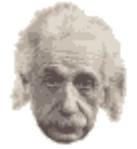




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Kensington Laptop Locks Not So Secure

Posted by [timothy](#) on Sun Aug 08, '04 10:22 PM

from the [neither-is-anything](#) dept.

[eric434](#) writes "According to a [security alert released by Security.Org](#), the Kensington laptop lock that many of us use and love isn't secure. In fact, it can be opened in 30 seconds after about a minute of practice with a \$1 worth of equipment. (A Bic pen, and a pair of scissors. In the interest of giving people some time to stop using the locks, the actual method of opening the lock is left up to the reader.) To make matters worse, Kensington's 'We'll give you \$1500 if someone steals your laptop' guarantee doesn't apply -- because the process of opening the lock doesn't damage the lock or cable." Mind the source, though -- security.org wouldn't mind selling you a book on locks and safes.



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Threshold:

The Fine Print: The following comments are owned by whoever posted them. We are not responsible for them in any way.

Take the cable if you take my laptop... (Score:5, Funny)

by [sloshr \(608388\)](#) * on Sunday August 08, @10:24PM ([#9917099](#))

sooo... if you steal my laptop, please take the cable and lock, so I can still get my \$1500...

Re:Take the cable if you take my laptop... (Score:5, Funny)

by [Rosco P. Coltrane \(209368\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:28PM ([#9917130](#))

sooo... if you steal my laptop, please take the cable and lock

Modern thieves are picky, they only nick good products that have resale value. Kensington locks are, well, kindly left to you...

[[Parent](#)]

Re:Take the cable if you take my laptop... (Score:5, Funny)

by [sloshr \(608388\)](#) * on Sunday August 08, @10:30PM ([#9917141](#))

...but I said please... :)

[[Parent](#)]

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- [Re:Take the cable if you take my laptop...](#) by irokitt (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @10:58PM
 - [Doom 3?](#) by Cryptnotic (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:06PM
 - [Re:Doom 3?](#) by SEWilco (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:01PM
- [Re:Take the cable if you take my laptop...](#) by irving47 (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:22PM

How to make the warranty work for you (Score:5, Funny)

by [Rosco P. Coltrane \(209368\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:25PM ([#9917110](#))

We'll give you \$1500 if someone steals your laptop' guarantee doesn't apply -- because the process of opening the lock doesn't damage the lock or cable.

After your lock has been cleanly picked, go to your local Home Depot, get a cable cutter and cut the cable yourself. Make sure you make a real mess of it. Then send back to Kensington and claim the \$1500.

- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by cmowire (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @10:29PM
- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by Vellmont (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @10:37PM

Re:How to make the warranty work for you (Score:5, Informative)
 by [CodeBuster \(516420\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:47PM ([#9917235](#))

A lot of product insurance contracts, notably cell phone replacement plans, require the filing of a police report but one can usually get past this by simply being stubborn and simply demanding your refund/replacement. I find that the long pause on the phone after they remind you of the police report requirement is often effective in getting them to drop the troublesome requirement in the name of "better customer service". After all if they get a reputation for hassling claimants then nobody will buy those warranty replacement plans anymore because "it isn't worth the hassle." With warranty replacement plans everything can be negotiated if you are persistent enough.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:27PM
- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by Cryptnotic (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @11:30PM

Re:How to make the warranty work for you (Score:5, Insightful)
 by [B747SP \(179471\)](#) <sdot@sonicresearch.mailme.org> on Monday August 09, @12:21AM ([#9917672](#))

Filing a false police report is equivalent to perjury

Who said anything about perjury? Your laptop got stolen, didn't it? So go report that your laptop got stolen. Refer my previous post - the coppers couldn't give a flying fire-truck *how* your laptop got stolen, they won't ask, and they *REALLY* don't want to hear about it (they already heard the same story a dozen times today from folks who just *needed* to tell *someone* and assumed that cops cared). Be a good citizen, give the cops the info they need for their statistics, and be on your way. It's easier for everyone that way.

'course if your laptop *didn't* get stolen and you're reporting that it did - well that's a whole different kettle of fish.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by Dusabre (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:55AM

Whether they'll actually catch anyone or not is another question, of course, but at least they try.

It really depends on the crime and the situation I suspect, but they definitely won't do DNA for something that size though.

However, you also have to consider that the private insurance company MIGHT decide to "investigate" on their own -- 99.99999% of the time they won't, but every once in a while some insurance companies will send someone out (even though it probably costs more than the claim) to investigate, just to look like they're doing due diligence and to discourage fraud. (Or so says a friend of mine who works in the insurance industry -- Take it with a grain of salt)

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by Lulu of the Lotus-Ea (Score:1) Monday August 09, @11:28AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by bluGill (Score:1) Monday August 09, @08:31PM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by devilspgd (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:11PM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by KirkH (Score:2) Monday August 09, @10:17AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by bobbozzo (Score:2) Thursday August 19, @11:08PM
 - **1 reply** beneath your current threshold.
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by DavidTC (Score:1) Monday August 09, @10:05AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by bluGill (Score:2) Monday August 09, @08:23PM
- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by Simonetta (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:19PM
- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by schof (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:59AM
- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by silicon not in the v (Score:2) Monday August 09, @10:57AM
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- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by devilspgd (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:42PM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by netglen (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:51PM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by devilspgd (Score:3) Monday August 09, @02:04AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by Chess_the_cat (Score:3) Monday August 09, @06:53AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by rhanborn (Score:1) Monday August 09, @09:38AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by devilspgd (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:17PM
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 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by nacturation (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:09AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by _Ludwig (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:55AM

- [Pedant heal thyself](#) by Angostura (Score:3) Monday August 09, @01:33AM
 - [Re:Pedant heal thyself](#) by moonbender (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:10AM
 - [Re:Pedant heal thyself](#) by Paleomacus (Score:2) Monday August 09, @06:51AM
 - [Re:Pedant heal thyself](#) by Dun Malg (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:16PM
 - [Re:Pedant heal thyself](#) by Paleomacus (Score:1) Monday August 09, @08:54PM
 - [Re:Pedant heal thyself](#) by _Ludwig (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:52PM
- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by devilspgd (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:57AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by devilspgd (Score:3) Monday August 09, @02:08AM
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- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by ryanvm (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:04AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by vasqzr (Score:1) Monday August 09, @08:05AM
- [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by MegaT (Score:1) Monday August 09, @07:12AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by rhsanborn (Score:1) Monday August 09, @09:43AM
 - [Re:How to make the warranty work for you](#) by kevmit (Score:1) Monday August 09, @10:32AM
- [Better way](#) by Pan T. Hose (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:32PM

That's a horrible "warranty" (Score:4, Insightful)
by [methangel \(191461\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:26PM ([#9917119](#))

Just because the cable and the lock were not damaged does not mean that the lock and cable actually did the job correctly! Kensington should pay the warranty claim out since it was obviously ineffective in actually securing the device.

If you use this Kensington lock and your laptop gets jacked, use a pair of bolt cutters and damage your cable before filing your claim.

Re:That's a horrible "warranty" (Score:5, Insightful)
by [weiyuent \(257436\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:41PM ([#9917199](#))
(Last Journal: [Sunday May 16, @06:18PM](#))

Just because the cable and the lock were not damaged does not mean that the lock and cable actually did the job correctly! Kensington should pay the warranty claim out since it was obviously ineffective in actually securing the device.

If your laptop, bike, etc ever gets stolen and you try to claim the compensation money from the lock manufacturer, you will find that there are many restrictions on actually getting that money. That is because, as with any other insurance scheme, many unscrupulous people try to get the compensation money by dishonest means. So some genuine theft victims will be deprived of their deserved compensation, whereas other scammers might get away with the money. By and large, though, the majority of consumers are justly rewarded.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:That's a horrible "warranty"](#) by tsm_sf (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @10:48PM
- [Re:That's a horrible "warranty"](#) by number11 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:03AM

- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

1500 dollars (Score:4, Interesting)

by [satanicat \(239025\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:27PM ([#9917124](#))

well. . I mean I guess it wouldnt matter to me wheather it was a len or a wire cutter. 1500 dollers might cover a good portion of the hardware costs, but usually the information on the drive itself is far more sensitive. What they need is a lock that causes the computer to self distract.=) it not only protects the programmer, but teaches the thief a good lesson!

- [Re:1500 dollars](#) by cmowire (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @10:36PM
- [Re:1500 dollars](#) by PabloJones (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @10:44PM
 - [Re:1500 dollars](#) by eam (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:53AM
 - [Re:1500 dollars](#) by CoolVibe (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:52AM
 - [Re:1500 dollars](#) by eam (Score:1) Monday August 09, @07:37AM
 - [Re:1500 dollars](#) by swv3752 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:12AM
 - [Re:1500 dollars](#) by tftp (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:56AM
 - [Re:1500 dollars](#) by empaler (Score:1) Monday August 09, @08:09AM

Re:1500 dollars (Score:5, Interesting)

by Anonymous Coward on Sunday August 08, @10:46PM ([#9917230](#))

well. . I mean I guess it wouldnt matter to me wheather it was a len or a wire cutter. 1500 dollers might cover a good portion of the hardware costs, but usually the information on the drive itself is far more sensitive. What they need is a lock that causes the computer to self distract.=) it not only protects the programmer, but teaches the thief a good lesson!

