

The Key to Starting Your Rolls-Royce

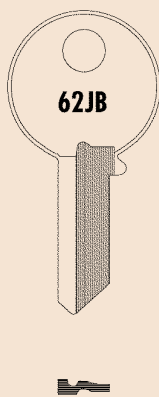
By GIL FUQUA, JR., TN

Your car starts with a key...and this article is about what key fits each chassis. The good news is that key blanks for most Rolls-Royce and Bentley models made before 1992 are readily available at reasonable prices. The bad news is most locksmiths do not stock Rolls-Royce key blanks because demand is relatively low and the minimum order from suppliers is usually a box of 50 key blanks. RROC club stores recently acquired a large number of key blanks at very attractive prices as a result of the author's research for this article. See the club store advertisement in this issue for more information. The key blanks can be easily cut by a local locksmith from your existing key.

Identifying Rolls-Royce and Bentley Keys

Pre-war and early post-war chassis were supplied with only one ignition key and it is a round head key. Silver Cloud and later chassis have two ignition keys: a master key (square head) that fits all locks, and a valet key (round head) that fits the ignition and door locks only.

The following information includes a cross reference for key blanks from a number of manufacturers, many of whom are no longer in business. This data will help identify existing keys and provide a reference in locating old stock supplies. Ilco Unican key blanks are noted separately since they are the largest manufacturer of key blanks in the world, owning the Ilco, Silca, and Dominion key brands. A drawing of each key and keyway is also shown.



Pre-War Chassis (R-R & Bentley)

- Round head key
- Most pre-war keys are marked "H.T.&V". Pre-war keys have a number stamped on one side of the key face that corresponds to

the lock's key code, generally 1 to 3 numbers, then the letter "V" followed by 1 to 3 numbers (example: 14V122).

- Some coachbuilders used different lock suppliers and the ignition key may not fit door locks.
- 4 pin lock cylinder for ignition
- Rolls-Royce part # RH7492

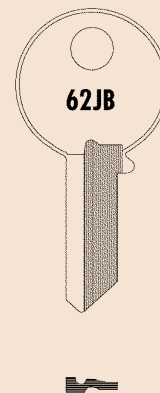


Pre-war Yale key showing characteristic key code (88 V 7). This number corresponds to the key code stamped on the barrel of the ignition switch located behind the dash and is also referenced in the chassis cards.



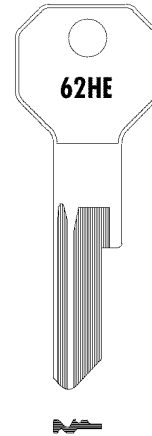
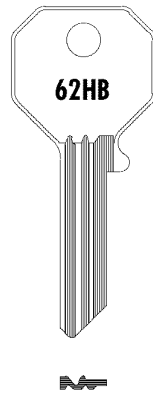
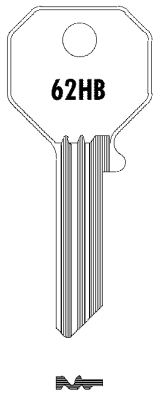
Pre-war / early post-war keys: Silca RR4 (left) and Taylor 62HO (right) are modern replacements for original Yale key (middle). Note that head size and overall length are slightly different, however the key blades are the same.

- Ilco key blank # 62JB
- Cross reference key numbers: Silca RR4, Taylor 62HO, Dominion 62JB, Cole National F09, Curtis RR-3, Orion RR13



Early Post-War (incl. Mk VI, R Type, Silver Dawn, Silver Wraith)

- Round head key (same key blank as pre-war chassis)
- Push button starter car keys were made by Yale & Towne. The three-letter prefix (RDA or WDA) designates the Yale lock series, followed by three numbers that designate the lock's key code (example: RDA417).
- Same key blank used for ignition, doors, trunk locks (except some coachbuilt cars may have different locks for doors and trunk)
- 4 pin lock cylinder
- Yale lock series: RDA 001-RDA 743, WDA 001-WDA 100
- Rolls-Royce part # RH7492
- Ilco key blank # 62JB
- Cross reference key numbers: Silca RR4, Taylor 62HO, Dominion 62JB, Cole National F09, Curtis RR-3, Orion RR13



