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# Solid Explosive Plane-Wave Lenses Pressed-to-Shape with Dies



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# SOLID EXPLOSIVE PLANE-WAVE LENSES PRESSED-TO-SHAPE WITH DIES

by

Bart Olinger

### ABSTRACT

Solid-explosive plane-wave lenses 1", 2" and  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter have been mass-produced from components pressed-to-shape with aluminum dies. The method used to calculate the contour between the solid plane-wave lens components pressed-to-shape with the dies is explained. The steps taken to press, machine, and assemble the lenses are described. The method of testing the lenses, the results of those tests, and the corrections to the dies are reviewed. The work on the  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 8", and 12" diameter lenses is also discussed.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Most shock and detonation waves used in physics and engineering experiments are unidirectional and planar in order to avoid divergent effects. This is achieved by planar initiation of the explosive that generates the detonation wave. The most practical planar initiators are solid explosive plane-wave lenses because of the quality of their planar simultaneity, and that they can be manufactured in mass and stored for long periods.

### CALCULATING THE INTERFACE SURFACES

If an explosive is initiated at a point, the explosive reaction, or detonation, propagates spherically from that point. If a cone of slower detonating explosive is overlaid with a coating of faster detonating explosive so that the detonation down the surface of the cone reaches its base at the same time as the detonation down the axis of the cone, then a planar detonation wave will propagate along that axis. The length of the sides of the cone are proportional to the detonation velocity of the fast-detonating explosive,  $V_f$ , and the height of the cone is proportional to the detonation velocity of the slow-detonating explosive,  $V_s$ . This is the basic concept of the solid explosive plane-wave lens.

In Figure 1, the initiation occurs at the apex. Using cylindrical coordinates, the planar detonation front reaches a depth of  $Z_d$  for all values of the radius at the same time,  $t_d$ . The coordinates of the interface between the fast detonating explosive and the slow are  $Z_c(r)$  and r. Therefore,

$$td = \frac{\left[Z_{c}(r)^{2} + r^{2}\right]^{1/2}}{V_{f}} + \frac{\left[Z_{d} - Z_{c}(r)\right]}{V_{s}}.$$
 (1)

Solving for  $Z_c(r)$ ,

$$Z_{c}(r) = Z_{d} - \left(\frac{V_{s}}{V_{f}^{2} - V_{s}^{2}}\right) \times$$

$$\left(V_{f}^{2} \times t_{d} - V_{s} \times Z_{d} - \left[V_{f}^{2} \times \left\{Z_{d}^{2} - 2V_{s} \times Z_{d} \times t_{d} + V_{s}^{2} \times t_{d}^{2}\right\} + r^{2} \times \left\{V_{f}^{2} - V_{s}^{2}\right\}\right]^{1/2}\right).$$
(2)

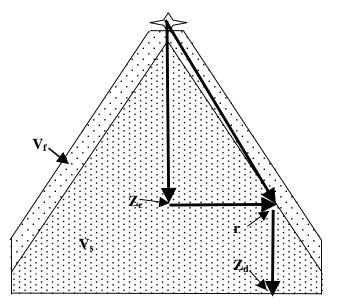


Figure 1. The initiation of the plane-wave lens is in the detonator above the explosive. The detonation front reaches  $Z_d$  by traveling through a fast detonating explosive a distance of  $(Z_c^2 + r^2)^{1/2}$  at velocity  $V_f$  and then by traveling through the slow detonating explosive a distance of  $(Z_d - Z_c)$  at velocity  $V_s$ . The total times required to reach  $Z_d$  for all values of r are the same,  $t_d$ .

The depth of the interface,  $Z_c(r)$ , is found for all values of r to the maximum r of interest. The depth or thickness of fast-detonating explosive above the slow at the apex is determined by the choices of  $Z_d$  and  $t_d$  along the axis. The aspect ratio of lens is determined by  $V_f$  and  $V_s$ .

