64,000
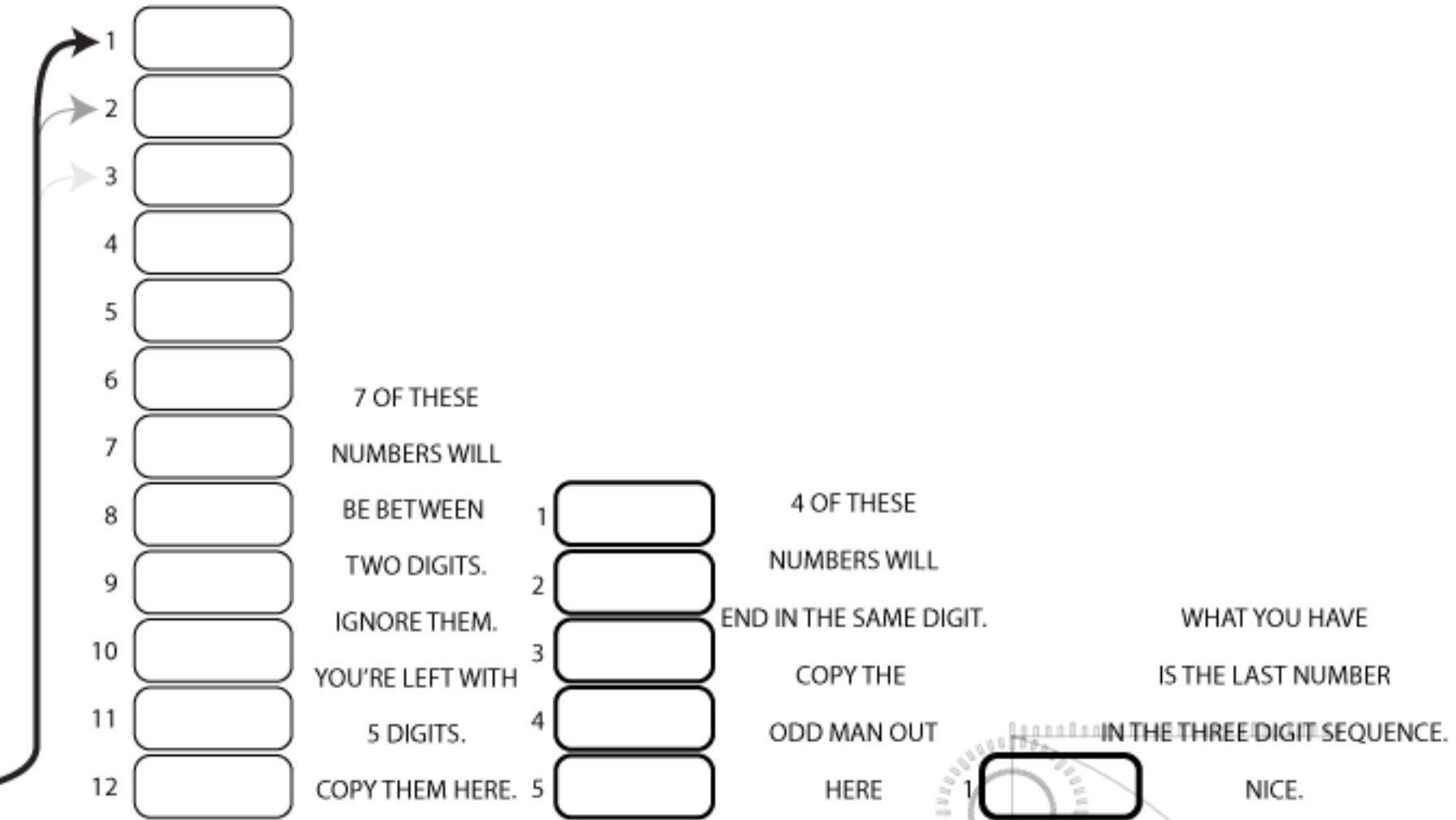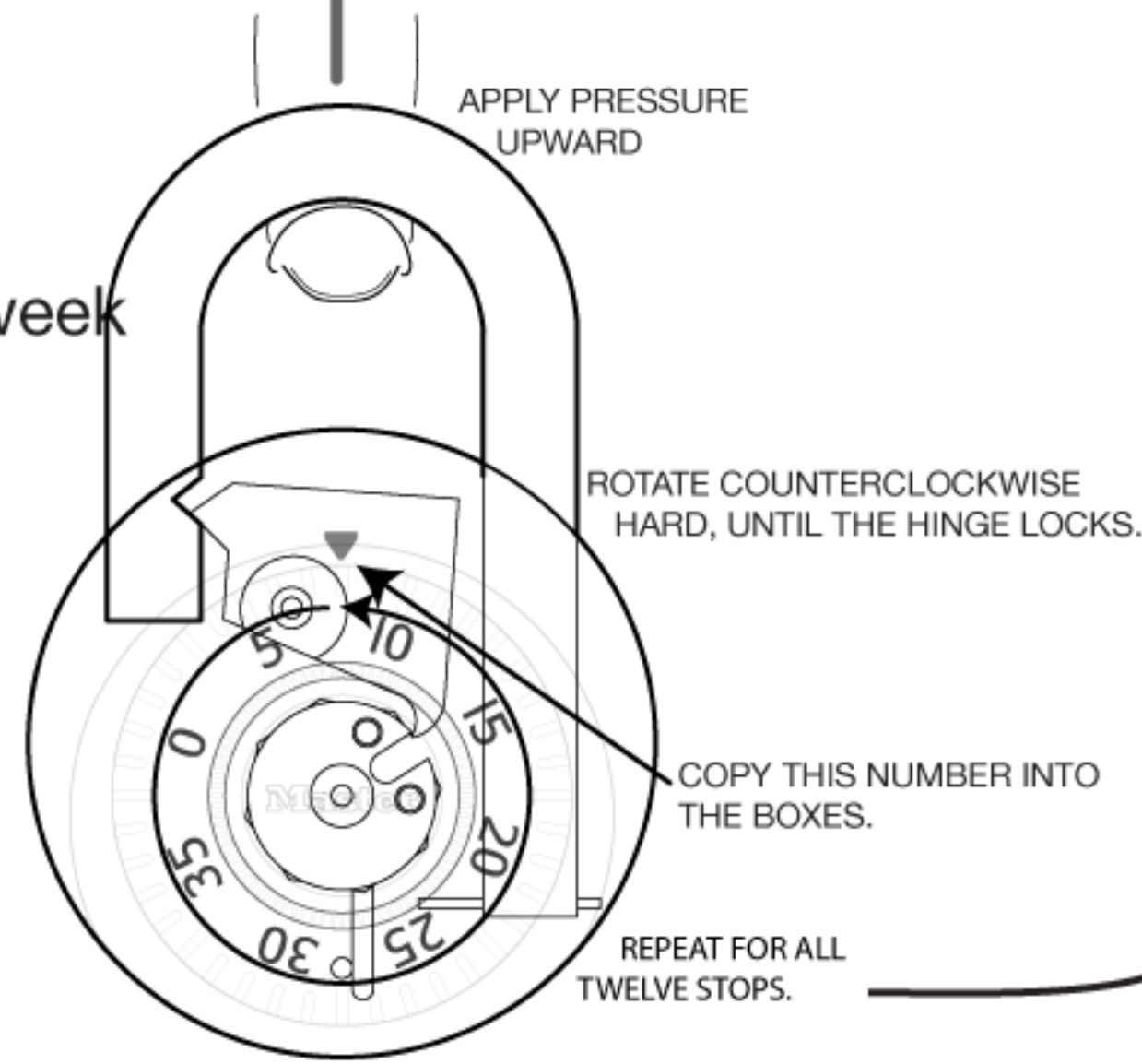
There are 64,000 perceived possible combinations to open a pad lock. At first glance that's just more than 1 week of 24/7 manual attempts.

