

MILES **AHEAD**...

Number 18 · September 2021

GO
30 years
1990 - 2020



■■■ Xcentric continues to increase its range of crushing buckets. The last to join, the Xcentric Crusher XC5F, for small machinery



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UPCOMING **E**VENTS

SMOPYC 2021

XCENTRIC will be present at the
18 INTERNATIONAL SHOW OF PUBLIC WORKS,
CONSTRUCTION AND MINING MACHINERY,
in Zaragoza, from November 17 to 20, 2021.
Pavillion 6 – Booth D-E/11-22



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Xcentric Crusher XC5F for skid steers, telehandlers and backhoes of between 4 and 6 tons.

Xcentric Crusher XC5F

Xcentric is making itself a niche in the market for small machinery for recycling materials on site

Clients from the most advanced countries in **recycling materials on site** demand crushers for their machinery. Usually, the types of machines they use are skid steers, telehandlers and backhoes.

In response to this demand, we have developed our first **front crusher** model, the **XC5F**. During the development the best balance was sought between maximum

power offered by the excavator and greater input size capacity in the crusher.

The result after intensive use of the crusher in all type of conditions, was to make possible to work with flow rates of 90 l/min. and pressures ranging between 16 MPa and 24 MPa.

The material input capacity is w 810 mm x h 360 mm, this allows

practically all the material to be ground in this type of work to be directly admitted by the crusher without having to previously reduce its size.

Thanks to the dynamics of the movement of our mobile jaw, this crusher model supports **crushing in 2 directions**, “forward” and “reverse”. Work in “**forward**” mode: it is suitable for dry material and

larger pieces. Work in “reverse” mode: you get clearly better results on wet material and especially on asphalt, keeping the jaws clean of material that sticks to them. The change from “forward” to “reverse” is immediate from the joystick of the excavator, achieving with the combination of these working modes, under the operator’s choice, a great performance in each cycle. The operator can easily choose the most suitable mode to grind and switch immediately if necessary.

The **change of granulometry** is fast, with a crushed material output range between 0 and 80 mm.

We have added a **new system of dampers**, thus achieving a very important acoustic reduction, as well as a lower vibration of the excavator. These dampers are manually adjusted after changing from one granulometry to another, without any type of tool.

The **direct drive** of the hydraulic motor reduces mechanisms and it is free of belts.



Xcentric Crusher XC5F crushing concrete extracted from a construction site.

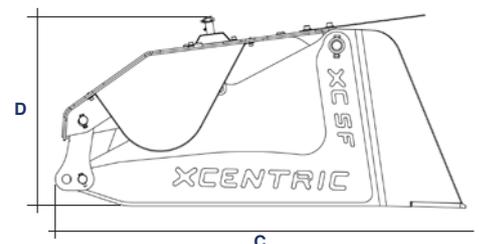
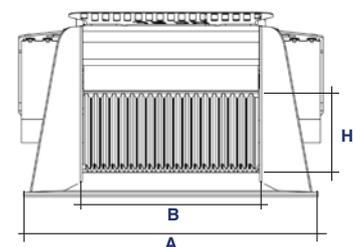
It requires greasing every 8 hours of work in 6 points perfectly located in the upper part of the crusher.

As in the rest of our models, replacing the jaws is very quick and easy, as the crusher opens completely to a comfortable position for this purpose.

Due to the limited loading angle of the bucket, in skid steer loaders we have taken great care with the structural design to make the most of it.

The end result is a tireless crusher that offers you **much higher productions than expected** in this type of excavator.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS		XC5F
Skid steer	Tn.	4 - 6
Weight (top plate not included)	kg	1.700
Operation pressure	MPa	24
Maximum operation flow	L/min	90
Hydraulic circuit		Shear mode
Loading capacity	m ³	0,4
External width (A)	mm	1.360
Internal width (B)	mm	810
Length (C)	mm	1.800
Height (D)	mm	780
Crushing cam opening (H)	mm	360
Output size regulation	mm	0 - 80 (6 steps)



To be adapted to the circumstances

2020 was the year to imitate cockroaches and readjust to the environment to move further on and not to be outdone



Masks manufactured by Grado Cero under the name of BSafe, together with one of the machines.

We started 2020 with the same enthusiasm as every January, with new projects, new products, fairs... But March arrived and made us all stop. A new crisis was looming, in addition to a hard health situation. The damn virus had already reached almost all countries, but prevention materials were in short supply.