PBX 9501 and TNT are the fast and slow detonating explosives currently used for the manufacture of plane-wave lenses. Because TNT is a single component explosive and the quality control for the production of PBX 9501 is tightly controlled, their detonation velocities depend only on their compacted densities.

$$V_{f(PBX9501)} = 1.88 + 3.76\rho \text{ mm/}\mu\text{s},$$
 (3)

$$V_{s (TNT)} = 1.88 + 3.76 \rho \text{ mm/}\mu\text{s.}$$
 (4)

The standard densities for pressed PBX 9501 and TNT are  $1.83 \text{ g/cm}^3$  (8.76 mm/µs) and  $1.64 \text{ g/cm}^3$  (6.94 mm/µs), respectively. The detonator currently used for plane-wave lens production is the SE-1, or the commercially available RP-1. This detonator has an apparent center-of-initiation 7.2 mm above its face when the detonation wave is measured at some depth

in PBX 9501. Because the face of the detonator is usually set 10 mm above the slow detonating component apex on the fast in order to smooth out detonation wave irregularities caused by the detonator, the value of  $Z_c(r=0)$  becomes 17.2 mm.

### PRESSING, MACHINING, AND ASSEMBLY

The steel-die press cylindrical diameters available are 1",  $1\frac{5}{8}$ ", 2",  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", and 3" (Savage press), and  $4\frac{1}{4}$ ", 6", 8", 10", and 12" (Accudyne press). We selected the  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter for the initial lens. Dies were machined based on the contours calculated using equation 2 above, the components pressed and assembled, and the lens was tested for simultaneity. (PowerPoint presentation, about Sept. 2005, titled Planarity Measurements of Pressed, High-Explosive Lenses, by Russ Olson, et al.) Based on those results the  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter lens dies were corrected and 1", 2", and  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter lens dies were machined based on that correction. The tests of the lenses made with these dies and their corrections are now discussed.

The dies consist of convex and concave mandrels machined from 7075 aluminum. The explosive TNT components are pressed using flaked TNT, heated to  $65^{\circ}$ C, and compacted at 5,000 psi for 5 min., using the concave mandrel. The concave surface is the contour between the faster and slower detonating explosives first calculated and then corrected. The PBX 9501 components were pressed from the stock of PBX 9501 maintained at the Laboratory, heated to  $90^{\circ}$ C, and compacted twice at 20,000 psi for 5 min. with a brief rest between using the convex mandrel. The concave and convex surfaces have the same contour, line-to-line. Those contours used for the 1", 2" and 4¼" lenses are listed in the "Old" column in the table at the end of this report. The outer conical surface of the PBX 9501 is formed at the same time with a second concave mandrel used with the convex mandrel.

Next, the pressed TNT components' faces are machined flat and perpendicular to their axes using pot chucks machined to match the TNT components contoured surfaces. The components are also machined to specified heights. Those heights are measured and recorded.

The next step is to bond the PBX 9501 and TNT components together. The contour surfaces are first cleaned with isopropyl alcohol. The PBX 9501 components are then inverted and set in cardboard tube pedestals. Their concave contoured surfaces are thinly painted with Aralhex adhesive. The TNT components' convex contoured surfaces are inserted into the PBX 9501 components. Padded weights are placed on the TNT faces until the adhesive sets, after 12 hours. The weights used are 250 g, 1 kg, and 4 kg Cu cylinders for the 1", 2", and  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter lenses.

The final step is to machine a surface flat-and-parallel to the TNT face 1 cm above the apex of the slow component whose height was recorded. This surface is for mounting a detonator locator using Aralhex adhesive. The locator must be precisely centered on the lenses' axes. Diagrams of the three assembled lenses are attached.

