



HOW TO
**OPEN
LOCKS
WITHOUT
KEYS OR
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Many leading Locksmiths feel that opening locked doors by other means than picking or key fitting is a necessary part of a locksmith's knowledge. This point of view is correct, since the quickest method of entering is the best method from the standpoint of service and profit. A professional locksmith analyzes his job thoroughly before undertaking it. Thus he is able to determine before he starts what method to use. Since no two jobs present the same problem to a master locksmith, it is a credit to his ability for him to be familiar with all the ways of doing his work.

The "Jimmy" and How to Use It

Best known among opening tools is the pry-bar, commonly called a "Jimmy." This tool may be a crow-bar or a flat piece of steel varying in length from ten to twenty inches. A packing case hammer with a narrow steel handle and forked end is a small but extremely effective pry-bar. Plain flat chisels as well as heavy screw drivers have been used as pry-bars. In short, any tool that will pry, bend, or split a locked door or drawer is known as a "Jimmy." (Fig. 1)

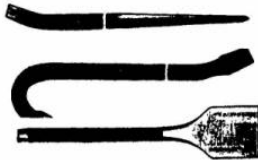


FIG. 1 Types of Jimmies

At best the jimmy is a rough tool. Telltale marks almost always accompany every job. In cases where appearance is of little importance, the jimmy can be used quickly and effectively. If, however, no evidence of entry should be left, preparations must be made to prevent the damage or markings. Skilled workers are able to jimmy doors so that the bruises on the wood or metal are almost invisible.

The primary purpose of the jimmy is to pry the door and the jamb apart. To help this procedure, the stop or the strip of molding (A in Figure 2) along the outside of the jamb should be removed. This strip is usually tacked on with thin nails or secured by screws. By prying it loose or removing the screws in the vicinity of the lock, the crack of the door will be revealed.

inside, the locksmith should immediately consider the fact that someone may be inside. Jimmying, of course, is unnecessary if the person within can be aroused. It is well to be familiar with state laws before attempting jobs of this nature!

Automatic Deadlocks

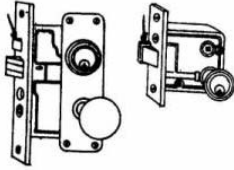


Fig. 5 Automatic Deadlocking Latchbolts

Some types of latches and mortise locks have mechanical arrangements that automatically deadlock the bolts when they engage the strikes. (Fig. 5) As in the case of the deadlocked springlatch, these types cannot be opened with shove knives. The jimmy is then used to force the bolts.

Square or Dead Bolts

When a square bolt (Fig. 6) is encountered, a jimmy must be used. After the door and jamb have been spread and wedged, the point of the jimmy must be forced in front of the bolt. The object is to pry back

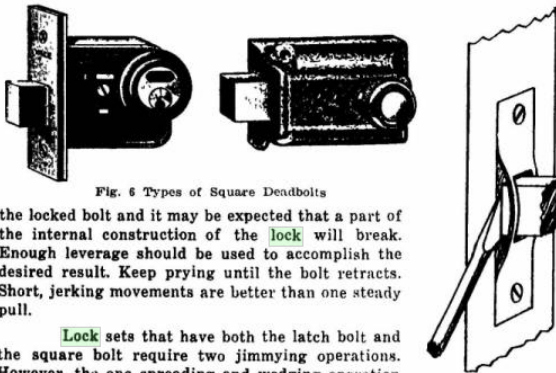


Fig. 6 Types of Square Deadbolts

the locked bolt and it may be expected that a part of the internal construction of the lock will break. Enough leverage should be used to accomplish the desired result. Keep prying until the bolt retracts. Short, jerking movements are better than one steady pull.

Lock sets that have both the latch bolt and the square bolt require two jimmying operations. However, the one spreading and wedging operation should be sufficient to reveal both bolts. In opening such locks, the square bolt should be jimmyed first.

Fig. 7 Forcing the Deadbolt after Bending the Strike