1 WEEK

There exists, though, a simple mechanical weakness that reduces this number of possible combinations to 100.

100

STEP ONE

APPLY PRESSURE UPWARD

ROTATE COUNTERCLOCKWISE HARD, UNTIL THE HINGE LOCKS.

COPY THIS NUMBER INTO THE BOXES.

REPEAT FOR ALL TWELVE STOPS.

STEP TWO

7 OF THESE NUMBERS WILL BE BETWEEN TWO DIGITS. IGNORE THEM. YOU'RE LEFT WITH 5 DIGITS. COPY THEM HERE.

4 OF THESE NUMBERS WILL END IN THE SAME DIGIT. COPY THE ODD MAN OUT HERE.

WHAT YOU HAVE IS THE LAST NUMBER IN THE THREE DIGIT SEQUENCE. NICE.
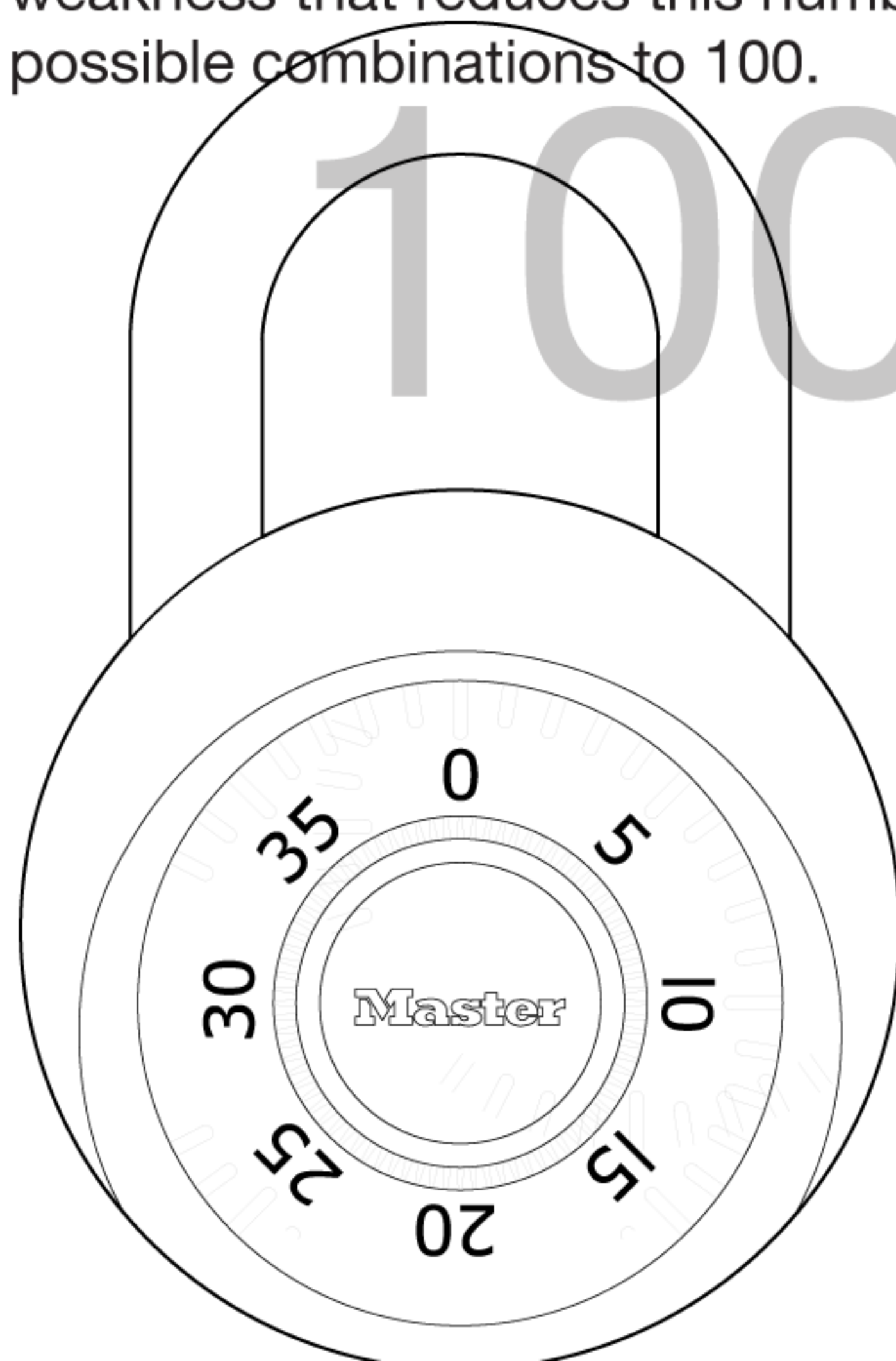
STEP THREE

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE

1. LET'S SAY MY NUMBER'S 4. I'M IN THE FIRST SET OF NUMBERS

2. I'LL TRY 0 AS THE FIRST NUMBER, 0 AS THE SECOND NUMBER, THEN 4, THE NUMBER I KNOW.

3. MY NEXT NUMBER WOULD BE 0, THEN 6, THEN 4.

4. I CONTINUE TO 0, 10, 4. THEN 0, 14, 4. MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TIME: ABOUT 5 MINUTES.

YOU DO

1. FIND YOUR THIRD NUMBER IN THE THIRD ROW.

2. TRY THE FIRST DIGIT IN THE FIRST COLUMN, AND THE FIRST DIGIT IN THE SECOND COLUMN.

3. NEXT IS THE FIRST DIGIT IN THE FIRST COLUMN, AND THE SECOND IN THE SECOND COLUMN.

4. CONTINUE UNTIL THE LOCK IS OPEN. MAXIMUM COMBINATIONS: 100. LESS THAN 5 MINUTES WORK.

0 , 4 , 8 , 12 , 16 , 20 , 24 , 28 , 32 , 36
0 , 6 , 10 , 14 , 18 , 22 , 26 , 30 , 34 , 38
0 , 4 , 8 , 12 , 16 , 20 , 24 , 28 , 32 , 36

1 , 5 , 9 , 13 , 17 , 21 , 25 , 29 , 33 , 37
1 , 7 , 11 , 15 , 19 , 23 , 27 , 31 , 35 , 39
1 , 5 , 9 , 13 , 17 , 21 , 25 , 29 , 33 , 37

2 , 6 , 10 , 14 , 18 , 22 , 26 , 30 , 34 , 38
2 , 8 , 12 , 16 , 20 , 24 , 28 , 32 , 36 , 0
2 , 6 , 10 , 14 , 18 , 22 , 26 , 30 , 34 , 38

3 , 7 , 11 , 15 , 19 , 23 , 27 , 31 , 35 , 39
3 , 9 , 13 , 17 , 21 , 25 , 29 , 33 , 37 , 1
3 , 7 , 11 , 15 , 19 , 23 , 27 , 31 , 35 , 39

COULDN'T HURT TO WRITE DOWN THE RESULT.