

In this series of articles I will provide all sorts of information on making and using various tools for opening locks, windows, doors and just about anything your little heart desires. Now I'm not trying to imply that any TAP reader is a burglar or that I am for that matter.

Several articles have appeared in past issues of TAP on making your own set of lock-picks, and I will assume you read these.

First I have a word about buying lock-picks. Anyone with a set of files and/or a Dremel motor-tool can make a set equal or superior to what is on the market today. Most places also charge totally outrageous prices, such as \$17 for five picks and two tension wrenches. If you can't buy .022" spring steel (or is that steal?) you can go to an automotive store and pick up two sets of automotive gap gauges (.0015" to .038" per set). These will provide you with enough steel to make a nice set of picks and all kinds of other goodies such as shims and feelers.

When you make tension wrenches it is a good idea to make two of each type (light, medium, and heavy) one set being a little wider than the other. Since not all keyways are the same width a thin tension wrench will slip and a thick one will bind the pick in the key way.

After you have bent the wrench you must heat treat it. In order to do this heat the wrench until it is bright orange and then throw it into a can of water. Then polish it with emery cloth until it is nice and shiny. Then using an alcohol lamp heat the wrench until it starts to turn a light blue color. As soon as this color starts to show move the pick toward the untreated part. When you are finished the wrench should have a nice even color to it. If the color turns black or disappears you have over-heated the wrench and must start over, since the wrench will be too soft and bend.

When making picks be sure to make all the curves smooth and even. If the curves too large the pick will get stuck between pins when raking.

Once you start to pick higher quality locks such as 6,7 or 8 pins and mushroom drivers such as Medco, it becomes nearly impossible to pick each pin individually. Your best bet is to move the pick rapidly up and down and slowly in and out. Also many times the shape of the pick you are using will not be able to push the last 1 or 2 pins down because of the level of the pins that are already picked. Thus if you see that most of the pins are picked and you are not getting anywhere, try switching picks without releasing the tension.

Another device that is very helpful is the plug spinner. Many times a lock picks easily in one direction. Usually the wrong direction I might add. Thus one picks the lock and then uses the plug spinner to throw the plug back in the reverse direction with enough speed so that the pins don't fall back into place. To make one you need a stiff 2" spring that has a 1/2" to 3/4" diameter. Take one end and pull it out so that it sticks straight out. Now double the end over itself so that it will catch in the keyway. As a handle take a 2 1/2" nail and epoxy it to the other end between the coils. You may want to flatten the end of the nail so that you can use it to turn the cores on old or rusted locks. To use the spinner, pick a lock and turn the core as far as it will go. Insert a small screw driver into the top of the key way and put the end of the plug spinner into the center. Now use the screw driver to keep the core from turning while you wind up the spinner. After about 2 or 3 turns on the spinner jerk the screw driver out of the key way and hopefully the plug will spin fast enough so that it will go past the center and to the other side. Practice is the key.

Skeleton picks are a little like master keys or more correctly skeleton keys in the fact that they will open every lock of the type they are made for. The most common type of lock that is openable by this method is the Master padlock. The keys come in several different sizes and two different shapes. The lock is made up of a bunch of plates that are stacked on each other and then riveted together. There are two different types of plates that make up the lock; warded and open.



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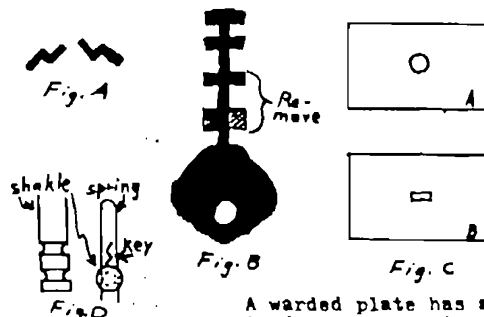
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A warded plate has a slit in it (see fig. C-A), while an open plate has a hole in it (see fig. C-B). Thus by mixing the plates a key combination is made up. For every warded plate there is a cut in the key. By the way fig. A is a cross section of the two different types of keys. The only difference between them is the direction of the curve.

At the bottom of the lock there are two springs that hold the shackle closed (see fig. D). The spring arms are held in the slots of the shackle and thus keep it from moving up. When the key is inserted it stops right at the bottom of the lock (the last plate) so that the last two parts of the key are parallel to the springs. Thus as the key is turned the springs are pushed away from each other and the shackle is set free.

