



LOCKS & KEYS

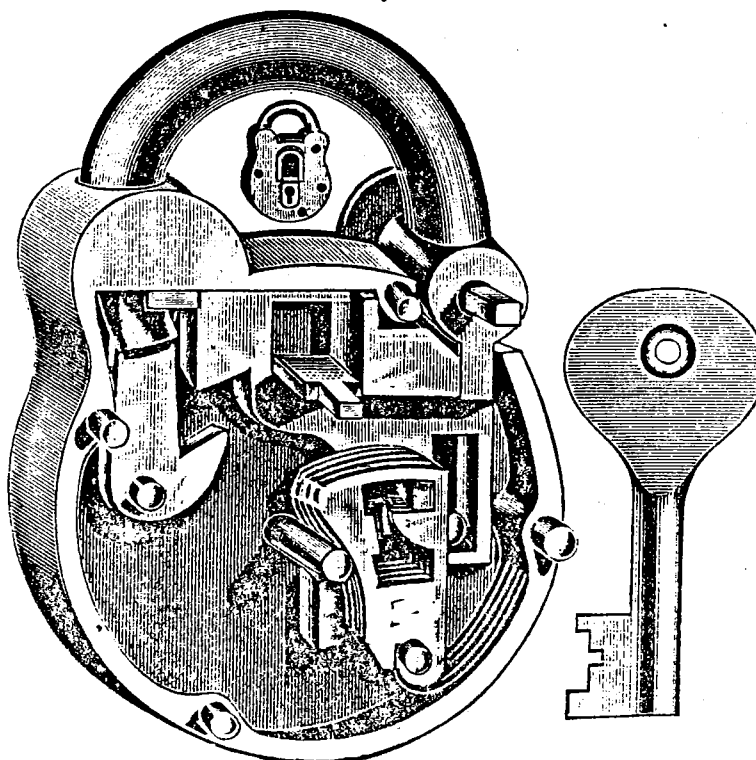


Issue 13

The Newsletter for lock collectors

November 2000

BRASS PADLOCKS.



"Locks & Keys" needs more subscribers. If you know any other collectors, please ask them to subscribe to their own copies!

"Locks & Keys" welcomes contributions, preferably with uncoloured illustrations on separate sheets. Unfortunately, colour photographs tend to be too dark to reproduce well. PC disks with files in Word7, Works3, Write, or saved as .rtf can be used.

No. 11 EXTRA STRONG SUPERIOR LOCK, 2 KEYS EACH.

	1¼	1½	2	2½	3-in.
2-LEVER—	29 9	56 6	61/-	75/-	97/- per doz.
3-LEVER—	32 -	58 6	63/-	77/-	101/- "
4-LEVER—	34 3	60 6	65/-	79 6	105/- "
5-LEVER—	36 6	63/-	67 6	81 6	107/- "
6-LEVER—	38 6	65 -	69 6	84/-	111/- "

This padlock comes from a catalogue c1930 of the wholesaler Beddowes & Sturmey. There is no indication of a maker, or designer, or whether it is patented.

The vertical arrangement of levers is not unique, but the locking at heel is unusual. In sliding shackle padlocks, locking at heel and toe does add strength. In the case of a pivoting shackle, the limiting factor is the shear strength of the pivot pin.

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Thanks for your comments

My thanks to those of you who have renewed your subscriptions, and sent me material for the newsletter. Someone suggested I tell you how much effort goes into producing the newsletter, in a humorous way. It is a large effort, and I do it on a shoestring and still have computer problems. A more modern, fully functioning program would make life easier, but more subscribers are needed to pay for it. Even more to pay for a scanner. I tried using my new MSWord97, but found it difficult to use with pictures and paste-ins.

Somehow I can't make the production sound humorous, though I do have a few humorous fillers available if needed. Many hours are involved, and yet I still miss the odd typo, and some past-ins are not quite straight! Sorry.

I am still uncertain what most people like, as few took the opportunity to tell me their interests. I continue to wish for articles to be contributed about locks. Of course its not unusual for editors of small publications such as this to have to write most of them themselves. But you, dear readers, know more about your own locks than I do. Would you like to share descriptions of your favourites?

