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Practice lock picking set

Skip to product information Covert Instruments Regular price Sale price \$50.00 Unit price / per Sale Sold out Shipping calculated at checkout. There are many training solutions available to teach the art of lockpicking. Acrylic locks are great to visualize and demonstrate lock internals, but they lack the feel of real locks and teach the bad habit of looking at the pins. Progressive lock sets are great for your first day of picking, but you will quickly outgrow them and memorize the lock configuration which renders them useless for your continued development. In our opinion this drilled and tapped cylinder is the perfect solution for beginner through advanced pickers. It is extremely easy to pin this lock up in any configuration you see fit, from a single easy to learn pin stack, to an exceptionally challenging configuration full of spools and serrated pins. This training solution will grow with you and take you farther than any other. Includes a hex wrench, array of spare parts, springs, key pins, standard driver pins, and security driver pins. The SC4 Lishi is a perfect complement to this practice tool. Full Instructional Video Here: Share View full details CI Practice Lock Regular price \$50.00 Regular price Sale price \$50.00 Unit price / per Regular price \$50.00 Regular price Sale price \$50.00 Unit price / per Fact: The only way to become better at a skill is to practice.Fact: Zero Day Gear's selection of practice locks WILL make you better. Embark on your lock picking journey with our specially curated selection of practice locks, designed to cater to every learning stage and style. Our inventory includes clear practice locks, offering a comprehensive 360-degree view of the internal workings, making them ideal for beginners to visually grasp the mechanics of a lock.For those seeking a more authentic feel, our cutaway locks, like the Pro-Essential, replicate the natural resistance and feedback of locks you'd typically encounter in real-life scenarios. These variations serve distinct purposes; clear locks are excellent for understanding lock dynamics, while cutaway locks fine-tune your tactile skills.Among our popular offerings are the 3 different types of Schlage Residential Clear Lock and the Premium Practice Lock Cutaway Lock. Each practice lock in our collection is a step towards mastering the art of lock picking. Each practice lock offers something different that the next.Utilizing these tools allows you to develop a deeper understanding of various locking mechanisms, enhancing both your analytical and practical skills. Practice locks are more than just tools; they are your guides to becoming proficient in the art of lock picking, offering a safe and effective way to hone your techniques without the risks associated with practicing on actual locks.Why Choose Our Practice Locks From ZDG:- Clear locks for visual learning of lock internals.- Cutaway locks for a realistic picking experience.- We ship fast.- No dropshipping. We're right outside Detroit, Michigan.- Range includes Schlage Residential Clear locks and Pro-Essential Training Locks.- Ideal for skill development from beginner to advanced levels.- Service you can count on! Have an issue. Contact us and our team would love to assist. Ok, you want to give lock picking a go, now you need some lockpicks to get started. But what lockpick set should you buy? There are many options out there and most beginners get a set that isn't the best use of their money. So should you buy the biggest set you can find or the cheapest? The truth is there are great lock pick sets out there for beginners but they are not the cheapest or the biggest kits. In this article, we will talk about what you need, what you will use most, and what types, sizes, and how many picks you will need to get started. Choosing Your First Lockpick Set Choosing your first lock pick set can be a complicated thing to do. There are so many different types of picks... You should aim for a lockpick set with exactly the picks you need not a huge kit with every tool available. Similarly cheap lockpick sets have their place but usually, you can get a much better set for only a little more money. We will take you through all the information you need to know so that you know exactly what to look for so you can buy the best beginner lockpick set. No, the simple truth of this is that there are a handful of tools that lock pickers use 90% of the time and the rest are tools that you may never end up using so a bigger lock pick set is not normally the best option for beginners. There are so many options for lock pick sets out there that it can seem like a good idea to get a huge set that includes 40, 50, or even 100 different picks so that you have everything you will ever need. Note: Click here if you want to know if lock picks are legal where you live. While there are hundreds of different types of lockpicks and tools out there you really only need a handful of them for picking most locks. Here we have ranked them from the most important at the top. While this one may seem boring this is what makes it the most common lockpick used by all lockpickers. Like the hammer for a tradesman, it is a fundamental tool that is used for so many locks and will be the go-to 80% of the time. As these are used so much we think that if you plan on really