

Thompson Creek

This is a great little crag that sits in the idyllic foot hills to the west of Carbondale. It's a perfect spot to get in a good workout, as the climbs all sit in a concentrated area and most are steep and pumpy for the grades. **Unfortunately the area is currently access sensitive, and there is a restriction of 9 climbers at one time at the cliff. In addition, some of the routes have had the first hangers removed.** Please take note of this when attempting a climb.

Directions: From Carbondale, take Main Street west at the traffic light at the 7-11 and City Market. Follow this road up into the foothills, passing a couple of ranches (drive slowly, please).

At the top of the long climb, the road plateaus and bends south. Past Spring Gulch (small parking area on the right), the road crests a rise. Just past this is an unmarked dirt road on the left, leading down toward Thompson Creek. It's about 7.2 miles from the light in town to this turnoff.

Turn left here, and follow the grooved dirt road, passable in a 2wd; bad when wet. At the very bottom, after passing a designated camping area, the road bottoms out and crosses the creek. Park here, by the enormous pine tree.

Look for a trailhead on the left (east) side of the creek, at an informational BLM sign. Follow this trail downstream for about a mile. The trail will wind directly under a double-tiered crag right on the creek. About two or three minutes past this, after picking your way through some deadfall, look for the tail end of a long, protruding fin running down the hillside to your left. This is the cliff. Follow the gully/trail up and left to reach the climbs. Expect about 20 minutes on the approach.

Climbs are listed from left (the lower end of the crag/fin, visible from the main trail) to the right (upper end of the crag, high up the gully). The crag is one long uninterrupted wall, so it's best to discern the routes by sector. A helmet is a good idea while belaying, there is still some loose rock on the climbs, and the top of the ridge is stacked with loose blocks.

Van Loomis Headwall

The first wall encountered, marked by a cave in the middle and a pink/tan headwall on the left.

(Routes 1 and 2 are loose and dangerous, and the hangers have been pulled)

1) Finding Fruition, 5.11+

The first route you come to on the wall. 8 bolts. Third bolt is dangerous. Loose rock.

- 2) Poop Chute Destroyer, 5.12c
The second route. Climbs through a small overlap at the start. Loose rock up high. 8 bolts.
- 3) ** Dirtwalker, 5.12a/b
Powerful crux at second bolt leads to thin, sustained climbing. Multiple handjams. Classic. 8 bolts.
- 4) * The Machinist, 5.12a
Sustained climbing with a surprise getting to the anchors. Good holds but no real rests. 9 bolts.
- 5) *** Van Loomavision, 5.12a/b
Up the strange crack feature right of #4 on the overhanging wall. Uber-classic. 9 bolts.
- 6) * Clydeosaurus Rex, 5.12b
Just right again, beginning in the cave and out the green headwall. Very sustained. 7 bolts.

Van Joto Headwall

The next sector is the Van Joto Headwall, shorter (4-5 bolt) lines that climb up the black-and-green lower wall/cave to the long ledge at half height.

- 7) ** Van Jotovision (aka the Left El Joto), 5.12b
Out the center of the cave right of #6, joining #7 for the last two bolts. This is basically the lower left end of the long wall (the Van Joto Cave) that ends at mid-height in a ledge. 5 bolts.
- 8) * Center El Joto, 5.12a
Out the black rock in the cave, trending right to left past a big hueco. Bouldery, powerful, sustained. 4 bolts.
- 9) * Right El Joto, 5.11d
Clip the first bolt on #8 then power past three more bolts in the good black rock to chains. 4 bolts total.
- 10) Joto Quest, 5.11d
Up past a thin crux in the excellent rock right of #9. Chain anchors. 4 bolts.
- 11) *Joto Fest, 5.12
One anchor bolt, still a toprope. Up the nice pockets in the black rock.
- 12) * Land of the Jotos, 5.12a
Up the nice wall past good pockets and huecos in the black and pink rock.

4 bolts.

- 13) ** Joto Christo, 5.12c
Very bouldery and very sustained. Up the splitter-good rock to the ledge, where it cants at a diagonal angle. Killer. 5 bolts.
- 14) *** Pinche Joto, 5.12b
Up the pink streak with pocket features on the flat green wall. Very sustained and thin; sequential. Excellent. 5 bolts
- 15) * Pinche Verga, 5.13a
Five bolts, very bouldery and powerful.
- 16) Joto Project, 5.13
Five bolts, the rightmost route on the Van Joto Headwall, up layback seams, before the black rock.

The Plaque

Head up the gully (about 50 feet) past the Van Joto Headwall, passing some nice black rock, before you reach this next sector, characterized by pocketed rock on the left turning into a nice dark-brown shield of rock on the right.