We had a forced break that for many served as a respite, but they did not see what was coming behind. Grado Cero already had the experience of the previous crisis and did not want to go through the same event, at least not at that level. It was then when they thought of getting down to work with a new project which had nothing to do with their usual activity. In addition, this challenge had to be started without neglecting the manufacture of attachments. The first thing was to baptize this

enterprise with the name of “BSafe”, since protection was the main mission of this activity.

It was about manufacturing protective masks, something that was scarce in all countries and even more so in Spain. A hard job searching for machinery, the best materials, preparing a new workshop, staff... And all in record time to be able to satisfy that need as soon as possible since it was not only about creating a new business, but also to be able to protect the company's workers as soon as possible, both at health and economic level, ensuring their jobs when others were already processing their ERTes (File of Temporary Employment Regulation) and their dismissals.

They were frantic weeks of works, reception of materials, adapting

and reprogramming manufacturing machines... Finally 5 production lines were started and worked morning and afternoon shifts without rest to meet the delivery deadlines of all orders, which were many.

But innovation has always been a Grado Cero characteristic, and this is why we could not remain solely in the production of a basic adult mask. So the first step was to adapt one of the machines to be able to make children's masks. After that, another machine was entirely developed in the company itself to obtain a much more comfortable adult mask for daily use (when driving, in the office, in a restaurant...). This is how the “Dynamic” mask came about, with a cord that allows to drop the mask and left it hanging around the neck.

When autumn arrived, internally the company realised that the use

of the mask when wearing glasses was a nuisance, since they fogged up, and then the development of a new idea began: the anti-fog mask. It was intended to be used by the company workers but after verifying how effective it was, 2 new machines were manufactured with the specific function of adding two 'sealing flaps' to the mask, necessary to stop the breath that causes fogging, and then they were put on sale. The success was overwhelming, and again the production hours had to be increased in order to process all the orders.

Given the success, users requested the same idea for children, therefore another machine was adapted for this purpose. Finally, the 'Anti-fog VIP' was also created, which is a

combination of the anti-fog for adults and the Dynamic.

In May, this Anti-Fog mask won an award from the magazine

**Bsafe, protective masks,
the project in which Grado Cero
was overturned during the year
of the pandemic**

'Actualidad Económica', the award for one of the '100 best ideas of the year'.

Printers were also added to the manufacturing machines to be able to personalize the masks with the logo of the company, school, etc...

Altogether, a complete non stop year continuously thinking about new options, innovating, working hard to obtain the best masks on the market, satisfying the agreed deadlines... And all this having to deal with a fluctuating market according to the continuously anti-covid 19 changing measures adopted by the governments. And, at the same time, improving Xcentric attachments, creating new products, and also adapting to the machinery market.

A tough year, but experience, strength, and reaction capacity have been obtained from this situation. We can also affirm that Grado Cero knows how to adapt to the circumstances that lie ahead.



Start of the works to make the BSafe protective masks workshop in mid-April 2020.



Workshop almost finished awaiting the first machines arrival at the end of April 2020.



Some of the BSafe products.



Anti Fog Mask together with the award for one of the '100 best ideas of the year' given by the magazine 'Actualidad Económica'.



Evolution of the Xcentric Ripper since its creation at the end of 2009 to the present.

Anniversary without celebration

Grado Cero turned 30 years old in May 2020, but no act of celebration could be held due to the pandemic

The month of May 2020 was the 30th anniversary of **Grado Cero**. It was planned to celebrate this birthday during the SMOPYC fair scheduled to take place at the beginning of April, and later carry out some other event. But, as we all know, 2020 was the year of cancellations and unexpected plan changes. However, we believe that it is never too late to review these 30 years of work, innovation and recycling of this company that has not stopped growing since then.

In its early phase, the company focused on precision machining work on a plan for other companies. But due to market demands, it led to the repair of excavation machinery, and in 1991 it developed its **first quick coupler** for excavators.

It also began to manufacture a wide range of buckets, producing about 200 **buckets** per month, becoming the main national seller of these products.

It took a few years before the company was forced to renovate or die, as a result of the 2008 crisis. It was then when the idea of the **Xcentric Ripper** arose, which completely turned around the Company's daily activity, and made Grado Cero Group begin to grow until it became what it is today.

