

**150 YEARS
Of
BUILDERS'
HARDWARE:
Forms, Use & Lore**

An illustrated handbook of builders hardware technical information and ready reference compiled from 19th and 20th century trade sources

Maud L. Eastwood

Devised and Compiled
by

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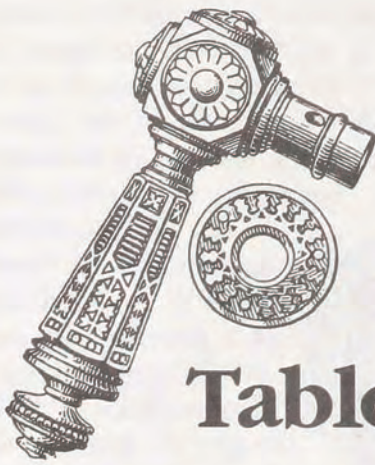


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Determining the Hand of Locks & Doors

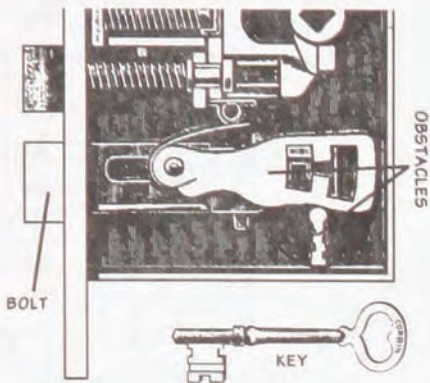
The rules for handing were set down in the 1880s, giving the industry an established standard that had been sadly lacking. There are exceptions to the handing rules for specific cases. When needed, the hand of the door is also the hand of the lock and butt.

- ✓ *The hand of a door is determined from the outside.*
- ✓ *The outside of an entrance door is the street side.*
- ✓ *The outside of a room door is the hall side.*
- ✓ *The outside of a closet door is the room side.*
- ✓ *The outside of a communicating door is the side where the butts cannot be seen when the door is closed.*
- ✓ *The outside of twin doors, either sliding or swinging, is the space between the two doors.*
- ✓ *Standing outside the door, if the butts are on the right it is a right hand door; if on the left it is a left hand door.*
- ✓ *When standing outside, if the door opens away from you, use a lock with a regular bevel latch bolt; if it opens toward you, use a lock with a reverse bevel latch bolt.*
- ✓ *Locks labeled "reversible" can be used on doors of either hand. However, if the door is beveled the hand and bevel of the door must be considered.*
- ✓ *The hand of French doors is taken from the inside when cremone bolts or casement fasteners are used.*
- ✓ *The inside of a French door is the side to which the cremone bolt is applied.*

The Chas. Strelinger Co., of Detroit Michigan, was credited with the development of the method for figuring the hand of doors, according to an article in the November, 1886 issue of *Carpentry and Building*. The method was well received and became the standard used today.

Lock Primer

Broadly considered, a lock is any fastening operated by a



key. In builders' hardware, specifically, a lock is any fastening having a *bolt*, an *obstacle*, and a *key*—these are the primary components.

The lock's mechanism has been variously attached to a plate or housed in a *shell* or *case*. When enclosed in a *case*, the removable lid is called a *cap*. The plate or side through which the bolts are shot, is called the *face* or *front*.

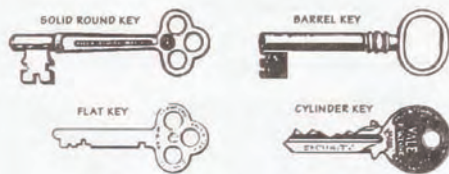
Over the years, the treatment of these elements in the hands of gifted and not-so-gifted innovators provided an amazing variety of useful lock forms.

In action, the bolt usually slides, but may be *pivoted* or *rotary*, and the key usually

rotates, but may act by *sliding* or *pushing*. The obstacle which the key must overcome to operate the bolt may be either a *warded* or *tumbler* type.

Locks are graded by the security they afford. Among other factors, security is based on the number of *key-changes* made possible through the type of *obstacle* used. In turn, that determines the *bittings* of the key, (the cuts, grooves, or notches required to conform to the shape of the obstacle).

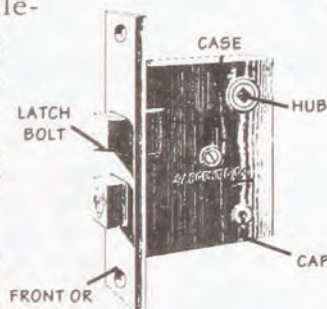
The four types of keys most commonly used at the turn of the century were:



Round Key, solid cylindrical shank and stem, and with a wing bit.