- 17) * Vagina Monologues, 5.12b
The left route; sustained climbing to a thin crux up high. 7 bolts.
- 18) * Ridgemaster, 5.12a
The right hand of two side-by-side routes. Sustained on small holds with a bouldery crux, at the third bolt, on pockets. 6 bolts.
- 19) *** Tartar Control, 5.12c
Up the brilliant seam on the dark-brown shield by the tree. 6 bolts.
- 20) Plaque Busters, 5.12a
A steep route on the right side of the plaque, where the rock starts to change. 6 bolts.
- 21) * Kitty Litter, 5.10a
A good route for the grade. You may want to stick clip the high first bolt. 4 bolts.

5.11 Wall

This section is stacked with 5.11 climbing. Starts immediately after the Plaque (at the flat spot, Clyde's Corner) and is basically one continuous uninterrupted face tilted over at 91 to 93 degrees.

- 22) ** Stimulation without Ejaculation, 5.11c/d

- Climb the very bottom left side of the 5.11 Wall, arching right at the top past two bolts on the headwall. Very sustained. 8 bolts.
- 23) *** Psychiatry Kills, 5.11d
Just right of #20. Sustained climbing with a definite crux at the fifth bolt. 7 bolts.
- 24) * The Matrix, 5.11b/c
A tall line up nice rock to the jigsaw-puzzle topout; between two trees. Just right of #13. 7 bolts.
- 25) * Red Eye, 5.10d/11a
A hard, bouldery start leads to good climbing up a very nice white streak behind the tree to yellow-sling anchors. 5 bolts.
- 26) ** Logorrhea, 5.11b
Up the left of the three grey streaks, just right of the large tree. Bouldery start. 6 bolts
- 27) ** Tree Hugger, 5.11b
Climb the nice grey streak to the right of the previous route. 6 bolts.
- 28) *** Animal Crackers, 5.11c
Climbs the water-hardened grey streak just right of the last climb. Clip the anchors before doing the final moves. 6 bolts.
- 29) ** The BAG, 5.11d
Start off small platform and climb grey rock. Very bouldery, with engaging moves. 4 bolts
- 30) ** 8c, 5.11d
Up the stellar black streak to ring anchors. 5 bolts.
- 31) * Mystery Spot, 5.11c/d
Crimpy, on great rock, with thin cruxes up high. 5 bolts.
- 32) * Hyphema No More, 5.11b/c
Sustained, very pumpy, is cleaning up well. 7 bolts.
- 33) ** Toothbrush Terrorist, 5.11d
Starts just left of the thin tree. Pumpy climbing up great rock with a few cruxes. Brown hangers. 7 bolts.

Sector 7G

Follow the trail in the corridor to the top of the formation; this sector starts just right of the thin green tree growing against the cliff. A good selection of easier

routes and nice warm-ups.

- 34) * Ask the Dust, 5.11b/c
Sustained, gradually eases off toward the top. Just right of the small, thin tree. 7 bolts, dark-brown hangers.
- 35) ** May and Everything After, 5.11a
Great rests with harder climbing in between and some nice hueco pockets. Still dusty in spots. 5 bolts, red-brown hangers.
- 36) * Sitting Here in Limbo, 5.10c
Funky moves off the deck, with fun climbing up to a cruxy finish. A little dusty still. 7 bolts
- 37) ** Stitch and Twitch, 5.10c
Over the small roof down low, through the black rock, up the nice headwall. 5 bolts.
- 38) * Stereophonic Drilling, 5.10b/c
Easy start to steeper rock up high and some cruxy moves. 5 bolts.
- 39) * Point & Shoot, 5.9+
Mellow climbing to a short crux below the anchors, above a ledge. 4 bolts.
- 40) *** End of the World Party, 5.10b
Follows good holds up steeper rock. The first route bolted in TC. A superb climb. 5 bolts.
- 41) * Dr. On, 5.10c
Sustained climbing up nice rock. Small block in the roof has "no" or "on" written in chalk. 5 bolts.
- 42) ** Dr. No, 5.10c
Fun climbing through the overlap to a tricky face on good black rock. Can be climbed on the right or direct. 5 bolts.
- 43) * Down with Disease, 5.10a
A crimpy start to mellow climbing above. 5 bolts.
- 44) ** Second Skin, 5.9
Starts below an obvious overlap then up the nice face. A great climb. If you are short, it's 5.10-. 4 bolts
- 45) * From Finland, With Love, 5.9+
This is the farthest route on the right, by the huge leaning tree in the middle of the gully. 4 bolts.