I still hope to publish articles on storing and displaying collections; and on cataloguing them; and on chinese padlocks. I have to admit that these are not yet completed. I dare not promise, but I hope they will appear this year. Also contemplated are some more workshop notes, including something on brass and zinc alloys. Articles on coin-operated locks, and masterkeying, are also in preparation. My sincere thanks to those who have sent me contributions in the past.

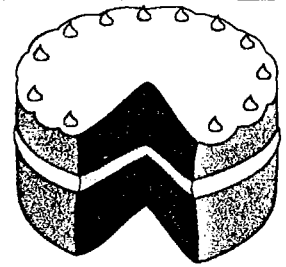
One request was for pictures of keys from between Medieval and the nineteenth century. That is an area on which I have little suitable material. Most of what I do have will not copy well.

I also hope to do something on some notable burglaries and robberies. These are the people whose activities make locks and safes so necessary, and stimulate developments.

Since last issue, I have changed jobs. I now work much longer hours, and do not have ready access to a photocopier. However, I still hope to continue the newsletter this year, though there are only about two thirds of the previous subscribers. If you can encourage any other collectors you know, to subscribe, that would be helpful. I do apologise for this issue being a little late.

Richard Phillips

Feedback



Not many people know that there is a comic opera called *The Padlock*. With libretto by Isaac Bickerstaffe, and music by Charles Dibdin, both successful writers of the time, it was a great success in 1768. The negro servant Mungo ('Mungo here, Mungo dere, Mungo everywhere') was the first black-face comedian on the London stage. The story came from one of Miguel de Cervantes' short stories, published in 1613.

Matthew Prior wrote a short poem called *An English padlock*, with advice to the jealous husband of a young wife. It recommends: *Let all her ways be unconfined And clasp a padlock on her mind*. Curious advice.

I have been reminded that George PRICE wrote an account called *Forty burglaries of the years 1863-4-5; the hearing before the Magistrates of some of the burglars ... the trial Walker v. Milner, in the Court of the Queen's Bench, Feb. 14th and 15th, 1866 ... with remarks on the evidence of the convict Casely ...* With illustrations. London 1866.

Peter Cowie tells me there have been changes in the law over the years, relating to the definitions of robbery and burglary, so my remarks in the Cornhill theft article might be incorrect. Apologies.

In recent months, Williams Holdings has sold Yale to Assa Abloy; and 'demerged' Chubb and Kidde. Chubb sales growth is in double digits throughout the world, except in the UK. Chubb is therefore withdrawing from some unprofitable security personnel contracts.

There is still no news on where the Parkes lock collection is going.

English Heritage is making good progress on a large-scale restoration of Marble Arch (1828), costing over £1M. The present site of the monument (it was moved there in 1851) is practically a traffic island near Buckingham Palace in London. As so few go near it on foot, it has been seriously neglected for many years, since it ceased to be a police station. Not many people know that the cast iron gates were by Messrs Bramah, although the large gate lock is warded.

A quarter century ago, following the introduction of subscriber trunk dialling, there was concern about rising telephone bills. Subscribers were soon able to buy locks for telephone dials, usually pin tumbler, though some were disk tumbler. These became obsolete quite quickly with the move to pushbutton dialling. They were followed by locking covers for the new telephone sockets. Can we have other examples of now obsolete specialised purpose locks?

Gotta lotta bottle!

The tandalus is a lockable bottle chest, usually for spirit decanters, the bottles being visible but inaccessible whilst the container is locked.

Tandalus was the son of Zeus. He divulged the secrets of the gods, and was plunged up to his neck in the River Hades, with a fruit tree above his head, the fruit just out of reach. When he tried to drink, the water receded. Thus he suffered agony from thirst and hunger.

The tandalus was invented by an ancestor of John Betjeman (great grandfather?), to protect drink from the servants. Two forms occur. Having been made over many decades, they are not uncommon in the antique trade.

The simple form is a shallow tray with upright ends on which a hood or cover pivots. This hood is locked by



Simple Tandalus: oak with brass mounts and bramah lock

a lock at one end. The decanters may only be removed when the hood is swung back. The tandalus is made of wood, usually with metal mounts on the corners. Depending on the age and quality, these are usually polished brass, or nickel-plated.

