

# History of helping new pickers

u/OilKind5479

Beginner Looking for Tips with Abus 55/30 and Z-Shaped Keyway

r/lockpicking • 39d • 4

Abus definitely have some nasty keyways. You don't always have to pick directly downwards, often picking off the warding (z part) can help

...

Was wondering why this felt a bit of a challenge for a 1 star

r/lockpicking • 10d • 3

I would look into the belt system as others mentioned. It's a great way to measure your progress and is based on picking difficulty rather than security as a whole. Sweet open

What pick should I use for this lock

r/lockpicking • 8d • 2

Based on the image, pin 5 will be the most difficult set. You've got to set it kind of deep without oversetting 4. For this reason I would use the third pick (most angled). Although any of these

Is everyone getting the 1100 figured out today?

r/lockpicking • 5d • 4

Hint on finding the sweet spot for tensioning: Insert key, place your tension tool in the hole of the key. Gentle turn, notice the resistance you feel when you apply as little tension as possible

First Challenge Lock

r/lockpicking • 2d • 2

I printed a stencil, cut it out, sharpie around for an outline. Used a dremel and tried to connect dots with straight lines rather than free hand

A lock picking gun?

r/lockpicking • 2d • 3

The physics behind why this and other kinetic methods works is pretty interesting. Newton's cradle type of thing. If we apply a force to the key pin, say a snap gun, all of the kinetic energy

For the love of god this hard

r/lockpicking • 2d • 2

Come on, if you were a master in 2 hours then it wouldn't be an interesting hobby!! Keep at it and be patient :) real progress in technique is made on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis

I'm looking at 3d printing one of those swivel vice mounts and, maybe even the vice it's self. I also need to come up with a way to mount my phone for the videos.

Here's lately I've been using a cheap spring clamp to hold cores and smaller padlocks while I'm sitting on the couch and picking. Makes for a perfect little bipod while working while it's sitting on your lap.

OilKind5479 • 32m  
Green Belt Picker

If you're looking for a cheap recommendation, I find the Stanley desk vice pretty good. It's €/\$30 ish

Not as sturdy as other more expensive options but plenty stable for picking.

lrw42069 • 1m

That's a pretty decent price. I'll look into it. Thanks!

OilKind5479 • 3d  
Green Belt Picker

Mess around with your tensioning, don't be afraid to lose pins that you think are set. This is likely where you're going wrong.

I'd recommend marking your pick with sharpie to help center on pins. Tutorials available online

Things inside the lock should feel loose, try to minimize unnecessary motion and contact with other pins.

Good luck!

... Reply 5



With encouragement and guidance from y'all and after the recommended gutting adventure, after a while of hitting the wall, we have an open! My first on an 1100. Thanks, again, to the community and these folks in particular for advice and encouragement u/OilKind5479, u/marquesAZ, u/bluescoobywagon

... 26

OilKind5479 • 1d  
Green Belt Picker

OilKind5479 • 2h  
Green Belt Picker

You should start gutting. Don't be intimidated. For the 1100 all you need is an AAA battery (plug follower), tweezers (ideally pinning tweezers), and some way to organise your parts (ideally a pinning tray). Don't wait, gut your lock and just remove a stack for now!!

It's a necessity for understanding the feedback you're getting, (and potentially misdiagnosing).

Progressive pinning is the best way to get better at this model.

... Reply 2

Hatter-MD • 47m  
Orange Belt Picker

Okay. I've been putting it off but I do have a cheap gutting kit and some time. Going to hit it today. I'm writing it so I'm committing. Thanks.

... Vote

Hatter-MD • 2h  
First Gut and Assemble, my stubborn 1100



Thanks to u/oilkind5479 and others for their encouragement, I did my first gutting and reassembly today on the American 1100 that's been resisting open. I repeated the process three times until I got it right. The first two times I spilled the driver pins out of the Bible on the towel. Thankfully the towel prevented anything from rolling or bouncing but that does mean I don't know what the factory order for the driver pins. It's all back together and working and now I know what I'm up against.

More importantly, I have the confidence to gut and reassemble myself.