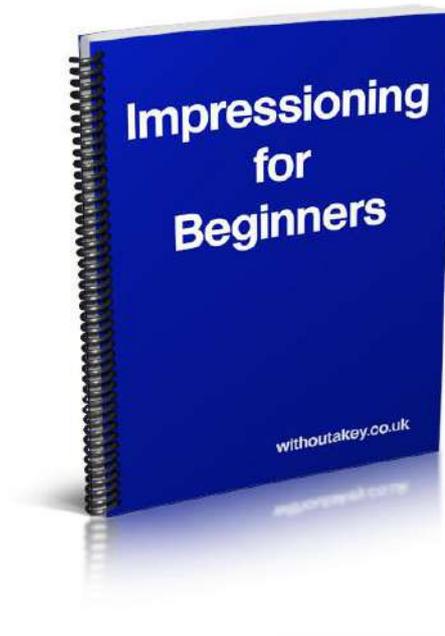


*The Quick Start Series:*

# **Impressioning For Beginners**



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WithoutAKey has quickly become one of the most popular sites for lockpicking enthusiasts, hobbyists and locksmiths. With an emphasis on customer service, great prices and bringing regular price reductions whenever possible it is a great site to check out for all your lockpicking needs.

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### What is Impressioning?

Impressioning is a very effective skill that allows a working key to be created for a lock using a blank key. The great thing about this is that it is all done without taking the lock apart.

What is so useful about Impressioning is that a proper key for the lock is obtained which can then be used to open that lock again and again. In other words you don't have to pick it each time you want to gain access.

Impressioning is therefore an invaluable skill for locksmiths (as well as any lock picking hobbyist, because a genuine key can be made. If a locksmith has a customer with a lost key then it is a great way of supplying them with a new key rather than fitting a new lock. It is certainly a great skill worth learning whether you are a locksmith or hobbyist!

Another great advantage of Impressioning is that it provides you with a further method of entry that is non-destructive i.e. does not damage the lock. You also don't need to take the lock apart in order to make a key.

This eBook aims to provide you with all the information you need to get you started in Impressioning pin tumbler locks.

### **Who this guide is aimed at:**

This guide is aimed at anybody with a genuine interest in lockpicking whether as a hobby, sport (as in the increasingly popular lock sport events) or indeed as a grounding for a future career as a locksmith.

In no way is this information intended for anyone who has criminal intentions. It has often been said that a would-be thief prefers a brick than a pick.

### **A Short Guide:**

This guide is relatively short. It is aimed at providing an introduction to the world of locks and lock picking on this particular topic. Although it is an introduction there is valuable information to be learned from this guide.

The aim of this book is to give you a no-nonsense guide to this topic and to arm you with only the information you need. Written in plain English and free of jargon it pulls together the best tips and info to get you up to speed on the subject as quickly as possible.

Also, check out the full series of reports from [www.withoutakey.co.uk](http://www.withoutakey.co.uk) to further your knowledge and expertise in lockpicking.

## What's Inside?

Here's what we'll be looking at:

1. What You Need
2. How Does Impressioning Work?
3. How To Impression

**Note:** - The tools discussed in each section can be obtained from [www.withoutakey.co.uk](http://www.withoutakey.co.uk)

**Check out the last page for details of a great deal available exclusively to you as a thank you for reading this report.**



### What You Need

1. A blank key for the lock you are opening.  
(When learning this new skill it is perhaps best to have a number of blanks on hand).
2. A set of Impressioning files.
3. Locking pliers. These are sometimes called mole grips or self-grip pliers.
4. Also useful is a bright light which will help you to see the marks made on the key.

If you are Impressioning with a lock that isn't mounted on a door then it is also advisable to have a table mounted vice so that your practice lock can be held securely during the process and won't move.

### How Does Impressioning Work?

Impressioning a key involves inserting the key into the lock and manipulating it in a certain way within the lock to create marks on that key.

Depending on what marks are made the key will be filed at those marks. The key is then returned to the lock, manipulated and further filing is done and this is repeated until a working key is made.

