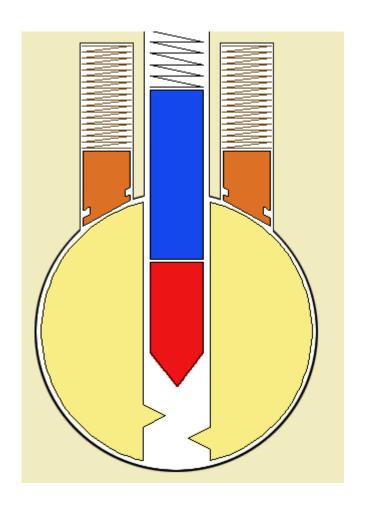


**Normal Key Operation** 





**Attempt Without a Key** 





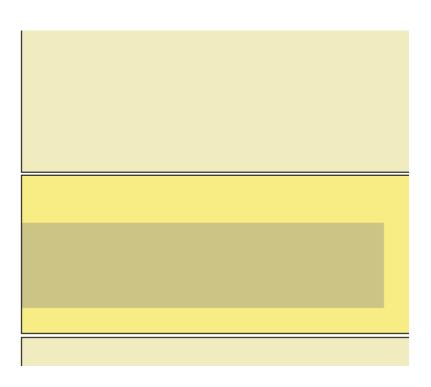
#### A Double-Edged Sword

- Absolute evidence of any any attempted pick or bypass
- Only one course of action after trap pins have fired
- Remove lock from door and replace with a new one
- Shallow drilling is simpler and offers more elegant protection...



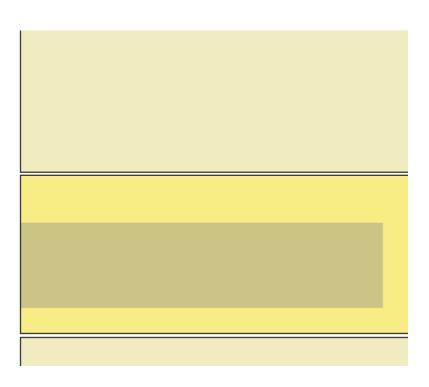


Normal pin stack chambers being drilled...



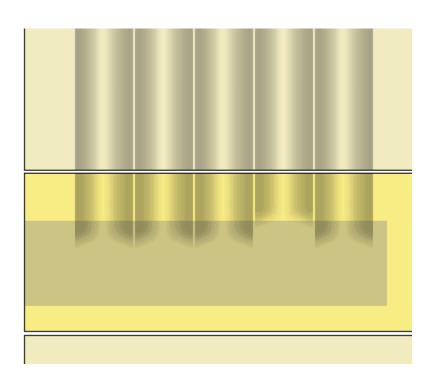


Notice the difference with shallow drilling...



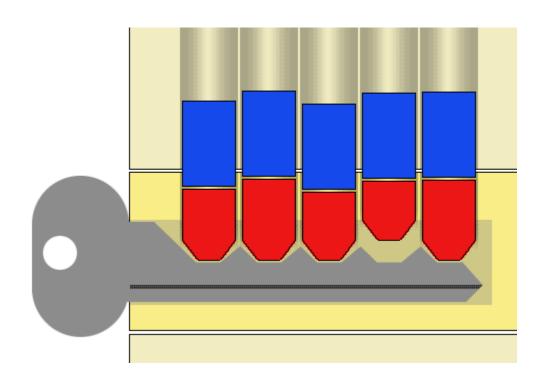


Pin stacks have differing heights in their default position



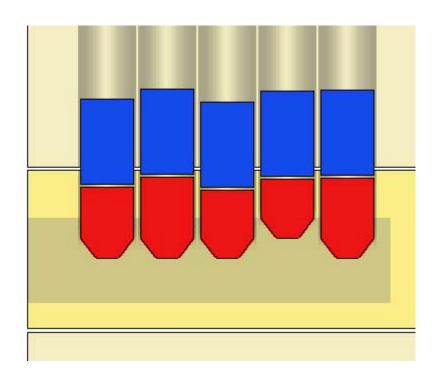


Attempts at bumping will fail, not all pins touch the key



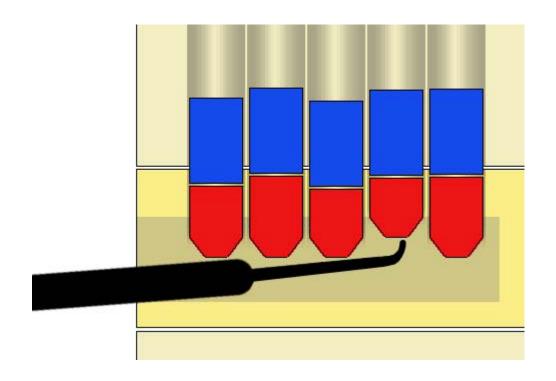


No easy, outward evidence of this protection





Conceivably possible to examine for shallow stacks...

