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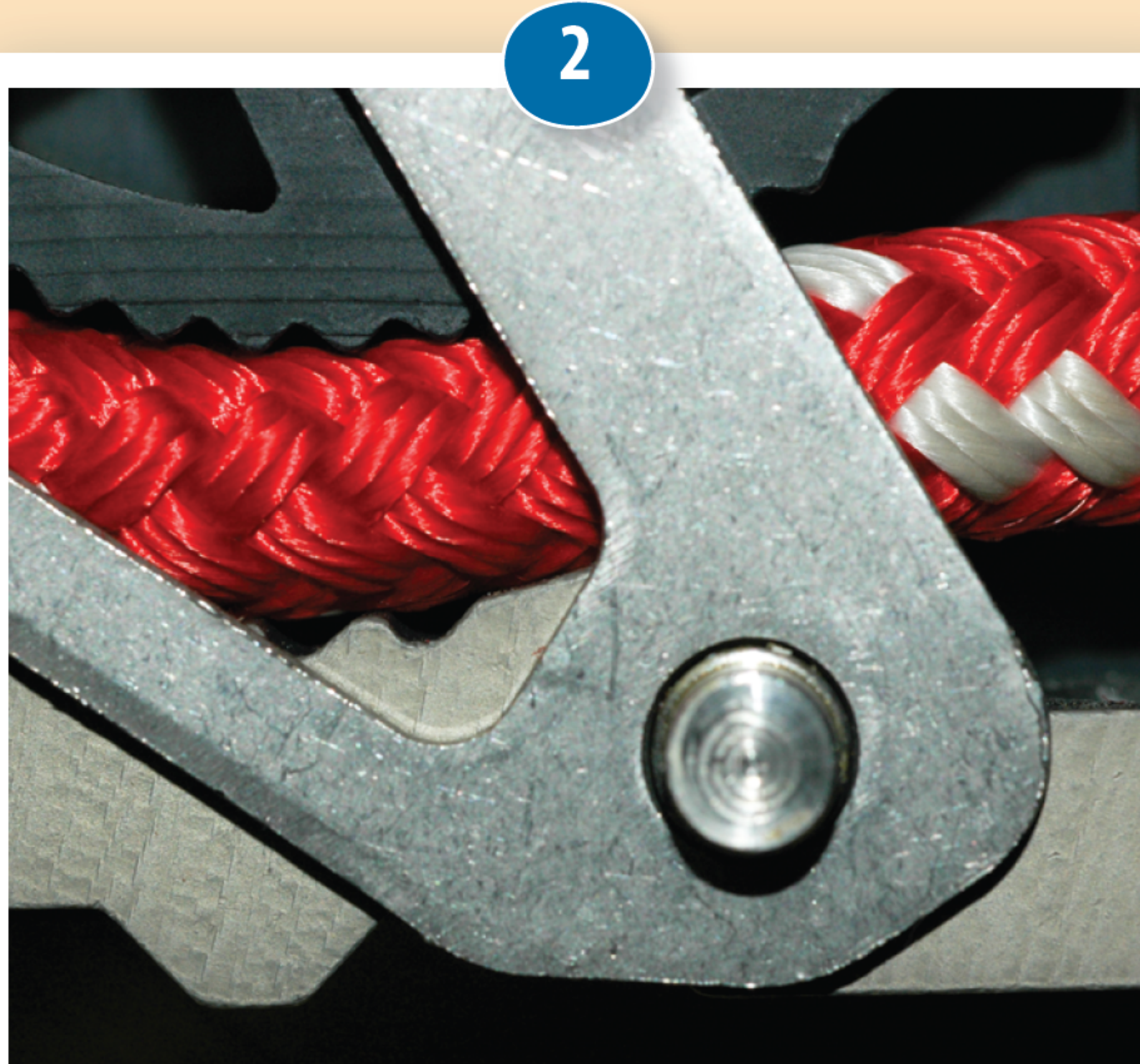
## Comparing the Levers and Cams on Rope Clutches

**T**he eight rope clutches in our comparison shared the same basic form factor. The most notable difference was in the orientation of the levers used to release (or clamp down on) the line. On three clutches (the Garhauer and two Lewmars), the handle of the release lever faces away from the load, so that to release the line, the handle is lifted up and pushed toward the load. The other five had handles oriented so that the user pulled up and away from the loaded end to release the line.

