

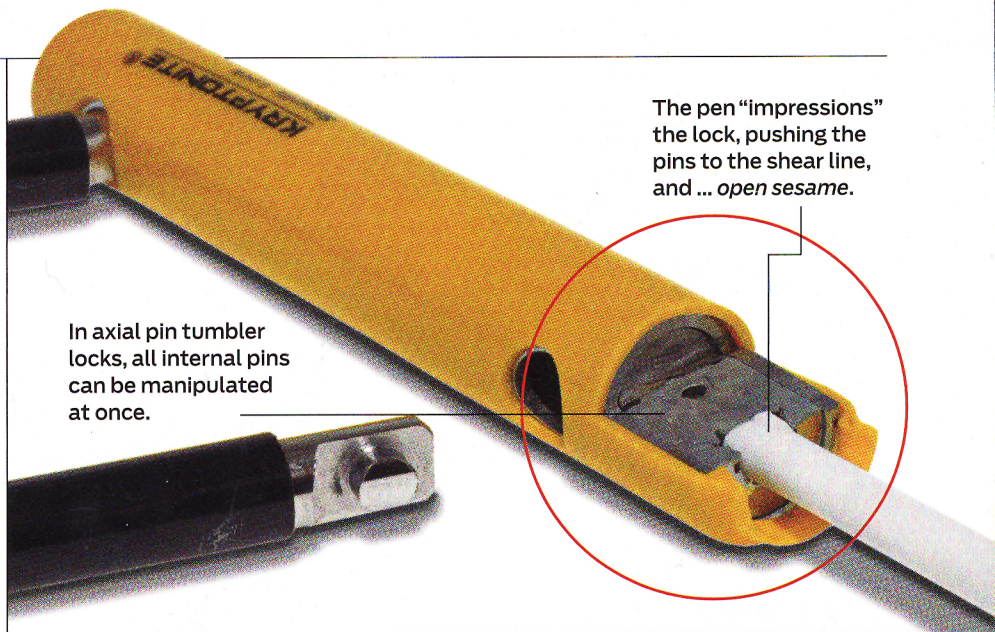
ENGINEERING FIASCO

Unlocked

This past fall, word spread that many Kryptonite bicycle locks, some retailing for as much as \$90, could be picked in around 7 seconds with a 7-cent Bic pen. Was it really that easy? We gave it a shot and made quick work of this Kryptonite Extra Large Padlock with a Round Stic Bic, then sawed it open with an angle grinder. We showed the results to lock expert Marc Weber Tobias, author of *Locks, Safes And Security: An International Police Reference*.

According to Tobias, the problem is Kryptonite's tubular cylinder lock (called an axial pin tumbler by locksmiths). Bic pens just happen to fit perfectly into the cylinder, and the soft plastic of the pen molds, or "impressions," the inside of the lock.

What's worse, Tobias claims, there are many more Bic-pickable cylinders



In axial pin tumbler locks, all internal pins can be manipulated at once.

The pen "impressions" the lock, pushing the pins to the shear line, and ... *open sesame*.

on the market, from competing brands of bicycle locks to locks on laptops to motorcycle ignition systems.

Kryptonite is offering customers free exchanges for all of its tubular cylinder locks.
—Jonathan Gromer