



INTERNATIONAL



Monster Tribune

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Two newborns in the Grivel family

The Family is growing

In 2006 two new members have been added to the Monster line. Alp Monster for alpinists, climbers and dry toolers. Lil' Monster for beginners, light weighters, hand protectable.

Once upon a time there was a beast, or more exactly a Monster, that decided to start climbing ice and mountains. All the wise old men of the village said "no you can't climb the ice and mountains because you're not strong enough, you're a weakling. You're all skinny and flat with humps you're just a Monster! But he didn't give up; he tried and tried again until he made it. He did it so well that he overcame bits that even the stronger, more attractive and broader ones lost their grip on. Everybody was really surprised and other Monsters overcame their shyness and started climbing on ice and the mountains. The first one was an extremely elegant Monster. He turned up in mimetic gear, in disguise, for this reason he was named XMonster. Then came a skinny one who started on the high mountain routes, nicknamed Alp Monster. Finally a really delicate, shy and little one appeared, called Lil' (Little) Monster straightaway. Today you will see all four of them on ice falls, rock faces and cliffs everywhere. They have a wild time as everybody learns to love them and their previous critics sit in the background grumbling, ignored by everybody else.



MONSTER

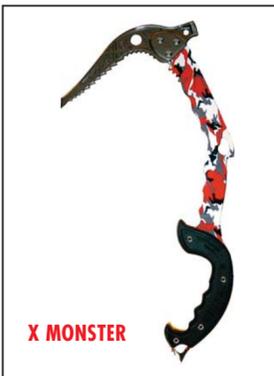
The most recent revolution, the Monster, comes to the light in 2004. Experts in competition climbing, bouldering, extreme dry tooling, total dry will immediately recognise the Monster for what it is, not a new ice axe, but the most efficient extension of their own arm for hooking on the most difficult terrains. The shaft has multiple grips for traction, swings, hand swap-overs, new positions and interpretations: all power to imagination! Forged pick with teeth at all angles, straight, inverse, into holes, onto the tiniest holds. Modern design and new-style graphics make the Monster unique, plus the multiple presentations letting everybody choose according to their own personal inspiration. And, a last final bit of news, Grivel's years of experience and huge technological capacity mean that the price is cut to half than a modern technical ice axe. As an advertising campaign could say: two for the price of one!
One size: cms 49
Weight: 730 gr oz: 25,7 - Patented



MONSTER

X MONSTER

All the accepted rules about climbing equipment were upset during the 2004-2005 season by Monster. Lots of Grivel competitors tried to stop this stampede even using underhand methods. But the concept was right and today the less extreme X Monster has arrived. The shaft is slightly straighter and the grip is better for vertical walls – the Monster on the other hand was perfect for overhangs – its multi-grip design lets the climber's imagination run wild. A thinner pick for fragile ice. A shorter pick as the continuity between pick and shaft can anchor in deep as there's nothing to stop the blade fitting in between two columns or in narrow cracks. The flexible shaft that so many climbers have recently discovered makes anchoring into cracks, including non vertical ones, easier and safer. Just remember the progress made on changing from rigid to flexible vaulting poles! The rear is almost a hammer shaped like "nuts", ideal for anchoring and torquing in larger cracks on mixed terrain. A hole in the shaft can be used to attach a leash. Tiny anti slip claw at the end of the shaft. Modern graphics and accessible prices for those with limited funds typical of today's younger generation. CE certification as a category 2 PPI.



X MONSTER

Weight gr: 475 oz: 16,7 Length cm: 47 - Patented

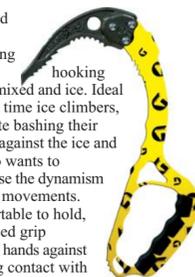
ALP MONSTER

A new version of Monster with a hammer for alpinists, ice climbers and dry toolers. Ideal substitute for an ice axe when manageability and moving lightweight is important. Ideal for female hands and tomorrow's stars. It inherits the well proven Monster and XMonster technology. Blade in hot forged steel. Posterior hammer. New generation shaft with innovative sublimated graphics. Available in 2 sizes 38/44 to satisfy all the needs of the climbers.
Weight gr: 550 oz: 19,4 Length 2 version: 38cm. - 44 cm. Patented.



