

Bump Keys

- Bump keys are now an extremely popular method of non-destructive entry
- They provide a very rapid method of opening pin-tumbler locks.
- They work in a similar way to a lock gun - by striking the bottom of the pin stack the top pins are forced upward and away from the bottom pins so that they part at the shear line –allowing the plug to turn.
- A bump key consists of an ordinary key for the lock but which has been cut so that each notch is at its lowest cut, i.e. it will only raise each pin stack very slightly when inserted into the lock.
- A bump key could be manufactured at home from any key that fits the lock you want to open. However, to ensure the peaks are at the right position (and at the right depths) it is much better to purchase a professionally made one for a more consistent and reliable operation.

How To Use Your Bump Key

- Insert the bump key all the way into the lock.
- Remove the key very slightly so that each notch of the key will sit just in front of its associated pin rather than underneath it.
- With your thumb on the lower part of the key's shoulder and your first finger on the top part tap the key into the lock. At the same time use your thumb and finger to apply turning pressure to the key.
- A screw driver's handle (with you holding the shaft), hammer, or special bump hammer can all be used to tap the key into the lock.
- This is very much a matter of timing because if you apply turning pressure too soon the pins will bind in the lock and they will not part.
- If you don't turn the key (which turns the plug) soon enough the pins will return to their position on the bottom pins before turning pressure has been applied. Therefore, you will usually have to repeat the process a number of times.
- To repeat the process – remove the key from the lock again very slightly so that the notches of the key are positioned just in front of each pin stack. Tap the key and turn. Repeat the process until the lock opens.

The Lock Won't Open!

Some people like to use small rubber washers that can be inserted on the key up to the shoulder of the key. This prevents the key from being inserted all the way into the lock so that you don't have to keep pulling the key out yourself. This also means that all you then have to do is keep tapping the key and applying intermittent turning pressure as the washer helps to automatically reset the key after each unsuccessful tap.