Cutaway Cylinders and Their Locking Technique (Part 1)

My name is Han Fey and as a collector of high security locks, I am interested in the technique behind the security. In locks for ordinary usage, these high security features are not clearly visible. One of the reasons why manufacturers produce cutaway locks is to show potential buyers and entry level locksmiths the inner workings of a lock and to show the security features. Various cutaway locks make up an important part of my collection. Some of these locks are factory cut, while some I made myself because I could not get a factory cutaway or because factory cutaways were never made available.

I have about 50 different cutaways in cylinder form, and another 45 pieces in padlock form. In this article I wanted to show the ten nicest cylinder shaped ones.

I will tell something about the security features and the technique, and if possible show an exploded view of the lock. I will also try to tell something about the way of cutting and if possible, I will show some specific individual parts. Most of the cutaways (CW's) in this article are Europrofile cylinders or Swedish oval cylinders, as these are most prevalent in Europe.

In this paper I will not discuss Abloy cutaways, as I intend to write about these in my next article, in which I will show Exec, Disklock, Disklock Pro, and Protec cutaways. I will also go deeper into the techniques used in these cylinders.

The techniques I viewed in my collection locks I tried to write down in this article. I can therefore not be responsible for errors in the content; I however did my best to record it as accurately as possible.

For errors and corrections, see the end of the document for my contact details.

Types of Cutaways

**Type 1.** Not a real cutaway but a cylinder with a Plexiglas housing showing parts of the outside of the plug and the function of these parts. The plug itself is normally not cut.

**Type 2.** Is the most common cutaway, some metal is cut away to show the working of the inner parts (the mechanism). I call this type 2. These cutaways are mostly factory cut. In this kind of cutaway not all working parts are visible.

**Type 3.** This type comes with one or more working keys (“Go” Keys) and a non-working key (“No Go” Key). These keys show the working of the specific extra security features in the lock. Extra Go Keys may be modified by a person wanting to bypass the system. The other No Go Keys have minor changes as compared to the Go Key. If a person should for example, remove some metal from a working key to attempt to give the key a greater authorization in a master keyed system, the cutaway shows the protection against this kind of attack.

**Type 4.** This type of cutaway is cut to show the inner-working of an extra function of the lock mostly used by the end user, examples of these are the Vario Flex and the Bi-Lock with interchangeable core. The Assa Twin or ASSA V10 is an example of a locksmith instruction cylinder.

Another use of cutaways is lock-pick practice. The designs of these locks are such that beginning locksmiths can use these cutaways to develop critical lock picking skills. By watching the movement of the pins during practice, the lock picker will gain a better understanding of how and why a lock can be compromised. The parts (for instance false gates and notches and special mushroom and spool pins) which block the shear line, preventing the lock from operating must then be clearly visible.
The selection of 10 locks I will discuss are:

- 1 Zeiss-Ikon Sperwellen, Europrofile (Type 1)
- 2 Abus EC 850, Europrofile (Type 2)
- 3 EVVA 3KS, Europrofile (Type 2)
- 4 Winkhaus Titan, Europrofile (Type 2)
- 5 ASSA 7-pin, Swedish Oval (Type 2)
- 6 EVVA DPI, Europrofile (Type 3)
- 7 Ikon ZSE, ZSV, 0-level. Europrofile (Type 3)
- 8 Alfa Vario Flex, Swedish Oval (Type 4)
- 9 Bi-Lock, Swedish Oval (Type 4)
- 10. Assa V10 / Assa Twin, Mortise Cylinder (Type 4)

1. Ikon Sperwellen (Type 1)

This cylinder contains 5 pairs of spring-loaded, active pins, including spool and inverse-spool pins to increase pick resistance, and 4 additional finger pins controlling a sidebar. The wave-type locking device is an additional code cut into the sides of the key. This code is sensed in the lock cylinder by spring loaded finger pins that govern the operation of the sidebar. If any of the codes at the key are missing or incorrect, the lock cannot be operated. The finger pins must be lifted and rotated in the correct position before the sidebar (Gib) releases. With this system there are a few 1000 sidebar codings.
This cylinder works on the same principle similar to the Schlage Primus. The only differences I noticed in comparison with the Primus system is that Ikon system improves on the design by making the keyway paracentric (which make it hard to use picktools), using spool pins and incorporating false grooves on the finger pins. In my opinion this lock is unpick-able.

