

OPEN IN THIRTY SECONDS: Cracking One of the Most Secure Locks in America examines new techniques to compromise Medeco® Biaxial® and m3 high security locks by methods of forced, covert, and surreptitious entry. It is the culmination of an eighteen-month research project by the authors and other security experts. It has resulted in the filing of multiple patents and the ability to pick, bump, and mechanically bypass Medeco cylinders, sometimes in seconds.

Medeco, for the past forty years, has been the predominant high security lock manufacturer in the United States. They protect high value targets and critical infrastructure throughout the world. Their venues include the White House, Pentagon, and the Royal Family in England, as well as hundreds of thousands of residences, businesses, hospitals, banks, government facilities, and institutions. Their locks are found in virtually every application where the highest level of quality and security is required and expected.

The development of methods to bypass Medeco locks required the solution to many interrelated and complex problems, and may be the modern equivalent of the Enigma code machine during World War II. The chronology of how Medeco security was cracked is an intriguing story, especially if you enjoy technically-based intellectual challenges that have serious security implications in the real world.

On October 10, 2007, a senior Medeco technical support representative stated, in part, as a response to a question from a caller about bumping and picking, that **“the biggest prize in this industry would be for someone to be able to come out and say they could pick a Medeco lock, because we’ve never been proven, in the 40 years of our existence, that someone can do that... the same with bumping...”**

“...the accolades that would come to that person within the industry would be as big as anything that this industry has ever seen...”

Medeco has consistently denied there is any vulnerability in their locks against the techniques developed by the authors, either from forced or covert methods of entry. As of April 25, 2008, they have refused to make any public comment about the information in this book, and continue to represent that their locks are “virtually resistant” to such forms of attack.



Four code setting keys can be used to open virtually every non-master keyed Medeco Biaxial and m3 cylinder that was produced prior to December 2007.



Advanced decoding with an Olympus borescope provides information about the bottom pins. This information can be used to open Medeco locks.



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