## **TESTING AND CORRECTING**

Lenses are tested at Chamber 8, TA-40, DE-9. The 1", 2" and  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " lenses were bonded to plate glass with 3-mil shim stock sandwiched between. The air gap flashes when the detonation wave arrives at the surface of the lens. A set of slits are placed across the image of the explosive lens face and a Cordin camera sweeps that slit image over the recording film at 12 mm/µs.

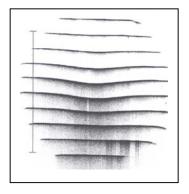


Figure 2. Slit image of a 1" lens. Scale on the left is 12 mm.

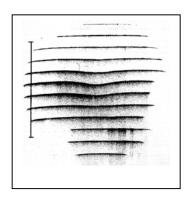


Figure 3. Slit image of a 2" lens. Scale on the left is 12 mm.

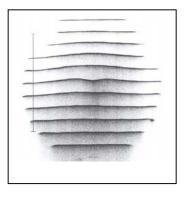


Figure 4. Slit image of a  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " lens. Scale on the left is 12 mm.

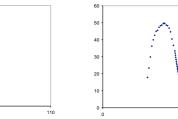
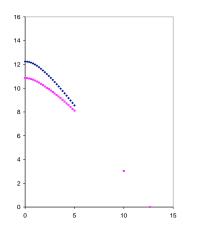


Figure 5. Time of arrival of the detonation wave for the 1" lens. The vertical scale is ns. the horizontal is mm.



is mm.

Figure 8. Contour for 1" explosive lens dies. Dark blue is the original contour, pink is the corrected. The vertical axis is the axis of the contour in mm; the horizontal is the contour radius in mm.

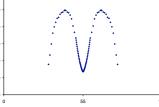


Figure 6. Time of arrival of the detonation wave for the 2" lens. The vertical scale is ns. the horizontal

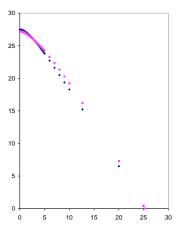


Figure 9. Contour for 2" explosive lens dies. Dark blue is the original contour, pink is the corrected. The vertical axis is the axis of the contour in mm; the horizontal is the contour radius in mm.

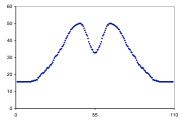


Figure 7. Time of arrival of the detonation wave for the  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " lens. The vertical scale is ns. the horizontal is mm.

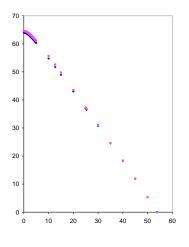


Figure 10. Contour for  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " explosive lens dies. Dark blue is the original contour, pink is the corrected. The vertical axis is the axis of the contour in mm; the horizontal is the contour radius in mm.

Figures 2, 3, and 4 are the slit images from a 1", 2" and 4¼" lenses. Two lenses of each size were tested and they were reproducible. Group DE-9 normally analyzes the slit images, but at this time they are developing new software and training a new analyzer. While waiting for their analyses, I blew-up the film images with a microfiche printer and read the central lines with an eye-loupe with an internal scale. During the shot setup, no effort was made to place the central slit on the diameter; therefore, the results are not the true maxima.

In Figures 5, 6, and 7 are plotted the times of arrival of the detonation fronts as a function of the diameter position centered at 55 mm. The initial arrivals are plotted at 50 ns. All three lens sizes were based on the same contour, for the  $4\frac{1}{4}$ " lens, therefore, the deviations display the same pattern. The first arrival for all three lens sizes occurs at a radius of about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or 12.7 mm. The center of the lens lags behind the first arrival by 40 ns (1"), 37 ns (2"), and 17 ns ( $4\frac{1}{4}$ "). These data are the deviations from simultaneity,  $\Delta t_d$ , as a function of the radius, *r*, of the lenses.

