



Sebastian Taborszky leading thin ice on *Dirtbag Dreams* (WI4+, not described)

START OF THE DIFFICULTIES

Grade: M6 WI4+, 70m

Location: Protection Valley, Banff National Park AB

Base Elevation & Aspect: 2200m, West facing

First Ascent: Maarten van Haeren, Sebastian Taborszky, November 9 2021

ATES: Challenging (2)

Editor's Note: I have reformatted this from the original post by Maarten on the Facebook group Canadian Rockies Ice Climbing. All photos, text and any errors are from that post -NB

"Named after where this line ends (a massive roof that requires a strong climber and lots of bolts), mostly to poke fun at our inability to climb the roof. However, the route we climbed was enjoyable and it's in, so we thought it worth sharing!"

Approach

As for *Superdark*. Drive 10.5km west of Castle Junction on Highway 1A, and park in a pullout just east of the (closed) Protection campground.

Walk over to the cook shelter in the campground, and continue up to the power line cut past it. Cross the power line cut and head up trails through the forest, staying high on the west (left) bank of the Protection Creek drainage. As the trees thin and angle eases, sidehill right towards the head of the valley and a massive boulder. The route spills out of a large roof on the right, a few hundred meters left of the right-facing chimney of *Superdark*. Hike up along the cliff band to a snow ledge below the climb, and belay beside a short corner.



P1: M6 25m

Climb a short choss pillar to a nice corner (good cams). At the top, climb down sloping rock (slight run out, better with more ice) to an obvious belay (#3 cam & pins).

P2: WI4+ 45m

Step right onto the ice and finish at an ice belay where the ice spills out of a crack below in a cool rock arch.

Descent

Rappel 60m off a V-thread to the snow ledge.

Rack

Rock rack to #3, BD Peckers (2x #2), rack of screws. Double 60m ropes or single/tag.

Editor's Note

- The direct finish through the arch to the upper ice still awaits completion by a determined, prepared party!