But to better understand the development of this great project since its inception, we have spoken with **Javier Aracama**, creator and Manager of Grado Cero.

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- Tell us how was the start, what was the most difficult at the beginning?

Everything was very complicated ... I started at the age of 24, in 1990, with no experience at all. I had no experience in life or work or business or accounting... All I had was desire. I bought the first machines with an exorbitant investment and we started manufacturing parts for other companies.



Between the years 1990 and 1992 there was a strong crisis that affected the industry and caught me squarely. I had the newly assembled workshop still without customers, without experience, unpaid ... I could see my friends who had started in their first jobs and

led a normal life for young people of that age, and for me that was something impossible.

Until 1994 it was very hard, but I am the kind of a person who has to fulfil a commitment once started, so I could not give up.

■ **How did the Grado Cero Project start?**

I wanted to be a farmer, but I couldn't because my family were not land owners, so as a result of that I looked for a way out. I studied mechanics and for a year I worked in two

companies, so I focused on it. It was while in the military service that I decided to buy the machines and set up the workshop. In the compulsory military service they considered me as a handyman and I always helped them fix

things, so I had no problem to be free on weekends to come and visit the companies where I bought the machinery.

■ **After so many years making buckets and quick couplers, how did the idea for the Xcentric Ripper come about?**

With the 2008 crisis the company was completely stopped. There were 2 options: lay off almost all the workers and reduce the company to a minimum or develop a product that could be sold outside of Spain, since although the crisis was worldwide, in our country was devastating. So we started testing different machines: first a screener, then compactors... and that's where the Ripper came from.

■ **What do you think is the most remarkable thing in the evolution of the company in these 30 years?**

The perseverance. Think, develop, do, change... In short, do not stop.



Clamp and hitch manufactured by Grado Cero in its second workshop.



First hitch manufactured by Grado Cero.

■ **Of all the products you have “created”, which one are you most proud of?**

The Xcentric Ripper. First of all for its originality. And secondly because it was the first serious machine that made us go from being a national commerce company to becoming international and rub shoulders with the “big-ones”.

■ **How do you think the market will evolve in the coming months?**

I don't know, but I have the impression that right now there are two worldwide concerning issues due to their evolution in the coming

The Xcentric Ripper was the first machine that made us jump from being a national market company to going out on the international market and rub shoulders with the “big-ones”

years. One is climate change associated with the pollution we generate and the poor recycling. And the other one is global overpopulation which continues to increase, and a demographic boom is expected in a few years.

For this reason, I believe there are 3 pillars on which we must rely from now on: on the one hand, energy efficiency, in

our case through the Xcentric Ripper we have a stone removal tool that reduces consumption and production times, thus reducing the pollution that all this causes. On the other hand, recycling; With crushing buckets, such as the Xcentric Crusher, we reuse construction materials. And finally, something that I think is going to become increasingly important, which is agriculture. It is a primary sector that has always been there, but I believe that in a decade it will become very important, although not without many restrictions ...

■ **Lastly, how would you define yourself in a word?**

Persistent.

Buckets and hitches currently manufactured by Grado Cero.



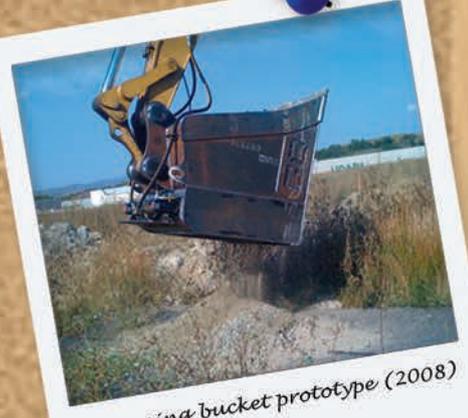
30 years in pictures



First Grado-Cero workshop (1990)



One of the first quick couplers manufactured by Grado-Cero (1991)



Screening bucket prototype (2008)



First Xcentric Ripper (2009)



Bauma Exhibition (2010)



Xcentric Ripper XR80 for dredging, with special top bracket and coupler (2013)



Xcentric Crusher prototype (2014)



The French rally driver Cyril Despres visits the factory in 2014 (Xcentric Ripper sponsorship)



Intermat Exhibition 2015 (Paris) Xcentric Crusher presentation



Smopyc Zaragoza Exhibition (2017) Xcentric Ripper 'Mining Series' presentation



Xcentric / Grado-Cero new facilities (2017)



Xcentric Crusher XC5F for mini excavators (2021)



Laser cutting machine

In 2020 we increased the capacity and precision of cutting parts with the acquisition of this Durma Fiber Laser machine

At the end of 2019, the new Xcentric Crusher series, Series A, came onto the market. The outer design of these buckets required greater precision in cutting its component parts, something difficult to achieve with plasma cutting. In addition, orders increased, so it was necessary to supplement the machinery for this first step in the manufacturing process.

