

This book will surely open up a big can of worms in the lock industry, one that I would imagine they would rather not have been opened. The authors have targeted some of the biggest, most powerful and influential high security lock manufacturers in the world. They publicly attack their products upon perceived security vulnerabilities. Nor do the authors mince any words with regard to those that certify these locks: the standards organizations that confirm these same locks as secure against forced and covert entry attacks.

In my view, the authors of this book may well cause shock waves in an industry as has never been done before; by carefully documenting and examining specific security issues in certain high security cylinders.

Marc Webber Tobias is one of the most well informed people in the area of locks on this planet. These are not just my words; the proof is in his book **Locks, safes and security** (in some circles referred to as 'the lock-opening bible'). And he is continuously traveling the globe to keep his book updated with the latest innovations, technology, and opening techniques.

Over the years he developed a huge network and knows 'everybody' in the lock universe. From government agencies to lock manufacturers, many talk to him. If that were not enough, he is, in my view, a person that can analyze bypass techniques and combine them to create new and unique methods of attack, based upon his many years of experience. And that is precisely what this book is about: being creative and exploring new and uncharted territory.

Tobias Bluzmanis, his co-author, is responsible for many clever discoveries as well. Working as a locksmith, he developed a great analytical view about locks. He is also a highly skilled toolmaker, ace lock picker, and determined problem solver.

As a team, Marc Tobias and Tobias Bluzmanis had to solve many complex problems before reaching their ultimate goal: cracking the cylinders of America's predominant high security lock manufacturer: Medeco.

As you will read in their detailed and precise book, they developed multiple bypass methods to virtually destroy the security of the famed Biaxial and latest generation, the m3. They demonstrate how to open these locks, sometimes in seconds, when their techniques are applied by even moderately skilled technicians. Again and again they invented different methods to bump, pick, decode, and bypass the multiple security layers that make Medeco the number one selling lock in the United States. Medeco is also sold in England and France and in many other countries, because their cylinders were believed to be one of the most secure and well-respected in the world.

While personally observing these different attack techniques, I sometimes asked myself: is it a fair contest against Medeco? I almost felt sorry for the company, being the subject of attack by such bypass specialists as Marc Tobias and 'Toby' Bluzmanis. But then I remembered that Medeco, like many other companies, advertise their products as safe, and offer their certifications by Underwriters Laboratories and others to prove it. So, in the end, the locks should be secure against attack by anyone, at least for a minimum certified period of time, and against many different forms of forced and covert entry. Medeco has been the

target of thousands of professionals during the 40 years of their existence, so they pay the price for being the best. They are, as Marc Tobias wrote, the ultimate prize.

To Medeco's credit, it is my fair belief that no mechanical lock on the market can withstand sophisticated attacks. What happened to Medeco could have happened (in my opinion) to any mechanical lock company. I would say that almost all mechanical locks have a vulnerability that will be realized sooner or later. Yet the discoveries of Marc Tobias and Tobias Bluzmanis are truly very clever, layered, and complex. I do not think many people on this planet could have put all of the unconnected pieces together in the way that Marc and Toby managed to do in order to crack these locks.

And now what?

When Marc and Toby were writing this book, I had long discussions about it with my good friend and colleague Han Fey. We tried to predict how and where this story would end, but never came to any real conclusion. The best we could do was to compare the information in this book to a stick of dynamite. A stick that could blow up in the authors hands, in mid-air, or in the lock manufacturer's boardroom. Or maybe it will not blow up at all, and not much will happen. Only time will tell. It is my hope that this book will cause many lock manufacturers to re-evaluate their concepts of security and how their locks perform in the "real world" against determined attacks. If that occurs, then everybody wins.

But you have been warned: what you are about to read is pretty explosive!

I hope you will enjoy it, I know I did ...

Barry Wels

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