Differentiating  $Z_c(r)$  with respect to  $t_d$  in Equation 2, deviations from the interface that will create a simultaneous detonation wave as a function of the radius can be calculated,

$$\Delta Z_{c}(r) = \Delta t_{d}(r) \div \left[ \frac{1}{V_{f}} \times \left\{ \frac{Z_{c}(r)}{\left[ Z_{c}(r)^{2} + r^{2} \right]^{1/2}} \right\} - \frac{1}{V_{s}} \right].$$
(5)

These deviations are now used to adjust the interface for the final lens design. Figures 8, 9, and 10 show the corrected contours. The corrected contours are listed in the "New" column in the table below.

### THE <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>", 8", AND 12" DIAMETER LENSES

Dies for a 1" diameter lenses initiated with RP-3 detonators (the P-25B drawings) were also made. The lenses have 2 mm, rather than 10 mm, of PBX 9501 between the detonator platform and the top of the slow component. Lens components made from these dies were pressed and assembled. The detonator locator for the RP-3 was then attached. The lenses were then reduced in height to 0.45" and in diameter to 0.75", producing a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter lens. This lens is to be test-fired at Chamber 8.

The 8"-diameter dies were used to press PBX 9501 and TNT components. The TNT components cracked parallel to the flat base. The problem appears to be that the pressure used was too high. Before we could press additional components at lower pressure, the HE pressing facility was closed. The new press, the Accudyne, will begin operation in early 2008. Attempts at pressing the 12" components were postponed until successful 8" components were produced.

### DRAWINGS

Engineering drawings of the dies, the pot chucks, and the finished lenses, both tested and not yet tested, are appended to this report.

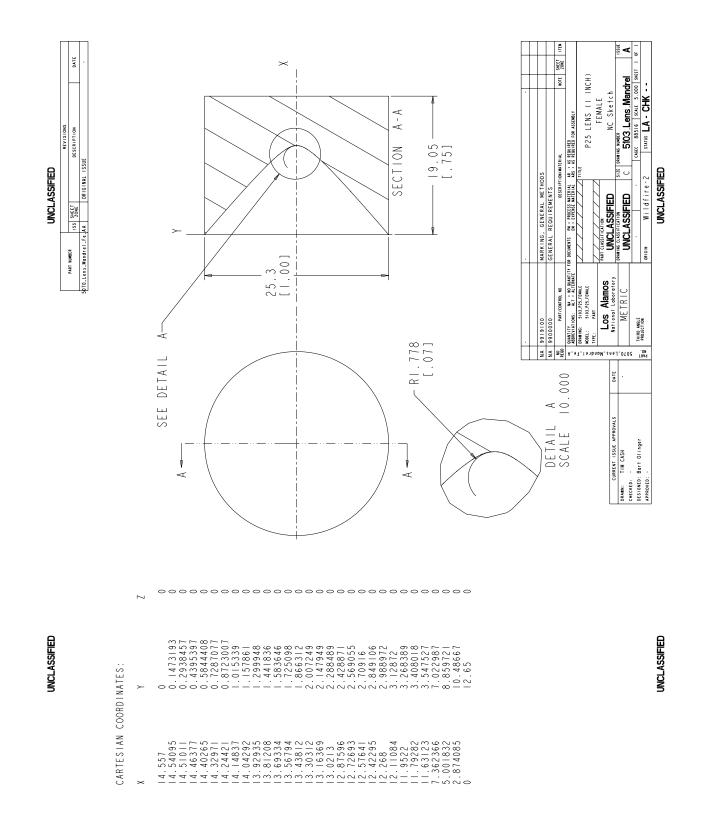
### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tim Cash, PF-TDI, LANL, created the engineering drawings of the dies and pot chucks. Steve Rivera created the engineering drawings of the lenses. John Morris, Larry, Vaughan, and Bob Meir set up and fired the lens tests with the Cordin sweep camera at the enclosed firing chamber of DE-9, LANL. They were mentored by Larry Hill of the same group. This research is funded by the HE Science Project led by Dan Hooks, DE-9, under LANL's NNSA Campaign 2 Dynamic Materials Properties Program, David J. Funk, DE-DO, Program Manager.