It was then that we decided to purchase a laser cutting machine. Specifically, the **Durma** brand **Fiber Laser, model HD-F 16030 6000w**.

This new tool arrived in January 2020. After a few days invested in its fine-tuning to achieve the best results, we started to work with it. This represented a very important improvement in the production

capacity since, although this machine has limitations in terms of sheet thickness, by combining the cutting process with our plasma cutting machine, we can have all the necessary parts for our products in much less time. Furthermore, the precision and “cleanliness” of the cut achieved with it, removes limitations when designing the housing of our machines.



Technical Specifications

LÁSER FIBRA DURMA HD-F 16030 6000w

The Durma laser cutting system is a high-speed system for working with flat sheets up to maximum dimensions of 16200 x 3100 mm.

To increase productivity, it is equipped with an automatic interchangeable table system, which allows the machine to be loaded and unloaded without interrupting the cutting cycles.

WORK FIELD		
Max. sheet dimension	mm	16200 x 3100
Max. sheet weight	kg/m ²	200
SPEEDS		
Axis X	m/min.	120
Axis U	m/min.	15
Axis Y	m/min.	120
Synchronized	m/min.	170
Positioning accuracy	mm	± 0,005
CONTROL		
CNC	SINUMERIK; 840 D SL; NCU 730.3 PN	
Screen	TP 015A 15" Touch screen	
Laser cutting head	Precitec Procutter	

Javier Rojo



Name: Javier Rojo

Age: 40 years old

Job position: Milling machines programming & Production Manager

Years with us: 12 years

In this 'Miles Ahead' magazine issue we have spoken with Javier Rojo, production manager in the milling machine area, who tells us about his vision of the company over the 12 years he has been working for it.

■ **How did you start working at Grado Cero Sistemas / Xcentric Ripper?**

Well, the truth is that it was a bit by chance since, at that time, my previous company went bankrupt due to the 2009 crisis. After sending hundreds of resumes to companies within and outside the Basque Country, I received a call from Javier, he interviewed me and explained a little about the future plans for the plant and the work I would have to do. It was the beginning of the Ripper.

■ **What does your job in the company entail?**

I am currently developing my work in the area of milling machines. Start-up of new machines and management of the necessary working tools, programming and resolution of doubts and problems of colleagues in my section. Production on any machine. I consider myself a versatile worker.

■ **What do you like most about your work here?**

I love creativity, that is, programming a part from scratch starting from manufacturing the tooling where the piece will be later produced in series, going through the selection of the most suitable tool and programming the entire process until you reach the end and that piece comes out completely finished. It is a great personal satisfaction.

“ Seeing a finished piece after having programmed it from the beginning is a great personal satisfaction ”

On the other hand, seeing how all this work goes smoothly and the established deadlines are met, makes you feel good because you know your part has been done correctly.



■ **What would you highlight about Xcentric Ripper / Grado Cero as a company?**

I would say that, apart from being a group of workers, Javier Aracama has managed to make us feel like a family, we get along well with each other and we all “row” in the same direction (there are always some exceptions... *laughs*) to make this company move forwards to be more competitive and a worldwide benchmark.

■ **Tell us an anecdote about the time you have been working with us**

Surely there must be many but right now I do not remember very clearly any one in particular.