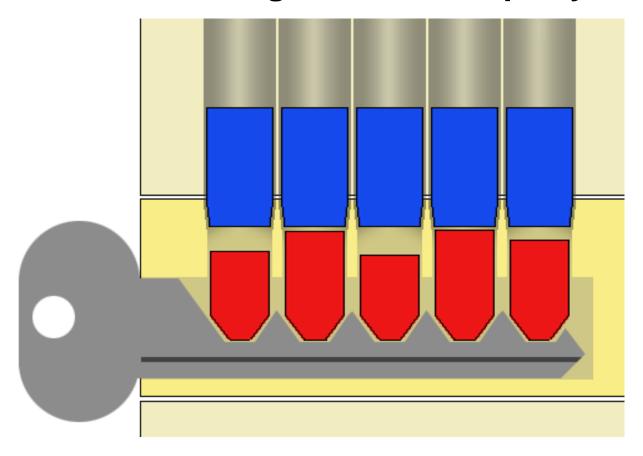


... but what then, carry a whole ring of bump keys?



## Top gapping

This design offers the most promise for fully hardening basic pin tumbler locks against the bump key attack.

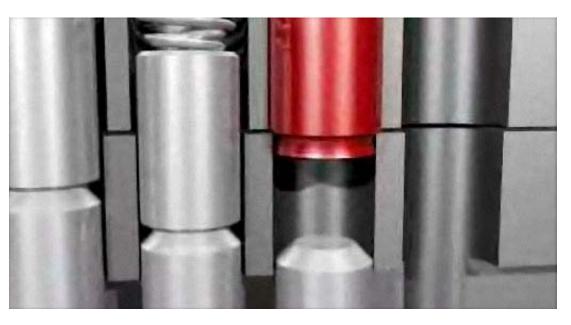




## Top gapping

Master Lock has published on this topic and begun equipping locks with specialized top pins. Look for part numbers ending with the letter "N" or ask a locksmith.







#### Kwikset??

When even this company is making locks designed to prevent bump keying, it's finally gotten proper attention





#### What locks have these countermeasures?



- Trap Pins
  - M&C (Mitchel & Collin) "Antiklop" model
- Shallow Drilling
  - CES (Carl Eduard Schulte) VA5 & VB7 models
- Top Gapping
  - Master Lock / American Lock (retail or re-pinned)
- Kwikset
  - "Smart Series" line includes biometric options



#### Fluids & Gels

- Pickbuster
  - Invented by Mark Garratt
  - Distributed by Almore based in Pontypridd, Wales
- Impedes Pin Movement
- Mixed Industry Reaction
  - Pros: inexpensive, simple, bump resistant
  - Cons: not permanent, not perfect, and...
  - Significant concern about fouling
- Weigh Costs and Benefits Yourself