The box tandalus

The more complex form is a box with a shallow tray for 3 decanters at the back, which is covered by a fixed hood. The box has a lid in two halves hinged at the sides and locked by a box lock at the front. There is usually a drawer under the box, released by a spring catch accessible when the lid is raised. The bottles may only be removed when the box lid is open, allowing the bottles to be drawn forward enough to clear the hood.

The box had various contents, usually including some small glasses. Table games such as playing cards and dice were common. Good specimens had a Bramah lock; others had a copy bramah, or a simple lever lock.

The tandalus lock

The simpler form had a special purpose 'tandalus' lock. It is a round lock for surface fitting. Usually there is a nozzle, and a springbolt withdrawn by an extension on the tail. Some versions have a sliding nozzle like a luggage lock. Again, the best use a Bramah key mechanism, but many later ones have only 1 or 2 levers. Such locks are still made in brass by Liston Products

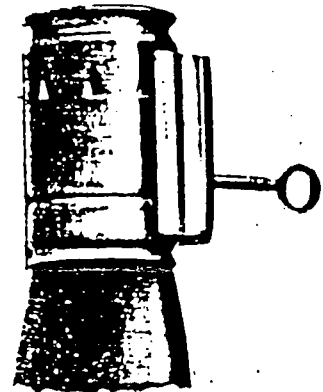
(Bridgetown) Ltd, Unit 4 Union Street, Bridgetown Cannock WS11 3BY. Liston took over production of the Hodges range of quality brass luggage locks, including locks and frames for frame bags ('Gladstone bags'). Unfortunately their colour catalogue does not copy well here. Very nice leather document and travel bags may be bought of Elm of Burford, Burford Oxfordshire OX18 4QF.

Bottle locks

There were also bottle locks made to lock onto the neck of a bottle, and known as 'the butler's enemy'. At least two types are known. They must have been made in some numbers, but in three decades I have only seen three specimens, all in museums. These seem to have been regarded rather as novelties than serious protection for the drink. With the multitude and variety of small keys available to servants, this was probably wise. Some numbers were exported to America.

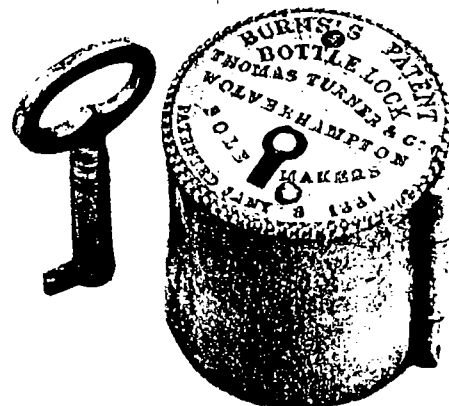
R Phillips & Trevor Dowson

THE
WHITE HORSE
MUZZLE
or BOTTLE LOCK.



Patent applied for No. 240221.

With Government Duty at 8/5] a bottle, users of High-Class Whiskies cannot afford to have pilferage. To prevent this the White Horse Muzzle or Bottle Lock has been introduced and will meet a long felt demand. This Bottle Lock or Muzzle has been protected by Royal Letters Patent in every civilized country of the World.



The case of the wandering die

Even the collecting of junk locks sometimes has its sordid little rewards. Over ten years ago I found a little zinc disc tumbler padlock (the HERO). As the years went by a series of these locks was assembled. Brought together, these sets have stories to tell and begin to be interesting. This set seems to have originated with Eagle, considering they had the patent. The other four locks are identical in design except for various Hong Kong markings embossed on the tops. Whether they were made on contract or the dies were sold or what other corporate arrangements might have been made we do not know, but it makes a remarkable series. Such sets are eminently collectible, and no doubt of interest to Eagle specialists.

Don Jackson

Editor's note: the HERO padlock was on sale in the UK in the early 70's; I have not seen any of the others.