Australian Defence Force laptops (all thinkpads, that I've seen) have this. Try to break in and various parts of the laptop burst into flame.

See how easy it is getting data off a hard drive that's protected by a lithium/oxygen lock.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:1500 dollars](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Monday August 09, @02:12AM
- [Re:1500 dollars](#) by Halo- (Score:3) Monday August 09, @09:06AM
 - [Re:1500 dollars](#) by bluGill (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:03PM
- [Re:1500 dollars](#) by v1 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @08:04AM
 - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
- [2 replies](#) beneath your current threshold.
- [Re:1500 dollars](#) by TheLink (Score:3) Monday August 09, @01:32AM
- [Fake Battery Pack?](#) by atcurtis (Score:3) Monday August 09, @06:07AM
 - [Re:Fake Battery Pack?](#) by joggle (Score:2) Monday August 09, @11:57AM
- [Re:1500 dollars](#) by Lumpy (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:58AM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

Wire Cutters (Score:5, Insightful)

by [Oracle \(667029\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:27PM ([#9917125](#))

Wouldn't a simple pair of wirecutters do the trick to begin with? I don't think you have to be McGuyver to get through those locks.

Re:Wire Cutters (Score:5, Insightful)

by [jcain \(765708\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:31PM ([#9917150](#))

Have you seen one of these cables? They are actually quite thick and strong, so wirecutters would not have any effect other than slicing the outer skin.

However, I'm sure there are tools for this job available at your local Home Depot or other hardware emporium. Just remember to make the cut nice and messy.

[[Parent](#)]

- o [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @10:43PM

Re:Wire Cutters (Score:5, Interesting)

by [merlin_jim \(302773\)](#) <[James DOT McCrac ... ratapult DOT com](#)> on Sunday August 08, @11:10PM ([#9917357](#))

I've worked with steel wire a bit in the past doing chainmail for SCA stuff. Graduated into chainmail jeweler, then just plain jeweler.

The particular wire they use is a strandad high tensile strength steel. The individual strands are probably 12-16 guage, the cable as a whole cladding included might be 4 guage.

To cut 16 guage half-soft steel wire takes a medium sized pair of bolt cutters and a lot of elbow grease. You could PROBABLY worry the cable through with those, but because you can't close the jaws on each individual strand, it's going to be more of a sawing motion.

To get through that cable you'll need a pair of bolt cutters whose jaws are large enough that the entire cable fits between them with no more than a 15-20 degree angle. And the leverage is going to be immense; 2-3 feet at least.

Not exactly a tool you could fit in your pocket :) The tool **is** available, you can probably find it for under \$20. Most every hardware store will have one. They're used in construction to do exactly what the name implies; cut bolts :)

[[Parent](#)]

Re:Wire Cutters (Score:5, Informative)

by [madfgurtbn \(321041\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:25PM ([#9917418](#))

*The tool *is* available, you can probably find it for under \$20. Most every hardware store will have one. They're used in construction to do exactly what the name implies; cut bolts :)*

Actually, bolt cutters aren't very good at cutting cables. What you need are cable cutters, which have more of a hooked scissors or shears type of head. The head of a cable cutter resembles the beak of a predator bird, actually; probably for a good reason.

Bolt cutters are designed to cut a single solid piece of metal, so they are not effective at cutting the many strands of a cable. The cable kinda squashes and the individual strands are too flexible for a bolt cutter.

Bolt cutters will work, eventually, but the right tool for the job is a cable cutter.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Cordless Dremel?](#) by beesquee (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:23AM

- [Re:Cordless Dremel?](#) by eam (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:03AM

Re:Cordless Dremel? (Score:5, Funny)

by [cammoblammo \(774120\)](#) <[.ua.ten.yektoh. .ta. .sdurtommac.](#)> on Monday August 09, @07:45AM ([#9918931](#))

Most recently I used my dremel and got through in about ten seconds (like a knife through hot butter)

Man, I don't know where you come from, but ten seconds? You must have either really blunt knives in your town, or titanium spiked butter or something, but damn!

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Cordless Dremel?](#) by saintlupus (Score:1) Monday August 09, @10:01AM
- [Re:Cordless Dremel?](#) by eam (Score:1) Monday August 09, @08:09AM
- [Re:Cordless Dremel?](#) by Mechanik (Score:2) Monday August 09, @10:09AM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by Gordonjcp (Score:2) Monday August 09, @03:38AM
- [Know your coworkers or buy insurance](#) by karlandtanya (Score:2) Monday August 09, @08:21AM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by sysadmn (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:05AM
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- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by Antique Geekmeister (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:47PM
 - [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by boudie (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:00AM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by Trailwalker (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:37AM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by CharlieG (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:21PM
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- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by 1u3hr (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:50AM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by syukton (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:16AM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by klausssm (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:02AM
 - [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by dougmc (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:35PM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by takitus (Score:1) Monday August 09, @08:18AM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by darkmeridian (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:06AM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by Agent Orange (Score:2) Monday August 09, @08:36PM
 - [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by jcain (Score:1) Monday August 09, @08:43PM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by Secrity (Score:2) Wednesday August 11, @07:12PM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by takitus (Score:1) Monday August 09, @09:04AM
- **1 reply beneath your current threshold.**
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by cmowire (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @10:32PM
 - [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by tftp (Score:2) Monday August 09, @03:05AM
 - [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by cmowire (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:30PM
 - [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by cmowire (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:17PM
 - **2 replies beneath your current threshold.**

No, dumbass (Score:5, Informative)

by Anonymous Coward on Sunday August 08, @10:35PM ([#9917170](#))

A simple pair of wirecutters would not remove the locking cylinder.

The point of the Kensington lock is not so much to secure the laptop to something as to ruin the resale value of it by virtue of the damage likely to occur to the laptop if the lock is forcibly removed.

This hack apparently allows the lock cylinder itself to be cleanly removed, rendering the lock useless and giving the thief a laptop to sell that doesn't scream out "Look at this torn-off case plastic! I was stolen!"

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:No, dumbass](#) by Lehk228 (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:19PM
- [Re:No, dumbass](#) by bolind (Score:2) Monday August 09, @03:23AM

- [Re:No, dumbass](#) by azalin (Score:1) Monday August 09, @04:12AM
- [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by CroyDax (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:23PM
 - [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by Wog (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:59AM
 - [Re:Wire Cutters](#) by kundor (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:10AM
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have to email author for details of the exploit (Score:5, Informative)

by [Engineer Andy \(761400\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:28PM ([#9917126](#))

(Last Journal: [Saturday August 21, @04:34AM](#))

For the sake of those who thought to RTFA, the article gets you to email the author regarding the details of the exploit.

Extract from article:

You may contact the author for further details as to the method of entry. All computer owners and administrators should be aware of the potential for theft if you utilize this device. The full details of how to compromise this device are contained in LSS+ Version 5.0 Multimedia edition of Locks, Safes, and Security. Kensington may be contacted for further information at 800-535-4242. The company was notified of the problem by the author on July 13, 2004 and has refused to comment on or acknowledge the problem, or to return any telephone calls or e-mails. The author believes that the manufacturer can remedy the problem and should be required to do so. All purchasers of this device may wish to request a replacement from the manufacturer that prevents this form of bypass.

Here's how (Score:5, Informative)

by [JaredOfEuropa \(526365\)](#) on Monday August 09, @05:14AM ([#9918537](#))

(Last Journal: [Saturday January 31, @06:25PM](#))

Hmm... I can't believe it took this long for this 'exploit' to surface. *Any* geek with a laptop, some boredom and a paperclip should have figured this out already.

Anyhoo: what you need is a pair of scissors and a paperclip. if you have no scissors, a second paperclip will work, if not so well.

Jam one point of the scissors into the rectangular hole on the circumference of the circular key slot. Twist the scissors so that the inner part of the lock turns into the 'open' direction. Keep applying a gentle pressure, and use the paperclip to push in the little pins in the circular groove, one by one. Push down lightly and slowly until you feel the pin 'snap'. If you release the pin, it should be held in place and not spring back up again. If it does, just try first with another pin. Eventually you'll get them all and the lock will turn open. You can close the lock again in the same way.

Some of these locks have a security feature... when you've twisted the cilinder halfway to the 'open' position, it will lock again. In this case you'll need both points of the scissor to apply torque to the lock cilinder.

