



AAC Publications

Incredible Hulk: Lenticular Gyration

California, Eastern Sierra

On September 5, Jeff Gickhorn, Patrick O'Donnell, and I free climbed a new route on the Incredible Hulk. Jeff and I had envisioned this route in 2014, and we took two calendar years to equip it, making many short weekend trips spread out over three seasons. Many setbacks occurred over this multi-year project, including broken drill bits, hail and rain storms, and some ground-up questing that left us far out from our protection with no bolt kit. The crux pitch caused many headaches for us, as it required the most bolts and was 1,000' up the wall.

At the risk of not completing the climb in 2016, Patrick O'Donnell was invited along for our free attempt. On September 5, Patrick and I freed the entire route, with Jeff freeing all but the last two pitches. Swapping leads among the team, the four hardest pitches (3, 4, 8, and 9) all were redpointed for the first time on that day.

Lenticular Gyration (1,100', III 5.12c) shares approximately 60' with other climbs, but opens up over 1,000' of new terrain, with the crux eighth lead being one of the steepest pitches on the Hulk. The route is mostly varied crack climbing on excellent rock. We placed two bolts at each anchor, and seven of the route's ten protection bolts are found on the crux pitch. The climb is well-suited for climbers who are looking for something more challenging than Sunspot Dihedral, but not as hard as the Venturi Effect.

As part of this project, Jeff and I also freed a new start variation to Tradewinds, climbing the first two pitches of Lenticular Gyration, then connecting into Tradewinds at its third anchor. This variation offers a better warmup and higher quality climbing than the original start to Tradewinds. [Editor's note: A pitch-by-pitch description and more photos can be found at [Mountain Project](#).] – Aaron Cassebeer

Images



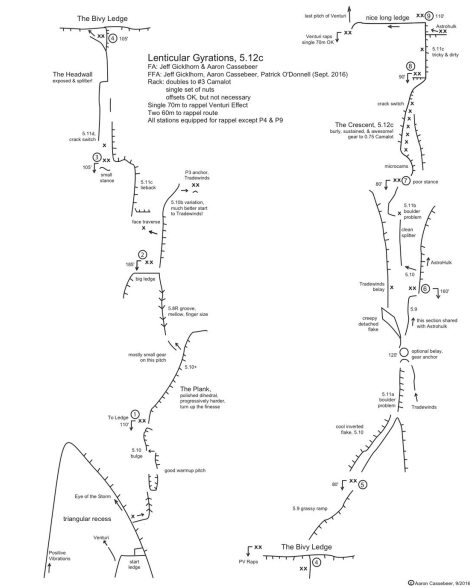
Patrick O'Donnell redpointing the crux of Lenticular Gyration on pitch eight.



Photo-topo of all known routes on the Incredible Hulk (2016).



Aaron Cassebeer following the splitter undercling of pitch six on the first ascent of Lenticular Gyations.



Topo of the route Lenticular Gyations on Incredible Hulk.



Jeff Gicklhorn in the midst of the fourth pitch during the first ascent.



Aaron Cassebeer nearing the top of the Plank on pitch two.



New Route on Hulk

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