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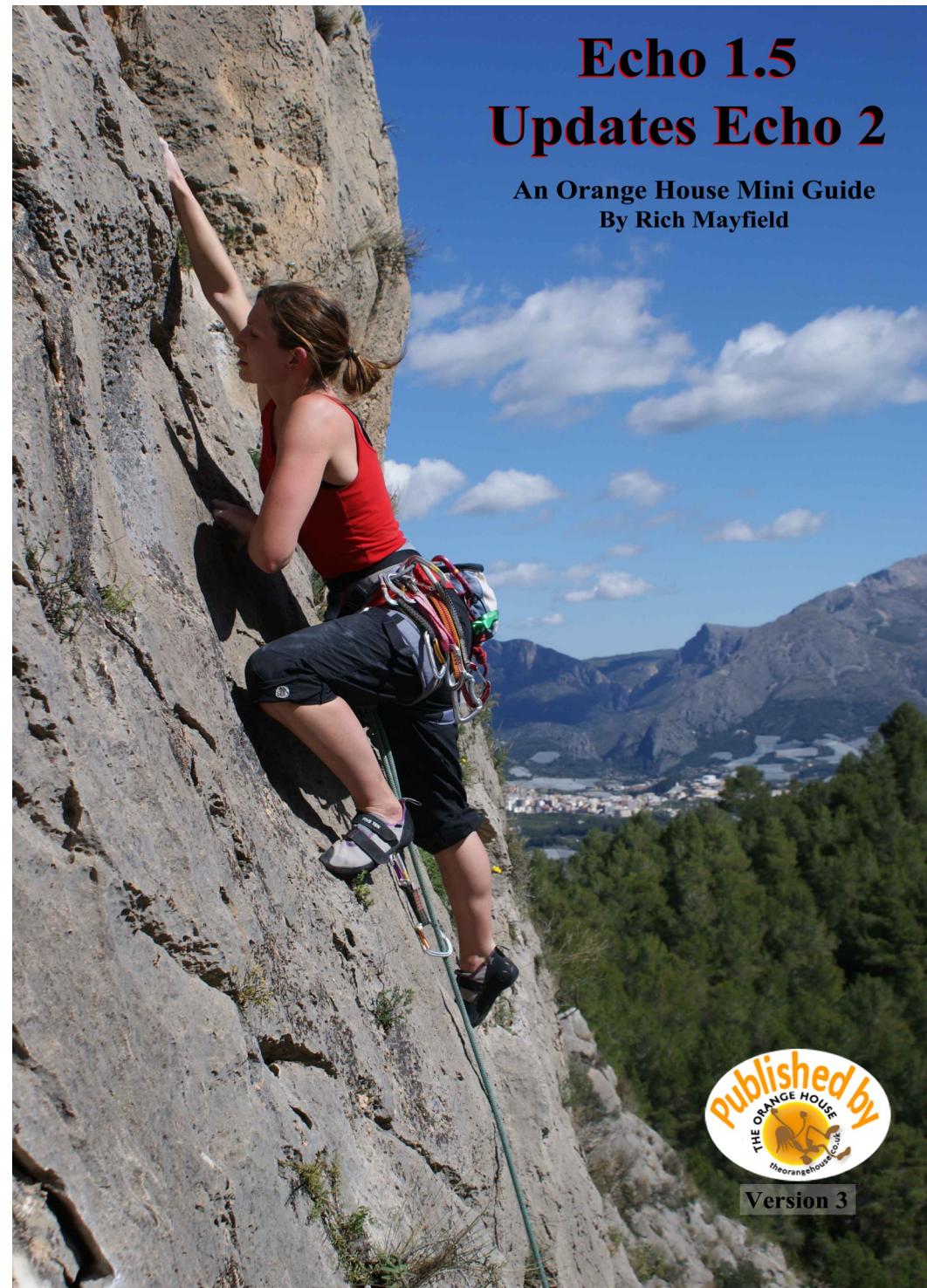
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Echo 1.5 Updates Echo 2

An Orange House Mini Guide
By Rich Mayfield



Version 3

Echo 1.5 & 2 updates version 2



How to assemble this mini guide.

Fold all pages in half, place internal pages inside front cover and staple at Spine.

