



Attacking locks like these is noisy, time-consuming and costly in discs

Grinder-resistant locks

Portable angle grinders will go through most bike locks like butter. But not all. Guy Kesteven tests six designed to thwart tooled-up thieves

One of the biggest issues with using a bike for transport is the risk of having it stolen if you leave it anywhere. The risk of theft has increased in recent years due to the use of cordless angle grinders. These can be hidden under a jacket or in a bag, and they'll cut through most D-locks, chains or bar locks in a matter of seconds.

Lock manufacturers are fighting back with specifically grinder-resistant designs, using a whole new level of material technologies. I took an angle grinder to six of the best options from Abus, Hiplock, Kryptonite, Litelok and OnGuard to see which held out the best. Then I considered their other pros and cons in terms of security and everyday use

to find the best deterrent.

Note that these locks are grinder resistant, not grinder impervious. Any lock will fail, given time and enough cutting discs. I set a time limit of five minutes for attacking each lock. You'd hope someone might raise the alarm after that or that the thief would give up and choose an easier target. I used as many cutting discs as each five-minute attempt required.

You'll see that there are two Liteloks in this test. I'd hoped to include a Masterlock but it didn't arrive in time. I also contacted Squire and Oxford Products for a lock but their new designs won't be available until spring.

Videos from this test are on my YouTube channel [@GuyKesTV](#).

What to look for

Security
The reason I've attempted to break the locks rather than relying on the Sold Secure rating is because even the top 'Diamond' standard doesn't have an anti-angle-grinder specification. However, those ratings are still useful as the gauge for resistance to other forms of attack.

Shackle size
Impregnable security is useless if the lock doesn't fit around your bike or your normal locking point. That's why I've listed the internal dimensions of each lock, as well as the coating so you can assess how paint-friendly it is.

Portability
For those using their locks out and about I've included weight and whether you get a carrying bracket included.

Other features
Weatherproofing, warranty terms, number of spare keys provided, replacement services or being able to get matching keys for different locks are all potential 'yay or nay' points, so I've considered those as well.

“These are grinder resistant, not grinder impervious. Any lock will fail, given time and enough cutting discs”