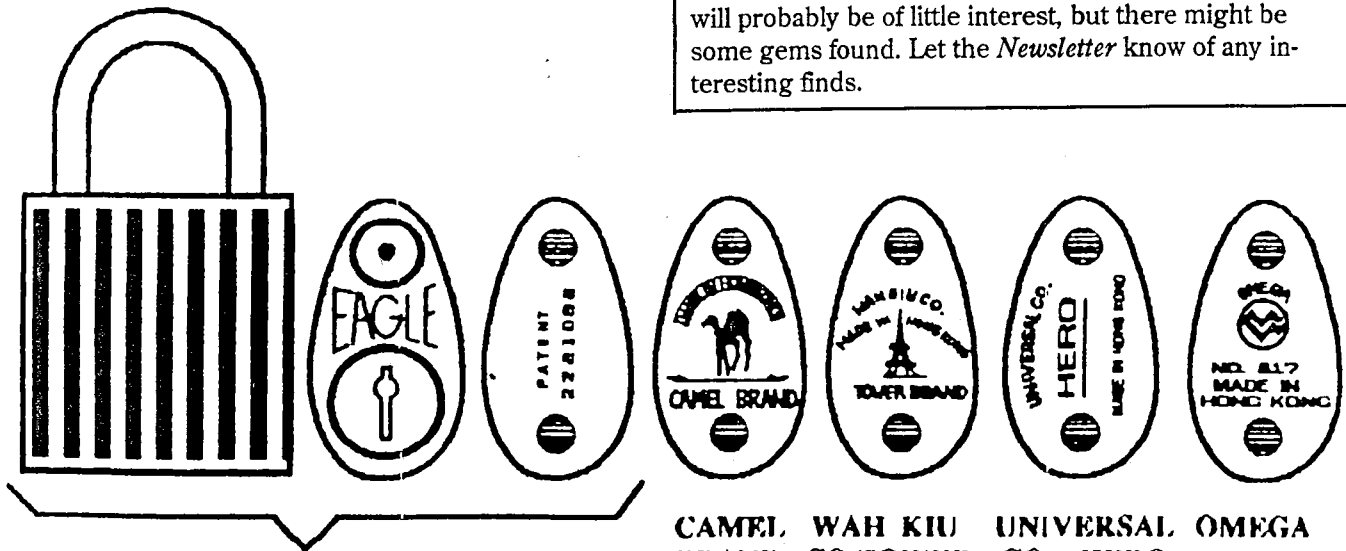
Look into your local museum ...

Gordon Harper has been looking at the catalogue of Oxford Museums service. Many county museum services now have computerised catalogues. Some are open to the public directly, others can only be used by staff.

All museums have much more in store than on display. What is in store can be seen by appointment.

I have to admit that the details are often incomplete, and vague. Most museums struggle to store and conserve their collections, and often are unable to research all the items which come to them. Many are donations. It is good that they are preserved. However, many museums would welcome the help of interested friends — even if only informally.

It would be interesting to have readers try their local museum services to see what they have in the way of locks and keys. Many items will probably be items, such as furniture, with locks fitted. Most of the items will probably be of little interest, but there might be some gems found. Let the *Newsletter* know of any interesting finds.



EAGLE

Record number

CAMEL BRAND WAH KIU CO. TOWER BRAND UNIVERSAL CO. HERO OMEGA BRAND

OXCMS:1964.886

lock & key

Association

Nature

used

Corporate body

: Fletcher's House

Place

& Woodstock with Blenheim & Oxon

Note

said to be from Fletcher's House during the period when donor

lived there

Part:aspect:description : material : iron

Part:summary

Elaborate lock with four barrels and central pivoting hole.

The turn of the key shoots two bolts. Set in piece of wood, probably door

Kieft pin tumbler cylinder latch

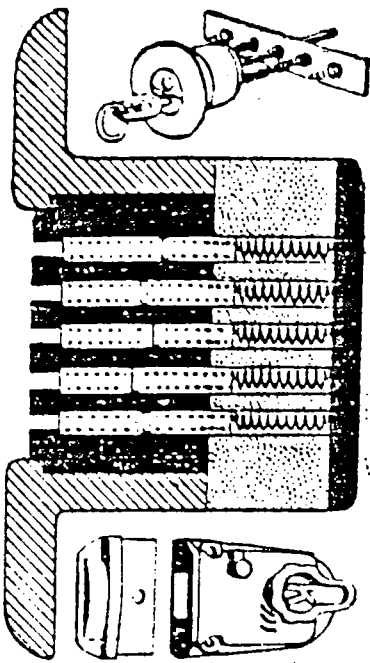
This is a British pin tumbler cylinder mechanism, differing from all others I know in that the pins are in an almost straight line, end on to the face of the cylinder. Because the pins are not in a straight line, the key will only enter one way. Another feature is that the plug can lock in 2 positions. This is used to deadlock the latch — an unusual feature at the time. Although the cylinder is a standard size, it is not interchangeable with the Yale type cylinder. The connecting bar is a different shape and located in the centre of the cylinder. For the same reason, other

latches cannot be used. There is no separate rose, so twisting is possible.

