

ENGLISH

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

⚠ WARNING

For ice climbing and mountaineering only. Climbing and mountaineering are dangerous. Understand and accept the risks involved before participating. **You are responsible for your own actions and decisions.** Before using this product, read and understand all instructions and warnings that accompany it and familiarize yourself with its capabilities and limitations. We recommend that every climber seek qualified instruction. * **Failure to respect any of these warnings can result in severe injury or death!**

* A list of guides, guide services and instructional programs may be obtained through local or national mountain guide associations. In the USA, contact the American Mountain Guide Association, (303) 271-0984 or 222.amiga.com.

ICE TOOLS

Black Diamond ice tools are designed for use in mountaineering and ice climbing. Some models are also designed for extreme mixed climbing (ice, rock and snow) and dry tooling (mostly rock). Black Diamond Ice Tools conform to EN 13089 standards. Approval performed by CETE APAVE SUDEUROPE, BP193 13322 Marseille Cedex 16, France, notified body number 0082.

USING ICE TOOLS

Good ice climbing technique develops with experience. The ability to read ice and find solid placements is painstakingly gained through experience and instruction, for which no piece of literature, no matter how complete, can substitute. Seek qualified instruction. Learn and practice the proper techniques for climbing and self-arresting before you rely on your ice tools.

In most cases, you should have two tools to climb. To protect yourself, always carry at LEAST one spare tool, as well as a spare pick and wrench. Carrying spares is essential for reducing some of the risks involved in ice climbing.

LIMITATIONS OF ICE TOOLS

Your ice tools are strong—not indestructible. Any part of an ice tool could conceivably break. Ice tools are much stronger when the handle is straight below the head of the axe and you are pulling straight down. Lateral and rotational forces are harder on tools, and could weaken or even break them.

- ◆ Vigorously twisting a tool when its pick, hammer or adze is wedged in a crack could break the tool or pick.
- ◆ A heavy lateral or rotational load could break the shaft.
- ◆ Even normal use can snap a pick. Carry spares.
- ◆ Dropping a tool off a route could break it, or cause serious internal damage not visible to the naked eye.
- ◆ Don't belay or rappel off your ice tools or ice axe leashes.
- ◆ When deballing your crampons with your ice tools be very careful not to hit your tool directly on the points of your crampons. Be sure to avoid impact with the shaft of a tool. Instead, strike your crampons with the pick, adze or hammer of your tool, or better yet, strike the side of your boot, not the crampon points. Because carbon fiber can be punctured, your ice axe should be protected from crampon points and other sharp objects to avoid weakening or damaging the shaft.
- ◆ Ice climbing is hard on ice tools. Regular use will gradually weaken any tool.

COMPONENTS

Picks

The Titan, Laser and Fusion Picks fit all of Black Diamond's modular ice axes except the Venom ice axe, which requires a Venom Pick. The Titan Pick is Black Diamond's most durable pick and is recommended for all-around use. The Laser Pick excels on steep ice and the Fusion Pick is intended for mixed climbing. Be aware that Type **B** picks intended for climbing steep terrain are less durable than Type **T** picks.

Hammer and Adze

The Split Head Hammer, Adze and Blank are specifically made to fit split head modular tools.

LEASHES

All of Black Diamond's ice axe leashes work with Black Diamond's ice axes unless explicitly stated in the leash instructions. Some Black Diamond ice axes come with the Slider Leash or Lockdown Leash attached.

The **SLIDER** Leash cinches around the wrist via a sliding anodized metal tube. This no-hassle system closes tight, adjusts quickly and is simple to operate. The Slider Leash works particularly well with longer mountaineering tools but also excels on a technical tool. When placing protection or when climbing with your hands, the Slider Leash allows your tools to dangle freely from your wrist. Fits tools to 85 cm.

