SAFE LOCKING MECHANISMS

GUN CABINET LATCHES

Nearly all gun cabinets use a basic, key-operated latch. These consist of three things: the lock, tumblers, and a small metal bar inside the door.

PROS:

They're inexpensive, which helps keep the cost of gun cabinets lower.

CONS:

They provide minimal security and are pretty easy to break into.

LOCKING BOLTS

Also called round pins or long pins, locking bolts have been the industry standard for years. They consist of a steel round pin that's attached to an angle bar with a rivet. The angle bar is then attached to the locking mechanism. Operating the lock on the outside of the safe engages the locking mechanism, which moves the angle bar, which moves the bolts in and out of place.

PROS:

They offer a high level of security.

CONS:

They have one drawback – the attachment that holds the bolts to the angle bar presents a potential weak point. It can sometimes be bent or broken during a pry attack, allowing the safe door to be opened.

MILITARY-STYLE LOCKING BARS

These were designed specifically to overcome the weak attachment point locking bolts have. Rather than attaching anything to an angle bar, they're one solid piece of steel, with no attachment point that can bend or break. They also allow for more surface area connecting the locking bars to the door frame, which makes them significantly stronger than locking bolts. Mechanically, they work the same as locking bolts: the locking mechanism engages the solid locking bar, moving it in and out of place.

PROS:

They're virtually impossible to pry past.

CONS:

You may pay a little more for a safe that has this upgraded security technology.