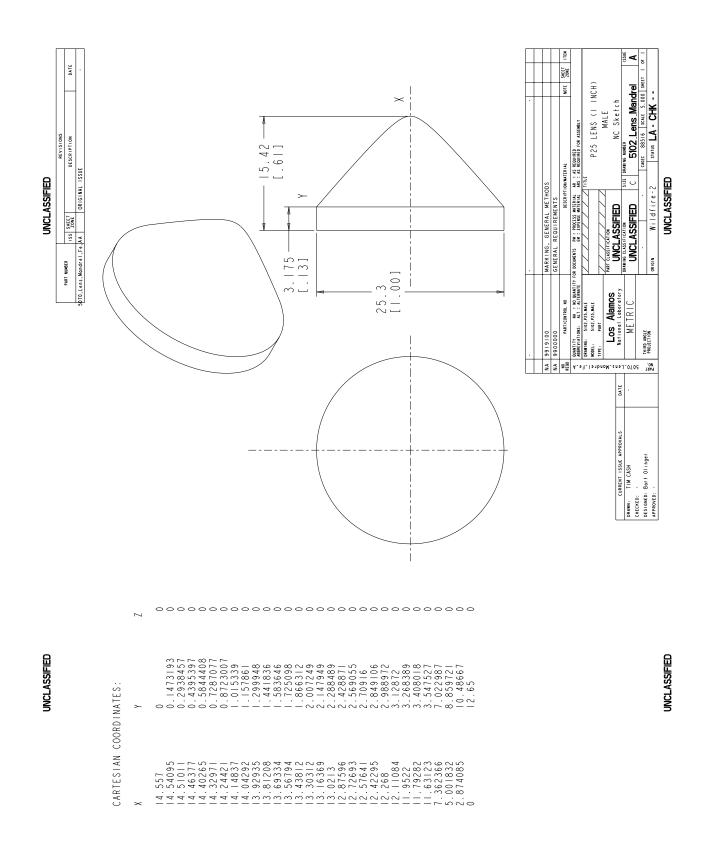
# Old and New Contours of the Dies for the 1", 2" and $4\frac{1}{4}$ " Lenses