This isn't hard... with some practice, you can open these locks in a minute or 2. We used to do this at the office, going around during luch break to swap everyone's Kensington locks around, then watch the frustration at the end of the day, as everyone discovered that their key did not fit anymore. I know, it's lame, but we were bored okay?

I don't have any qualms about revealing the 'secret' of Kensington lock picking, as I would have with revealing a hot new exploit. This trick is years old, and asa I said: any bored person with a paper clip can figure this out for himself.

[[Parent](#)]

Re:Here's how (Score:4, Funny)

by [glesga_kiss \(596639\)](#) on Monday August 09, @08:18AM (#9919043)

Jam one point of the scissors into the rectangular hole on the circumference of the circular key slot. Twist the scissors so that the inner part of the lock turns into the 'open' direction. Keep applying a gentle pressure, and use the paperclip to push in the little pins in the circular groove, one by one. Push down lightly and slowly until you feel the pin 'snap'. If you release the pin, it should be held in place and not spring back up again. If it does, just try first with another pin. Eventually you'll get them all and the lock will turn open.

That just sounds like normal lock-picking to me. Here is an [article](#) [howstuffworks.com] on the technique that is describing pretty much the same thing on a more traditional yale-style key.

Great. I've just taught serveral thousand geeks how to lock-pick... ;-)

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Here's how](#) by mmmbeer (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:09PM
- [Impressive](#) by Pan T. Hose (Score:2) Monday August 09, @06:45PM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
- [Re:have to email author for details of the exploit](#) by John Courtland (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:02AM
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Hits me right where I live... (Score:5, Funny)

by [Commander Spock \(796626\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:28PM (#9917132)

I just arrived home from an out-of-state family reunion, where I had my ThinkPad locked to a picnic table with a Kensington lock, to find out that my computer was not nearly as secure as I would have thought. My wife points out that there were pens and scissors there, too! They could have taken my precioussss!

- [Re:Hits me right where I live...](#) by Penguinshit (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:03AM
- [Re:Hits me right where I live...](#) by BoomN (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:53AM
 - [Re:Hits me right where I live...](#) by fireman sam (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:23AM
- [Re:Hits me right where I live...](#) by filenabber (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:24PM
- [2 replies](#) beneath your current threshold.

What if my laptop isn't worth the 1500 ... (Score:5, Funny)

by [methangel \(191461\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:29PM (#9917138)

Does this mean I can get a Powerbook to replace the Tandy 286 laptop I have sitting in my closet?

- [Re:What if my laptop isn't worth the 1500 ...](#) by Dmala (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @10:38PM
 - [Re:What if my laptop isn't worth the 1500 ...](#) by vxvxxvx (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @10:41PM
 - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
 - [Re:What if my laptop isn't worth the 1500 ...](#) by M. Silver (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:30AM
 - [Most stolen car in the UK for the past 15 years...](#) by Gordonjcp (Score:2) Monday August 09, @08:13AM
- [Re:What if my laptop isn't worth the 1500 ...](#) by weiyuent (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @10:45PM
 - [Re:What if my laptop isn't worth the 1500 ...](#) by Frogbert (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:14PM
 - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
- [Re:What if my laptop isn't worth the 1500 ...](#) by lordkuri (Score:1) Monday August 09, @02:28AM

- [Re:What if my laptop isn't worth the 1500 ...](#) by bgackle (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:00PM
- [Re:What if my laptop isn't worth the 1500 ...](#) by vogelgesang (Score:1) Monday August 09, @04:32PM

This is old news... (Score:5, Funny)

by [anactofgod \(68756\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:31PM ([#9917148](#))

I saw MacGyver do this years ago.

And *he* didn't need the scissors.

---anactofgod---

- [Re:This is old news...](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @10:42PM
- [Re:This is old news...](#) by JeanBaptiste (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:54PM
 - [Re:This is old news...](#) by Airw0lf (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:32AM
- [Re:This is old news...](#) by NathanM412 (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:19AM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

To Take Advantage Of This Flaw... (Score:3, Funny)

by [Snagle \(644973\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:33PM ([#9917162](#))

Kensington should start selling a lock for their laptop lock! Money in the bank if you ask me...

Hmm..... (Score:4, Interesting)

by [Doppler00 \(534739\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:34PM ([#9917165](#))

(<http://slashdot.org/> | Last Journal: [Saturday July 24, @03:08AM](#))

I've seen those computer "locks" on the back of computers that need those special round keys. They replace screws to try to prevent someone from opening the case. What I found over time when working with them, is that you can just use a set of small pliers to twist them off. Not very secure at all.

- [Re:Hmm.....](#) by windex (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @10:39PM
- [Re:Hmm.....](#) by glesga_kiss (Score:3) Monday August 09, @08:24AM
 - [Re:Hmm.....](#) by Doppler00 (Score:2) Tuesday August 10, @08:44PM
 - [Re:Hmm.....](#) by glesga_kiss (Score:2) Wednesday August 11, @05:35AM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

I can attest to this fact. (Score:5, Insightful)

by [gellenburg \(61212\)](#) <george@ellenburg.org> on Sunday August 08, @10:36PM ([#9917176](#))

(<http://www.ellenburg.org/> | Last Journal: [Saturday August 28, @09:13AM](#))

Most laptop locks are insecure.

Back in 2000 I had one of those Kensington motion sensing laptop locks which gave off this ear-piercing noise if anyone moved the device.

Thing was so insecure that I was playing with it in the airport on a business trip one day and I realized all I had to do was to push the pin inwards and it immediately came off.

Sure, the alarm went off too, but it still wouldn't have stopped someone from jetting away and stealing the bag or laptop.

Now, I secure both my laptops (work and personal) the old fashioned way. I never let them leave my sight or I lock them in a locker or the trunk of my car.

Physical controls can't beat plain common sense sometimes when it comes to the security of your personal belongings.

Never leave a laptop bag in the front-seat or rear-seat of your car where it's in plain sight. That's just begging for someone to smash your window and steal it.

Also, don't carry your laptop around in one of those \$200 leather laptop cases. I use a backpack. Sure, it was designed for a laptop but it doesn't look like it was. Maybe I have gym shoes and a change of clothes in there, or maybe I have an iBook, iPod, spare battery, Tréo 600, Passport, etc.

Then again, maybe I don't.

Re:I can attest to this fact. (Score:5, Funny)
by [jpatters \(883\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:40PM ([#9917193](#))
(<http://www.uvm.edu/~jpatters>)

I carry around my gym shoes and a change of clothes in a \$200 leather laptop case. That'll show 'em.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by PunchMonkey (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @11:35PM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by cmowire (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:44PM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Heisenbug (Score:2) Monday August 09, @07:33AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Col. Klink (retired) (Score:2) Monday August 09, @06:15PM
 - **2 replies beneath your current threshold.**
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by kaszeta (Score:3) Monday August 09, @08:43AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by silicon not in the v (Score:2) Monday August 09, @11:19AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by IOOOOOI (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:49AM
 - **1 reply beneath your current threshold.**
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by tehcyder (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:27AM
- **1 reply beneath your current threshold.**

Re:I can attest to this fact. (Score:5, Interesting)
by [Rosco P. Coltrane \(209368\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:43PM ([#9917216](#))
Thing was so insecure that I was playing with it in the airport on a business trip one day and I realized all I had to do was to push the pin inwards and it immediately came off.

I had one of these and they're a waste of \$70.

Here's another good one: pick the thing up very very slowly, so it doesn't start screaming, lift it about 10" off the table, then slam it flat on the table, battery down, as hard as you can. The motion sensor will be busted right out and the thing won't peep a sound. If, by some misfortune, it does start beeping, press your thumb real hard against the hole underneath, where the piezo is, to silence it.

These things are crap, honestly. Stay away from it...

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by devilspgd (Score:3) Monday August 09, @12:00AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Fred_A (Score:2) Monday August 09, @06:12AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by pvera (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:13AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by HermanAB (Score:3) Monday August 09, @01:29AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by instarx (Score:2) Tuesday August 10, @08:34AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by TheFlyingGoat (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @10:46PM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Osty (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:00PM

- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Wog (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:08AM

Re:I can attest to this fact. (Score:4, Interesting)

by [DaveJay_\(133437\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:59PM ([#9917304](#))

>or I lock them in a locker or the trunk of my car

Don't try the trunk of your car in Chicago, even in the good neighborhoods. I've had windows broken and trunks entered for a duffel bag with a schoolhouse rock video tape. I've had trunks punched open with a screwdriver for some books. I once caught two kids in my car trying to pry an \$18 tape player from under the dash. Hell, I once even left my car -- with nothing in it to steal, AND THE WINDOWS ALL HALFWAY DOWN -- and someone still punched a hold through the door skin to open the *unlocked* door with the *open* window.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Kiryat Malachi (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @11:50PM

Re:I can attest to this fact. (Score:5, Funny)

by [GnrcMan_\(53534\)_*](#) on Monday August 09, @12:06AM ([#9917619](#)) (<http://www.kckd.org/>)

Hmm...for some reason this reminds me of a story my friend told me about something stupid he did.

