

Brotherhood Instructors, LLC.

Through the Lock – Pivoting Deadbolt/Hookbolt

The pivoting deadbolt and hookbolt are mortise locks that operate the same way. The only difference is the shape of the lock bolt. The pivoting deadbolt is used for swinging doors and the hookbolt for rolling or sliding doors. Determining which lock is present before beginning through the lock forcible entry is not necessary. These locks are mortise locks which means they are installed into a pocket or “mortise” in the leading edge of the door.



Mortise lock cylinders are threaded like a large machine screw with fine threads and are held in place by a small set screw. These fine threads make these cylinders easy to pull with a lock-pulling tool. Once the cylinder is removed you will need to replicate its action with a key tool. The cam on the back of the cylinder that rotates when turned with the key indicates the use of the bent end of the key tool.



To disengage a mortise lock move the lock mechanism from the 5 o'clock position to the 7 o'clock position or the 7 o'clock position to the 5 o'clock position, depending on which side of the door you are on. The clock face reference points are based off of the orientation of the keyway. The bottom of the keyway (where the flat side of the key would go) is the 6 o'clock position. These locks, especially the hook bolt, are sometimes installed upside down.



Many of these locks have a spring loaded roller that must be depressed with the key tool in order to disengage the lock mechanism. Be sure that your key tool is not too blunt and can fit into this small area of the lock.



If the lock cylinder is protected with a substantial guard or recessed into a door handle, through the lock forcible entry may not be a viable option. Smashing the glass should always be the last option. Door control will be lost and additional time will be consumed removing the push bar and clearing glass to avoid cutting the hoseline. A better alternative is the “gap & cut” method. Use a halligan or axe to open up a gap between the door and the jamb or between the doors in the case of double doors. Then, cut the bolt of the lock using a power saw. Be sure to cut as close to the lock body as possible in an effort to cut the entire bolt off so no part of the bolt is left behind to catch when the tool is removed from the gap.



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