Text, topos and computer art work by Rich Mayfield

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History

There has been climbing in Echo Valley for a very long time. Echos Playa and 1 being equipped by Spanish teams in the late 80's and early 90's. When some English climbers started new routing here in the late 90's, they introduced a system called the "Environmental Nut Protection" or ENP. This involved drilling an 18mm hole and gluing in a device which would accept a small nut. These routes were billed as "traditional", however the trad climbers said no to drilled holes, and the sport climbers would not go near them, claiming the devices were not CE marked or tested. The final nail in the ENP coffin was if they were loaded with any force the wire would be stuck and a nut key is too large to free it. A prominent Spanish team even went as far as writing a very strongly worded letter to OTE magazine which it published in 2000. The routes are finally being climbed and retro bolted to bring the area in line with standard sport climbing.

Echo 1.5 was bolted by Rich Mayfield, after a day of guiding at Sella on the 3's and 4's which are so polished his clients found following the routes excessively hard and spoiled their enjoyment.



Climbers on the 3 star classic of Phalanges 5+

Approach

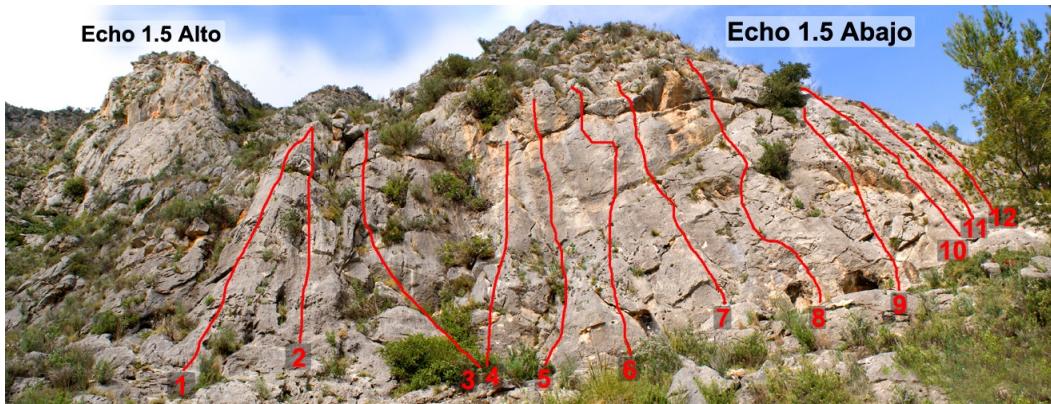
From the House. Head down the CV767 to the Goat Roundabout, turn left, go straight over 4 more roundabouts turning left at the fifth onto the CV70.

Or from the A7. Take the Benidorm junction onto the N332 South, take the first exit onto the CV70.

Then stay on the CV70 first heading to La Nucia then Guadalest for 10km until you reach yet another roundabout sign posted for an urbanization called Polop Paradis. Go straight on here, at the next roundabout turn left, onto a dirt road which soon becomes concrete. Echo Playa is the first crag, then Echo 1 meets the road, a series of hair pin bends with a large green sign with nothing on it is at the last bend. Park here for Echo 1.5, walk up the road for 50m the crag is on the right. For Echo 2 continue driving to a parking area 200 m further up the hill where the concrete road becomes dirt again. Please park considerately, this area can become busy with walker and climbers.

Aspect

The crags face almost directly south getting all the sun in the morning until mid to late afternoon when a shadow is cast by the Ponoch. When the sun leaves Echo 2 the pockets and cracks tend to become very greasy making everything feel much harder than it really is. During the hot Spanish summer this valley can make an idyllic evening crag, when it is too hot to climb in the full sun.