Silver Cloud I, II, III & Bentley S1, S2, S3

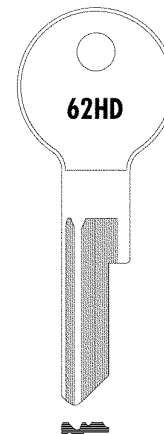
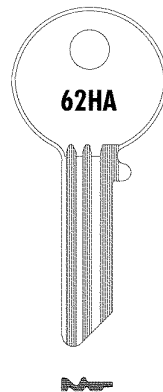
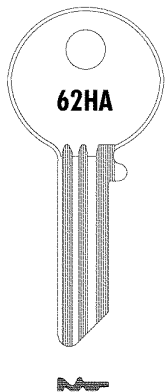
- MASTER KEY—square head key (fits ignition, doors, trunk, glovebox)
- 5 pin lock cylinder
- Yale lock series (master key): BSM and BHM 501—BHM 597
- Rolls-Royce part # RH7486
- Ilco key blank # 62HB
- Cross reference key numbers: Silca RR1, Taylor 62HB, Dominion 62HB, Cole National F08, Curtis RR-2, Keil 162 RO

Silver Shadow—up to 9000 Chassis Series (pre 1970)

- MASTER KEY—square head key (fits ignition, doors, trunk, glovebox)
- 5 pin lock cylinder
- Yale lock series (master key): BSM and BHM 501—BHM 597
- Rolls-Royce part # RH7486
- Ilco key blank # 62HB
- Cross reference key numbers: Silca RR1, Taylor 62HB, Dominion 62HB, Cole National F08, Curtis RR-2, Keil 162 RO

Silver Shadow—9000 Chassis Series onwards (1970—1981)

- MASTER KEY—square head key (fits ignition, doors, trunk, glovebox)
- 5 pin lock cylinder
- Yale lock series (master key): RRM 1001—RRM 2000
- Rolls-Royce part # UD16920
- Ilco key blank # X28
- Cross reference key numbers: Ilco 62HE (Ilco EZ number), Silca RR5, Taylor X28, Dominion 62HE, Orion RR14



- VALET KEY—round (fits ignition, doors only)
- Yale lock series (valet key): BSL and BHL 501—BHL 597
- Rolls-Royce part # RH7485
- Ilco key blank # 62HA
- Cross reference key numbers: Ilco BR4 (old stock number), Silca RR2, Taylor 62HA, Dominion 62HA, Cole National F07, Curtis RR-1, Independent B61B

- VALET KEY—round head key (fits ignition and doors only)
- Yale lock series (valet key): BSL and BHL 501—BHL 597
- Rolls-Royce part # RH7485
- Ilco key blank # 62HA
- Cross reference key numbers: Ilco BR4 (old stock number), Silca RR2, Taylor 62HA, Dominion 62HA, Cole National F07, Curtis RR-1, Independent B61B

- VALET KEY—round head key (fits ignition and doors only)
- Yale lock series (valet key): RRL 1001—RRL 2000
- Rolls-Royce part # UD16919
- Ilco key blank # 62HD
- Cross reference key numbers: Silca RR6, Dominion 62HD
- A “short shank” valet key blank is also available—Ilco 62HC, Silca RR3, Dominion 62HC, Orion RR12

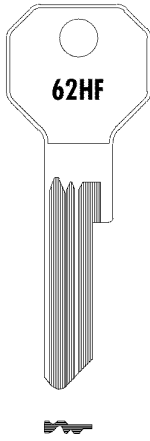
Silver Cloud I, II, III & Bentley S1, S2, S3 (replacement locks)

- MASTER KEY—square head key (fits ignition, doors, trunk, glovebox)
- Yale lock series (master key): MRP
- Rolls-Royce part # UD17419
- VALET KEY—round (fits ignition, doors only)
- Yale lock series (valet key): LRP
- Rolls-Royce part # UD17418

DID YOU KNOW . . .

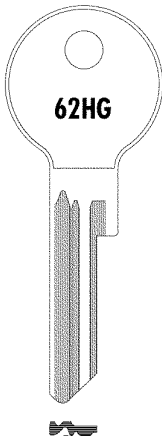
That W.O. Bentley developed the aluminium piston? As the U.K. agent for DFP (Doriet, Flandrin & Parent) motorcars, he was constantly frustrated in his racing efforts by piston failure on laps above 80 mph. The DFP’s light steel pistons fractured their rings; the cast iron pistons cracked. W.O. commissioned the Corbin Foundry, a supplier to DFP, to cast a set of aluminum pistons and fitted them to a 12–15 HP DFP Speed Model. *“In every respect they were a great advance...and they remained the standard in car and aero engines right through the war into the twenties”*, W.O. wrote in his autobiography. He never understood why his secret did not leak out.

—W.O., *The autobiography*; Hutchinsons, London; pubs, 1958.