“Javier Aracama has achieved to make us feel like a family and also to become more competitive and a worldwide reference”

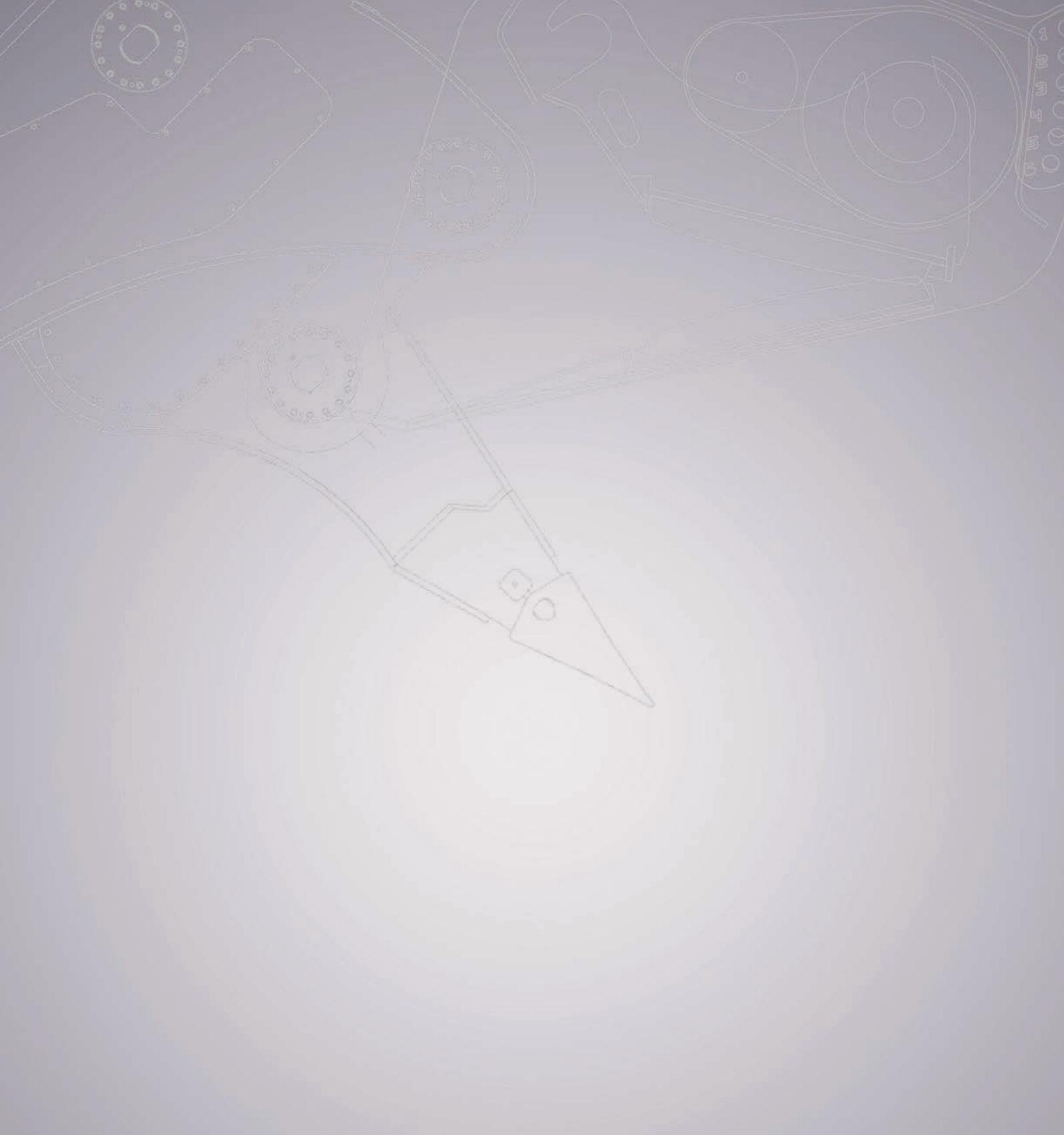
But I do remember though, one that might not be considered as an anecdote but it was quiet curious.

An order for a Ripper XR122 had to go out on a last Friday of the month. On Thursday morning they put the ripper arm on the tooling and worked on it until ten o'clock at night, then I went to work the night shift and we finished it. In the morning it was ready to be delivered. It was

exciting since it was the first time I had ever worked during the night.

■ **Finally, what would you have liked to do if you didn't work here?**

Today I feel fortunate to be able to say that I like the work I do. As a wish it might have been something related to Archaeology and History, specifically Egyptology as I am passionate about it. I wouldn't have minded to continue with my tennis career in Barcelona which I rejected at the age of 18. Who knows if I would have competed against Rafa Nadal at Roland Garros. LOL. C'est la vie.



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