This latch probably dates from the early 1950's, but I have no definite date. It was made in Bridgend, South Wales (well away from the rest of the lock industry) by Cyril Kieft & Co. Ltd. I am told that although it initially sold well, some problems soon became apparent, and the troublesome lock disappeared from the market. I would be pleased to have any more information about it.

R Phillips

Advertisement from Practical Householder March 1956



"K" TYPE CYLINDER LOCKS. deadlocking and thieftproof, has 5 concentric tumblers instead of the usual 5 in-line, see enlarged scale cross-section drawing. Interchangeable fitting with ordinary cylinder locks, latch-bolt reversible for right or left-hand doors, no need to specify. Complete with 2 keys and all fittings, instruction booklet. Usual price 18/9, our price new boxed, 5/-; post and packing, 1/3. ; 2 for 10/-, post paid.

TELEPHONE SETS. consists of 2 combined microphones and receivers, 20ft. connecting flex, provides perfect 2-way communication, self-energised, no battery required, complete ready for use, new boxed, 12/6, post and packing 1/3.

RATCHET SPANNERS. 10in. lever, reversible to screw or unscrew, 3/4in. Whit. fitting socket, superior make, value 25/-, our price new boxed, 4/6, post 1/-.

PARCHMENT PAPER. 1,000-ft. rolls 1/2in. wide, perforated down the centre, makes 1,500 perfect spills, 1/-, post 9d.

Send stamped, addressed envelope for Bargain Lists.

MIDLAND INSTRUMENT CO. Moorpool Circle, Birmingham, 17

Questions from readers

Write in to "Locks & Keys" with your questions about locks. Somebody will surely be able to supply answers. The Editor will be pleased to print a composite answer to questions. When replying, please mention the number of the question. Very few questions - or answers - have come in.



18] Can anyone supply information on early Bramah locks, including details of types made and prices.

19] Can anyone identify the lock shown below? It is 4" across, 2 3/4" high?

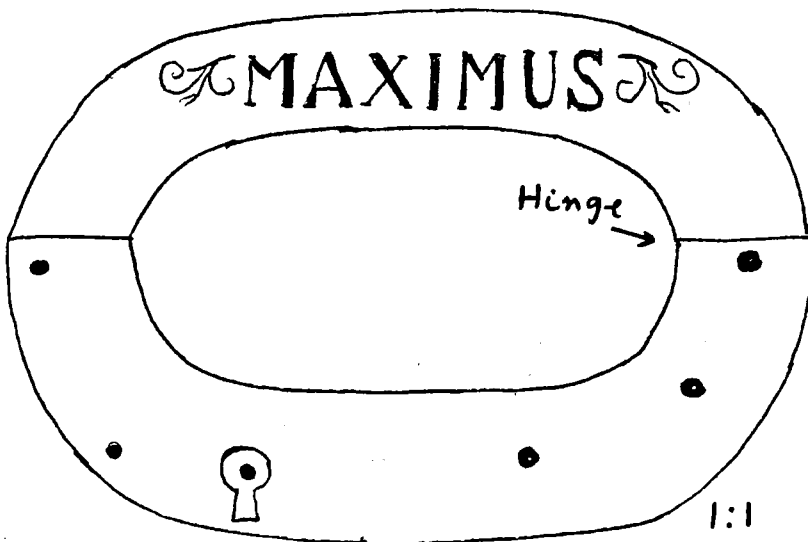
Colin Lewis

20] Can anyone give information on Jas. Hill's patent? It was marked on a 6x4" brass blocklock which fits into a flanged rim case to provide a four-way handing. The lock is sashwarded. It was reportedly recovered from a ship in Gibraltar.