# 9. Large facilities have their own unique set of pitfalls and concerns

- Master keying
- Interchangeable cores
- Key control

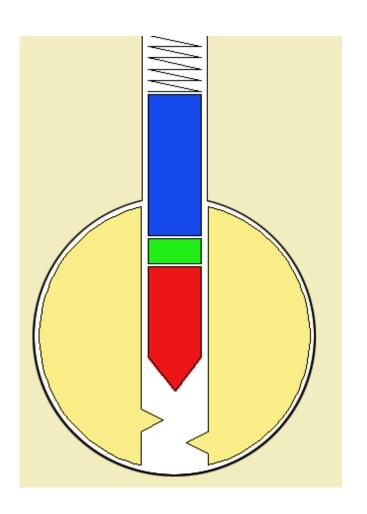




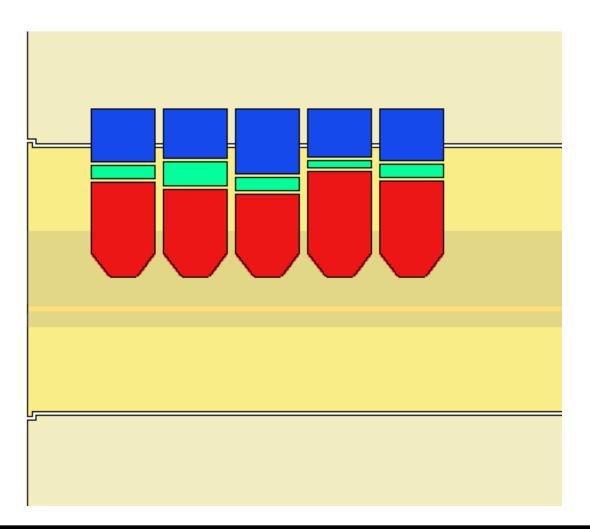


#### **Master Key Theory**

- Remember standard pin tumbler stacks?
- Same operation, with extra pin (or "wafer") in the middle
- Potential for varied levels of clearance
- Also potential for many additional shear lines