Silver Spirit and Silver Spur (1981–1991)

- MASTER KEY—square head key (fits ignition, doors, trunk, glovebox)
- 5 pin lock cylinder
- Yale lock series (master key): NRRM 1001–NRRM 2000
- Rolls-Royce part # UB70982
- Ilco key blank # 62HF
- Cross reference key numbers: Silca RR7R, Dominion 62HF



- VALET KEY—round head key (fits ignition and doors only)
- Yale lock series (valet key): NRRL 1001–NRRL 2000
- Rolls-Royce part # UB70981
- Ilco key blank # 62HG
- Cross reference key numbers: Dominion 62HG, Silca RR10R,
- A “long shank” valet key blank is also available—Silca RR8R

Lost Your Keys—Key Man Insurance

If you are lucky enough to own a Rolls-Royce or Bentley but not so lucky as to have a key, there is still hope. The RREC acquired all the pre-war master keys from Appleyard-Rippon (prior authorized source for pre-war R-R parts) and has entrusted Theo Hendrickson, former Parts Manager of Appleyard-Rippon, with the cutting and supply of replacement keys for pre-war chassis. He uses Yale key blanks. You will

KEY NUMBER	KEY MANUFACTURER	ROLLS-ROYCE CHASSIS
62HA	Ilco, Dominion, Taylor	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-valet key
62HB	Ilco, Dominion, Taylor	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-master key
62HC	Ilco, Dominion	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-valet key
62HD	Ilco, Dominion	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-valet key
62HE	Ilco, Dominion	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-master key
62HF	Ilco, Dominion	Silver Spirit/Spur-master key
62HG	Ilco, Dominion	Silver Spirit/Spur-valet key
62HO	Taylor	Pre-War Chassis, Early Post-War
62JB	Ilco, Dominion	Pre-War Chassis, Early Post-War
162RO	Keil	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-master key
B61B	Independent	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-valet key
BHL ___	Yale	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-valet key
BHM ___	Yale	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-master key
BR4	Ilco	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-valet key
BSL ___	Yale	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-valet key
BSM ___	Yale	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-master key
F07	Cole Nat'l	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-valet key
F08	Cole Nat'l	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-master key
F09	Cole Nat'l	Pre-War Chassis, Early Post-War
H.T.&V. ___	H.T.&V.	Pre-War Chassis
LRP ___	Yale	Silver Cloud-valet key (replacement)
MRP ___	Yale	Silver Cloud-master key (replacement)
NRRL ___	Yale	Silver Spirit/Spur-valet key
NRRM ___	Yale	Silver Spirit/Spur-master key
RDA ___	Yale	Early Post-War
RRL ___	Yale	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-valet key
RRM ___	Yale	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-master key
RR1	Silca	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-master key
RR-1	Curtis	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-valet key
RR2	Silca	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-valet key
RR-2	Curtis	Silver Cloud & Silver Shadow (pre 9000 series)-master key
RR3	Silca	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-valet key
RR-3	Curtis	Pre-War Chassis, Early Post-War
RR4	Silca	Pre-War Chassis, Early Post-War
RR5	Silca	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-master key
RR6	Silca	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-valet key
RR7R	Silca	Silver Spirit/Spur-master key
RR8R	Silca	Silver Spirit/Spur-valet key
RR10R	Silca	Silver Spirit/Spur-valet key
RR12	Orion	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-valet key
RR13	Orion	Pre-War Chassis, Early Post-War
RR14	Orion	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-master key
WDA ___	Yale	Early Post-War
X28	Ilco, Taylor	Silver Shadow-9000 series onwards-master key
___ V ___	H.T.&V., Yale	Pre-War Chassis, Early Post-War

_ represents a numeral 0–9 in the key number

need the key code for your pre-war chassis in order for him to cut your key. Key codes are also stamped on the barrel of the switchbox (behind the dash). Mr. Hendrickson noted that the key code on the chassis card may not be correct for your car since the switchbox may have been changed and that information may not have been updated on the chassis cards. You should verify the key code with the number stamped on the switchbox. The pre-war code is a 1–3 digit number, then the letter “V” and followed by 1 to 3 numbers (example: 14V122). Contact Mr. Hendrickson with your key number (direct dial from the U.S. 011 44 1132 559908 (phone/fax), or email <theo.hendrickson@cwcom.net>.

Post-war keys are available in the U.K. from Jack Barclay Ltd. (24 Ponton Road, Nine Elms, London, SW8 5BA; direct dial from the U.S. 011 44 171 738 8333, fax 011 44 171 738

8099). Jack Barclay will require your chassis number to match with a master cross-reference of key codes in order to cut a new key from the code. You can also obtain post-war keys from Rolls-Royce Motors through U.S.-based Rolls-Royce dealers. If you are in a hurry for a post-war key, remove the glove box lock cylinder and take it to a competent locksmith with a key blank for your car. He should be able to “make” a key from the glove box cylinder that will fit the ignition. ☞

Information for this article was compiled from a number of sources and could not be independently corroborated by the author to verify that every key listed will actually substitute for the original key. The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Ilco in providing catalog photos and information, and Blackhawk Products for their computerized cross-reference information on key blanks.