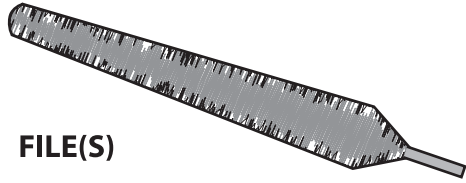


Impressioning is pretty awesome.

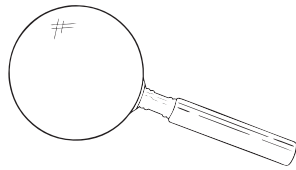
THE CONCEPT:

You literally make an impression of the lock. By manipulating a key blank inside the lock you can decipher the lengths of the key pins, then, using a file, remove material from the blank until you have created a working key.

THE TOOLS:



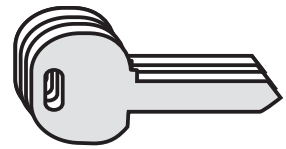
FILE(S)



MAGNIFYING LENS



IMPRESSIONING HANDLE

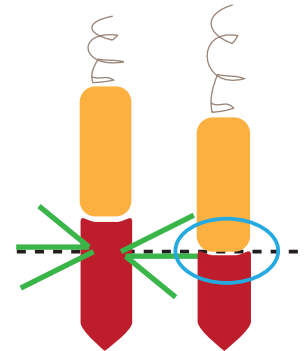
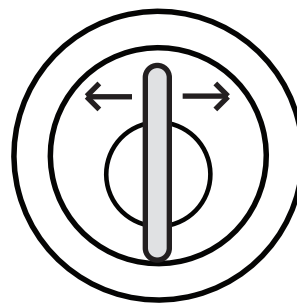
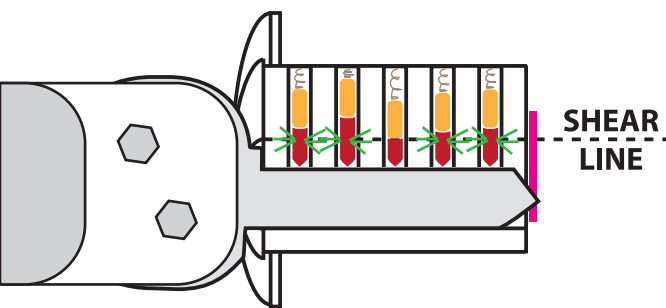


KEY BLANK(S)

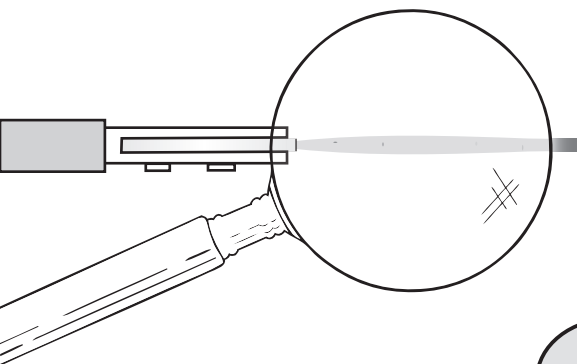
HOW IT WORKS:

A good light source is also essential for seeing the marks!

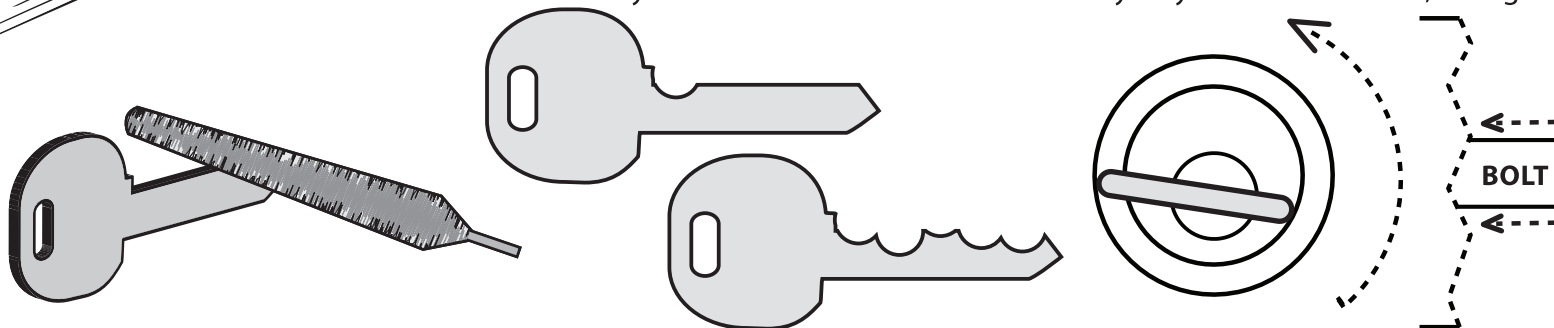
To prep the blank, run your file lightly along the top of the key blade. You need to create a smooth, even surface, which will make it easier to see the marks after the next step.



(1) With the key in the impressioning handle (vice grips will work) insert all the way into the lock. Inside, the **key pins** are now blocking the shear line. (2) Turn the key to the right as far as it will go, jam up and down on the impressioning handle a few times, turn to the left and do the same thing. (3) Because the pins blocking the shear line cannot move they bind against the plug. When you jiggle up and down on the impressioning handle the tips of the **bound** pins leave little marks on the key blade. The third position pin won't leave a mark, because it is left **unbound**.



Using our magnifier we can see the marks that have been left behind. They will be **HARD** to see. There are many ways to make it easier, though!



Start filing away the areas that you saw marks. You only want to file down one pin depth at a time. You can find plenty of resources for finding pin lengths and cutting depths online. If you Google for "impressioning" "root depth" "code cutting keys" anything like that. If you find the measurements a good pair of digital calipers will help a lot! Once you've done your first round of filing repeat the process until you don't see any marks any more. In the end the key will look pretty weird, but it should work perfectly in the lock and now you have a key forever!