LIL' MONSTER

the tool designed for anchoring and hooking up, on mixed and ice. Ideal for first time ice climbers, who hate bashing their fingers against the ice and for who wants to maximise the dynamism of their movements. Comfortable to hold, the closed grip protects hands against freezing contact with ice and painful contact with rock. It inherits the well proven Monster and XMonster technology. New generation shaft with innovative sublimated graphics.
Weight gr: 475 oz: 16,7 Length cm: 32. Patented



Interview with Christophe Profit

1987, 12-13 March Christophe Profit climbs the three most famous North Faces of the Alps: the Eiger, the Matterhorn and the Grand Jorasses. Solo in winter in 40 hours.



Your first impressions with Monster.
I tried Monster for the first time this winter. I climbed quite a lot of ice falls and some goulottes on the South side of Tacul and on the North side of the Aiguille. I found myself at ease almost immediately with X Monster. Its flexible and thin shaft represents a big evolution for alpinism. It has been designed following simple rules. Thanks to the flexibility of the shaft it's much easier to fix the blade into fixtures, using the body weight instead of using the arms strength. The thin shaft when possible, can cut snowcrust and get an immediate bite on the underlying ice.

Fun...emotion or a bit of both together?
I immediately felt a big wave of emotion because I had the impression of being one with the mountain. Once I got the Monster in my hands I had so much fun... Because you need less energy than with « the old piolets » and you can appreciate the route a lot more.

Suggestions for someone just trying Monster for the first time.
You have to tame Monster first. Short routes, some easy and some mixte will help you develop a total understanding of the hidden potentiality of this precious tool

A dream comes true



Ueli Steck winter soloing "Young Spider" on the North of Eiger with XMonster

The "Young Spider" is a modern Alpine route. A2/7 a W16/M7. It meant a lot to me. Since the first ascent, I've always dreamt of repeating this route alone. Because style does

matter! So in January when the high pressure arrived the game could start. I had 6 days of food and gas and 15 kgs hardware for climbing. It's completely different to all the other solo ascents that I have done. Every single pitch is hard on this route. Even 6b at minus 20° Celsius is a nightmare to climb. I just had to take one pitch at the time. If I started thinking about what it was like 100 metres higher up, I would go crazy. A big dream is becoming true!

6° International ice climbing competition in Austria Monster on the podium again.

On January 7th and 8th the 6° Austrian International Ice climbing Competition was held in Kotschach-Mauten. Urs Odermatt won the male competition and Claudia Colussi won the female competition. Our best compliments to both athletes who belong to Grivel Team