The **LOCKDOWN** Leash incorporates an ergonomic twist to provide superior comfort. The cinch design locks tight on your wrist, yet enlarges quickly and easily for speedy hand removal. A stop buckle allows you to predetermine how tight the leash cinches on your wrist. The finger loop accepts a gloved finger or a hammer or adze of a tool to open the leash. To open with a hammer or adze, place your tool in the ice, loop the finger loop over the hammer or adze and pull down with your wrist. Convert the Lockdown to a "lefty" leash by threading the web through the wrist slot in the opposite direction. The stop buckle should always be on the outside of the wrist for maximum comfort. Fits tools to 75 cm.

How to adjust the leash provided with your ice axe

Wearing the glove you intend to climb in, determine where you prefer to grip the ice axe handle when climbing. With your wrist in the leash, adjust its length so that you can grasp that portion of the handle with your wrist straight and with some tension in the leash. While climbing, the leash should help support some weight but not affect your wrist angle or hinder you from holding the handle in the best location.

LEASH CARE

We recommend that you inspect your leash before and after each use for signs of damage and wear. Retire your leash immediately if:

- ◆ The buckle is cracked or bent.
- ◆ There is any kind of rip or hole in the webbing.
- ◆ The webbing is burnt, singed or melted.
- ◆ There are torn threads or heavy abrasion to the webbing.
- ◆ Bar tacks are abraded or showing wear.
- ◆ The webbing has faded from exposure to ultraviolet light.

DO NOT sew, re sew, burn or singe loose threads (except after trimming the leash's length), bleach the webbing, modify, or change your leash in any way. If your leash is at all damaged, it must be retired immediately. After you retire a piece of gear, destroy it to prevent future use.

Please Note: Webbing gets slightly fuzzy with use. Although minor fuzzing is not a cause for concern, melted, torn or seriously abraded webbing necessitates the retirement of your leash.

ADJUSTABLE GRIP

Some ice tools have adjustable grips. Size the grip to fit your hand by removing the bolt and pommel and adding or removing the provided spacers (Figure 1). One 6 mm (1/4") and two 3 mm (1/8") spacers are provided with each tool. Never install more than 12 mm (1/2") worth of spacers to the grip; it may compromise the strength of the pommel attachment. When you have the size you want, put the pommel back on, insert the bolt and tighten.

WARNING: Do not use more spacers than those provided. Do not modify the grip spacers.

VIPER FANG

The Viper Ice Axe is supplied with the Viper Fang (also sold as an accessory) to assist in leashless climbing and to protect your knuckles during climbing. The Viper Fang (Figure 2) may be removed to allow for easier plunging of the axe shaft or when access to the spike hole is preferred.

WARNING: The Viper Fang should be used only to support the hand. **DO NOT** clip into it or use it for any purpose other than to support your hand. The Viper Fang should only be used with Viper ice axes. Climbing without leashes increases your risk of falling and of dropping your ice axe. **DO NOT** climb without leashes when unroped or when the consequences of a fall could be severe.

ACCESSORIES

The Viper Strike (Figure 3) grip attachment may be added to your Viper ice axe to assist in climbing leashless. Keep bolts tight on all accessories.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Ice tools require a certain amount of attention. Loose picks are potentially dangerous and can permanently damage the tongue and groove of the tool's head. On modular and semi-modular tools, keep the bolts tight. Check the bolts before you climb and while you are on a route. When tightening, use the supplied wrench or use an appropriate substitute. Don't strip the bolt—over tightening and cross threading can damage the threads.

On all tools, the pick and spike must be sharp to have effective purchase in the ice. Sharpen them by hand with a file. A grinder could overheat and weaken the metal. Do not modify any other part of a tool.

STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION

After using your ice tools, allow them to dry thoroughly before storing. Store your ice tools in a dry environment away from heat. To minimize rust you can lightly lubricate all metal parts with a rust inhibitor. Keep ice tools away from corrosive materials such as battery acid, solvents and salts. When transporting your ice tools cover the sharp points with point protectors.