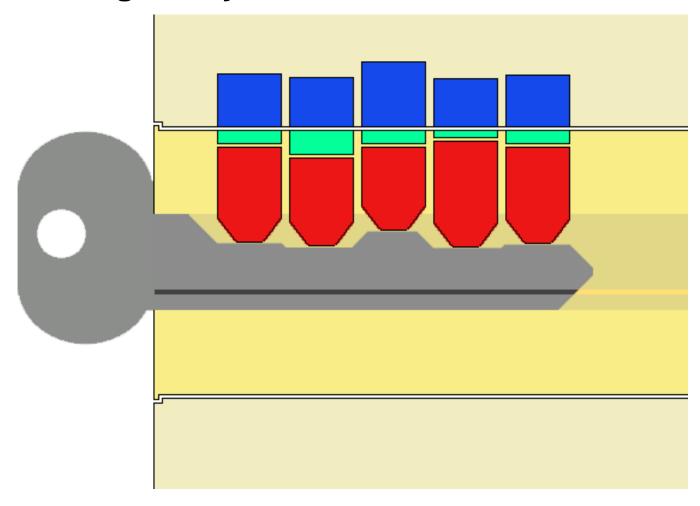






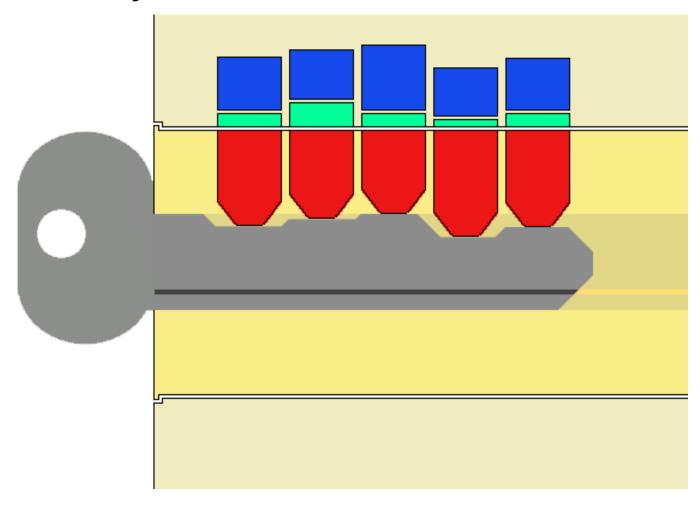


User's "Change" Key



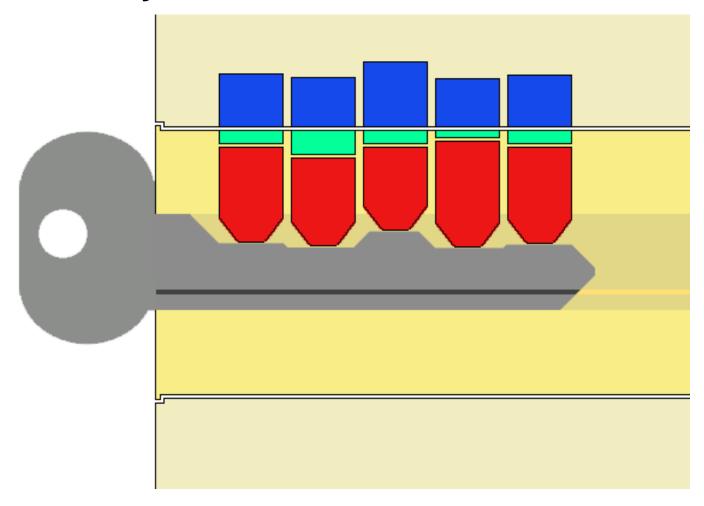


**Top Master Key** 



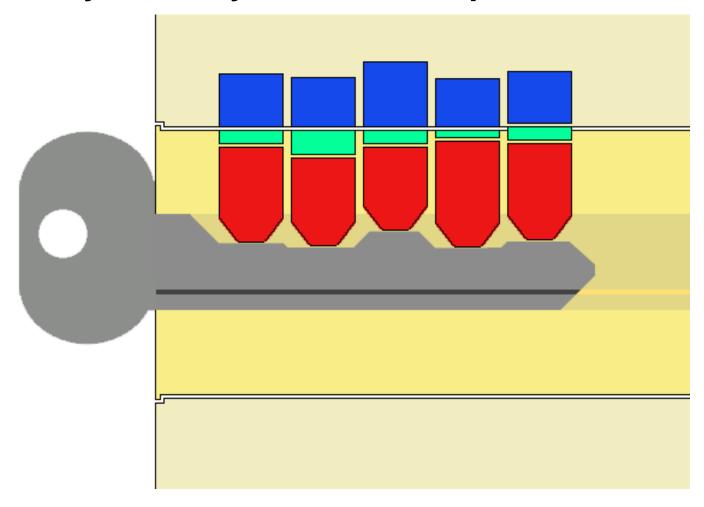


Imagine a crafty user...