X MONSTER on the North of Eiger

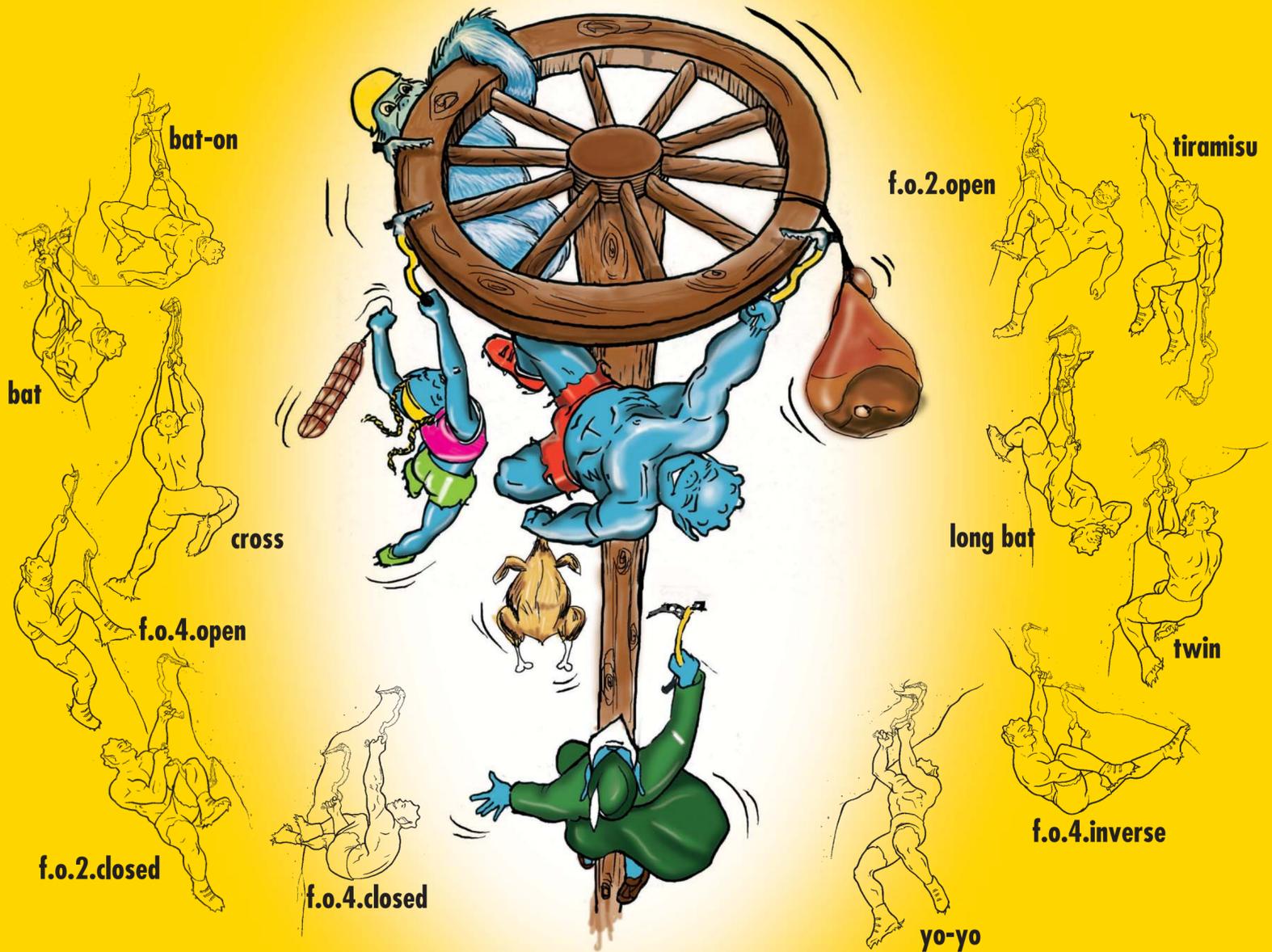
On 13th and 14th November Manu Ibarra and Jerome Blanc Grass, accompanied by Philippe Collet and Jean-Sé Knoetzer, climbed the Eiger's legendary North Face using G14 and Air Tech crampons and the brand new X Monsters. The uniform thickness of these tools' shafts, picks and blades makes anchoring easier in tricky situations of crusted snow and deep cracks, giving optimum safety and faster progression.



International Monster Tribune
GRIVEL MONT BLANC

Send us your MONSTER comments/photos - www.grivel.com

Whatever you thought about Monster think again



Interview with GRIVEL

Grivel has been involved in mountaineering since 1818 and after almost two centuries of ice and mixed climbing Grivel has always been an integral part of changes in ice climbing. What is changing from your point of view?

Someone once said that only he who knows where he comes from also knows where he's going. We know very well where we come from: from the world's longest experience of conceiving and creating tools to help climbers at their task. In a couple of years we too will celebrate two centuries of existence, and throughout all this time we have constantly observed how the behaviour of the human-climber mutates and evolves during this, albeit brief, history of this vertical game. Every time a Leitmotiv came to an end something new had to be invented. Or rather, discovered, because mountains certainly don't mutate as quickly as we do and they've been pretty much the same for millions of years. We learn how to "see" structures and problems that have always existed: this happened for the ridges, rock faces, gulleys, subtle winter and summer icefalls... but at the end of the day it's all existed already.