After having his car stereo stolen, he replaced it and jammed razor blades around the stereo.

It was, of course stolen...and blood was smeared all over the interior...and all the windows were smashed by the pissed off thief...and the tires were slashed...and a good sized dent for good measure.

Don't do this. :)

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Penguinshit (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:08AM

Re:I can attest to this fact. (Score:4, Funny)

by [Loopsnut_\(589418\)](#) on Monday August 09, @01:21AM ([#9917876](#))

The thing you want to put back there is fishhooks, then the thief has a decision to make. Pain or police.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Fishhooks](#) by portwajn (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:00PM
 - [Re:Fishhooks](#) by instarX (Score:2) Tuesday August 10, @08:39AM
 - [Re:Fishhooks](#) by Kiryat Malachi (Score:2) Tuesday August 10, @11:13PM
 - [Re:Fishhooks](#) by instarX (Score:2) Wednesday August 11, @04:20AM
 - [Re:Fishhooks](#) by Kiryat Malachi (Score:2) Wednesday August 11, @05:13AM
 - [Re:Fishhooks](#) by instarX (Score:2) Wednesday August 11, @11:00AM
 - [Re:Fishhooks](#) by Kiryat Malachi (Score:2) Wednesday August 11, @03:07PM
 - [Re:Fishhooks](#) by instarX (Score:2) Wednesday August 11, @04:01PM

- [Re:Fishhooks](#) by Kiryat Malachi (Score:2) Thursday August 12, @06:01AM
 - [Was the blood used as evidence?](#) by John_Sauter (Score:2) Wednesday August 11, @01:37PM
 - [2 replies](#) beneath your current threshold.
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by andreyw (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:33AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Kiryat Malachi (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:27AM
 - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Kiryat Malachi (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:14AM
 - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

Re:I can attest to this fact. (Score:5, Funny)

by [Omerna \(241397\)](#) <clbrewer@gmail.com> on Monday August 09, @12:04AM (#9917607)

(<http://www.slashdot.org/>)

I call BS. Whenever I steal a car I ALWAYS try the handle first. All good thieves do.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by tehcyder (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:29AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by anticypher (Score:2) Monday August 09, @07:26PM

Re:I can attest to this fact. (Score:5, Interesting)

by [Technician \(215283\)](#) on Monday August 09, @12:14AM (#9917651)

I knew a radio operator that had an amplifier that used a seprate 1500 volt power supply. The vehicle was locked and the equipment was properly marked Danger High Voltage and Lock out remote power supply before servicing. Because it was properly marked and locked, the judge threw out the manslaughter case against the amature radio operator by the family of the deceased.

You shouldn't try cutting 1.5KV cables with a pocketknife when the supply is still on.

It's not as bad in my car. The Hybrid battery is only 264 volts nominal and the 1KW inverter is 120 volts. I don't recommend messing with either while the power is on. The inverter is on most of the time. I plug the computer into it to charge batteries while on the road. I seldom bother to shut it off since its nominal unloaded draw is just a few mA.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by incog8723 (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:29AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by innocent_white_lamb (Score:1) Monday August 09, @04:19AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Kiryat Malachi (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:49AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Everlasting God (Score:1) Monday August 09, @07:25AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Technician (Score:3) Monday August 09, @07:14AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by incog8723 (Score:1) Friday August 13, @11:51AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:43AM
 - [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by register_ax (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:57PM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by LauraScudder (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:18AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by cheekyboy (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:22AM

- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by andreyw (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:29AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by schof (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:08AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by HermanAB (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:32AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:46AM
- [As a counter example.](#) by mumpfazy (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:54AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Rick.C (Score:1) Monday August 09, @09:59AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by Tim C (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:19AM
- [Re:I can attest to this fact.](#) by karlandtanya (Score:2) Monday August 09, @08:26AM

I have one as a deterrent (Score:2, Insightful)

by [CMiYC \(6473\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:37PM ([#9917184](#))

(<http://www.cmiyc.com/> | Last Journal: [Monday August 19, @04:54PM](#))

When I'm at Starbucks for a few hours, the caffeine gives way eventually. Fortunately the Starbucks I frequent gives police officers free coffee. I'm naive enough to hope that one of them would notice if someone was taking pliers or a bic pen to my laptop while I was peeing.

Even so, it prevents someone from just picking it up as they walk by. That's all I ever hoped the cable would do.

- [Re:I have one as a deterrent](#) by Rosco P. Coltrane (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @10:48PM
 - [Re:I have one as a deterrent](#) by jbltk (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @10:58PM
 - [Re:I have one as a deterrent](#) by CMiYC (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @11:55PM
 - [Re:I have one as a deterrent \[OT\]](#) by feargal (Score:2) Monday August 09, @07:03AM
 - [2 replies](#) beneath your current threshold.
- [Re:I have one as a deterrent](#) by ejaw5 (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @10:54PM

Who could be doing this?? (Score:4, Funny)

by [MagicDude \(727944\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:40PM ([#9917191](#))

A Bic pen, and a pair of scissors...

Damn you MacGyver!!

- [Can't be him.](#) by daniel_yokomiso (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:53PM

Picking locks. (Score:2, Informative)

by Anonymous Coward on Sunday August 08, @10:42PM ([#9917205](#))

Hell, I can pop most locks in under a couple of minutes.

The cost is not the materials used, it's the expertise and practice. Be aware, most policemen are well aware what a set of picks looks like, even if you disguise them. :)

- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

I'm curious... (Score:3, Interesting)

by [weyjuent \(257436\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:49PM ([#9917249](#))

(Last Journal: [Sunday May 16, @06:18PM](#))

...about the durability of the slot where one inserts the standard laptop locks. Though I'm not about to try it myself, I imagine that one could easily shear the lock off with the right amount of leverage and separate it from the laptop. Now it might take a bit of work to repair the chassis to re-saleable condition, but it's still possible, no?

- [Re:I'm curious...](#) by DiscoOnTheSide (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @10:52PM
- [Re:I'm curious...](#) by lrucker (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:53AM
- [Re:I'm curious...](#) by takitus (Score:1) Monday August 09, @09:11AM

Funny lock story from Australia (Score:5, Interesting)
by [HonkyLips \(654494\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:50PM ([#9917262](#))

This reminds me of one of my favourite pieces of Australian TV.

I'm sure you are all familiar with steering wheel locks, the most well known in Australia is called a Club Lock.

A magazine called "Choice", which reviews and tests products, reviewed all available steering wheel locks and claimed that the Club Lock could be defeated in less than 30 seconds by someone with no experience at car theft.

The manufacturer responded by modifying and improving the lock mechanism, but the magazine repeated their claim that it could be defeated easily.

This went on for about 4 generations of Club Lock and saw the introduction of a "star shaped" key to making picking the locks "impossible", as well as other developments. But Choice maintained that the Club Lock had not been fixed and anyone could defeat it in under a minute.

A local TV current affairs show filmed a carpark showdown between the manufacturer of the Club Lock and a reporter from the magazine, as the manufacturer prepared to release their latest model and the magazine claimed it would be able to defeat it in less than 30 seconds. They were screaming at each other in a car park and honestly looked like they were going to hit each other. The manufacturer claimed (in near hysteria) that it was impossible for someone to pick their locks, and that the magazines claims were wrong. The magazine denied this, and so were challenged to demonstrate their claim on TV.

A brand new model Club Lock was placed on a car steering wheel.

The magazine reporter got in the car, grabbed it, and gave it a good hard yank, and it came off easily.

The manufacturer went very very quiet.

The funny thing about this – and the reason I remember it - was that the people who made Club Locks never asked the magazine HOW they'd been defeating their product. They all assumed that the locks had been picked. Practically all the improvements they made to the product over 4 years were in improving the lock mechanism. They never expected that the piece of metal which hooks around the steering wheel was so weak it could be easily bent. They should've thought laterally.

Anyway it was very funny. Trust me, I still remember it and it was about 15 years ago.

- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by Anonymous Coward (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @10:57PM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by PitaBred (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:13PM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by DMUTPeregrine (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:19PM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by kidgenius (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:52PM

Re:Funny lock story from Australia (Score:5, Informative)
by [Jeremy Erwin \(2054\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:59PM ([#9917580](#))
(<http://scs.gmu.edu/~jerwin/> | Last Journal: [Friday August 13, @09:22AM](#))

Might as well post a link to some handy [denver boot removal advice](#) [eserver.org]. Some boots are so poorly constructed that a hammer and chisel can dislodge the various spot welds.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by interiort (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:31PM

Re:Funny lock story from Australia (Score:5, Informative)
by [Nogami Saeko \(466595\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:06PM ([#9917337](#))

Not to mention that steering wheels are actually pretty soft. If you've ever seen one of the crash-tests in slow-motion, the steering wheel looks like a rubber band during the

impact. They're designed to be soft so as not to impale you when you're in an accident.

