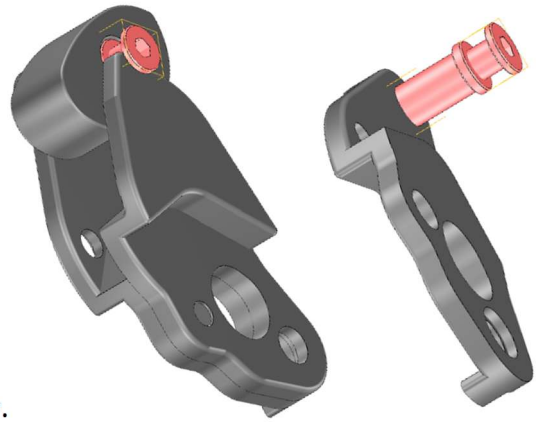


ART calls on all BlackBird owners to replace the **upper bearing pin of the friction enhancer** along with the corresponding screw.

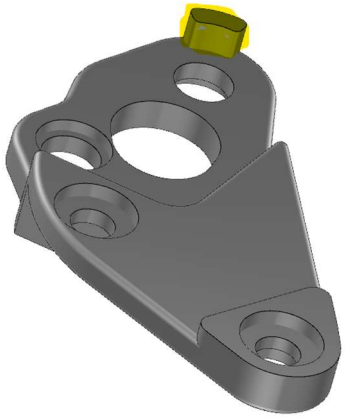
During inspections, we have identified isolated cases of variations in the material strength of the upper bearing pin. These variations could lead to a pin fracture and, consequently, failure of the upper clamping jaw. There is no immediate risk of a fall, as the remaining clamping jaw inside the BlackBird's body maintains reliable clamping even if the upper bearing pin were to break.

Nevertheless, we ask that you carry out the replacement promptly**,** as we currently lack long-term data for this scenario.

The required replacement kit (including instructions) will be provided free of charge and will be available from calendar week 45**.** The new pin features a significantly increased wall thickness, and the corresponding screw engages much deeper into the pin; the thread is now positioned in the rear section of the pin to provide greater overall strength.

To request the replacement kit, please email us: **info@climb-art.de**

"Nose" – Right Side Plate of the Friction Enhancer



A few climbers have also informed us that the "nose" on the friction enhancer has broken off.
The nose stop is designed to regulate the clamping movement of the friction enhancer.

If the nose breaks, the friction enhancer can extend fully, causing the entire system to lock up.
There is no risk of a fall in this situation.

We have already reinforced this area with two stainless-steel pins, but this measure alone is not sufficient to completely prevent the shearing of the nose**.**

The BlackBird is certified by **TÜV Süd** in accordance with **EN 12841** and has successfully passed numerous tensile tests without any issues.The breakage of the “nose” described here occurred exclusively during use in SRT (Single Rope Technique) and in combination with a resin-contaminated rope**.**
When used with such a rope, the friction enhancer may temporarily seize. If the release lever is then fully actuated, the enhancer can suddenly extend, transferring a sharp impact force directly onto the small “nose”, which may shear off as a result.

When used with double rope systems (MRT/DRT), this situation cannot occur due to the system design**.**

To address this issue as well, we have decided to manufacture the right side plate of the friction enhancer, and thus the “nose,” from stainless steel. This significantly increases the material strength and greatly enhances the overall robustness of the BlackBird. At the same time, we have optimized the contours to limit the weight increase to only 40 grams**.**

You may choose whether to have the side plate replaced as a precautionary measure or only in the event of a damaged “nose.” The replacement is **free of charge** and must be carried out at ART’s facility. We expect to be able to perform the full replacements starting in calendar week 49 and will begin accepting your returns from week 48**.**
Please send your BlackBird back to us together with the **completed return form**.

All future production units will already be delivered with both reinforced components installed.

For more than 20 years, ART has stood for products of the highest quality and precision, designed to be safe and durable. We maintain a strict quality standard and are committed to upholding it for the BlackBird as well. For this reason, we have decided to implement these improvements and kindly ask for your understanding.

We continue to appreciate both your positive and critical feedback — thank you!

BlackBird

Video:

Bearing pin of the friction enhancer
Clamping jaw Video