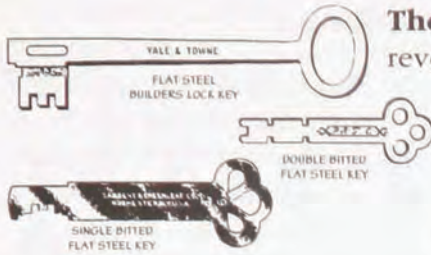
Barrel Key, a round key with a tubular end, the hole in which fits over a guide-pin in the lock.

Flat Key, commonly used in combination with a revolving center or disc with locks of both warded and lever-tumbler type.



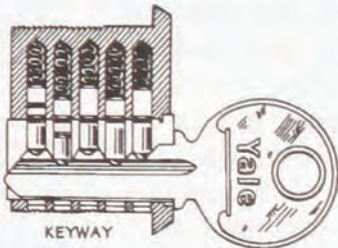
Keys in Lock Security

(continued)



The Flat Steel Key—This key requires a revolving “center” or hub in the lock to guide and support the key. Not used much with builder’s locks, this key is extensively used with cabinet locks in two forms: single-bitted and double-bitted.

Key Ways, Key Holes, and Key Miscellany



A key way is the aperture into which the key is inserted throughout the length of a lock cylinder. The distinction between a key hole and a key way, is that in bit-key locks, the key hole is an aperture in the locks case which serves only to permit the key to

enter the lock and to provide a bearing on which the key is rotated, whereas in a cylinder lock the key not only enters the lock through the key way but remains interlocked with and contiguous to the key way throughout the length of the cylinder.



KEY HOLE



COVERED KEY

Key holes may be covered or blocked in a variety of ways for privacy, sanitation, or security reasons.

Ornamental key and plate escutcheons, cast in the finer metals, were frequently fitted with swinging



THREAD ESCUTCHEON FOR USE IN WOOD WORK TO PROTECT THE WOOD AND GUIDE THE KEY.



OVAL KEY HOLE

key hole covers that hid the key hole while adding to the design.

Shepardson’s Key Hole Guard, c. 1937—To block

the key hole, insert guard, give key a quarter turn to the right and remove the key. Owing to the pin-tumbler mechanism, the guard can only be removed with the key.



KEY CHAIN WEIGHT FOR USE ON GUEST KEYS FOR HOTEL LOCKS. SARGENT, 1910



KEY TAG

Abbreviation and Word Use Guide

Inconstancies appearing in text spelling, word usage, and punctuation may reflect the decision to use original material from early 1800s sources with minimal correction. Particularly in explanatory text, two-word terms may appear as such, or compounded, or hyphenated, as found in the original source.

Abbreviations and shortened titles are commonly used in reference to company names and certain hardware publications. Well known hardware figures are sometimes referred to by last name only. In line with these informal practices, this volume may also substitute accepted, abbreviated forms after the first full use of certain company names, titles, etc., when often appearing, viz.:

Corbin for P. & F. Corbin

R. & E. for Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Company

1865-Russell and Erwin (Catalog cover and 1879 sales forms.)

1886-"Russwin," first use of. (Later, trade name and mark.)

1964-"Russwin" completely replaced previous spellings.

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1 1/2 ✓ 1.41 1/2

Y. & T. for Yale and Town Manufacturing Co.

Sargent for Sargent & Co.

Schlage for Schlage Lock Co.

M. W. or Mallory, Wheeler for Mallor, Wheeler & Co.

Chicago for Chicago Hardware Manufacturing Co.

Other Abbreviations and Substitutions

Bldrs. Hdwe. for Builders' Hardware

Towne, a substitute for Henry Towne's "Locks and Builders Hardware, A Hand Book for Architects." 1904.

Brownell, for Adon H. Brownell, DAHC, lifelong hardware man, author of hardware material and publications, and known in his later years as "Mr. Lockwood."

Brownell, 1940, a substitute for the title of Adon H. Brownell's "Taking the Mystery Out of Builders' Hardware." 1940. (It should be noted that this substitution is used only in this volume and because of its wide reference.)

Thomas, 1927, a substitute for the title of W. T. Thomas' "Builders' Hardware from the Ground Up." 1927.



Builders' Hardware Lore

Within the history of Builders' Hardware are some items that do not qualify for inclusion in the main portion of the manuscript.

The McKinley Gold Bug



A Gold Bug was the symbol worn by supporters of Presidential hopeful William McKinley in 1896. McKinley supported the gold standard. His opponent, William Jennings Bryant, supported the silver standard.

Philip Corbin's stand was apparent when his company cast a gold bug pin to be used in the campaign. Two sizes in two slightly different designs were available. Corbin is said to have taken a contingent of his foremen to the train depot for a show of strength for McKinley, during the campaign.