If a crook wants past your club, they can just cut through the steering wheel and remove the club.

I've seen a different sort of club-type device on TV that hooks around the brake pedal. Looks like a better product to use anyway.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by gabbarbhai (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:23PM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by Karma Farmer (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @11:30PM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by kidgenius (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:48PM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by xenoandroid (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:20AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by cheekyboy (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:33AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by Barto (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:13AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by dsouth (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:23AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by devnullify (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:58AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by devnullify (Score:1) Monday August 09, @04:03AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by khrtt (Score:1) Monday August 09, @05:43AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by devnullify (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:07AM
 - **2 replies** beneath your current threshold.
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by lucas teh geek (Score:1) Monday August 09, @05:45AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by iantri (Score:2) Monday August 09, @11:50AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by tmortn (Score:2) Monday August 09, @03:05AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by xenoandroid (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:24AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by Bri3D (Score:1) Monday August 09, @09:41AM
 - [Re: MT cars use on the clutch pedal, not brake.](#) by Llama_STi (Score:1) Monday August 09, @11:52AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by IOOOOOI (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:56AM
 - **1 reply** beneath your current threshold.
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by Frogbert (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:21PM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by hesiod (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:17PM
- Re:Funny lock story from Australia** (Score:5, Insightful)
 by [FroBugg_24957](#). <frobugg@bellsouth.net> on Monday August 09, @12:04AM (#9917611)
[\(http://roachetc.org/\)](http://roachetc.org/)

The Club may be pretty easy to defeat, but it still takes more time and equipment than stealing any other random car.

I drive a very common and not very valuable car (Ford Focus), and when I put my Club

on I don't even bother to lock it. All I'm counting on is a thief noticing it and deciding he'd rather steal the Clubless car next to mine.

It's like the two guys running from the bear. I don't have to outrun the bear, just the other guy. With my car, I don't have to defeat the crook. I just have to be tougher than the car beside mine.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by HermanAB (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:39AM
- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by I_redwolf (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:59AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by kni52 (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:02PM
- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by BandwidthHog (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:40PM
- **1 reply** beneath your current threshold.
- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by Technician (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:30AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by Cyno01 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @03:47AM
 - [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by Fallen_Knight (Score:1) Monday August 09, @07:46AM
- [Here's a link to the Choice Test](#) by jesterzog (Score:1) Monday August 09, @05:02AM
- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by sharky611aol.com (Score:1) Monday August 09, @07:41AM
- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by sanctimonius hypocrt (Score:1) Monday August 09, @07:59AM
- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by instarX (Score:2) Tuesday August 10, @08:47AM
- [Re:Funny lock story from Australia](#) by martinX (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:23AM
- **2 replies** beneath your current threshold.

So what lock to buy (Score:4, Interesting)

by [Unregistered \(584479\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:00PM ([#9917309](#))

I have a powerbook. what loc should i buy if the Kensington one sucks?

Re:So what lock to buy (Score:5, Funny)

by [irokitt \(663593\)](#) <archimandrites-iaur.yahoo@com> on Sunday August 08, @11:07PM ([#9917344](#))

I have a powerbook. What lock should I buy if the Kensington one sucks?

A shotgun.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:So what lock to buy](#) by xenoandroid (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:28AM

Re:So what lock to buy (Score:5, Funny)

by [Frogbert \(589961\)](#) <frogbert AT host DOT sk> on Sunday August 08, @11:23PM ([#9917410](#))

The apple I-lock. Its transperant purple, has only one key and costs \$349.95.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Don't buy one.](#) by Qbertino (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:11AM
 - **1 reply** beneath your current threshold.
- [Re:So what lock to buy](#) by b1t r0t (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:35PM
- [Re:So what lock to buy](#) by lavaface (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:49PM

All laptop locks suck! (Score:5, Insightful)

by [DiscoBobby \(196458\)](#)_* on Sunday August 08, @11:00PM ([#9917310](#))

Look, laptop locks are psychological blocks, not physical blocks. If you can't hork a cablelock out of a plastic laptop case in less than 15 seconds you don't deserve to steal that laptop.

They keep honest people honest. They're speedbumps for the pros. Don't leave you lepton alone!

- [Lepton!!](#) by roror (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:41AM
- [Re:All laptop locks suck!](#) by cerberusss (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:35AM

So, so corporate (Score:2)

by [0x0d0a \(568518\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:01PM ([#9917316](#))

(Last Journal: [Thursday June 03, @01:50AM](#))

The whole thing is kind of depressing.

Kensington, a company which has, from my past experience, made good use of "good image marketing", has made a guarantee with a product, realized that that guarantee is, well, expensive, and now refuses to honor it.

The lock picking people are using the entire thing as a teaser to sell a product.

I'll bet if some lawyer picks up on this, they'll start a class action suit with horrible stories about how much damage could be caused, so on and so forth, and try to rake in a hefty percentage of some settlement which will give everyone else involved about \$1.50 per person.

The problem with involving money in something is that we are taught to act like complete assholes in the name of earning money (and I'm not saying that we shouldn't), but where there's money, there's assholishness.

This is particularly sad because once-upon-a-time Kensington made really nice (though expensive) trackballs. A nice big ball, plenty of buttons, etc. I heard a story about one guy that asked if he could buy a replacement trackball ball because his son liked to play with his ball and eventually lost it, and Kensington sent him a replacement ball -- and twelve more "for his son to play with". I thought that was kinda cool.

Their trackballs are supposed to have been going downhill, though, with cheaper, shoddier parts (especially that "ring around the trackball scroll wheel" device).

- [Re:So, so corporate](#) by irokitt (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:15PM
 - [OT](#) by Lehk228 (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:26PM
 - [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)
- [Re:So, so corporate](#) by eric434 (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:35PM

Reminds me of High School... (Score:3, Insightful)

by [Anti_Climax \(447121\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:02PM ([#9917318](#))

Most of the hardware at my high school was locked down to the desks using cable locks, but the mechanism used to attach it was certainly inferior to the kensington type.

Basically, there was a metal reciever that was screwed into a rubber/plastic pad that is epoxied to the hardware you want to keep. The cable is slipped through the reciever and then locked to a suitably heavy piece of cheap furniture, while the other end was too large to pass through the reciever. However, since the unlocked end was not attached to anything, you simply slacked the cable, then passed the end under and around to unscrew the reciever from the epoxied pad.

It wouldn't have worked if it was riveted instead of screwed, but then again, it's a really a deterrent in the end.

- [Re:Reminds me of High School...](#) by Sycraft-fu (Score:3) Monday August 09, @01:13AM

Wewt! (Score:4, Informative)

by [c0dedude \(587568\)](#) <c0dedude2@yahoo.co.uk> on Sunday August 08, @11:02PM (#9917320)

(Last Journal: [Monday August 09, @05:17PM](#))

I got it, I think! It's a tubular lock, but a damn big one with weak springs. Use the scissors as a torque wrench to apply constant turning pressure. Use the pen to push in the individual pins. Very weak lock.

- [Re:Wewt!](#) by mauthbaux (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:49AM

DMCA to the rescue... (Score:5, Funny)

by [CHaN_316 \(696929\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:06PM (#9917341)

Just use the DMCA's anti-circumvention clause and ban bic pens, and scissors! I'm sure this follows the spirit of the law, and totally what the legislators intended the DMCA for. Enforcement of this ban should be pretty easy as well...

- [Amazing.](#) by WhatAmIDoingHere (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:46AM
 - [Re:Amazing.](#) by gerardrj (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:10AM
 - [Re:Amazing.](#) by aaza (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:14AM
 - [DMCA Precedence](#) by CHaN_316 (Score:3) Monday August 09, @01:37AM
 - [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

I don't need a lock for my laptop... (Score:5, Funny)

by [jacobdp \(698004\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:09PM (#9917350)

I just leave my crappy old 150mhz Toshiba next to a few friends' Powerbooks.

Problem solved.

- [2 replies](#) beneath your current threshold.

"Guarantees replacement" (Score:5, Interesting)

by [http://amphibio.us \(579491\)](http://amphibio.us) <matt@zipcon.net> on Sunday August 08, @11:12PM (#9917365)

(<http://amphibio.us/>)

From the [Kensington product description page](#) [kensington.com] linked in the article:

Guarantees replacement of any locked laptop that's stolen

Sounds pretty specific, huh? ANY locked laptop that's stolen... Which is quite different than what it says when you click the [warranty link](#) [kensington.com] on the page...

If theft of your laptop computer results from the Kensington Guaranteed Notebook Replacement MicroSaver computer lock being broken or opened by forceful means Kensington Technology Group will pay you the replacement value of your laptop up to US \$1,500.00.

