

# How To Freeze A Lock Off!

by **dbond** on September 26, 2007

## Table of Contents

- License: Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike (by-nc-sa) ..... 2
- Intro: How To Freeze A Lock Off! ..... 2
- step 1: Supplies ..... 2
- step 2: Attach you lock to a secure latch ..... 3
- step 3: Spray the lock with the compressed air ..... 4
- step 4: Strike the lock with a hammer ..... 4
- Related Instructables ..... 4
- Advertisements ..... 5
- Comments ..... 5

**License:** Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike (by-nc-sa)   

## **Intro: How To Freeze A Lock Off!**

\*\*\*Disclaimer\*\*\* The following is for informational purposes only, i take no responsibility for what you do with this knowledge. i can not be held responsible for any property or medical damages caused by using this technique.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Freeze a lock off with compressed air cans used for computer dusting. Watch the lock crack in half.  
Watch the video for an overview.



### **step 1: Supplies**

the supplies you'll need

- 1 standard padlock

-2 cans of compressed air

the kind used to blow the dust out of you computer

-1 hammer



**step 2: Attach you lock to a secure latch**

Insure that your lock is attached to a secure latch as we'll be striking it with a hammer.



### step 3: Spray the lock with the compressed air

First, turn the air canister upside down and begin to spray the lock. By turning it upside down you're actually spraying 1,1,1-Trifluoroethane which cools the metal lock to -67 degrees fahrenheit! Frost will immediately begin to form on and around the lock.



### step 4: Strike the lock with a hammer

When the compressed air cans are empty, very carefully and very forcefully strike the lock with a hammer. The lock should either shatter off the post completely, or fracture around the post!

Congratulations! You've smashed off a frozen lock!



## Related Instructables



**The Wart Freezing Gun** by pyrobot



**Ice Cold Beer In 20 Seconds!** by EvilNinJa



**not Liquid Nitrogen** by digitech



**How to Make Super-Cool Frozen Party Cocktails with Liquid Nitrogen** by ewilhelm



**Compressed Air Office Weaponry** by S1nkl33k



**Pocket-Sized Spray Paint** by bumpus



**The Hilsch vortex tube** by thecheatscalc




**Circuit Shirt (T-Shirt Hacks Contest)** by DaNerd11

# Comments


50 comments [Add Comment](#)

[view all 101 comments](#)


---

 **georion** says: Jul 25, 2009. 6:02 PM [REPLY](#)  
I cant believe that ,that is compressed air and with 1 screwdriver an 1 hammer i have "opened " locks with 1 (one, Blow)--so i cant see the point unless someone uses liquid nitrogen.....


---

 **xproplayer** says: Nov 18, 2009. 6:35 PM [REPLY](#)  
mythbusters is testing this tonite and they said the lock has to be frozen for like 5 mins so this is better


---

 **chosenone3** says: Oct 20, 2008. 12:27 PM [REPLY](#)  
Why wouldnt you just cut down the place where the padlock is on with metal scissors? or just get a key and open it nicely (im sure they dont make much of different keys for these padlock :D)  
but well its for educational purposes only so yea its kinda nice 5/5

---

 **ekulmeekul** says: Jul 3, 2009. 4:56 AM [REPLY](#)  
cause this is way faster and requires smaller and easily accessible materials.

---

 **Udon** says: Jun 25, 2009. 5:01 AM [REPLY](#)  
Na, this looks much more fun.  
I seriously doubt that any key will do.  
Metal scissors? You mean...they make scissors out of stuff....other than metal!?!?  
  
I want a pair of cardboard scissors! Then I can lop off paper locks and demolish Japanese houses and give people third degree paper cuts.