2. ABUS EC 850 (Type 2)

ABUS is famous name throughout the world. The name ABUS is actually an abbreviation from August Bremicker Und Sohne. The security from ABUS is based on more than 75 years of experience in the development and production of security products. Therefore, they have a quite an extended range of security products. One of these products is the EC 850 profile cylinder. EC stands for Extra Classe. This cylinder has 6 active pins in the top of the plug and 4 passive pins on the bottom of the plug. The pins are placed in two independent and opposing rows. The dimple key has a symmetrical design.
This cutaway is special in that it is cut on both sides of the cylinder and all working parts are visible. One side of the cylinder cannot rotate as it is blocked by a pin—otherwise the pins and springs would fall out.

The lock has a patented anti-pick system. The high picking resistance is achieved with well-balanced measurements between top and bottom pins.

**3. EVVA 3KS (Type 2)**

**EVVA** is well-known European manufacturer of cylinders that started business in 1919. **EVVA** stands for **E**rfindungs- **V**ersuchs- **V**erwertungs- **A**nstalt. From the very beginning **EVVA** made constant improvements to its products, implanting them with technological innovations. Since the 1960s, **EVVA** has been one of the most technologically advanced manufacturers of cylinders.

This **EVVA 3KS** developed in 1993 is probably one of the most advanced mechanical locks and the cutaway one of the nicest that I have in my collection, because there is a lot to see.

3KS stands for **3 Kurven** System in German (in English, **3 Curve** System) as it has 3 curves in the key.

In the exploded view, you can see the locking bars and the different locking pins also called sliders. There are 12 springless sliders, which contain together 18 control pins. These sliders have to be brought in the right position to release the two locking sidebars. On each side in the plug (right and left) there is one locking bar that prevents the plug from rotating. If the sliders and locking pins are positioned correctly, the locking bar drops into slots on the sliders and the plug can rotate. When the locking bar drops in the plug, the roller in the front of the cylinder drops in the stretched dimple in the front of the key. The key is now caught in the plug and the roller prevents the key from being removed after an incomplete rotation.
In the cutaway you can also see the additional bottom bar. This bottom bar checks the edge profiles on the bottom (or top) of the key. A correct key will match the bottom bar with the correct cut angles so that the bottom bar can drop into the plug. If the cuts in the key do not have the matching profile cuts, this bottom bar will not drop into the plug, and the cylinder is prevented from rotating. This security feature can be easily bypassed by milling down the top (and/or bottom) of the key, as there would be nothing to prevent the bottom bar from dropping into the plug.

In the picture below you can see two different sidebars and some sliders. The sliders on the left have one control pin. The sliders 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 are Masterkey sliders, because they have more gates. The two sliders on the right (7 and 8) have double pins. On the bottom of the picture you can see the locking sidebar.

![EVVA 3KS Parts](image)

On the top of the key there is also a non-angular groove, where a kind of slider drops in. This slider insures that the key is fully inserted, before it can be rotated.

![Cutaway—EVVA 3KS Profile Cylinder](image)

As you look at the key you can see that the three waves have two different depths. Two waves are shallow and one is deep. This is because there are two kinds of sliders in the lock. The slider with the double pins traces the outside waves, and the slider with the single pin traces the deepest cut in the middle of the key. Within the lock, the sliders alternate from single pin to double pin slider and back to single pin again. The pins in this lock are covered by Teflon to resist wear and tear.
The double pin sliders can have 7 different positions and the 1 pin slider can have 9 different positions. This gives the tremendous number of keys of 30,000,000,000,000 because of the $9 \times 7 \times 9 \times 7 \times 9 \times 7 \times 9 \times 7 \times 9 \times 7 \times 9 \times 7$ combinations in sliders. This means if we should put all the different keys end-to-end they would have a length of 64,000,000 kilometers that’s equal to 1650 around the earth, or equal to 10 times the number of humans on earth today. EVVA claims that the lock is unique as a fingerprint with some imagination you might say that the waves in the key look like the waves from a fingerprint.