getting into picking getting a second hook is a good idea as they do tend to break over time and having a spare is a good idea so that you do not have to wait for a new one when it does break. Much the same as the standard hook just with a higher tip for reaching up into the back of locks where a standard hook cant reach. Also used very regularly and for the same reasons as the standard hook above we recommend getting a spare if you plan on picking a lot. A much-overlooked tool is the humble tension wrench. You need a tension tool EVERY SINGLE TIME you go to pick a lock so they are arguably the most important tool in lockpicking. While every lock pick set will include some tension wrenches we recommend a kit that has more tension wrenches in it. This allows you to find a good wrench that will make it comfortable to pick and allow you to get in some good practice. Most starter kits include a few bottom-of-keyway (BOK) tools, which are usually good enough to get started. But you may want to get some top-of-keyway (TOK) tension tools, as they are very useful for smaller keyways where you cant find a tension wrench in the bottom of the keyway and still get a pick in there. For beginners, this is probably the first pick that you will use as they are great for getting some opens with little skill and really help with that early accomplishment when getting started lockpicking. But they are also just as handy later on in your lockpicking career as you don't always want to single-pin pick, sometimes you just want to get a quick open. The Snake rake or S-rake goes along with the wave rakes here, it is just a smaller version of the wave rake that can work in locks with a shorter keyway. Again like wave rakes above city rakes are great for getting a quick open on some locks and can be used both statically but wobbling the pick in the keyway or dynamically running it in and out of the lock to get an open. The half diamond is a great multipurpose tool that can be used dynamically to zip a lock where you pull it out through the lock fast to try and rake an open. It can also be used to single-pin pick itself, or even as a makeshift dimple pick for dimple locks. For this reason, it's a great tool to have on hand in any lock pick set. Note: Picks do break, so if you are really interested in picking it can be worth doubling up on the most used picks like hooks. There are many other picks other than the ones we have mentioned above and they all have special purposes. For beginners and even the most advanced lock pickers, you will use these tools very rarely so they are not really worth buying a lockpick set for. The Specifics of Lockpicks The thickness of a lockpick describes how thick the sheet of metal was that the lockpick is made from. Keyways that they will fit into US vs EU The size of the keyways for locks in the US is generally larger so thicker lockpicks can be used in these keyways without any issues. Whereas European locks generally have thinner keyways requiring the use of thinner lockpicks as the larger ones used for US locks simply won't fit or they will bind up and be awkward to use. The durability of Lockpicks Thicker lockpicks are stronger and for this simple fact, thicker lockpicks are generally better. They are stiffer giving more feedback and will last longer as they don't get metal fatigue that occurs through the constant bending the picks experience while being used. Thickness (Inches)Thickness (mm)Type and Use.00150.381Thin: Best for EU locks.00200.508Medium: EU or US locks.00300.762Thick: Best for US locks So when looking for a lockpick set you should see where you think you will most of your locks from. If you live in the US then you will most likely get your locks from there and a lockpick kit with thicker picks will be fine. But if you are from somewhere in the EU or you plan to pick a lot of EU-style locks then you should look at getting a thinner pick set. The material your lockpicks are made of is important but not something you should really go hunting for unless you really have a need for a specific one. Cheaper lockpick sets are usually made of hardened steel. This is perfectly fine for cheaper sets but it will rust and fatigue. The quality of the steel used also plays an important role here for durability. More expensive sets use harder and more durable steel alloys or they are made from stainless steel that is very hard and corrosion-resistant. The materials the picks are made of will depend on how much you are willing to spend on them, so the more you spend in general the better the material they will be made of so this is not something you actively need to look at. Like most things in life, you get what you pay for. This also goes for lockpicks. If you are curious and just want to try out lockpicking and don't mind buying a better lockpick set later then a cheap lockpick kit with some basic practice locks can be a great place to start. But if you think that this is something that will prepare you for the next practice lock on this list from absolute beginner to tackling spools and serrated security pins.All in 9 locks!However, to get the most out of this lock list, I recommended you pick up at least two or three of each lock because every lock is different. You can have 10 of the same exact lock model and have an easy time with some, a hard time with others, and perhaps even find that one or two are seemingly