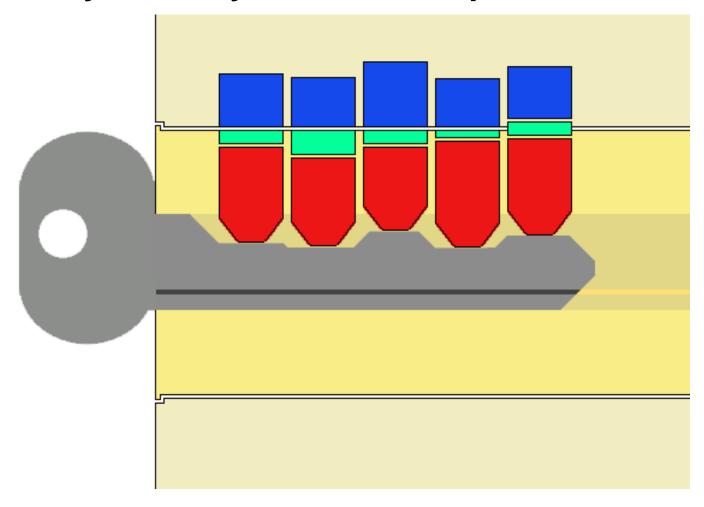


They modify their key... it doesn't open



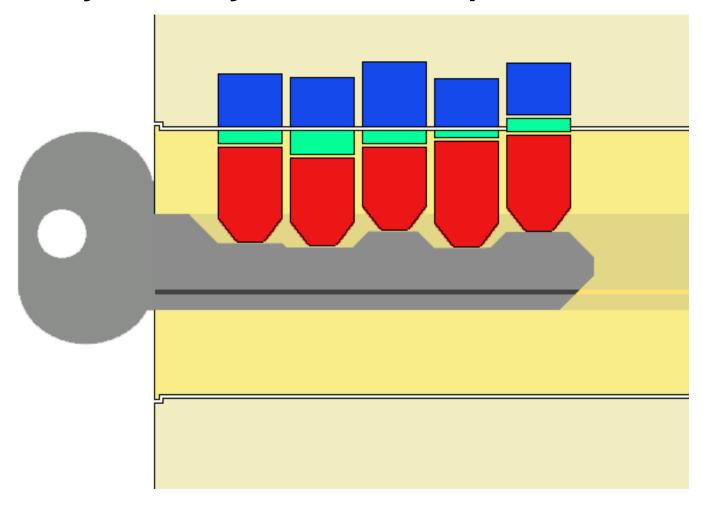


They modify their key... it doesn't open



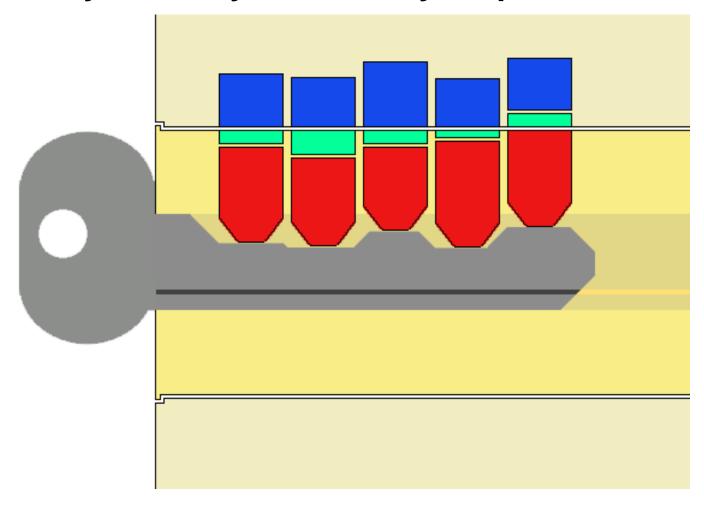


They modify their key... it doesn't open



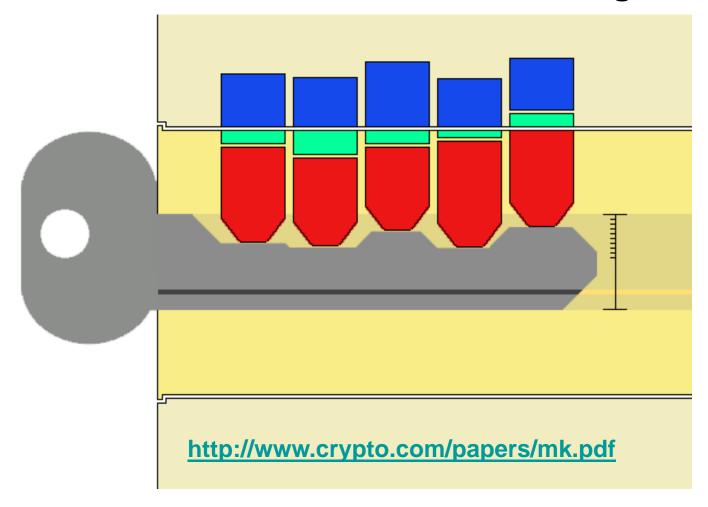


They modify their key... suddenly it opens!



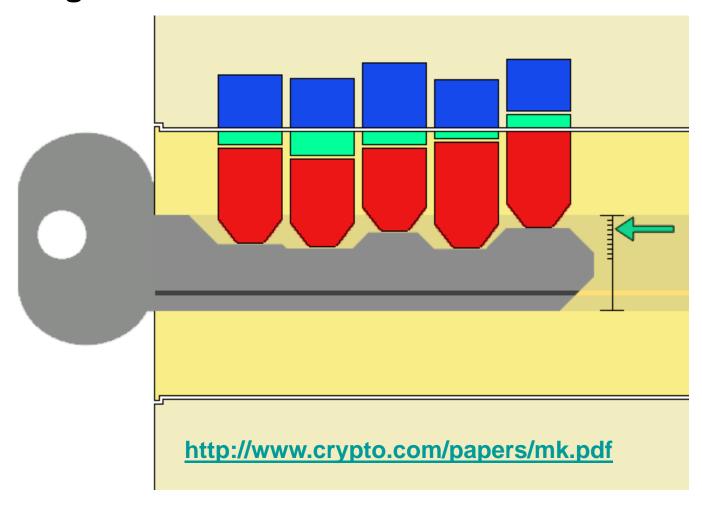


This last chamber is now at the "master" height



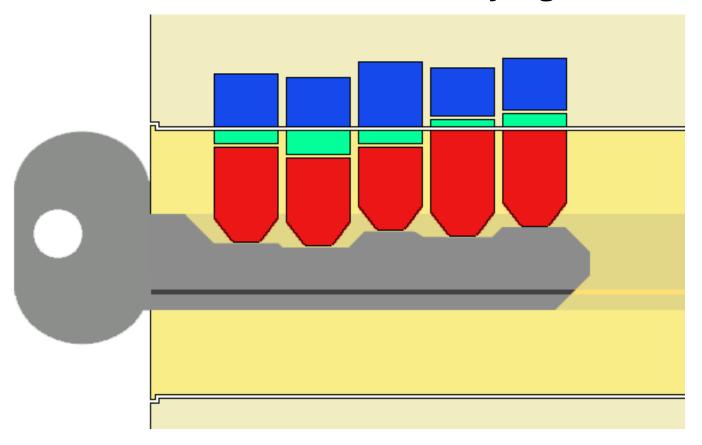


This bitting can be measured





This is how "intermediate master" keying works



Keep in mind... in a large, mastered facility *all* doors have within them the full top master pinning. Compromise of any single door can give access everywhere.