These locks can be serviced by a locksmith who can make simple masterkey systems; therefore the lock shop has blanks which a certified locksmith gets from the factory. These blanks come with the two waves pre-milled on the outside of the key. The only thing the locksmith does is to mill the third wave into the key.

Note that this reduces the number of possible combinations within any one “blank” to roughly one-half million.

An EVVA 3 KS Blank (top) and Cut key (bottom)

These locks normally come with a security card. This card is necessary to obtain extra keys. Showing the card is insufficient to get new keys. As an extra security feature, the special number on the keycard must be typed into the key duplicating machine in order to instruct the machine to make that specific profile. Without the correct number, it is normally not possible to make duplicate keys.

4. Winkhaus Titan (Type 2)

The Winkhaus Titan is a high security cylinder from the 1980’s. With 4 security features contained within it, it is in my opinion, the most sophisticated mechanical cylinder that Winkhaus has ever produced.

The first security feature has six pin tumblers, drill protection, and specially shaped pins to frustrate lock picking.

The second line of defense is that it uses a restricted key profile. The profile variations are over the entire keyway height. Each profile rib overlaps the centreline to frustrate the use of picktools.

It’s third security feature is the use of the Kalotten. Up to 10 passive pins control the side of the key. On each side of the key there are 5 Kalotten possible. It is a passive system. If the matching dimple hole in the key is missing, the Kalotte is pushed out, and blocks the cylinder. By drilling 5 extra dimple holes per side into the key, you can bypass this system.

The fourth security feature are the “actively passive” Kiphebel Stifte. Up to 10 (5 per side) Kiphebel Stifte block the plug when either a key is missing, or a key is inserted which can pass the physical barriers of the plug but still is not the “correct” profile.
The third and fourth security features make the lock more difficult to pick. If you touch these parts with a picktool while there is tension on the plug, they automatically block the rotation of the plug and become stuck. They make the function of the lock sensitive to the exact profile of the key as well as to the tumbler cuts.

Winkhaus claims 27,000,000,000 different keys with 100 different profiles.

In this exploded view, you can see all the working parts in this cylinder.

As there are a least 25 extra holes necessary for security features 3 and 4 on the inside of the cylinder. Winkhaus made a second housing around the plug where the holes are which block the cylinder. I believe this makes the lock easier (cheaper) to produce.

In the cut-away, you can see the 15 possible holes on one side of the plug. This is my only cylinder were there are two housings around the plug.

Everything assembled in one cylinder results in the picture below. If you have a close look at the front of the cylinder you can see the two metal pins which function as drill protection.
Winkhaus also produces these cylinder for the French company Fichet. The only difference between the two is the keyway and the brand name on the bow.

In the picture below, you can see the specific bow shape of this system and you can also see the dimple holes on the different sides of the key.

5 ASSA 7-Pin (Type 2)

The ASSA 7-Pin is the standard high security lock in Sweden. This cylinder also contains the sneakiest pins I have ever seen. I have made this cut-away myself, as I don’t know of a factory cutaway that has ever been distributed.

The first, second, fourth, and sixth pins have standard special lower pins and special spool driver pins. The bottom ends of these spooled pins are turned down to a smaller diameter then the pin barrel, and are then rounded at the ends, enhancing their pick resistance effectiveness. The pin chamber counter-milling on pins 1, 2, 4, & 6 causes the spools to latch-up tight if the bottom pins are not raised to the correct height. In the picture below, you can see the plug with the specific extra counter-milling in the before-mentioned chambers. In an ASSA Twin and V10 these counter millings are in all six chambers. The third and fifth pins are standard anti-drill pins.
Chambers 1, 2, 4, & 6 contain the sneaky pins.

The next picture shows the placement of all the pins within the cylinder.