It goes on to say:

Kensington Technology Group will NOT be liable if the theft occurred because: D. The laptop was stolen by any means other than violating or breaking the Kensington brand Guaranteed Notebook Replacement MicroSaver Lock.

Now... that seems pretty vague to me. Are they talking specifically about the locking device? Or are they talking about the entire thing and calling it the Guaranteed Notebook Replacement MicroSaver Lock because that's the name of the product? Vague vague vague...

- [Re:"Guarantees replacement"](#) by Gamefreak99 (Score:3) Sunday August 08, @11:21PM
 - [What would Newton have to say about this?](#) by tepples (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:11AM

Re:"Guarantees replacement" (Score:4, Insightful)

by [PitaBred \(632671\)](#) <[david`at`pitabred.dyndns.org](mailto:david@pitabred.dyndns.org)> on Sunday August 08, @11:30PM (#9917445) (<http://pitabred.dyndns.org/>)

I'd say that this example is a very clear-cut case of 'violating' the lock... it's failing in a manner it was meant to protect against. It's not like they're stealing the chair and the laptop, which I would say clears Kensington of liability. IANAL, but I know a few, and I watch Perry Mason ;)

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:"Guarantees replacement"](#) by GoodbyeBlueSky1 (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:00AM
 - [Re:"Guarantees replacement"](#) by Phil John (Score:2) Monday August 09, @10:13AM
- [Re:"Guarantees replacement"](#) by Meostro (Score:1) Monday August 09, @08:36AM
- [Re:"Guarantees replacement"](#) by Chester K (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:36PM

Should read: All locks not so secure (Score:3, Insightful)

by [sublimespot \(265560\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:23PM (#9917407)

Why pick on Kensington?

Anyone who knows how to pick a lock can open most locks with 5 cents worth of equipment: a couple bent paperclips. Lets write a big story about how all these locks are weak.

So what? The lock is pickable; so are most other locks.

Unless the big story here is about the warranty. The fact they knew the lock is weak, so they worded the warranty in a way to avoid paying up.

- [Re:Should read: All locks not so secure](#) by Lehk228 (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:40PM
- [Re:Should read: All locks not so secure](#) by Chucklz (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:20AM
- [Re:Should read: All locks not so secure](#) by mikechant (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:08AM
- [Re:Should read: All locks not so secure](#) by gl4ss (Score:2) Monday August 09, @06:52AM

Use the Bike Messenger warranty method (Score:3, Interesting)

by [mr_rangr \(311899\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:27PM (#9917432)

Kryptonite has a similar warranty. Though if your bike is stolen, they often steal the lock, as well, leaving you with no evidence of a broken/compromised lock. So bike messengers will keep a spare Kryptonite lock. If their bike is stolen, they beat the crap out of the lock, busting it open, and then use this busted lock to claim their warranty.

- [Re:Use the Bike Messenger warranty method](#) by Fear the Clam (Score:2) Monday August 09, @11:29AM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

Applies to barrel-key type locks, not combination? (Score:1)

by [TokyoBoy \(217214\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:30PM (#9917438)

It looks as if the crack is for barrel=key type locks, not the combination type. Can anyone confirm this?

Re:Applies to barrel-key type locks, not combinati (Score:4, Interesting)
by Anonymous Coward on Monday August 09, @01:19AM ([#9917869](#))

Combination locks are usually just as easy. It took me a couple of hours to work out how to open these Targus Defcon CL locks, but now I can do it in under a minute, with no tools, and find the combination. Or, I can find a digit in 15 seconds and come back later.

These days I get emails in my work when people forget the combination on their locks to come and remove them. It's really easy, and I think if everyone knew it would be barely worthwhile using them.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Applies to barrel-key type locks, not combinati](#) by Linker3000 (Score:1) Monday August 09, @02:32AM
- [Re:Applies to barrel-key type locks, not combinati](#) by Ratbert42 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:52AM
- [Re:Applies to barrel-key type locks, not combinati](#) by tehcyder (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:39AM

Lock Picking (Score:4, Interesting)

by [dicepackage \(526497\)](#) * <dicepackage.hotmail@com> on Sunday August 08, @11:30PM ([#9917442](#))
(<http://slashdot.org/>)

In the Summer 2004 issue of 2600 Magazine there is an article on lock picking with less common types of picks. They talk about how to pick a lock with a pen, bobbe pin, sciccors, and everyones favorite the paperclip.

Re:Lock Picking (Score:5, Informative)

by [AVryhof \(142320\)](#) <A.M.O.S@ju n o . com> on Monday August 09, @12:44AM ([#9917760](#))
(<http://they.cjb.net/>)

So you want to know about lock picking?

There is this wonderful site that has a great article about it:

<http://home.howstuffworks.com/lock-picking.htm> [howstuffworks.com]

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Lock Picking](#) by chunkwhite86 (Score:1) Monday August 09, @01:26AM
 - [Re:Lock Picking](#) by rfc1394 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @06:55PM
- [Re:Lock Picking](#) by DavidD_CA (Score:1) Monday August 09, @02:21AM
- [Obligatory "Airplane" quote](#) by mikechant (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:11AM

And the cookie at the bottom of this page? (Score:5, Funny)

by [jpetts \(208163\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:43PM ([#9917503](#))

When in doubt, use brute force. -- Ken Thompson

- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

Locks are meant to scare away pro. thieves... (Score:5, Insightful)

by [huchida \(764848\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:44PM ([#9917508](#))

... Well, they are, but any thief intent to steal a laptop-- and who is prepared and has the equipment ready to do the job-- will probably get away with it. This implies some forethought, though. Ask anyone who's owned a bicycle in NYC... There is no lock that can't be broken.

What locks ARE good for, is deterring the casual thief. Someone who spots a notebook

untended in a library, a cafe, an office, sees that no one around... And grabs it. They're not likely to pick a lock or cut a cable. Since this is far, far more likely-- unless someone is really casing you for the info. on the computer-- it does make sense to use a lock.

- [Re:Locks are meant to scare away pro. thieves...](#) by foifulus (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:16AM

Several kinds are no good. (Score:2)

by [Futurepower\(R\)\(558542\)](#) <futurepower@NOTanyofTHISmyrealbox.com> on Monday August 09, @12:12AM (#9917643)
(<http://futurepower.org/>)

I've tried two other kinds of Notebook locks that are of very poor quality, also. Fellowes was one of them. The other was a no-name Chinese brand from a wholesaler.

- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

i go by a different theory (Score:4, Interesting)

by [prockcore\(543967\)](#) on Monday August 09, @12:24AM (#9917691)

I subscribe to the famous "If I can't have it, no one can" theory.

If I see an unguarded locked laptop, I dump a cup of coffee onto the keyboard.

Ok, not really.. but I wonder if anyone does this. I remember Denial of Service was a huge thing to do in highschool. People would beat the shit out of random combination locks on peoples lockers, you couldn't get your locker open. Bastards.

- [Re:i go by a different theory](#) by farmhick (Score:1) Monday August 09, @03:45AM
- [Re:i go by a different theory](#) by suwain_2 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:18PM
- [Re:i go by a different theory](#) by Just Some Guy (Score:2) Thursday August 12, @04:42PM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

Clean take-away vs Vandalism? (Score:4, Insightful)

by [NotQuiteReal\(608241\)](#) on Monday August 09, @12:59AM (#9917804)

If you lock a laptop up tight enough but don't watch it, someone may just stuck a pencil thru your LCD to spite you. That's what I would do if I were in a pissy mood and unable to steal your laptop that I was otherwise planning on taking (which I wasn't, if you were wondering.)

Better you just let the a-hole take it and get some use out of it, I'd say.

On the other hand, if you are actually watching it (I mean, who locks a laptop and leaves it somewhere?) prolly nothing will happen to it.

This is analogous to the \$500 damage someone does to your car to pull a stereo that has a \$20 street value.

I am just rambling now... but what good is a laptop cable anyhow? Seems to me you have a couple of scenarios; A cable *might* work if you don't quite trust your roommate or his friends, I guess. Otherwise, forget it. You are in a "safe" environment, or not.

Bottom line, if you leave something *valuable* where folks *might* steal that something, it will get stolen, sooner or later.

I know, I've had much damage done to cars for little apparent gain for the thief. On the other hand I leave "tens of dollars" worth (but no more) of stuff on the sand when I am at the beach (add it up - towel(s), backpack, sunscreen...) with no ill results, so I am not totally paranoid, but not stupid either.

