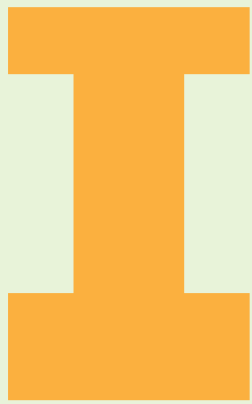
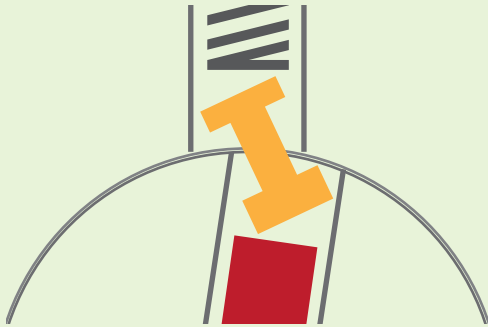


— Security Pins —



SPOOL

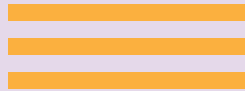
Spool pins are the most common security pins you'll come across. Tricky at first, they will serve as information points as you get better at picking, letting you know that you are close to opening the lock.



The plug will rotate ~5 degrees, then stop, as the spool pin rotates, getting trapped at the shear line.

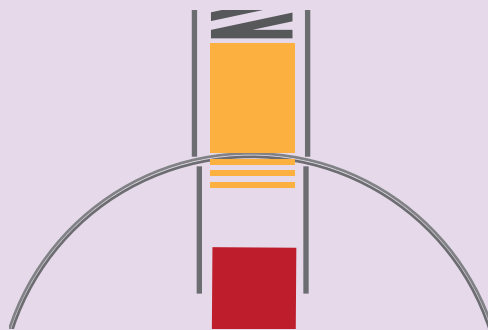
To discover the spool pin, just push up on each key pin in the lock. When you press up on the spool pin, you will feel the plug counter-rotate, pushing against your tension wrench.

Lighten your tension, & carefully lift the spool pin up above the shear line. If you are lucky the lock will open, if you are unlucky, you will have dropped a driver pin in the process and have to find and pick that one again.



SERRATED

Serrated pins are much less common, but also much harder to detect and pick.



Unlike spool pins, you won't experience dramatic plug rotation when you are caught on a serrated pin. Instead, the top notch of the serration will get caught at the shear line and feel very similar to a normal set pin.

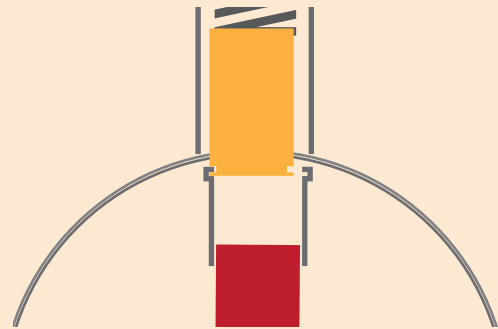
The key pin will drop back down under no spring pressure, but the lock won't open. As with most security pins, you'll want to approach these with very light tension applied.

I recommend the half diamond. It allows horizontal movement in the lock, bumping the serrated pin up incrementally - one notch at a time.



COUNTERMILL

As a casual picker you won't come across countermilled pins, but they are such a simple, exceptional security measure that I wanted to share them with you here.



The tiny groove on the bottom of the driver pins marries perfectly to a small countermilled slot at the top of the plug's pin chambers. This tight fit makes it near impossible to detect a false set and brutally hard to pick.

However, you'll only come across these in the ASSA Twin Combi (though I expect the idea will be shared amongst other locks in the ASSA Abloy group at some point). The good news for pickers is that not every pin chamber in the lock is countermilled & the ones that are usually end up in the same position from lock to lock.