ASSA has produced these 7-pin cylinders for a very long time. You can recognize the newest version of these cylinders by the characters “SDC” on the front of the cylinder. This means drill protection has been added to the aforementioned features, adding two extra drill protection pins in the plug between the second and the fourth chambers.
6. EVVA DPI (Type 3)

This section, profiles another nice cylinder from EVVA, this time the DPI system. The characters DPI stand for *Doppel Profil Integriert*, In English, Double Profile Integrated. The term double, because in addition to the keyway profile protection there is also an active side bar in the left side of the plug which is controlled by the side of the key. The millings in the key must match with the side bar. This system has 3 security parameters within it: the shape of the keyway, the sidebar, and the 5 pin tumblers.

In the exploded view, you can see clearly the shape of the side bar and its millings.

In the picture below, you can see this side bar build in the cutaway and you can see the special clip designed by Zeiss-Ikon which provides pull-out protection from the cylinder.
Cutaway—EVVA DPI Profile Cylinder

This cutaway comes with three different keys. The normal cuts in these keys for the 5 pin tumblers are the same—the only difference between these keys is the side bar milling.

Key 1 (top) is the correct key. The side bar drops perfectly into the side bar milling in the key, allowing the sidebar to drop into the plug, allowing the plug to rotate.

Key 2 (middle) has an incorrect sidebar milling, thereby pushing the side bar out of the plug and inhibiting rotation. The side bar prevents the plug from rotating, despite the fact that the normal locking pins have created a correct shear line.

Key 3 (bottom) has the side bar millings totally milled flat. This can be done by persons who want to bypass the system. This prevents the sidebar from being pushed out of the plug due to the deep milling on the side of the key. The system, however, is designed so that the sidebar now drops too deep into the plug. Although the key can turned counterclockwise 90°, it will then be blocked, as pin 3 is pushed into the plug.

In normal locks this blocking is irreversible; in the cutaway this option can be reset.
EVVA also offers the DPX-system. This system is similar to the DPI system, but has 2 sidebars (one on the left and one on the right) in the plug, therefore also different sidebar millings on each side of the key.

Note: The chambers in the housing of this cylinder are drilled in two different diameters. The spring is in a more narrow diameter. If you should succeed in removing the springs by drilling a small hole in the front in order to let the pins fall down, they will stick in the chamber of the housing. The use of a comb with this cylinder is also not possible.

7. Ikon SK6 ZSV (Level 2), ZSE (Level 1) and Level 0 (Type 3)

This name of this German Ikon system is SK6 with diagonal profile. It is used in large grand master keyed (GMK) systems with differing security levels.

The profile of the key is arranged at an angle in relation to the back of the key. In the cylinder core, the profile of the keyhole runs diagonally in relation to the axis of the lock cylinder. This is one of the security features of this locking system.

Level 0 of this system only has the normal 6 pins and the diagonal key-profile. It’s the lowest security level in this system. You can easily recognize the key in this system because it has no dimple holes on the side of the key.
Exploded view—*Ikon System SK 6, Security Level 1 (ZSE)*

The ZSV level is the highest level in this system and the key has an extra additional coding which can vary. This system is used in large GMK systems in order to meet increased security requirements. You can recognize the key by the extra dimples on the side of the key.

Exploded View—*Ikon System SK 6, Security Level 2 (ZSV)*

The cutaway of this system comes with three keys, the only difference of which is the sidebar coding. The goal of this cut-away is not to show the normal pins, but to show the extra security levels. The cylinder is cut only from the top to show these extra security features.
The key at the top is a level 0 key and does not operate both sides of the cylinder as the dimple holes are missing in the key.
The middle key is a level 1 key and operates the ZSE side of the cylinder.
The bottom key is a level 2 key in the system. This key has the highest authorization, and can therefore operate the locks with the highest security level in the system. In addition to operating Level 0 cylinders, it also operates both the ZSE and the ZSV sides of the cylinder. There are three dimple holes on the side of the key.

What I find nice about this CW is that 3 levels of security are demonstrated in one cylinder.

