

%%%

SECRETS OF LOCK PICKING

By Steven Hampton

originally published by Paladin Press (c) 1987
(don't let the date fool you. This is good stuff)

brought to you by
Dr. Bloodmoney

%%%

Well, I'm bringing you this file because I have a scanner and an OCR package and I like to pick locks. This file is a complete transcription of the book, Secrets of Lock Picking by Steven Hampton, minus the chapter on warded locks (These locks are cheap. Use a hammer and a screwdriver). Before getting on to the subject, I would just like to use this opportunity to say that you can not just read this file and know how to pick locks. It does take practice. The good news is that by practicing you will learn how to open locks. And fast, too. I have heard many people say "It's not like the movies...it takes time to pick a lock." Well, sometimes thats true, but I have picked a Sargeant six-pin, high-security tumbler lock in three seconds. And other similar locks in the the same time frame as well. So I know that it can be done. But don't worry. Practicing is not boring. There is a certain thrill present when you pick a lock for the very first time. Imagine the sensation of knowing that you can get into almost anywhere you want. Believe me when I tell you that it is very cool.

%%%

Contents

- Introduction
- Tools
- Lock Identification
- Pin Tumbler Locks
- Wafer Tumbler Locks
- Double Wafer Locks
- Pin and Wafer Tumbler Padlocks
- Tubular Cylinder Locks
- Mushroom and Spool Pin Tumbler Locks
- Magnetic Locks
- Disk Tumbler Locks
- Tips for Success

INTRODUCTION

The ancient Egyptians were the first to come up with a complicated security device. This was the pin tumbler lock. We use the same security principle today on millions of applications.

The most commonly used lock today is the pin tumbler lock. A series of pins that are divided at certain points must be raised to these dividing points in relationship to the separation between the cylinder wall and the shell of the lock by a key cut for that particular series of pin divisions. Thus the cylinder can be turned, and the mechanism or lock is unlocked.

Lock picking means to open a lock by use of a flat piece of steel called a pick. Actually, the process requires two pieces of flat steel to open cylinder locks. It amuses me to watch spies and thieves on TV picking locks using only one tool. But it is for the better in a sense. If everyone learned how to pick locks by watching TV, we would all be at the mercy of anyone who wanted to steal from us, and the cylinder lock for the most part would be outdated.

The actual definition of lock picking should be: "The manipulation and opening of any restrictive mechanical or electronic device by usage of tools other than the implied instrument (key or code) used solely for that device." A little lengthy, but more accurate description. With cylinder locks, it requires a pick and a tension wrench.

By picking the lock, you simply replace the function of a key with a pick that raises the pins to their "break-in point," and using a tension wrench one rotates the cylinder to operate the cam at the rear of the lock's cylinder to unlock the mechanism.