**1.** The contenders, from left: Antal V-cam 814, Spinlock XTS, Spinlock XCS, Spinlock XX0812, Garhauer (discontinued), Antal V-grip Plus, Lewmar D-2, and Lewmar D-1.



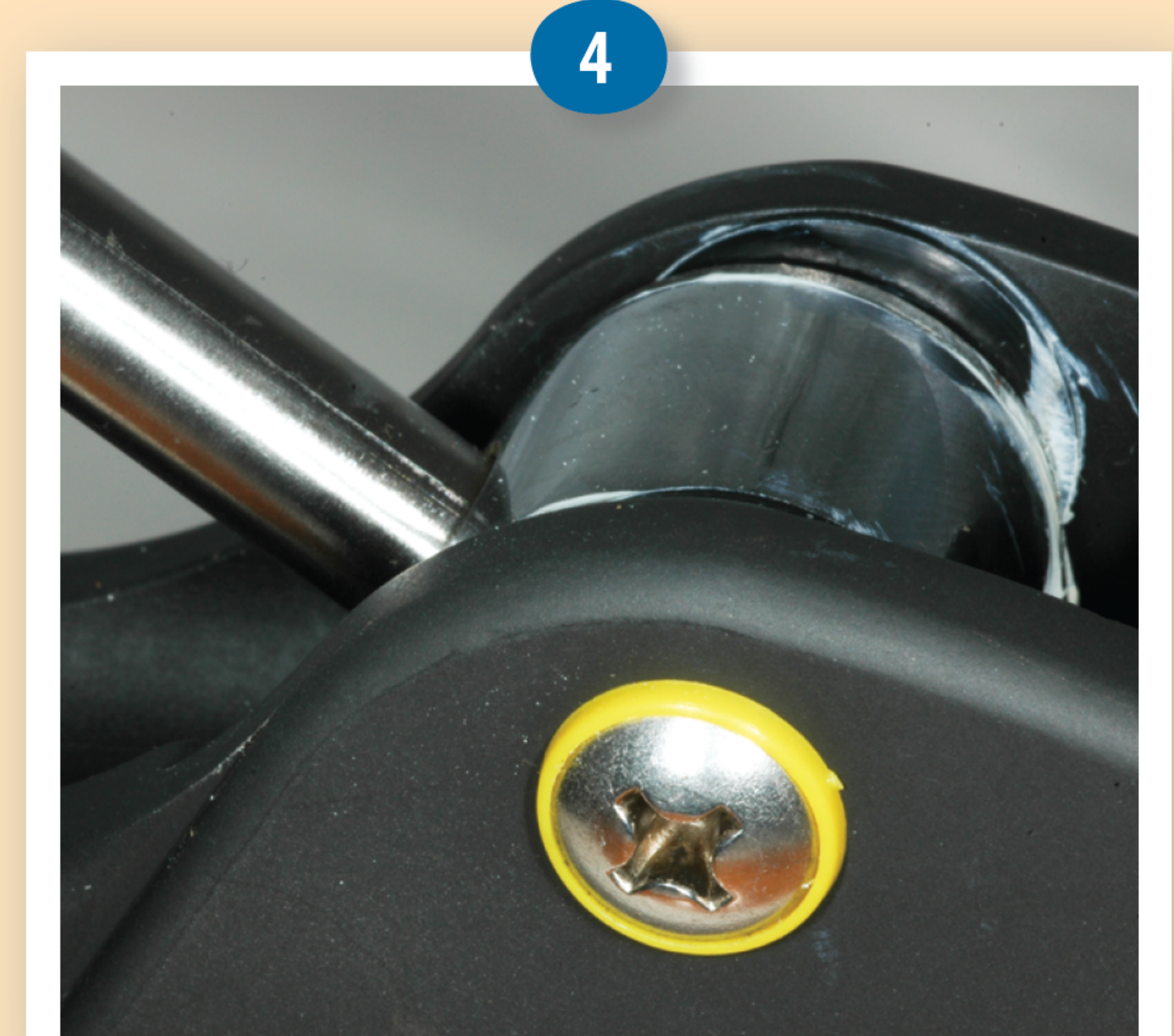
## ROPE CLUTCH DETAILS



*Spinlock XCS*

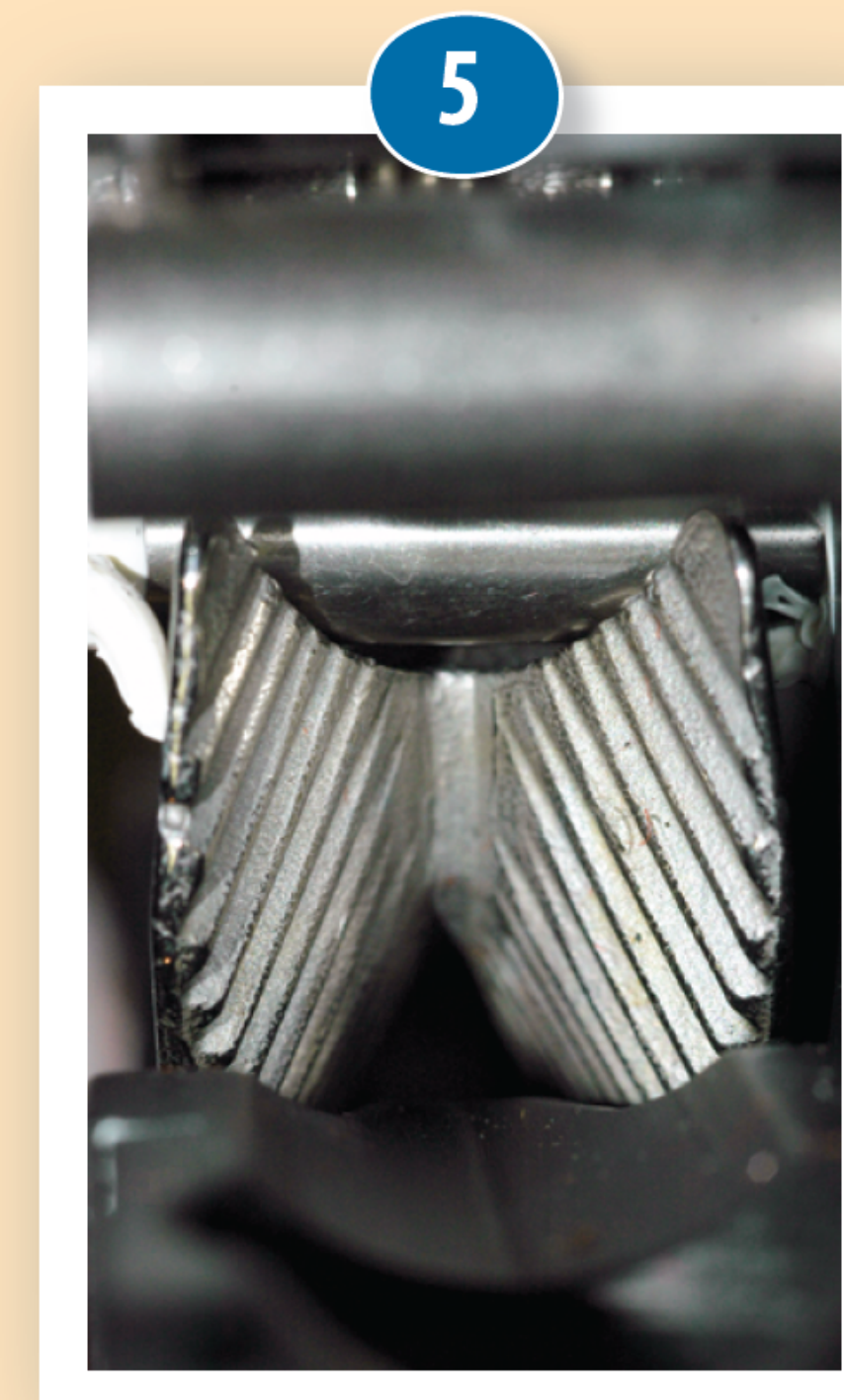


*Antal V-cam 814*



*Antal V-grip Plus*

2. The teeth of the Spinlock XCS proved very adept at gripping line during testing.
3. The Antal V-cam 814 also had a powerful grip and was ruggedly constructed, but it snapped open like a mousetrap when released under high loads.
4. Plastic washers isolate the stainless-steel fasteners from the anodized aluminum body of the Antal V-grip Plus.
5. The expensive Antal V-grip Plus featured an investment-cast gripping surface that allowed very little slippage.
6. A spring helps actuate the cam on the Spinlock XCS.



*Antal V-grip Plus*



*Spinlock XCS*