



Arizona Vortex Features & Benefits

Development of the Rock Exotica Arizona Vortex Multipod

The Arizona Vortex was developed in the desert mountains of northern Arizona. Its design was based on expertise gained while working with wooden timber frame “artificial” high directionals constructed for vertical rescue work. Initial development work was done during Ropes that Rescue (RTR) Seminars under the direction of Reed Thorne. The first metal prototype of the Arizona Vortex was an “easel-style A-Frame” welded together from steel square tubing and plate. Although heavy and cumbersome, it provided a test bed for proving and refining the design. The next step was the construction of an aluminum prototype. It was tested in four on-week-long RTR rigging seminars before the next prototype was made. It refined the legs’ adjusting system and introduced the “Raptor” foot design (named for its claw-like appearance). The shape of the foot helps direct forces downward into the soft soil often found in mines and wilderness locations.

Three more years of use in rescue, rigging seminars, and rope access worldwide allowed Reed Thorne to further refine the design. With the help and exquisite craftsmanship of Rock Thompson of ROCK EXOTICA, and input from other users, the next generation of the Arizona Vortex took shape - the Rock Exotica AZ Vortex Multipod. It is incredibly versatile and can be rigged as a tripod, a bipod, or monopod. The first tests of the AZV Multipod took place in Australia during late 2003.