- [Re:Clean take-away vs Vandalism?](#) by IOOOOOI (Score:3) Monday August 09, @02:17AM
 - [Re:Clean take-away vs Vandalism?](#) by Halo- (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:21AM
 - [Leave the glove box wide open....](#) by gatkinso (Score:1) Monday August 09, @11:13AM
 - [Re:Leave the glove box wide open....](#) by Fear the Clam (Score:2) Monday August 09, @11:32AM
 - [Re:Leave the glove box wide open....](#) by gatkinso (Score:1) Friday August 13, @08:41AM
- [Re:Clean take-away vs Vandalism?](#) by InfiniteWisdom (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:42AM
- [Re:Clean take-away vs Vandalism?](#) by JonoPlop (Score:3) Monday August 09, @05:28AM
- [Re:Clean take-away vs Vandalism?](#) by syntap (Score:3) Monday August 09, @07:00AM
 - **2 replies** beneath your current threshold.

Man, all they have to do... (Score:2, Funny)

by [gardyloo \(512791\)](#) on Monday August 09, @01:04AM ([#9917817](#))

... is use those same amazing, unhackable screws that bathroom stalls are put on with. Those suckers are super secure! When civilization has its downfall, and all potentially useful metal scraps have been scavenged, we'll still have fully-assembled bathroom stalls.

- [Re:Man, all they have to do...](#) by HerbieTMac (Score:2) Monday August 09, @10:13AM

how to do it (Score:5, Interesting)

by [austad \(22163\)](#) on Monday August 09, @01:15AM ([#9917854](#))
(<http://www.netscreenforum.com/>)

I have played with one of these locks, and they are not made well. I assume the guts of them are not machined to very close tolerances. Locks that are not machined well are vulnerable to picking much easier.

If you look at the lock, you'll see a center thing that rotates. Open the scissors slightly, put one end into the notch on the center thingy, and the other end somewhere into the circular groove surrounding the center. Inside the groove are tiny pins... Apply a slight turning force on the scissors, and then use the Bic pen to poke each pin until they snap into place. You may have to poke each one multiple times because only one will be able to fall into place at a time, and you won't know which one because each lock has different tolerances due to they quality of manufacturing.

You can actually buy devices that do this all for you through lockpicking sites. However, I think the kensington lock is a bit smaller, and the commercial ones probably will not fit.

In any case, the lock is still a deterrent. I used to work in downtown minneapolis. Around christmas time, laptop thefts in our office would go up dramatically. Theives would get dressed up, and walk into the office like they were supposed to be there, and then just grab one and leave. Because there were people everywhere, spending 30 seconds doing something shady to a laptop lock is probably not something they would want to do. Especially since there were plenty of non-locked machines laying around.

Never Did Trust These Things (Score:1)

by [kannibal_klown \(531544\)](#) on Monday August 09, @01:51AM ([#9917987](#))

We use them at work. And while I use them to lock my laptop to my cubicle (of if I have to

travel), I really don't trust them.

At most, they're like "The Club (tm)". Sure, they MIGHT deter a thief from wanting to risk stealing the laptop or tempt them to steal someone else's laptop (that ISN'T secured).

But unlike cars, you rarely see a number of laptops in a row to choose from, unless it's after-hours in an office or school lab. So, if a thief sees it sitting on a desk in a library, there's a good chance they'll take it since it's just so damn tempting.

Personally, I never let my laptop leave my sight. If I'm staying at a hotel, I either take it with me when I go out, or (if it's a nice hotel) I place it in my backpack and hide it somewhere.

- [Re:Never Did Trust These Things](#) by Omega Leader-(P12) (Score:1) Monday August 09, @09:08AM

anecdotal support for this (Score:2)

by [danny_\(2658\)](#) on Monday August 09, @02:13AM ([#9918072](#)) (<http://danny.oz.au/index.html>)

We had a locked down laptop stolen in under 5 minutes, from an occupied room. Someone went to the toilet and their roommate was facing the other way; when they came back, no laptop.

I'd wondered how the thief managed to cut the cable without making any noise, but I was picturing bolt-cutters, not a pair of scissors and a pen!

Danny.

My laptop cable code can be cracked in 10 secs (Score:1)

by [Linker3000 \(626634\)](#) on Monday August 09, @02:26AM ([#9918099](#))

I have a (non-Kensington) laptop cable with a 4 digit combination lock. During one boring stay overnight in a hotel I discovered that if I pulled the removable locking mechanism (as if I was legitimately removing it) and twisted the number rings I could FEEL when the right numbers were in place. After about 15 minutes of practice I could remove the lock with my eyes shut in about 10 seconds. I verified this with my wife's lock - same type, bought at the same time. I use mine as a visual deterrent only now!

- [Re:My laptop cable code can be cracked in 10 secs](#) by Winterblink (Score:2) Monday August 09, @10:03AM

No need for dremels or clippers (Score:4, Informative)

by [robnauta \(716284\)](#) on Monday August 09, @03:53AM ([#9918329](#))

A colleague of mine has a Kensington key that can open any lock. He claims to have bought it in Asia. But it works, he opened my laptop lock plus the lock on the LCD monitor on the desk with his key. The laptop key was in my pocket and the LCD lock keys are locked in a managers office. I have no doubts it'll work on any lock.

After all, it's not a really secure lock like a cylinder, the number of combinations of the impressions on the rim of a key is limited so I guess there are only a few different lock combinations. Anyone could buy a Kensington and get one with the same key as yours.

- [Re:No need for dremels or clippers](#) by pe1chl (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:10AM
 - [Re:No need for dremels or clippers](#) by hawkeyeMI (Score:3) Monday August 09, @07:18AM
 - [Re:No need for dremels or clippers](#) by radish (Score:2) Monday August 09, @01:03PM

- [Re:No need for dremels or clippers](#) by pknoll (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:37PM
 - [Re:No need for dremels or clippers](#) by hawkeyeMI (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:51PM
 - [Re:No need for dremels or clippers](#) by pknoll (Score:2) Wednesday August 11, @10:59AM
- [Re:No need for dremels or clippers](#) by IOOOOOI (Score:1) Monday August 09, @04:52PM

Running for karma (Score:4, Funny)

by [Penguin \(4919\)](#) on Monday August 09, @03:58AM ([#9918345](#)) (<http://pe.ter.dk/>)

Why not just strap a bra around the laptop?

That would at least prevent male thieves from stealing the laptop.

- [Re:Running for karma](#) by nyrk (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:02PM
- [1 reply beneath your current threshold.](#)

How to unlock/pick the lock (Score:2, Informative)

by [Hoch \(603322\)](#) <{moc.oohay}_{ta}_{hcehhcoh}> on Monday August 09, @04:21AM ([#9918386](#))

The scissors are used to torque the lock, they are jammed in the notch and twisted. Then you push the pins down and they will lock in place if tension is applied to the scissors. I figured this out in like five minutes. I am currently looking for a better tool to torque the lock.

- [Re:How to unlock/pick the lock](#) by Hoch (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:27AM
- [Re:How to unlock/pick the lock](#) by Paul Crowley (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:33AM
 - [Re:How to unlock/pick the lock](#) by Shai-kun (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:05AM

damn useless locks (Score:1)

by [joethehumanity \(803958\)](#) on Monday August 09, @07:27AM ([#9918871](#))

Ha! this story caught my attention because my laptop was stolen despite having one of those locks on it. Fortunately because it was locked down I got a nice widescreen Inspiron 8600 on the insurance. Still would be nice to get \$1500 though. Curses.

Security Work-around for Kensington lock (Score:3, Funny)

by Anonymous Coward on Monday August 09, @07:59AM ([#9918969](#))

Instead of locking the laptop to a desk or table, loop the cable around a body part - preferably a body part where constriction will not kill you (neck = bad, waist=good). When you stand up to walk away, the laptop will be dragged along with you.

This also serves as a work-around for many short term memory disorders - answering once and for all the age old question of: crickey, where did I leave my laptop?

Next week we will tackle the problem of leaving valuable files in insecure filing cabinets. (hint: think backpack)

Compucage is the best notebook lock (Score:1)

by [RazorJ_2000 \(164431\)](#) on Monday August 09, @08:19AM ([#9919048](#))

I've used a Compucage lock for a long time, and so has my company. We've never lost a single laptop.

Check them out: www.compucage.com

I strongly recommend them.

- [Re: link to URL](#) by Lihtan (Score:1) Monday August 09, @08:39AM
- [Re:Compucage is the best notebook lock](#) by Chucklz (Score:1) Monday August 09, @10:23AM
 - [Re:Compucage is the best notebook lock](#) by RazorJ_2000 (Score:1) Monday August 09, @11:39AM

Another way to pick a Kensington lock (Score:1)

by [Ingolfke \(515826\)](#) on Monday August 09, @11:50AM ([#9920608](#))

There are several more affordable ways to pick a Kensington lock. One for example only requires two strands of human hair and a kleenex. But in the interest of giving people time to stop using the locks... I'll leave the actual method of opening the lock up to the reader.

Why bother with a lock? (Score:4, Informative)

by [pclminion \(145572\)](#) on Monday August 09, @12:51PM ([#9921199](#))

If your data is important to you, back it up somewhere. If it is sensitive, encrypt it.