---

 **bloke2022** says: Jul 10, 2009. 2:28 PM [REPLY](#)  
nice


---

 **zgr95** says: Aug 8, 2009. 12:52 PM [REPLY](#)  
also it is very more quiet than using power tools

---

 **insidejob1213** says: May 1, 2009. 6:01 AM [REPLY](#)  
nice saw the idea on call of duty 4 second from last mission got me thinking if you could actually do it. cheers good post

---

 **hellstudios** says: Mar 28, 2009. 7:32 PM [REPLY](#)  
Perfect for getting into news paper machines and getting the change to buy more compressed air.  
  
xD

---


 **chillen** says: Feb 26, 2009. 4:58 AM [REPLY](#)  
I would just do a barrel roll by pressing Z


---

 **jimmydean** says: Aug 8, 2008. 2:55 PM [REPLY](#)  
I saw this on Burn Notice on USA Network. Good show.


---

 **yoghurtsniffer** says: Sep 3, 2008. 5:06 AM [REPLY](#)  
lol  
awesome show  
Top show  
I saw it in Australia  
  
cool ible

 **Mr.Suit** says: May 26, 2008. 4:36 PM [REPLY](#)  
Jeez dude, you must've gave that lock more whacks than Lizzie Borden's parents received -- combined. Poor lock, how could you! It just wanted to help you keep your tools safe and you beat it to death!

 **vargasdanny** says: Jun 16, 2008. 1:10 PM [REPLY](#)  
lol i have no idea wat u said or who is lizzie borden but that just sounded funny as hell

 **yoghurtsniffer** says: Sep 3, 2008. 4:58 AM [REPLY](#)  
lol  
i agree

 **Mr.Suit** says: Jun 16, 2008. 2:57 PM [REPLY](#)  
A psychotic red-head who off'd her parents. There's a Rhyme regarding her --  
Lizzie Borden took an axe  
And gave her mother forty whacks.  
And when she saw what she had done  
She gave her father forty-one.


- Taken from wikipedia article. For more information -- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lizzie\\_Borden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lizzie_Borden)


 **hellstudios** says: Mar 28, 2009. 7:30 PM [REPLY](#)  
Who HASN'T heard of her? Besides him....

 **Wafflicious** says: Jan 19, 2009. 7:33 AM [REPLY](#)  
Her stepmother suffered 18 or 19 blows, her father 11.

 **yeerk21** says: Aug 31, 2008. 4:26 PM [REPLY](#)  
LMFAO


 **yoghurtsniffer** says: Sep 3, 2008. 5:08 AM [REPLY](#)  
hahaha  
twisted

 **vargasdanny** says: Jun 18, 2008. 10:18 AM [REPLY](#)  
aw man that sucks to be her guardian after her parents but it still was pretty funny how it was used

 **killajones** says: Jul 13, 2008. 4:00 AM [REPLY](#)  
i think u shouldve just skipped the whole freezing part, just smash the lock open with a hammer!

 **yeerk21** says: Aug 31, 2008. 4:25 PM [REPLY](#)  
-thumbs up- YEA!!!

 **chalky** says: Jul 11, 2008. 1:46 PM [REPLY](#)  
B.S

 **ak49er** says: Apr 16, 2008. 7:35 AM [REPLY](#)  
It seems like this would be much more effective it the lock had water poured in it.

 **mettaurlover** says: Jun 27, 2008. 8:12 AM [REPLY](#)  
because the water would expand?



**Kiteman** says:

Sep 26, 2007. 10:46 AM [REPLY](#)

The bpt for 1,1,1,TCE is -47C, not -67C, and that temperature wouldn't be maintained for more than a few moments after cooling.

What temperature does steel become brittle below, anyway?



**fingerflip456** says:

Nov 24, 2007. 7:23 PM [REPLY](#)

im confused no offense if any but is that a fact or a complaint



**Kiteman** says:

Nov 25, 2007. 3:40 AM [REPLY](#)

It's a correction of the claims made in the Instructable.

Basically, I'm saying it won't work because the cans don't make the lock cold enough to turn brittle.



**GutterClown** says:

Apr 16, 2008. 2:50 AM [REPLY](#)

it's not steel. the lockbody is brass, the shackle is the only steel piece.

brass becomes very brittle when rapidly cooled.