Meanwhile back at the wards... We can see that an uncut part of the key will get stuck in the ward. However a cut part is free to turn whether the plate is warded or open. Thus we cut the whole key except the very tip where the key contacts the spring. The finished product looks like fig. D with the striped parts removed. Now we can open all the locks regardless of their plate combination. Well, that's all for this month friends. So stay cool and keep on pickin'!

The best tax dodge of all

Howy Murzin doesn't file an income tax return and doesn't pay any taxes.

He isn't worried about the IRS because he claims he knows the secrets of beating the tax man. And so far, he says, government tax collectors haven't bothered him at all.

Murzin is a 24-year-old researcher for Irwin Schiff, a professional tax protester. Together they have written a book explaining how to beat the IRS. The book is called, "How Anyone Can Stop Paying Income Taxes" (Freedom Books, \$10.95).

The way to stop paying income taxes, according to the book, is to simply refuse to file an income tax return. If taxes are withheld from your paycheck, declare yourself "exempt" on your W-4 form, say the authors, so no taxes are withheld. "Let the IRS prove you aren't exempt," says Murzin. "It's your word against theirs."

The key to this reasoning is the authors' belief that filing an income tax return is a voluntary act. They have come to this conclusion, they say, by reading the Internal Revenue Code and "R" manuals.

"If they want to collect taxes they (the IRS) have to send out bills," argues Murzin. "Filing out a tax return is like billing yourself for taxes you don't have to pay. Until they send the bill, you don't have to pay taxes."

What is wrong with filing a tax return and paying taxes? "It's an invasion of privacy to file a tax return," claims Murzin. "The return violates your Fifth Amendment rights. Taxes are too high. The government spends the money on the wrong things. The IRS uses harassment and illegal measures when collecting taxes. This whole country was founded on a tax rebellion, and this tax system is against everything America stands for."

However, the authors admit there is some risk involved in following their advice. Co-author Irwin Schiff, 53, served time in jail last year after deciding to put some of his theories on income tax into practice.

So how then does Howy Murzin get away with paying no income tax at all? "I get paid in cash," he says.

by Fred Steinbeck

AUTOVON

Ah, yes, a favorite subject of mine. A few things to mention since I last spoke of it. First, it seems that the 4th column tone really is 1633 Hz (I should have known never to have doubted The Magician...) There are a number of reasons that I believe this.

First, it seems that the DoD made a small mistake, and auctioned off a number of telephones in Washington, DC. It further seems that these phones had grey keys, except for four extra red ones, labeled "FO, F, I, P" going down from the top. When any two of these keys were pressed, 1633 Hz was generated. I haven't seen these phones, and their sale is rumor. But what isn't?

Second, I talked with a friend of mine, a one DC Central. DC knows a little about AUTOVON (more than people in previous columns of mine, anyway) and he says that the USAF 412L (the 4xxL, as he says, implying that there are more than 1 matrix) matrix is only used for on-base communications, and that between base communications use the 1633 Hz tone.

However, it turns out my friend in a previous issue was correct: the new names for FOFIP are Flash, Immediate, Priority, and Routine. However, the definitions of the signals are, well, the word "wrong" springs to mind. They really are (from a DoD phone book, no less):

Flash: "... reserved for alerts, warnings, or other emergency actions having immediate bearing on national, command or area security (e.g., Presidential use; announcement of alert; opening of hostilities; land, air or sea catastrophes, ...)"

Immediate: "... reserved for ... communications (1) having an immediate operational effect on tactical operations, (2) which directly concern safety or rescue operations, (3) which effect the intelligence community operational role..."

Priority: "... reserved for calls which require prompt completion for national defense and security, the successful conduct of war, or to safeguard life or property... Normally, Priority will be the highest precedence which may be assigned to administrative matters for which speed of handling is of paramount importance."

Routine: "... reserved for all other official communications."

Let me stress one military phrase which is throughout most military phone books: "Do not discuss classified information on the telephone." The military is right for sure this time, and we phreaks would do well to listen to this proverb, as one never knows who else is listening to one's conversation.

We need more info on AUTOVON, though. I know some people out there know more than I know about AUTOVON! So make my guesses disappear by replacing them with facts!