To understand why this works it is necessary to understand the inside of the lock.

I do not intend to explain how a lock works here, as it is explained in other information either on the internet or even from other guides from [withoutakey.co.uk](http://withoutakey.co.uk). However, I will give a brief explanation.

When a blank key is inserted the top and bottom pins will be pushed above the shear line. Any movement of the cylinder will cause the pins to jam in the lock. When they jam they will rub on the key and therefore leave a mark. This mark will indicate that the cut (or lack of cut) in the key is at the wrong depth.

When the cut is at the correct height the top pin and bottom pin will meet at the shear line. If the plug is turned then these pins will not jam in the lock and therefore the key will not be marked as it was when the pins were not raised to the correct height and caused marks to be made on the key.

So by inserting the key, causing the pins to jam, we can identify the parts of the key that will need to be filed until a working key is made.

Let's now have a look at how we can best make these marks appear and make a working key.

### How To Impression

Let's look now at the actual technique of Impressioning. Grab your lock and other tools and let's get started.

The steps to take:

- 1) Insert the key into the lock. Check to see if there is any movement in the key, i.e. upward and downward movement. Ideally, there will be some play with the key in the lock. If the key can not move at all then it helps to file a small amount from the underside of the blank key to provide some free movement to the key.
- 2) Once you are happy with the key in the lock and there is a little movement grip the key with the self-locking pliers.

Gripping the key with the pliers will ensure that you can control the key within the lock and it will not slip. This will help the marks to be made prominently on the key.

Also, if you are using a practice lock, rather than a door mounted lock, then don't forget that it is best to insert the lock into a vice to avoid any unnecessary movement of it.

- 3) Pull the key, very slightly, downwards and whilst pulling down turn the key in the lock. This will make the pins jam.

You then need to quickly pull the key upwards once or twice within the lock. Remember **to maintain the turning pressure**

**as well.** This will then create the all important marks on the key.

- 4) Remove the key and inspect the top of it where the pins will have made contact.

Try to identify one dominant mark and concentrate on that one. Using a bright torch will assist you in finding the marks made on the key.

- 5) Concentrating on only the most dominant marking use the tear drop shaped file and remove just enough of the key to remove the mark.

You don't want to remove too much of the key. If you do you will need to start again with a new blank and begin the process again!

When filing only file with the file moving away from you. This will create a smoother cut than if you are filing backwards and forwards.

- 6) Once you have filed on that one mark you can return the key to the lock.

With the key back in the lock repeat the movement again – Pull down – turn – pull up.

- 7) Remove the key and again locate the most dominant mark. File this in the same way as explained before and only removing enough metal to remove the mark.

**8)** Repeat the process and a working key will be made.

Remember to concentrate on only the most dominant mark each time. You do not want to file too much of the key at once or too much by mistake.

Also, do not file any part of the key if you are not completely satisfied that there is a mark. Therefore, by filing only one, dominant marking, you can help to avoid any errors.

It should also be noted that a mark might become more dominant when the cut required is very close to being correct and the pin is close to the shear line. It is therefore, important to pay close attention to the markings becoming more pronounced at this point. You will need to ensure that you only file away a small amount of the key to only remove the mark. You do not want to remove too much and pass the point at which the key's cut was correct for that pin set.

### **Get Out There And Start Applying This Knowledge**

If you follow the steps above and are careful in your filing – not removing too much of the key and only filing when you are certain a mark has been made – then I am confident you will have success in making your first key by Impressioning.

Remember that this is a skill, like lockpicking, and one that must be learned. This will be developed with practice but once learned will give you a very reliable and trusty method of non-destructive entry. Good luck.

## Thanks For Reading

If you do have any further questions please get in touch at the email below.

I also hope very much that you have enjoyed this guide and if so please do email to let me have your comments. Also, please check out the further guides available in this series (available at [withoutakey.co.uk](http://withoutakey.co.uk)).

Contact me at [Pete@withoutakey.co.uk](mailto:Pete@withoutakey.co.uk)

Best Wishes Pete



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