**Kiteman** says:

Apr 16, 2008. 2:12 PM [REPLY](#)

Speed of cooling is irrelevant. Brass is used for the fittings in liquid-hydrogen systems - do you really think that a duster-can will cool it enough to render it brittle?



**GutterClown** says:

May 30, 2008. 1:33 AM [REPLY](#)

Are liquid nitrogen fittings are subjected to brute force and sudden impact?

Go spend \$5 and try it. Personally, with my background in locksmithing I know that it's easy enough to just flog these until the pop open, but rapid cooling would increase your chances.



**nafango22** says:

May 29, 2008. 10:39 AM [REPLY](#)

brass is an alloy of copper and zinc, changing the percentages of the metals changes the properties of the brass. brass used for liquid-hydrogen fittings are more than likely a different type of brass than that used in this cheaply-forged \$2 padlock.



**brobeaker** says:

Feb 17, 2008. 12:40 AM [REPLY](#)

it works. try it



**\_soapy\_** says:

Sep 26, 2007. 11:07 AM [REPLY](#)

Very much depends on the steel. Cheap and crap steel, as seen in this padlock, will probably not be much below -30 C. A good Boron steel maintains strength well enough even down at -173 C, where the air itself becomes liquid.

Bit pointless on a padlock this rubbish. It would be easier to shim it, or pick it. And a good whack with that hammer would have taken it off anyway!



**themasterpyro** says:

Oct 23, 2007. 6:13 PM [REPLY](#)

theres an easier way.a shotgun or thermite.



**John Smith** says:

Sep 26, 2007. 12:40 PM [REPLY](#)

but thats not fun...well,not AS fun.



**RockInBlack** says:

Nov 21, 2007. 7:34 PM [REPLY](#)

An amateur lockpicker couldve picked it faster than you could freeze that lock off. I'm sure *that* would be more fun :)



**John Smith** says:

Nov 21, 2007. 7:47 PM [REPLY](#)

You have a point...



**\_soapy\_** says:

Sep 26, 2007. 1:45 PM [REPLY](#)

You could try chewing through the padlock, as over several months the steel would rust away. Though that's not fun either...

What's my point? I don't know. But chewing through it would be less fake than this Instructable.

(Is there a name for a faked Instructable? An Unstructable? CONstructable?)



**GutterClown** says:

key words are:  
"very forcefully strike the lock with a hammer."

Apr 16, 2008. 2:59 AM [REPLY](#)

The locking tooth in such a small padlock wouldn't need much more than a hammer strike to bust it. Rapidly cooling the lockbody would increase the possibility for shattering it.

Fake, no. Edited out parts where the lockbody was hit on the concrete to break it in half, yes.



**John Smith** says:

you should do the chewing one. include how it boosts your iron in your body, too.  
i think its a constructable.

Sep 26, 2007. 2:19 PM [REPLY](#)



**John Smith** says:

WAIT-  
if you spell constructable, you get construct-able, which isn't really what you want.

Sep 26, 2007. 2:20 PM [REPLY](#)



**\_soapy\_** says:  
CONNEDstructable!!

Sep 30, 2007. 3:54 PM [REPLY](#)



**John Smith** says:

ROTFL!

Sep 30, 2007. 4:03 PM [REPLY](#)



**masterochicken** says:

I love this website but you guys suck at flaming. go to rotteneggs.com and learn how to properly flame.

Oct 7, 2007. 12:04 AM [REPLY](#)



**Vendigroth** says:

Flaming also required a low IQ which explains why they're bad at it and why you're good at it.  
How's that for a barb?

Nov 13, 2007. 12:51 PM [REPLY](#)



**masterochicken** says:

barb?

Nov 13, 2007. 7:16 PM [REPLY](#)



**\_soapy\_** says:

Short for Barbara. Or perhaps he meant the pointy bits on thorns and barbed wire. You decide.

Apr 10, 2008. 4:08 PM [REPLY](#)



**John Smith** says:

Properly+rotteneggs.com=two words that should never be used together.

Oct 8, 2007. 12:43 PM [REPLY](#)

[view all 101 comments](#)