1" lens			2" Lens				4¼" Lens		
Old	New		Old	New		Old	New		
Х	Х	Y	Х	Х	Y	Х	Х	Y	
mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	mm	
12.245	10.852	0.000	27.486	27.163	0.000	63.98	5 64.569	0.000	
12.234	10.841	0.200	27.475	27.163	0.200	63.97	4 64.561	0.200	
12.203	10.814	0.400	27.444	27.146	0.400	63.94	3 64.534	0.400	
12.151	10.770	0.600	27.392	27.110	0.600	63.89	1 64.485	0.600	
12.079	10.711	0.800	27.320	27.056	0.800	63.81	9 64.418	0.800	
11.991	10.640	1.000	27.232	26.988	1.000	63.73	1 64.334	1.000	
11.886	10.556	1.200	27.127	26.905	1.200	63.62	6 64.235	1.200	
11.767	10.462	1.400	27.008	26.809	1.400	63.50	7 64.121	1.400	
11.635	10.359	1.600	26.876	26.703	1.600	63.37	5 63.995	1.600	
11.492	10.248	1.800	26.733	26.587	1.800	63.23	2 63.859	1.800	
11.344	10.137	2.000	26.585	26.468	2.000	63.08	4 63.718	2.000	
11.194	10.027	2.200	26.435	26.348	2.200	62.93	4 63.575	2.200	
11.035	9.911	2.400	26.276	26.220	2.400	62.77	5 63.424	2.400	
10.870	9.793	2.600	26.111	26.088	2.600	62.61	0 63.267	2.600	
10.698	9.671	2.800	25.939	25.950	2.800	62.43	8 63.104	2.800	
10.520	9.547	3.000	25.761	25.807	3.000	62.26	0 62.935	3.000	
10.338	9.421	3.200	25.579	25.662	3.200	62.07	8 62.763	3.200	
10.152	9.295	3.400	25.393	25.513	3.400	61.89	2 62.587	3.400	
9.961	9.155	3.600	25.202	25.360	3.600	61.70	1 62.407	3.600	
9.768	9.016	3.800	25.009	25.207	3.800	61.50	8 62.225	3.800	
9.571	8.872	4.000	24.812	25.050	4.000	61.31	1 62.040	4.000	
9.372	8.726	4.200	24.613	24.892	4.200	61.11	2 61.853	4.200	
9.170	8.574	4.400	24.411	24.732	4.400	60.91	0 61.664	4.400	
8.966	8.420	4.600	24.207	24.571	4.600	60.70	6 61.473	4.600	
8.761	8.262	4.800	24.002	24.410	4.800	60.50	1 61.282	4.800	
8.553	8.099	5.000	23.794	24.246	5.000	60.29	3 61.088	5.000	
3.043	3.031	10.000	22.715	23.288	6.000	54.78	3 55.710	10.000	
0.000	0.000	12.650	21.608	22.306	7.000	51.73	0 52.604	12.650	
			20.494	21.325	8.000	48.97	6 49.779	15.000	
			19.372	20.273	9.000	43.00	2 43.602	20.000	
			18.284	19.230	10.000	36.91	1 37.313	25.000	
			15.231	16.226	12.650	36.49	9 36.889	25.336	
			6.503	7.288	20.000	30.74	7 30.990	30.000	
			0.412	0.476	25.000	24.54	0 24.678	35.000	
			0.000	0.000	25.336	18.28	7 18.333	40.000	
						11.93	6 11.944	45.000	
						5.36		50.000	
						0.00		53.885	