- Small Format Interchangeable Core
  - BEST
  - Yale
  - Others
- Easy to Manage
  - Plug and pins all eject as a single, contained unit

#### Hard to Pick

- Multiple independent shear lines
- Keyways are worse than any nightmares you could find at the bottom of a bottle or at the hands of the U.S. Congress



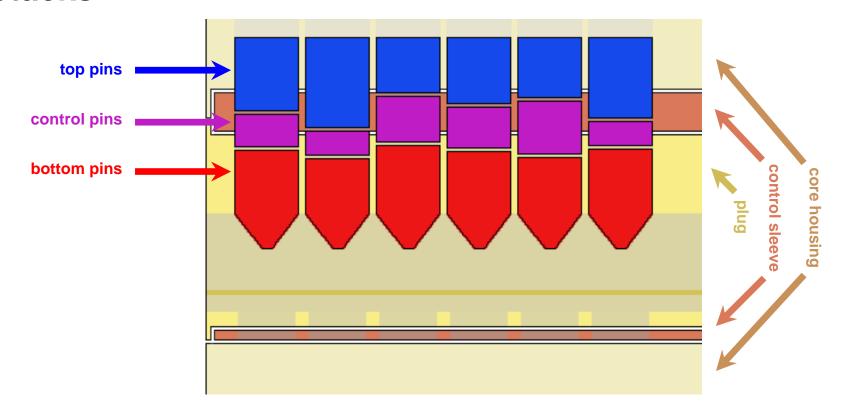
- Very popular in large institutions
- Cores remove with a "control key"
- Two independent shear lines
  - Raising pins to one level allows plug to rotate freely
  - Raising pins to other shear line locks plug and control sleeve together and they turn as one, either exposing or retracting core's retaining tab



- Picking attempts typically fail with standard tools
  - Tension binds across both shear lines