1633 Hz Loop Arounds

Unless I am mistaken, on CAMA, "billing" information about calls to directory assistance are recorded, along with calls to 800 numbers. Well, I suppose that if Bell really wanted to catch you using 1633 Hz to screw with ACD's, and possibly make free calls in so doing, they could check for calls to DA which lasted for over three minutes. I have the feeling that this wouldn't be too hard, so keep those calls short!

Blue Box Fraud Detection

I had been wondering for a long time about how Bell knows when we make a blue box call. "2600 Hz detectors on trunks!" comes the unsolicited mass reply. But we all know that 2600 Hz detectors aren't cheap, and putting them on every trunk is costly and time consuming. So what do they know that we don't?

Well, MF tones are sent at a certain speed, even on operator trunks. Now, whenever you send your little tones at normal, error prone human speed, the equipment (#5XB, #4E) thinks that something is wrong (i.e., the MF pulses aren't being sent at the right rate). So on a crossbar, it drops a trouble card, and on an ESS, a printer screeches quietly to itself. But later when they look at these printouts, and see it's not an equipment error, well, "Hello, security? We have a toll fraud problem here..." Of course, on these cards or printouts, they'll have the number called, the calling number, and the time of day.

TASI

There has been some wonder lately on what TASI is, and what a "TASI locking frequency" does. Well, TASI (Time Assignment Speech Interpolation) is used on satellite trunks, and basically allows more than one person to use a trunk by putting them on while the other person is not talking. Of course, you'd never hear the other person talking on your trunk.

When you start to talk, however, the TASI controller has to find an open trunk for you. Because of this, some of your speech is lost because of the delay in finding a trunk. This is called clipping.

Well, if you were transmitting data over a trunk, clipping would really mess up the data. So, there is something called a TASI locking frequency which keeps TASI from putting anyone else on your trunk, or you on anyone else's trunk. For this to work, according to *Notes On The Network* (sec. 7, p. 58), one must produce the "... emission of a special tone followed by continuous energy in at least one direction of transmission (no simultaneous gaps longer than 192 ms)." I believe this frequency is 1850 Hz. In any case, it is also the same frequency as the "echo suppress" frequency. Any experimenters out there?

The Phone Phreak's Ten Commandments

- I. Box thou not over thine home telephone wires, for those who doest must surely bring the full wrath of the Chief Special Agent down upon thy heads.
- II. Speakest thou not of important matters over thine home telephone wires, for to do so is to risk thine right of freedom.
- III. Use not thine own name when speaking to other Phreaks, for that every third Phreak is an FBI agent is well known.
- IV. Let not overly many people know that thy be a Phreak, as to do so is to use thine own self as a sacrificial lamb.
- V. If thou be in school, strive to get thine self good grades, for the Authorities well know that scholars never break the law.
- VI. If thou workest, try to be a goodly employee, and impress thine boss with thine enthusiasm, for important employees are often saved by their own bosses.
- VII. Storest thou not thine stolen goodies in thine own home, for those who do are surely non-believers in the Bell System Security forces, and are not long for this world.
- VIII. Attractest thou not the attention of the Authorities, as the less noticable thou art, the better.
- IX. Makest sure thine friends are instant imbeciles and will not remember that thou have called illegally, for their co-operation with the Authorities will surely lessen thine time of freedom on this Earth.
- X. Supportest thou TAP, as it is thine most letter, and without it, thy works will be far more limited.

by Cheshire Catalyst

Reports from Washington DC state that Congress is about to pass legislation that will once again allow the FBI and CIA to infiltrate "subversive" organizations. Now it isn't that I think that TAP is subversive, but if these guys don't at least think that we are, then TAP has an image problem to deal with.

TAP has gone through a number of meeting places since we last reported our weekly whereabouts in these pages (I'm not going to pour through the back issues to detail how long ago that was. It is left as an exercise for the deranged, and the nitpicker). We used to meet in Greenwich Village in New York City. The restaurants we met in got bought up, fixed up, and when they re-opened, we couldn't afford them any more. We wound up in one of New York's oldest cafeteria's, and then it got sold for a new office building. It hasn't been built yet, which makes us wonder if maybe someone wanted to just make us move. Paranoid of us, but the reports of Pennsylvania State Police photos were a little much. But even our ego can't make us figure that someone spent a few million bucks to buy the place so a few lousy phone phreaks would move away to where they might not be found when it was time to surveil. Anyway, we're now back home in The Village.