George & Val Olifent

James Gibbons made patent four-handed locks in this way, in steel, brass, or bronze. There were also double-handed deadbolt rimlocks. They had 2 levers, and wards. I have no information as to the patent used, #139925/19. It is hoped to have an article on Gibbons locks later in the year.
Editor

Colin Lewis' unidentified lock [19]



For sale/Wanted

Ray Preedy writes:

I have been collecting old locks and keys for about fifteen years and display some of them in our shop, which adds a lot of character as well as being a good talking point for customers. We revamped the shop a few years ago, making it look very clean and modern. Having the old locks on display gives a good balance, giving the public the impression that we have been around for hundreds of years, and not just opened up overnight.

Finding old locks is not easy, picking up the odd one from antique shops, fairs, or MLA meetings, never really knowing their value. I would like to see in the Newsletter a section on old locks, giving a valuation dependant on condition, with or without key etc.

A black and white photo would be welcome.
Editor.

There seems no real market in old locks and keys, an antique expert on the Antiques Roadshow told me. Value literally is what someone will pay to possess the lock or key. Museum quality items, mostly pre-nineteenth century, go through fine art auction houses sometimes. What is desired is artistic, not technical, excellence. There is some demand for old furniture locks; usually a particular size is needed as a replacement. Much else, old and modern, of varying but often poor quality, is now offered on the Internet auctions and other dealers in antiquities. Some locks go through antique shops. The only real market seems to be in conservation areas in old cities. Brass locks generally, and especially rim doorlocks (the larger the better), seem to attract high prices. Even dating is often speculative.



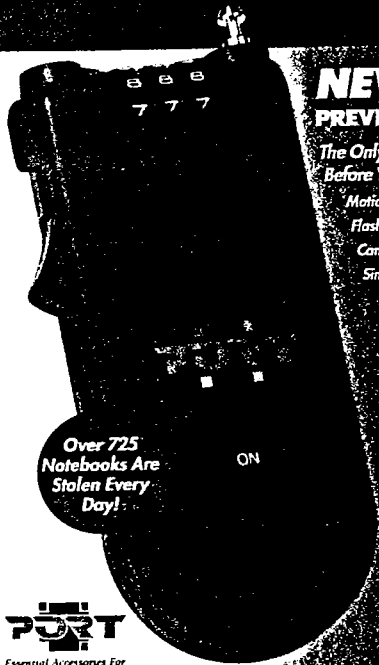
Received too late to announce before the event was a notice for a padlock auction. There were over 300 padlocks and some handcuffs offered. An illustrated descriptive catalog and list of prices realized is available for \$10 from Bill Magee 1364 Jeffco Blvd, Arnold, Mo63010. This auction has now run for five years, so sellers and buyers: get in touch for next year!

A specialised lock for the computer age

This a lock for laptop computers, with extending wire, and a movemnt alarm. The other lock, by contrast, locks a billiard cue in its rack in clubrooms. Now cues all seem to be in sections.

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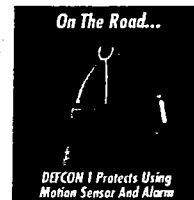
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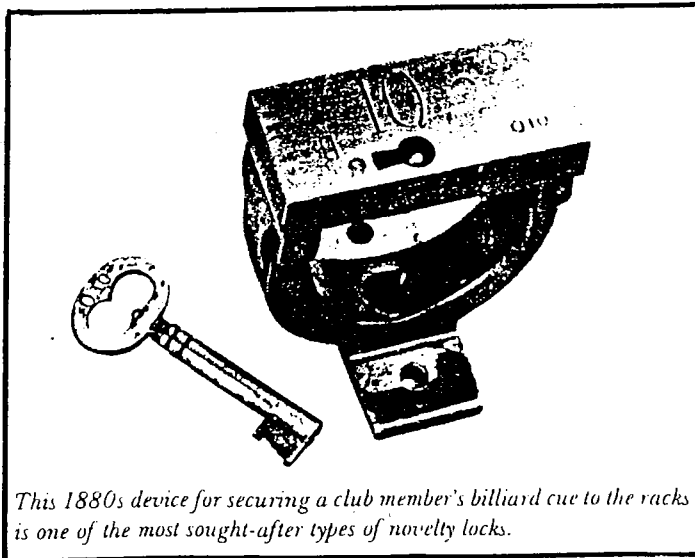
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This 1880s device for securing a club member's billiard cue to the racks is one of the most sought-after types of novelty locks.