impossible to open.Every lock is different. Each has a different hitting, a different binding order, and different tolerances that will affect how it is picked. Some may quickly open to your level of skill or method of picking--other will require you to level up further.So when trying to master a specific style of lock and learn what they have to teach, it's best to grab a few of them.With that said, grab your lock picking tools and let's get on with our list!1. Master Lock 141D4 pin core - 4 standard pinsOpen keywayVery light spring-loaded coreTight tolerances & crisp feedbackInexpensive CHECK LOWEST PRICEOne of the greatest challenges many new lock pickers face is learning how to sense and interpret the feedback a lock gives while picking. Because of this, the ideal lock for a beginner will provide consistent and clear feedback.Now, this can be a challenge when it comes to cheaper standard pin locks.Sometimes they can be made so poorly that there is too much slop in the core and as a result, trying to pick these locks is almost like sticking your pick into a bowl of mashed potatoes. It feels mushy, and the feedback is very dull, making it very hard to learn or accomplish anything.This dilemma is what brings us to our first practice lock, the Master Lock 141D.While it may look like something you would find securing a little girl's diary, it is hands down one of the best locks you can have as a beginner.The Master Lock 141 has a black plastic cover, four standard pins, a wide-open keyway, and a lightly spring-loaded core. It also has decent tolerances compared to other cheap standard pin locks of its type.So if you are looking for an excellent practice lock for lock picking that will teach you the fundamentals, binding order, and tension control, look no further than the Master Lock 141D.2. Master Lock #74 pin core - 4 standard pinsOpen but tiny keywayVery light spring-loaded core CHECK LOWEST PRICENow that you understand how the picking process works, it's time to hone those skills with a Master Lock #7.This lock is very similar to the Master Lock #3. It has four standard pins, poor tolerances, an open keyway, and a light spring-loaded core.However, its keyway is smaller, much smaller.This small keyway will not only refine your skills but teach you the art of finesse--which is an important cornerstone to lock picking.You will learn how to squeeze and maneuver your picks in very tight spaces and be forced to learned how to leverage the most out of your picks.3. Master Lock 1404 pin core - 1 standard pin, 3 shallow spool pinsOpen keywayLight spring-loaded coreNow it's time to bump up the difficulty a bit to a lock that has slightly higher tolerances... oh, and a few security pins--YIKES!Security pins may seem scary at first, but they are nothing to worry about, and as you'll learn, they can actually make the lock much easier and more fun to pick. CHECK LOWEST PRICEThere is nothing like counter-rotation in the morning to make you feel alive!The Master Lock 140 is an excellent introduction to spool pins as, like the #3 and #7, it has a very open keyway, light spring tension on the core, and terrible tolerances. These practice locks have a four-pin core and typically include one standard pin and three shallow spool pins (the shallower the spools, the easier the pick.) However, there have been cases in which there are sometimes fewer spools, but in most cases, there are three.This lock can sometimes throw new pickers for a spin, but regardless it will teach you a critical lesson in how to tension spool pins and help you better understand the feedback locks provide.4. Brinks 40mm Brass Padlock4 pin core - 1 standard pin, 3 spool pinsOpen keywaySpring-loaded core CHECK LOWEST PRICEThe Brinks 40mm brass padlock is a great lock that can play a pivotal part in transforming any beginner's skills.Like the Master Lock 140, this lock has a four-pin core with three spool pins and one standard pin. Yet, it is a much higher quality lock with tighter tolerances and much deeper cut spools.The feedback you'll receive from these deeper cut spools is significantly amplified compared to the Master Lock 140, whose spools are shallow and allow for very little counter-rotation. The deeper cut spools will provide you with a nice amount of counter-rotation that is almost impossible to miss.These locks are an absolute must for learning spools and will help you genuinely understand false sets and counter-rotation!darkNotePro Tip: As you start learning how to pick security pins, you'll want to start using lighter tension. If you are applying too much tension without fully understanding what counter-rotation feels like, you won't be able to sense it. Lighten up a tad for this and the following locks!darkNote15. ABUS 55/404 pin core - 1 standard pin, 3 spool pinsOpen but tiny keywaySpring-loaded coreNow it's time to combine everything that you have learned so far into a new and more challenging lock -- behold the ABUS 55/40. CHECK LOWEST PRICEThese cool little locks have a four-pin core and a very small but open keyway, much like that of the Master Lock #7. However, these locks contain three nicely cut spool pins and one standard pin. They also--like most ABUS locks--have excellent tolerances and typically a nice challenging biting. These little guys are freaking awesome. If you are having a lousy picking session or haven't picked in a few days, warming up