**8. Alfa Vario Flex (Type 4)**

This Swedish oval cylinder has 7 pins. In the cutaway, you can see all 7 chambers and the specific mushroom-shaped top pins this brand uses. What I find special about his cutaway is the straight line of cutting from the oval housing—they made two cuts with a milling machine and the cutaway was ready. The first 6 chambers are filled with normal upper pins (some mushroom shaped) and lower pins. The seventh chamber is filled with pins for the special Flex function of this lock.

The Flex function allows the lock to come with three different keys: keys V1, V2, and R3. After key loss, the cylinder can be easily programmed to the next key. In normal use, the 6 pins should give enough variety and protection to make this cylinder a high security cylinder. In the last chamber (number 7) are the change pins. This chamber is filled with 6 different pin parts. In the picture, you can only see 5 pins because the lower pin is not visible. The diabolic-shaped pins make the difference (2 pieces). These pins are pushed into the special holes in the plug. To make a smooth rotation possible, the diabolic shaped pins are captured between two flat pins. Beside these pins are also the normal lower pin and top pin. This makes 6 pins in this chamber.

This cylinder is made by GEHE, a member of the Kaba Bauer group.
In the picture below, you can see the three keys that come with the lock. You can see that the last pin is lifted higher every key change.

![ALFA Flex Change Key Set](image)

**9. Bi Lock (Type 4)**

The Bi Lock system comes from Australia. This Bi Lock cutaway consists of a plug with 2 sidebars controlled by two parallel rows of six pin tumblers, each row acting independently with its own side bar, and a cap that holds the pins and springs in the plug. The pins are just lifted, they are not controlled on an angle.

Each side of the lock is operated separately by each half of the dual-bladed key.

When the key is inserted into the lock, the pin tumblers are properly located to form a shear line on each side of the lock. This allows the spring-loaded sidebars to locate the deep holes on the tumblers and to retract, allowing the lock to be opened. When the key is returned to the locked position and withdrawn, the spring-loaded side bars are forced into the slots in the lock body. In the locked position, all tumblers are the same height and rest on the bottom of the keyway, making it impossible to read the combination or impression the key.

What I find special about this cutaway is that it comes with the QCC (Quick Change Core) function, which provides the unique ability to recombinante the lock within seconds. Therefore, this lock comes with an operating key and a QCC key. With the QCC key you can remove the core and change it. This key has a drilled hole to receive a ball bearing which normally locks the plug into the housing.
Essential to the Bi Lock system is the unique dual-bladed, "U" shaped key. Each side of the key is cut differently and engages its own set of pin tumblers and side bars. The key blank is flat; the blank can only be cut and formed with proprietary equipment at the factory, or at an authorized Bi Lock service centre. The blank is cut to code on both sides and then formed into the "U" shape, a patented process. The coloured key head (18 different colors) is then inserted and crimped securely into place.
10. Assa 6000 (Twin) & V10 (Type 4)

In 1981, ASSA celebrated its 100th anniversary with the release of the ASSA Twin 6000, a new cylinder utilizing the dual locking mechanisms of today’s ASSA cylinders. Two independent locking mechanisms are simultaneously operated by a special shaped key. Both the key and sidebar incorporate precision coding.

**Exploded View—ASSA Twin 6000**

In 1996, ASSA introduced the improved version of the ASSA 6000 called the V10. The innovative V10 key design and cylinder helped to eliminate unauthorized duplicate keys and to maintain a key control system that is unmatched in the industry.

The first locking system in the ASSA 6000 and V10 (also named the Twin 2) contain 6 pin tumblers. There are 9 different lengths of bottom pins. The number one cut is the shallowest cut in the key and has therefore the longest pin in the plug. To enhance pick resistance, spool driver pins are caught by counter milling in the cylinder plug when rotational force is applied.

The second locking system is the sidebar. The side bar can be pushed into the plug if the 5 side pins are lifted correctly. There are 5 different depths possible for each side pin. False grooves in the side pins catch the sidebar when improperly positioned.