1. Flake drum 4+ 15m
Climb the wall to the flake where a difficult step gains easier ground to the finish.

FA R Mayfield solo bolt on lead

2. Bicton ITC 08 4 15m
The right hand side of the pillar.
FA R Mayfield solo bolt on lead

3. Aero 4 12m
The easy corner which could do with a little more traffic.
FA R Mayfield solo bolt on lead

4. Zac-e-then 5 14m
To the right of the corner, tricky move near the top to finish.
FA R Mayfield solo bolt on lead

5. Made in Exmouth 6a+14m
The hardest route on here with some thin moves.
FA R Mayfield

6. X.M.A.S. 6a 14m
Climb the easy slab to a harder wall and small overlap.
FA R Mayfield

7. Regalo por Ali 5 15m
The groove to the vertical wall and small overlap.
FA R Mayfield 6 Helen Taylor

8. Phantom 5+ 17m
A hard start leads to easier ground finishing up a wide chimney.
FA R Mayfield solo bolt on lead

9. Shield 3+ 10m
Zigzag up the wall on huge holds.
FA R Mayfield solo bolt on lead

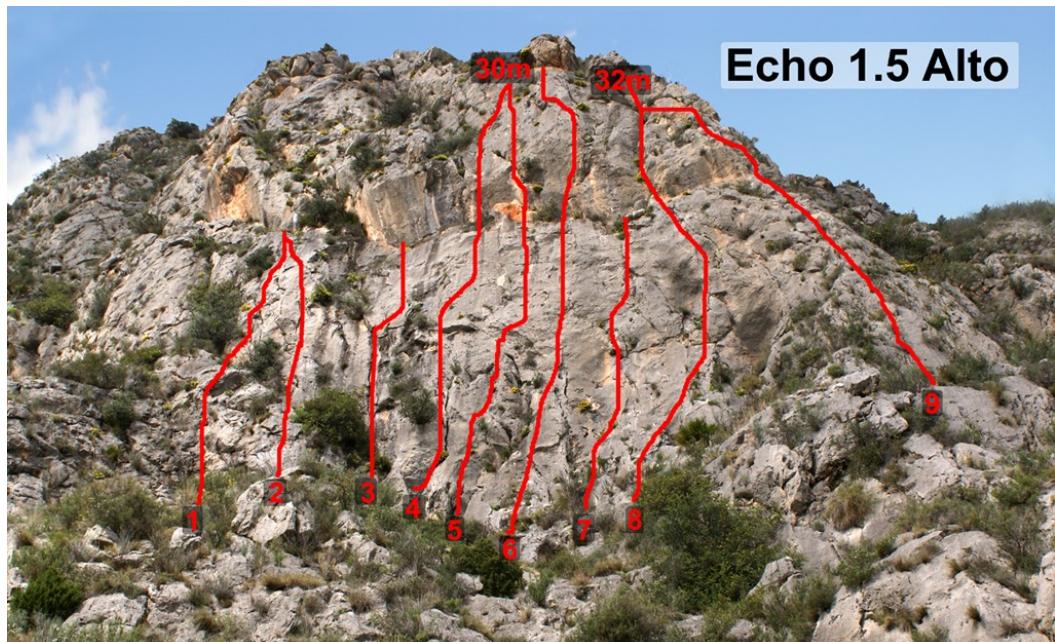
10. Fat boy 3 12m
Steep at first but really juggy as only limestone can be!
FA R Mayfield solo bolt on lead

11. Live wire 3 12m
Amazingly juggy rock that only the Costa Blanca could provide.
FA R Mayfield solo bolt on lead

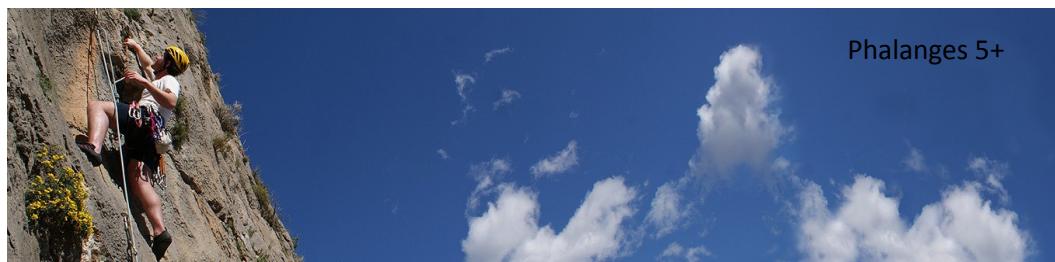
12. Pro-wire 3 12m
A carbon copy of Live wire but worth while none the less.
FA R Mayfield solo bolt on lead

All routes have double bolt chains which have to be threaded to lower off.

Routes 8 to 12 can be easily accessed via a short scramble on the right of the crag.

Echo 1.5 Alto

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|---|---------------|
| 1. Romero's Birthday Tricky move before the ledge, then easier. FA R Mayfield | 4 20m | 6. Central Tricky move by the third bolt, then sustained, don't be put off by the blunt arête after a hard move it eases. FA R Mayfield & Tony Pearson | 6b 30m |
| 2. Espolon Alderon A little gem with nice moves on good rock. FA R Mayfield | 4 20m | 7. Synovial The wall and pillar to a chain lower off where the rock steepens. FA R Mayfield & Tony Pearson | 5 22m |
| 3. Marian Jones Vegetated low down, but worth doing for the top cracks. FA R Mayfield | 6a 18m | 8. Tonys route Climb the wall via some thin moves to the steep wall and chimney above. FA R Mayfield & Tony Pearson | 5+ 30m |
| 4. Sin chapa Climb past the tree, hard moves to pass the steep wall near the top, which can be dirty. FA R Mayfield & Gaz Parry | 6a+ 30m | 9. Sesamoid Caution 32m route! A fantastically exposed but very easy line up the arête on the right hand side of the crag. FA R Mayfield & Tony Pearson | 4+ 32m |
| 5. Phalanges Fantastic and sustained climbing until the steep bit then it becomes a jug fest! FA R Mayfield & Tony Pearson | 5+ 30m | | |

Phalanges 5+



The long Stretch was fully bolted by the La Nucia climbing club. Grades marked in Red are original as claimed by the FA.