An Art Nouveau brass cigarette box, with locks at each end, c1900, 10in (25.5cm) wide. £130-150 *ChE*
The locks at each end were to prevent servants stealing the cigarettes.

LOCKNET

InstaKey

The complete Key Control System

InstaKey is a unique system that lets you re-key your own locks by simply inserting and turning a key. That's it. There's nothing to disassemble, no one to call, and no tools are needed.

Security - Our TOTAL business is centered around the customer's security needs as it relates to key control management. Advanced, patented technology, together with a comprehensive systems approach completes a customer's total security program.

Savings - The most cost efficient key control system EVER. Savings far outweigh expenditures: it pays for itself continuously.

Components - New construction or retrofit. High performance components easily adapt into existing hardware (I/C's, Knobsets, Levers, Deadbolts, Padlocks, Rim & Mortise, etc.). Patent Controlled, Restricted Keys.

Rekeys - Continuous user rekeys easily performed by simply turning a key. This takes the place of calling out a professional every time.

Software - Easy to use software programs allow for individual design with complete and continuous control of each customer's needs.

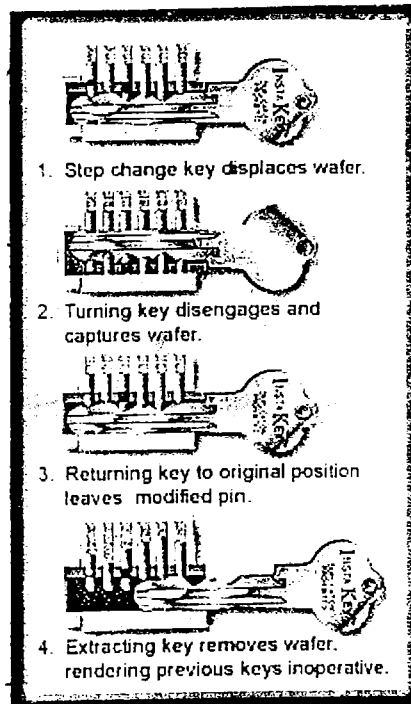
Support - A nationwide service and support network available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

User Rekeyable Lock Cylinders - InstaKey is a patented technology that allows the end user to continuously rekey by simply turning a key. In multilevel masterkey systems, any one level (user, master, grand master, etc.) can be instantly rekeyed without affecting the operation of any other level. This capability is unique to the InstaKey technology.

Software Insures System Integrity - State of the art (Windows based) software tracks all lock hardware, all cut and uncut keys by serial number, signature verifications, contact names and phone numbers, etc. - virtually anything a Security Manager needs to track.

Continuous Payback - InstaKey cylinders take the place of calling out and paying a professional to rekey. They also eliminate the need to move cores around, collect and redistribute keys, buy supplemental cores, and replace existing hardware. InstaKey is the most efficient (cost and time) key control system EVER. It pays for itself continuously.

Security & Control - Each InstaKey key blank is uniquely serial numbered; each InstaKey dealer is strictly licensed; each rekey or request for duplicate keys must be signature authorized; each key is monitored in a real time environment via copyrighted software. These procedures assure our clients that unauthorized duplication cannot take place. Together with



the instant rekeyability, this significantly decreases liability exposure, which, in turn, increases total security. **Customized Nationwide Programs** - A nationwide network of technicians, support staff, coordinated and consolidated billing. 1-800 24 hour service capabilities - for single or multiple sites throughout the country. Whether it is client-managed, LockNet managed or pieces of both, program design and support is configured to match your company's needs.

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Postal address

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General Information: Service@Locknet.com

Sales: sales@locknet.com

<http://www.locknet.com/instakey.html>

Editor's Note

There have been various schemes for re-keying locks without dismantling them. Granddaddy of the change key lock was probably the Day & Newell Parautoptic lock. Removable cores were invented for Yale-type pin tumbler locks. A great-grand-masterkey allows removal of the core, and another core is then inserted. A system of changing some round key (Ace type) pin tumbler locks by simply inserting a change key has also been around for some years.