Ice climbing, dry tooling, total dryS Grivel has always carefully watched the evolution of athletes and climbing ice with crampons and ice axes. Where do you think current limits are heading?

These are all inventions typical of human beings (such as first repeats, solo ascents, winter ascents, enchainements) and they become valid in specific historical contexts. For example when a new generation feels the need to emerge, to show who they really are. This can only come about by inventing new objectives and developing new strategies necessary for success. It's not the new generation's fault if the older generation has already filled to the brim the vase of possibilities, according to a certain technique and ethics. If they want their share of glory then they need to modify exactly these techniques and ethics.

Grivel has also always supported ice climbing competitions. How much have these influenced your

overall projects?

Changes and evolution can come about only on the margins, in extreme situations and at the very forefront of activity. Competitions are certainly on the edge of climbing as a whole and therefore a logical playground to try out new ideas and, above all, determine new needs.

Monster was last year's bet, an ice axe defined by yourself as a "non-ice axe". How has the market reacted to this new climbing tool?

With the Monster we resolved one of dry tooling's problems: the rigidity of the shaft of traditional tools. Yes, because a rigid shaft means that the axis in which the tool can be used can only be the direction of the shaft itself. This obviously limits hooking and consequently climbing techniques. A flexible shaft on the other hand allows "off-axis" traction and significantly improves the efficiency of hooking in cracks. But there's more: the shaft acts as a spring and reduces the strength needed to hold the axe, resulting in less effort as the elastic return of the shaft keeps the pick wedged in the crack, just like suspension springs keep cars anchored to the ground. Additionally, you can also use the elastic return to improve dynamic moves. But back to your question: the Monster is really liked by the new generation but disliked by "barons" who have consolidated positions to defend and are, as a result, afraid of evolution.

Innovation and outstanding products are Grivel's hallmark. Which turn will competitions, new moves and new equipment take in the future?

Future historians will have to announce the winner in the race between climbing techniques and the tools which render all this possible. Perhaps though this is a race which can have no victor because it is never-ending. Only one thing is certain: people will continue to have more and more fun, and this too is guaranteed by the Monster.

www.planetmountain.com

MADE IN ITALY



It is also important to remember that some technologies are unbeatable for obtaining the best possible mechanical characteristics: hot forging is emblematic in this case.

When Oskar Eckenstein, the famous inventor of crampons, stepped into the Grivel's smoky workshop in "Les Forges" in Courmayeur in 1909 the family was already renowned among alpinists for the quality of their ice axes. The story goes that old Henry, controversial and always ready to take the mickey, used to convince even the most wary clients of the strength of his tools were by striking them on the huge block of granite outside his workshop. But where did this strength and above all this self confidence come from? Precisely from the technique of hot drop forging, exactly the same that produced the blades of the Sword of Damocles and of Toledo, world famous for their superior strength.

Steel doesn't have the cold and uniform characteristics that we usually give it but instead groups of molecular chains that line up and distribute themselves according to lines of force that create the strength of the piece of "iron". A bit like fibres in wood that we're used to seeing and choosing according to their natural formation to get the best possible stamina. The huge advantage of steel is that it can be shaped to how we want it when it is heated to "cherry red" temperature (about 950°C). At this point it can be modified through being beaten to align its fibres according to the lines of force needed to obtain the maximum strength in the direction that we want: for example following the length of an ice axe's blade.

To summarise: the fibres in steel are internally aligned in a random sequence, these can be re-aligned in which ever direction we want when the steel is heated to a certain temperature and then "ironed out" by beating it and forcing it into the desired alignment. This operation, followed up by heat treatment (what was once known as "tempering" that fixed permanently the internal structure), is precisely known as "hot forging". It is how the best characteristics and the desired form are obtained from steel. No other process has ever, and ever will, better this one: quiz a specialist in metallurgy and he'll confirm it.