

Locating an unknown combination on Sentry electronic safes

The procedures that follow show how to decode the barcode label on the Sentry electronic safe circuit board. This is a simple procedure, especially valuable, if you cannot contact Sentry directly for the combination, or if Sentry no longer has the combination in their system.

This procedure will work on most of the existing Sentry electronic safes. Some of the earlier electronic safes will not work with this procedure, but on those the combination is actually written on the barcode label so decoding is not necessary.

To remove the keypad plate on the front of the safe, examine the photograph below:



On the front of the safe in this picture there are four red dots. These dots mark the location of the tabs holding the keypad on the safe. Gently insert a thin blade screw driver at these points pushing in and down gently to remove the cover. The rubber keypad will come out with it. With the cover removed the circuit board is exposed.

With the circuit board exposed you will find a white label on the board with a barcode printed on the label. This barcode will reveal the factory master combination for this safe. Most of the electronic safes allow for two combinations. One of the combinations is the master combination that is burned in to the memory board and cannot be changed. This is the combination you will get when the barcode is decoded.

The photograph below shows the barcode as it appears on the circuit board:



There are seven groups of bars in the barcode on the circuit board. You ignore the first group and the last group of bars. Within the remaining 5 groups there are generally 5 bars per group. The first three bars in each of these groups are what will be used to decode the combination.

Once the first and last groups of bars are discarded, the remaining five groups will be decoded. Using only the first three bars in each group, and the formula below each group will decode to a specific numeric value.

Bar Combinations

Numeric Value

Thin, Thin, Thick

1 & 2

Thin, Thin, Thin

3

Thick, Thin, Thick

4

Thick, Thin, Thin

5 & 6

Thin, Thick, Thick

7

Thin, Thick, Thin

8 & 9

Thick, Thick, Thin

0



This photograph shows the decoding method on the circuit board



This photograph shows the barcode ready to be decoded

In the above photograph the barcode label is marked showing the first and last groups of bars excluded. The last bars in each group are lined out in red showing the exclusion of these bars leaving only the first three bars in each group to be decoded. Using the chart as shown the possible combinations for this safe are shown as 88470, 89470, 99470 and 98470. Trying these four possible combinations should give you the safes master combination.

Credits: This technique was developed by Shane Maloney, CMS.

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