with one of these little guys will usually set you straight. They truly force you to learn how to maneuver your pick.6. Master Lock 5705 pin core - 1 standard pin, 4 spool pinsOpen but tighter keywayDead CoreAlright pickers, now it's time to upgrade to five pins!The Master Lock 570 is a higher quality lock with much better tolerances than the previous Master Locks on this list. As stated, it has five pins, four of which are spools and one standard. These spool pins are not as shallow cut as the Master Lock 140, making it slightly more challenging in that aspect. CHECK LOWEST PRICEThis lock's keyway is very open and shaped just like the Master Lock #3, except in reverse.The keyway is also slightly smaller, and the key pins sit a little further down in the plug, giving you less room to work with--which is why you practiced on the ABUS 55/40, right?These locks will also introduce you to a feature called a dead core. This means that the core is not spring-loaded and that there will be no spring acting against you while tensioning.Dead cores are tricky little devils when combined with spool pins because they require you to really focus on tension control.Unlike spring-loaded cores where you can simply release tension to set a spool, dead cores don't give this luxury. Sometimes you'll find that you manually have to pull back on the tension to let the spool slide to a set.Dead cores also don't absorb vibrations like spring-loaded cores do. This means that you will receive more feedback from these locks!darkNotePro Tip: Because of the extra pin and the tighter keyway, these are excellent locks to begin learning how to tension from the top of the keyway!darkNote17. ABUS 64TI/505 pin core - 1 standard pin, 4 spool pinsOpen Yale style keyway, slight wardingSpring-loaded coreNow it's time to have some fun. CHECK LOWEST PRICEThe ABUS 64TI/50 is an amazing lock with a five-pin core and typically contains one standard pin and four quality spool pins.These locks are excellent training locks because they have very high tolerances and provide a lot less feedback than most locks.This forces you to really focus on the feedback the lock is giving you and will teach you a thing or two about patience.Additionally, these locks have a Yale-style keyway with a mild amount of warding to add a little extra pain to the process. Warding can not only get in the way of your pick but can also muffle the feedback as it absorbs some of the vibrations from the pick!8. ABUS 80TI/506 pin core - 1 standard pin, 5 spool pinsOpen keyway, very slight wardingSpring-loaded coreSo what could possibly be next? How about six pins?The ABUS 80TI/50 is one of my personal favorites, and I don't think I could possibly own enough of them--I have 14 of these little training locks. CHECK LOWEST PRICEJust like their little brother the 64TI, they are absolutely amazing training locks with excellent tolerances that make you really focus on what you are feeling with your tools.These locks have a six-pin core with one standard pin and five spool pins.They also have a pretty open keyway with a minimal amount of warding for good measure.The Titanium series of ABUS are excellent practice locks, and I can't suggest them enough.9. American Lock 11006 pin core - a mixture of spools and serrated pinsRestricted keywayDead core until picked, then spring-loadedTight tolerancesAlright pickers, it's finally time to move on to something worthy of the title Lock Slayer. It's time for a true challenge -- a test that will surely break your confidence, bring tears to your eyes, and perhaps even instill regret from ever picking up this hobby in the first place!It's time for the American 1100 and her nasty gang of serrated pins! CHECK LOWEST PRICEDid I hype that enough?Fear not, these locks aren't as terrible as they seem, and once you understand how to pick them, they are heaps of fun and are amazing practice locks!The American Lock 1100 is a classic favorite among many pickers and has a six-pin core that contains a mixture of serrated and spool driver pins.They also have serrated key pins that snag at the shear line if you accidentally overset them, which is a common problem for those just starting out with serrated pins. If anything, these locks will teach you to finesse while lifting pins.American locks will also force you to use top of the keyway tension as the core is designed to bind if tensioned from the bottom. To ConcludeRemember that every practice lock is a lesson, and to truly get good at any craft is to receive as many lessons as possible. Avoid picking the same lock over and over and instead venture off to other locks as best you can.If any of these locks absolutely stump you with defeat, fret not! Put them away in a dark corner for a couple of days or weeks and practice with other locks. You'll often find that locks that you couldn't pick one day will fall open the next day with a little more practice!Additionally, do your best to stay away from cutaway practice locks and clear locks; these are not good practice locks for lockpicking and can actually do more harm than good.Don't forget to check out our other guides and our shop for all your lock pick needs!I hope that this guide on the best locks to learn lock picking will serve you well, and if you have any comments or questions, don't hesitate to throw me a message on our contact page, and I'll always do my best to help!Happy picking!