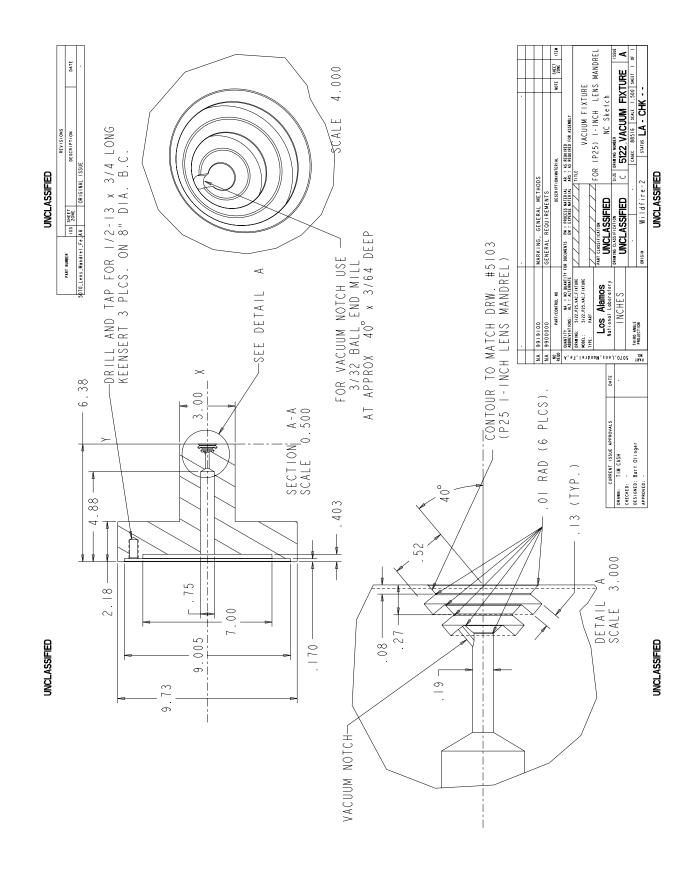
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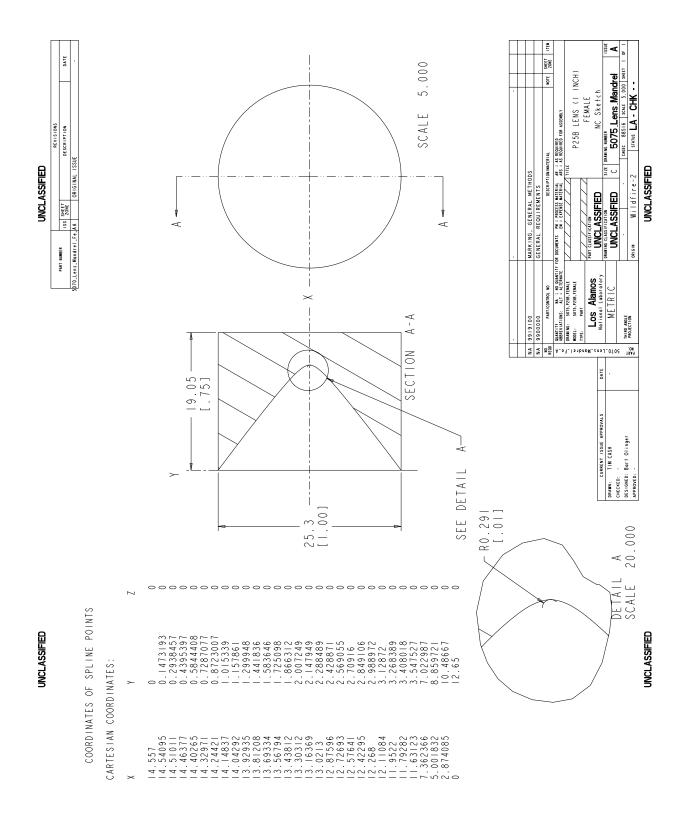
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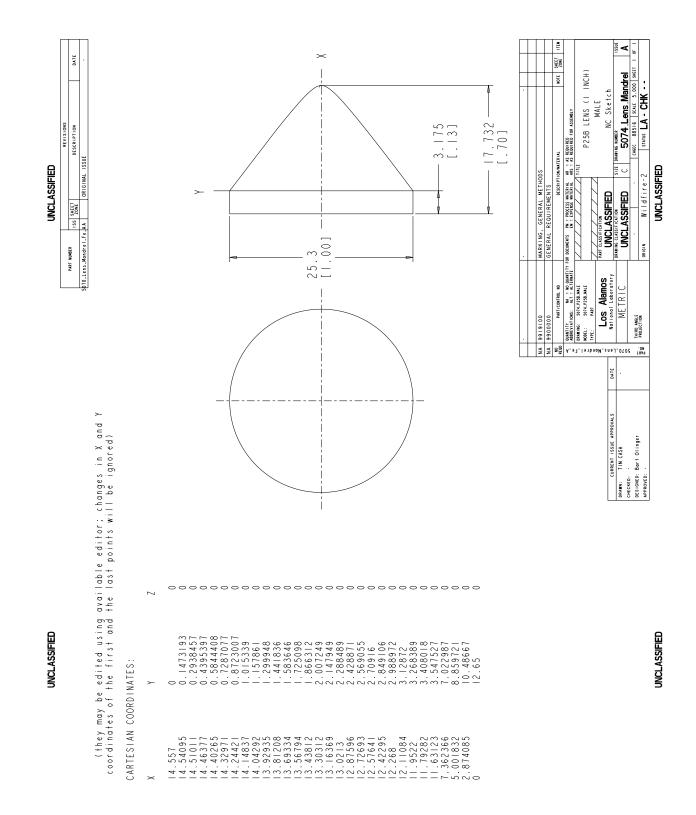