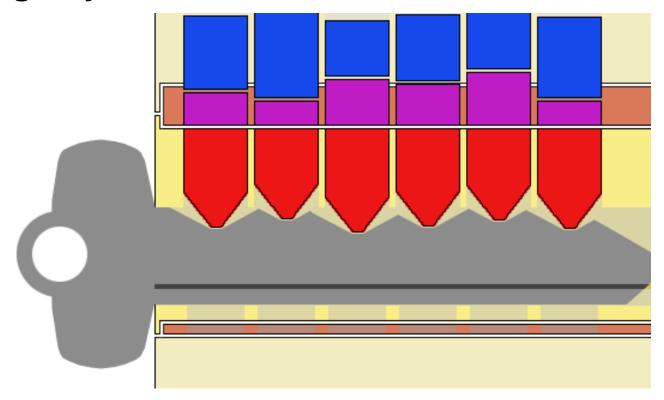


#### **Pin Stacks**



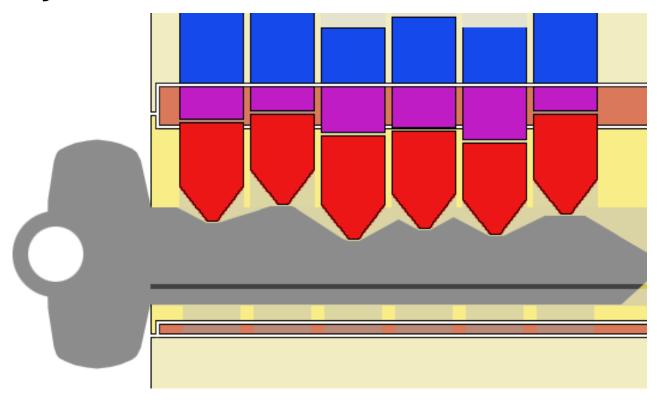


#### **Operating Key**





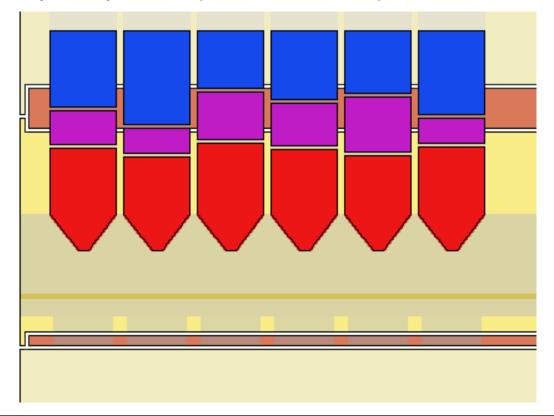
#### **Control Key**





#### Normal picking attempts typically fail

- Tension binds across both shear lines
- Extremely likely to set pins in various places

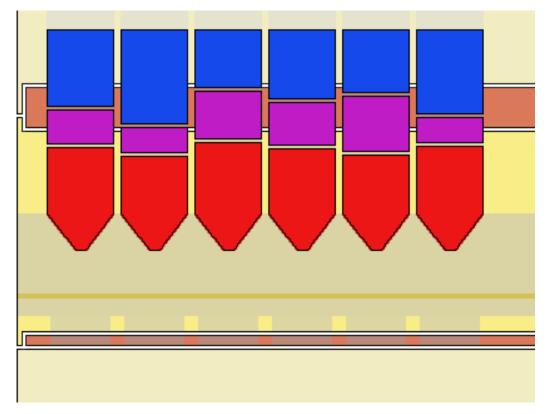




## SFIC Locks

### There are specialized tools

- Torsion wrench with "fingers" puts pressure on only one shear line
- Still very difficult, however, due to tight tolerances and keyways





## SFIC Locks

- Matt Blaze's modified sleeve
  - Nothing for specialized "finger wrench" to grab





## SFIC Locks

- New BEST design
  - I believe the locks are manufactured this way now





# **Key control**

- Preventing illicit copies
- Using "restricted" keyways
- Inability to make blanks
- E-Z Entrie vs. Side Cuts





## 10. Security in the Real World

Technical Finesse or Brute Force

- Common criminals do not pick locks
- A \$100 lock in a \$10 door is little help

#### Doors

- Solid-core, heavy material
- Heavy hinges, screws deep into frame
- Deadbolts with round core(s)

### Windows

- Break glass to reach knobs
- Shatterproof film

### Visibility

- Motion-sensing lights
- Keep bushes & trees trimmed







So what is a "good" lock?

### Manufacturers whom I love...

- OSCORPION (slider-based sidebar)
- **EVVA** (sliders & sidebars)
- SCHLAGE Primus (unique sidebar system)
- **3EST** (SFICs)
- (Granit & Diskus)
- **™ ABLOY** (rotating disk)
- / MERICAN (shackle-less padlock)
- TrioVing (double mushroom pins)
- **K∆IS∆** (X-07 and X-09 dials)
- SARGENT AND (armory locks, combo locks, safes, deposit boxes)

### Good rules of thumb

- You get what you pay for
- Keep the big picture in mind
- Keep tinkering and questioning



## Security is only as effective...



... as the person using it



- American 700 Padlock

  - Solid designSerrated pinsInterchangeable cores





- American 700 Padlock
  - Solid designSerrated pins

  - Interchangeable cores
- Core Operation
  - Back of plug... half circle
  - Control cylinder... quarter circle















- American 700 Padlock
  - Solid designSerrated pins

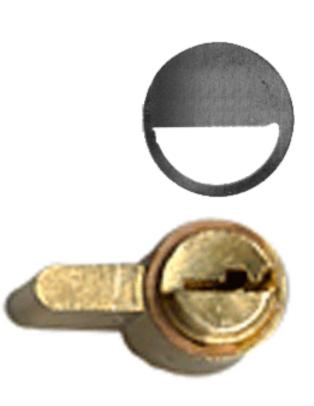
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  - Control cylinder... quarter circle
- Peterson Bypass Tool
  - Slips all the way through core
  - Interacts with control cylinder directly





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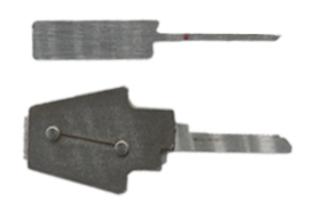
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- Wafer Breaker Tools
- Shackeless Padlock... the American 2000





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