1. Sin Nombre 6c 18m

The friable chimney is good fun but is harder than it looks.

2. Indigo E8 8a+ 8a 10m

A short and powerful crack fully bolted.

3. Millennium 8a 8a 10m

A candidate for the most created route on the Costa Blanca. Short powerful resin pulling.

4. Death pulse E9 7a E6/7 6c 15m

A hard route which is very safe, if you have a number 2 Tricam. Much harder since it lost many holds on the crux section.

5. Asteroid Storm E7/7c+ E4 6a 15m

Half a metre to the right of DP. Friable rock not really worth doing.

6. Andromeda 7c 7a 180m
This is a very good route which has seen almost no traffic because of the disinformation surrounding it.

1) Upgraded to 6b from 6a

2) 7a fully bolted

3) 6a Take some wires

4) 6c+ downgraded from 7c, maybe it was a typo!

Slightly tainted by the bolted on rock flake and drilled pocket, but still a good pitch. ENPs replaced with bolts.

5 & 6) 6a

7. Shelter 8a 8a 18m

One of the few routes to keep it's grade, short but powerful. With more bolts than Fixe!

8. Super G E8/ 8a 7b+/7c 18m

A fully bolted steep route, well worth the effort.

9. Iratika 8b 7c+ 18m

Fully bolted, most people who have done it find the long reach low down the crux! Top requires some blind pulls, easier if the holds are ticked.

10. Path of excess power 8a+ 7b+/7c 20m

A great sport climb with only one hard move, makes it hard to on-sight. Dyno for the short or dead point to a small but positive crimp. Gaz Parry chilling out on the no hands rest knee bar. He later climbed the route in his Northface Wellies, then claimed "it did feel harder without rock shoes."



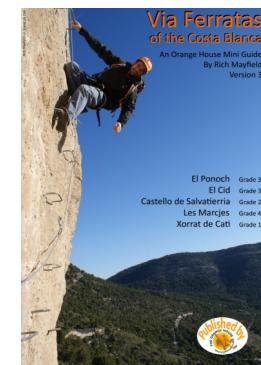
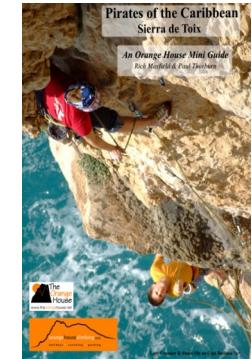
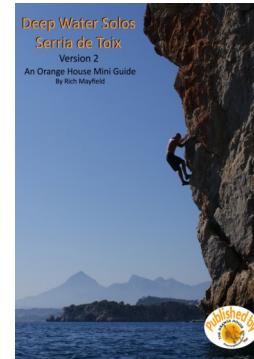
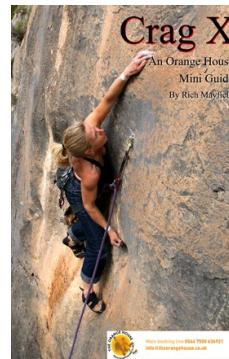


Photo: Tony Pearson

11. Mad dog E7/8 -8a E5 6a 18m
A very good traditional line up the crack, which swallows gear. Very safe once you get past the first 5 metres. Chain lower off.
Photo Rich Mayfield on Mad dog.
12. Unknown name 7a 18m
A direct start to Gloria. Reachy even for the tall.
13. Gloria 6a+ 16m
Is now fully bolted with a lower off under the roof. Tricky moves on large open handed holds, to the easier groove. The groove is also fully bolted at 6a.
14. Unknown name 6b 16m
Start at the groove and climb the grey streak finishing just below the steep section.
15. Dreammaker 6b 16m
Is now fully bolted and much better for it!

Other Mini Guides

Available in this series



The Orange House Bolt Fund

Was started in 2003 to maintain existing routes and create new routes. For every Euro donated Orange House will match it. This buying power allows us to buy bolts at the cheapest possible price, direct from the factory. To date over 3000 new bolts and 250 lower offs have been donated to local and international bolting teams or placed by Orange House staff. Route grades range from sport grade 3 to 8b.

We also run a sponsored route scheme for further details please email: rich@theorangehouse.co.uk

A huge thanks to all the people who have already contributed to sustaining and improving the climbing on the Costa Blanca.

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