

Neat Tools You Can Make #6

Cylinder Stamping Block

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In some cases you need to stamp the face of the lock, this tool will be an asset for this purpose. Before we get into the tool, I would like to point out something that you might have overlooked while stamping keys and other things to identify them. When using numbers you replicate your stamping every 10 (1-9 & 0) so for a 2 digit stamp you have a maximum of 99 identifiers, 3 digit stamp you have a maximum of 999, etc. However if you were to use letters instead of the numbers you have 26 before replicating, for a 2 digit letter stamp you have 676 identifiers, 3 digit letter stamp you have 17576 identifiers without replication. If you are trying to mark the key or cylinder you can stamp with letters and have a LOT larger identification base using fewer digits. Ok, I'm off my soapbox. Materials: (1) 6" piece of 5" channel iron. Tools; Drill press, 1 1/8 hole saw, 1/2 drill bit, dremel tool, files for smoothing the edges.



5" channel iron 6" long (1 1/2" tall)



Locks in the proper holes.

Several things to point out (please bear with me).

1. Take Safety Precautions;
 - a. Safety glasses
 - b. Clamp the things you are drilling to something solid
 - c. Have adequate lighting
2. Take your time and don't over work your tools
3. A hole saw is designed for thin metal but if you take you time it will cut cold roll steel (not tempered or stainless)
4. It is hard to hold the drill while drilling 2 holes close together
5. You will need to "ream" the holes to make them smooth and allow the locks to slide in and out easily.



Three main styles of locks, I/C core small (best) format, Mortise or Rim Cylinder (you will have to take off the tailpiece on the rim cylinder), and .500 plugs.

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