LIFESPAN

Under normal use (20 to 50 days per year), the lifespan of a Type **B** ice axe is 5 years, a Type **T** ice axe is 3 years and a replaceable pick on a Type **T** ice axe is 1 year. More frequent use or extreme climbing can reduce the lifespan of your ice tool. Some activities that would reduce its lifespan are hitting rocks, twisting the axe and pick, and dry tool climbing on rock.

INSPECTION AND RETIREMENT

Inspect your ice tools for damage before and after each use.

Retire a tool immediately if:

- ◆ The shaft is bent, cracked or dented.
- ◆ The head is bent, cracked, dented or loose.
- ◆ The rivets securing the spike are loose.
- ◆ The spike is bent, loose or cracked.

If any modular part is damaged or excessively worn, it must be replaced before you use the tool again.

Resharpener your pick will eventually shorten it and alter its shape so that it no longer places and holds properly in ice or on rock.

Retire a pick:

- ◆ When filing can no longer return it to its original pick angle and shape (Figure 4).
- ◆ If it is bent, cracked or deformed in any way or has been in hard service for more than a few seasons. Inspect your pick often.
- ◆ If the teeth are broken or excessively worn down.

Retire a modular hammer or adze if:

- ◆ The hammer or adze is bent, cracked or deformed.

If a tool or component is worn but not obviously damaged it still may be ready for retirement. Mixed climbing wears tools and components down much faster than ice and snow. A sharp impact can weaken a tool or component considerably, often in ways that are not apparent to the naked eye.

It is vitally important that your tools and components be sound. If you have any doubts about the dependability of a tool or component, retire it and get a new one. Anytime you retire a piece of gear, destroy it to prevent future use.

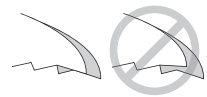


Figure 4

MARKINGS

Explanation of markings

BLACK DIAMOND: Name of the manufacturer.

USA: Country where manufacturer is located.

◆ : Black Diamond's logo

DATE CODE: As an example, the number 4094 may appear, which indicates that the tool was manufactured on the 94th day of 2004.

CE 0639: This mark indicates fulfillment of the requirements of Article 11B of the Personal Protective Equipment Directive (89/686/EEC) including ISO 9001 certification by AFAQ-ASCERT International (QUAL/1998/10072) 116 Avenue Aristide Briand, B.P. 83, F92225 Bagneux Cedex, France and compliance with the applicable CEN product type testing.

PATENT NUMBER: Black Diamond ice tools are covered by the following U.S. patents: #5,768,727 #5,425,176 #5,996,235.

T : Indicates the ice tool and/or pick are certified as a Type T ice tool, "intended for climbing steep ice." Type T picks must pass higher strength requirements and are more durable than Type B picks.

B : Indicates that the ice tool and/or pick are certified as a Type B ice tool, and are defined as "Ice tools other than technical ice tools." Type B picks intended for climbing steep ice are less durable than Type T picks. They may have thinner cross sections to improve climbing performance, but they will also have a higher likelihood of bending or breaking during use. Inspect steep ice "Type B" picks frequently.

LIMITED WARRANTY

We warrant for one year from purchase date and only to the original retail buyer (Buyer) that our products (Products) are free from defects in material and workmanship. If Buyer discovers a covered defect, Buyer should deliver the Product to us at the address provided. We will replace such Product free of charge. That is the extent of our liability under this Warranty and, upon the expiration of the applicable warranty period, all such liability shall terminate.

Warranty Exclusions :

We do not warrant Products against normal wear and tear, unauthorized modifications or alterations, improper use, improper maintenance, accident, misuse, negligence, damage, or if the Product is used for a purpose for which it was not designed. This Warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. Except as expressly stated in this Warranty, we shall not be liable for direct, indirect, incidental, or other types of damages arising out of, or resulting from the use of the Product. This Warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose (some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages or allow limitations on the duration of an implied warranty, so the above exclusions may not apply to you).