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General Tryout Key Instructions

If you have not used tryout keys before, it may help to practice first on a lock to which you have the keys. This will give you the feel of how much turning pressure is needed and help develop the technique you find most useful.

Remember that tryouts will only work in a functional lock - if the lock is full of dirt, or has stuck pins or bent wafers, the tryout keys will not work.

**USING TRYOUT KEYS TO OPEN A LOCK**

1) Lubricate the lock with a spray lubricant such as Lock Saver or Try-Flow. This is very important.

2) Always use the tryouts in the most-used locks on a car. Due to wear, their tolerance will be greater, and the tryouts will work easier. This means try either the driver's door lock or the ignition lock first.

**EXCEPTION:** Do NOT use tryouts in Datsun or Subaru ignitions (X6 or X7 keyways) - due to the design of these locks, the tryout key may become stuck. To be safe, stay away from all foreign car ignitions unless you are familiar with the design of the lock.

3) Insert a tryout key in the lock. While lifting UP on the key, turn left, then right. Then press DOWN, and turn left, then right.

4) If the keys are double-sided, turn the key over and repeat step 3. If the key does not turn, proceed to the next tryout key.

5) With practice, this procedure will take only a couple of seconds per tryout, and most locks can be opened in a few minutes.

**USING TRYOUT KEYS TO MAKE A KEY TO A LOCK**

1) Follow the instructions above to find the tryout key that works the lock. If the key is double-sided, be sure you know which side is working the lock. (Look in the lock to see which side of the keyway the pins or wafers are on.)

2) Tryout keys are usually cut to half-steps. In other words, if a particular lock uses depths 1-2-3-4, the tryouts may use depths of 1.5 - 3.5. Using a code cutter or depth keys, cut a key on a new blank to the step shallower than the tryout cuts. For example, if the tryout that worked the lock is cut 1.5 - 3.5 - 3.5 - 1.5 - 3.5, you would cut the key 1-3-3-1-3.

3) Now use the new key to impression the lock. It will normally be very easy - all cuts will either already be correct, or at most 1 depth too high. Using the example, the actual key cuts may be 1-4-3-2-4.

4) Do NOT give a tryout key or a copy of a tryout key to your customer. It will not operate the lock as well as an actual key, especially locks that aren't used much, such as the passenger door of a car. It WILL work other locks for which it is not intended.

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