If you want to be reimbursed for your laptop if it is stolen, buy an insurance policy to cover it.

Yes, it might cost a bit more than a "good" lock, but not a lot more (my girlfriend insured her PowerBook for two years for \$90), and you're *guaranteed* to get your laptop back if it is stolen. Or if it burns in a fire -- let's see your Kensington warranty cover that. Just make sure your policy gives you "replacement cost," not just "market value." *And back up your friggin' data!*

Seriously, why bother with a lock?

This may be off topic, but how can thieves help? (Score:2)

by [rfc1394 \(155777\)](#) <Postmaster@paul.washington.dc.us> on Monday August 09, @08:05PM ([#9925308](#))

(<http://paul.washington.dc.us/> | Last Journal: [Saturday August 28, @05:50PM](#))

This might be off-topic, but...

This reminds me of an incident in New York City where people took advantage of thieves to solve a problem.

There was a garbage collector's strike, and I think people had to keep their garbage on their property, and it was backing up. Well, if you toss your garbage someplace else, that's littering and you can be fined. So, what some people did, was they put their garbage in boxes wrapped with nice paper, possibly a bow, and put it on the seat of their car, with the window open. You can guess what happened to their garbage...

I somehow always knew it! (Score:1)

by [rahuja \(751005\)](#) on Tuesday August 10, @01:23AM ([#9926744](#))

I mean not exactly *how* to do it, but the first time my co. gave me a laptop and a Kensington lock, I was like "This is it? Is it safe enough?". Thankfully, my office was safe enough! :)

Re:Looking at picture of lock (Score:5, Funny)by [Rosco P. Coltrane \(209368\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:32PM ([#9917156](#))*They probably use the bic pin to set the pins and the scissors to apply the torque.*

You do realize that the DHS protects its laptops with Kensington locks, right? That means you just won free holidays in Cuba.

-- Signed: John A. <ashybaby@dhs.gov>

[[Parent](#)]**Re:Looking at picture of lock** (Score:5, Insightful)by [itwerx \(165526\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @10:41PM ([#9917200](#))[\(http://slashdot.org/\)](http://slashdot.org/)*They probably use the bic pin to set the pins and the scissors to apply the torque.*

Correct.

That method actually works for any/all barrel-type locks, though the better quality ones (e.g. vending machines) will have tighter tolerances and stronger springs making them much more difficult.

Kensington just needs to spend a few more bucks on a higher quality mechanism (preferably with more than 5 pins!! Geez...)

[[Parent](#)]**Re:Looking at picture of lock** (Score:2)by [c0dedude \(587568\)](#) <c0dedude2@yahoo.co.uk> on Sunday August 08, @10:53PM ([#9917273](#))(Last Journal: [Monday August 09, @05:17PM](#))

I dunno how you'd use a bic pen as a pick. I'm thinking this is a mechanical defect. Sure, the scissors could be used for torque, but there are better things for that, like a bent screwdriver. I think this is at a different point on the lock. Perhaps, and I'm speculating here, where the lock hits the cable?

[[Parent](#)]**Re:Looking at picture of lock** (Score:4, Informative)by [DiscoBobby \(196458\)](#) * on Sunday August 08, @10:53PM ([#9917275](#))

Parent's "Doom Tweak Guide" link is nasty-fake. Don't click. :)

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by kasperd (Score:1) Monday August 09, @12:31AM
- [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by Lehk228 (Score:2) Sunday August 08, @11:43PM
- [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by DiscoBobby (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:52PM
 - [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by prof_peabody (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:23AM
- [1 reply](#) beneath your current threshold.

Re:As secure as a piece of string... (Score:2)by [raygundan \(16760\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:24PM ([#9917414](#))[\(http://slashdot.org/\)](http://slashdot.org/)

Those "super-tough" Kryptonite U-locks take all of 15 seconds to cut through. I had a friend lock her wheel to the frame on her bike, and lose the key in a move. We were all set to resort to drastic measures with a blowtorch or liquid nitrogen, but all it took was compressed-air cutting tool (like a dremel, but powered like an impact wrench) with a proper cutting disc. Radiac, if I

remember right. Went through it like butter. I've kinda lost all my faith in security products since then-- the first thing we tried went through it before you could say "hey, where's my bike?"

The shower of sparks might be a giveaway in a public place, though, so at least you've got that going for you.

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:As secure as a piece of string...](#) by black mariah (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:42PM
 - [Re:As secure as a piece of string...](#) by raygundan (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:43AM
 - [Re:As secure as a piece of string...](#) by black mariah (Score:1) Monday August 09, @06:29PM
 - **1 reply beneath your current threshold.**
 - **1 reply beneath your current threshold.**
- [Re:As secure as a piece of string...](#) by uspsguy (Score:1) Sunday August 08, @11:56PM
- [Re:As secure as a piece of string...](#) by wkitchen (Score:2) Monday August 09, @12:22AM
- [Re:As secure as a piece of string...](#) by Ratbert42 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @09:45AM
- **1 reply beneath your current threshold.**

Re:Looking at picture of lock (Score:2)

by [pegr \(46683\)](#) on Sunday August 08, @11:32PM ([#9917456](#))
(<http://slashdot.org/> | Last Journal: [Saturday July 03, @07:00PM](#))

They probably use the bic pin to set the pins and the scissors to apply the torque

Yeah? I say set the torque with Bic pen. You could then set the pins with a stiff wire. Simple for a hacker. Wasn't MIT full of great locksmiths? (By no means, I'm not one!)

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by eric434 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:07AM
 - [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by pegr (Score:2) Monday August 09, @06:57AM
 - [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by eric434 (Score:2) Monday August 09, @02:11PM
- **1 reply beneath your current threshold.**

Re:Looking at picture of lock (Score:5, Informative)

by [JWSmythe \(446288\)](#) * on Sunday August 08, @11:56PM ([#9917566](#))
(<http://www.unix-monster.com/> | Last Journal: [Tuesday August 31, @10:09PM](#))

I have two ideas on it.

The first is what you're implying, using common tools like a lockpick set.

The other, which may be more likely in this case is the way I "encourage" doors open when some fool locks themselves out.

I'd be willing to bet that this lock sets itself when you slide the end of the cable in. Kinda like a door latch. It slides over the angled bolt, and once it's over it is trapped til you use the key.

If the pen was a common white bic, and you removed the tip, ink, and back, you'd have a thin plastic white tube. If you used the scissors to cut the tube in half, even for just an inch or two, you'd halve a half-pipe roughly the size of the cable. Slide that down between the cable and the lock, and it would push the lock's bolt out of the way, and allow the cable to come free.

It's a little harder to do with a common home or office door, but can be done with a credit card. :)

This doesn't work for dead bolts (obviously). It also don't work on most padlocks, because the space is too small to slide something in.

Personally, I believe locks to be a tool to make people feel safe, and to keep 'honest' people honest.

A locked office in most office buildings can be accessed through the drop ceilings, or with the "assistance" of the janitorial staff.

A locked door on a house can be circumvented by going through a window, locked or not.

But, seeing a lock on a laptop, or a locked door on a room or building, makes a person think twice. The next one they find may be that much easier. Why go for the one with the Kensington lock that takes 30 seconds to steal, when you can just pick up the next guy's laptop bag with everything in it when he's not looking? You could tie your laptop off with a length of rope and be just as secure.

Kinda like 802.11b encryption. It's easy enough to crack, but most people will move on to the unencrypted network. :)

[[Parent](#)]

- [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by Scarblac (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:22AM
 - [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by JWSmythe (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:40AM
 - [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by Scarblac (Score:2) Monday August 09, @04:46AM
 - [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by JWSmythe (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:33AM
- [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by Lev_Arris (Score:1) Monday August 09, @04:58AM
 - [Re:Looking at picture of lock](#) by JWSmythe (Score:2) Monday August 09, @05:44AM

Re:Parents Sig is a string of nasty popups, KILL K (Score:1, Flamebait)
 by [menscher \(597856\)](#) <menscher+slashdot@uiuc.edu> on Monday August 09, @02:41AM (#9918144)
 (<http://www.uiuc.edu/~menscher/> | Last Journal: [Wednesday February 25, @11:31PM](#))

I just lost my job. Fucker.

That's one of the funnier things I've heard in a long time. And after a particularly dismal day, it really perked my mood. Thank you.

[[Parent](#)]

Re:..or you can do it the easy way (Score:2)
 by [the pickle \(261584\)](#) <thepickle@binhost.com> on Monday August 09, @02:41AM (#9918145)
 (<http://macfaq.org/>)

It's mods like these that keep my sig alive. Morons. Where in this ENTIRE thread has a Dremel been mentioned before my comment?

Thought so.

p

[[Parent](#)]

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Jones' Motto: Friends come and go, but enemies accumulate.

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