So why are we telling you all this? Why are we giving it all up again? Why am I telling you this now? I've got May! By the time this gets past deadline, gets to the printer, and gets to somebody's mailbox, it'll be May. We meet these days at "Eddie's" at 14 Waverly Place between Broadway and Washington Square Park. We meet there on Friday's between 5:30 and 6:30PM Eastern Time. If you live in or near New York, come on down, and give us two bucks. You'll get to reach into the envelope and pick a month (there are a couple left). If we have to move, or if the restaurant dies, or gets sold, or remodels & jacks up the prices, and it happens in your month, you win the pot. My month is May..

I'm really not as mercenary as that for a few measly bucks, but it seems to have been the best hex we could have put out to keep a place we like going. This way there's eleven other folks putting out vibes to keep the place open. In fact, we've been here so long, that we may have to change the rules such, that if it passes your month, you have to put another buck in, after the first year.

So why come on down? What do we do there? Mostly we talk. We've gotten tired talking about the old blue boxes, and all the new comers want to talk about Sprint hacking and swapping MCI codes. We don't, but they do. Sorry, we're just not into that around here. These days we talk about computer hacking, the de-regulation of the Bull System, public key encryption standards, and other topics of similar interest. Every once in a while, we degenerate, and talk about phones. Stop on down and visit our "Ivory tower", & we'll see what's worth talking about. Hope to see you sometime.

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On the subject of better living through technology ... we'd all like to have waterbeds, right? But they cost a lot, right? So you don't have one. Well, you came to the right place for advice, my friend. Here's how to get away for under \$100 and have the time of your life doing it.

The uninitiated person would probably say, "Ha! I need lumber, I'll go down to my local lumber yard and steal it!" No! No! That's not the way to do it! Get in your car (or get yourself one from a friend, if you have one) and drive around to somewhere where they happen to be building new houses. This is your lumber yard; much easier to rip off for what you need. You will also find many of the tools you need here such as saws, screwdrivers, and assorted other necessities of living in the style to which you will become accustomed. Get yourself about ten 10-foot 2-by-10s (those are the one what measure 1-3/4 by 9 inches) and anything else what looks like you may need it.

Take your snodies home and now you get yourself down to build the frame. For a typical queen size frame you want the inner dimensions of the frame to be 60 inches by 84 inches. Cut a corner into the bottom of your 2x10s that you are going to use for the frame so that you have a cut halfway across, running along the short side (3/4 inch in) and 1/2 to 5/8 running up the long side. This "pocket" will hold in your plywood for the base. What? I didn't mention that you needed plywood for the base? Take 3 sheets of 1/2 or 5/8 inch, while you're at it.

Now take some good size screws - about 10 by 1-1/4 is about right - and put the frame together. Remember, this thing is going to weigh about 1500 pounds when it's set up, so don't be cheap on the screws. Nails are not good enough! Beg, steal, borrow, steal, or steal the screws and do it right.

If you want a pedestal on the bed, cut 4 pieces of 2x10 about 4 inches shorter than the frame pieces and assemble them into a box. Inside this box you criss-cross pieces of plywood cut 9' tall so that you have support for your plywood base. Cut your 2 pieces of plywood remaining into two pieces (again, for queen size, 30") half as wide as your bed and as long as your bed PLUS 1-1/2' on each side (this allows for the pockets you cut into the 2x10s on the frame). Now put the plywood pieces on top of the pedestal, and put the frame on top of that so that the frame fits onto the pockets exactly.

Now you do get yourself a mattress and a heater, a fill and drain kit, and a hose. Don't forget a liner for the fucker in case it leaks! Put the heater down on your plywood base, put the liner on top of that and nail it to the side of the frame with small strips of - oh, what the hell - plywood, or half-round molding that you appropriated on your expedition. Smooth out the wrinkles in the liner and put in the mattress. Fill the thing up to the point where it's exactly level with the top of the 2x10s in the frame. Get yourself a mattress pad and some sheets and you're fixed up.

This technique also works well for those of you who lack furniture and are of a creative bent. You can make ALL SORTS of stuff out of lumber and it will most likely be better than the shit you'd buy in a store. When furnishing a home, also don't forget that the local university leaves all sorts of good stuff unlocked in their buildings 24 hours a day.

Fassen die welt,
Captain Coon

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