

A thief has only seven seconds to crack this 10,000 combination push-button lock. If an incorrect button is pushed, an alarm sounds and all pushbuttons stop working for two minutes. The relay built into our circuit lets you control anything from your front door lock to car ignition. A nine-volt transistor radio battery runs the circuit one year.

To operate the lock, you must close S1, S2, S3, S4, and S5 in rapid sequence. By connecting these five switch leads to a 10 button switch pad, you can make any sequence you want—9, 2, 5, 4, 10 for example. To further complicate things, you connect the "disable" switch leads to the remaining switches on the pad. So, if the intruder pushes 9, 2, 5, 4, 8, the lock disables so that even if he then pushes 10, it still won't open. You can use any NPN transistor with ratings high enough to power the relay you use to activate a circuit or electrically operated lock.