The 5 side pins in the lock are all the same. The difference in the side bar system is created by the side bar itself. The side bar has a specific code number which identifies the notch pattern on it. The side bar cuts in the key must match with this set of side bar notches. If the side bar cuts do not match with the side bar profile in the key, the lock cannot be operated as the side pins are lifted into the wrong positions.

If you are an authorized ASSA Twin or V10 dealer it is possible to get your own sidebar code. This means that you can make GMK systems yourself by changing the pin tumblers in the first locking system. The side bar code is for every key in the system the same. In very big GMK systems produced by the factory, even the sidebar profiles can vary.
The Twin 6000 and the V10 are the nicest cutaways in my collection, as there is so much to see. The cutaways that I have come in two different versions, the demo and the instruction version.

The demo cylinder on the left is used to show people the working of the mechanism. You can recognize this version by the top pin, in which both sides are mushroomed (right pin below).

The lock on the right is used in locksmith classes. The potential locksmith has to disassemble the cylinder to rotate the sidebar in the lock, after doing this the old key will not fit any more, therefore two different keys are provided with this lock. The only difference between the keys is the sidebar milling. The spool driver pins in this cutaway are only mushroomed on one side, as an extra to test of the quality of the locksmith.
A locksmith which services the Twin or V10 and is allowed to make a GMK system may have two different sidebar profiles in his shop, which fit into each other (see picture below).

**Mirrored Side Bar cuts, (used with one side bar)**

ASSA uses 4 different lengths of top pins (spool driver pins). These lengths are combined with the length of the bottom pin. This is done to reduce the stress in the springs. If you should use a long bottom pin in combination with a long spool driver pin, the stress could weaken the spring.

The length of the bottom pin and top pin in combination with the chamber prevents the use of a comb pick.

A comb pick is a kind of rake which is inserted into the keyway. This comb lifts the top pin and bottom pin both out of the plug and into the housing so that the plug is no longer blocked. This does not work in the Twin system because of the two independent locking mechanisms.

The different length of top pins is also one of the tricky parts for the locksmith in training. The length of the spool driver pin must match with the length of the bottom pin.

It’s a pity that the cutaway does not show the extra groove in the chamber where the mushroom is caught. In the ASSA 7-pin you see a plug with the same principle.

One of the things ASSA improved in the V10 as compared to the Twin 6000 is the sidebar pins. They made them more streamlined and the pins may now be positioned in the front or the back of the groove in the sidebar. This option is used in masterkey systems.
**Closing comments**

So far my article has been about cylinder cutaways. There are a lot more locking systems in cutaway versions which I find personally worth writing about—for example, the Zeiss-Ikon Magnet system, the Kaba Quattro, EVVA Dual, BKS Multipin, Zeiss-Ikon Sperrippen, Wilka ZL-pro with the magnetic inserts in the plug, the DOM Diamant, Mottura with magnetic pins, etc. All of these locks have in common special security features which make them hard to manipulate.

You can download this file with the next link “[www.toool.nl/cutaway1.pdf](http://www.toool.nl/cutaway1.pdf)” where you can see the pictures in this article in more detail and in color.

If you have seen some errors or things which need to be corrected, you can contact me at: han.fey@12move.nl.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this article.

Han Fey
The Netherlands
List of Factory Cut-way Cylinders

ABUS C93
ABUS EC 850

ASSA Desmo
ASSA Twin 6000 demo cylinder
ASSA Twin 6000 instruction cylinder
ASSA V10 Demo cylinder
ASSA V10 Instruction cylinder

BKS Multipin
BKS SL

DOM ix-5kg
DOM ix-6kg
DOM ix-0kg
DOM CD
DOM D

EVVA Dual
EVVA DPI
EVVA 3KS

GTV SEM

Kaba Gemini S
Kaba Gemini T
Kaba Quattro
Kaba Star

Medeco
Medeco Biaxial
Medeco M3

Mul-T-lock
Mul-T-Lock Interactief

Nemef KB6

Pfaffenheim P25
Pfaffenhaim D25 GMK

Schlage Everest
Schlage Primus

Winkhaus VS 5
Winkhaus VS 6
Winkhaus Titan

Zeiss-Ikon