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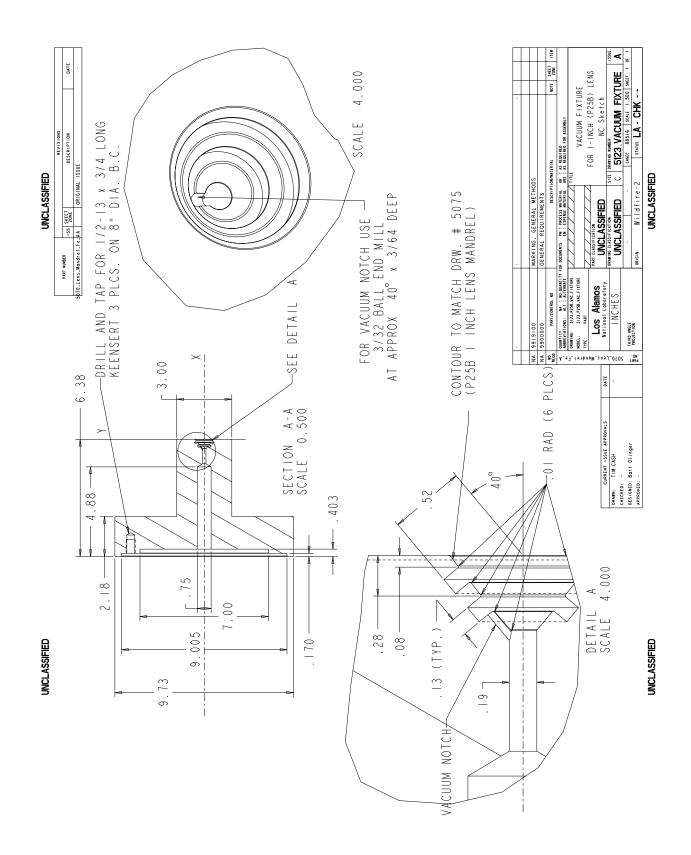
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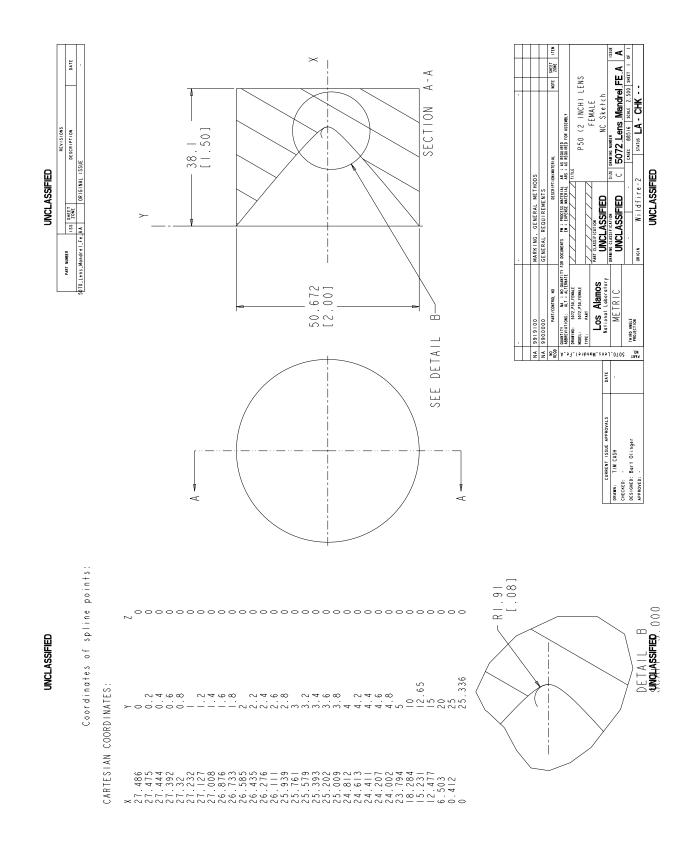
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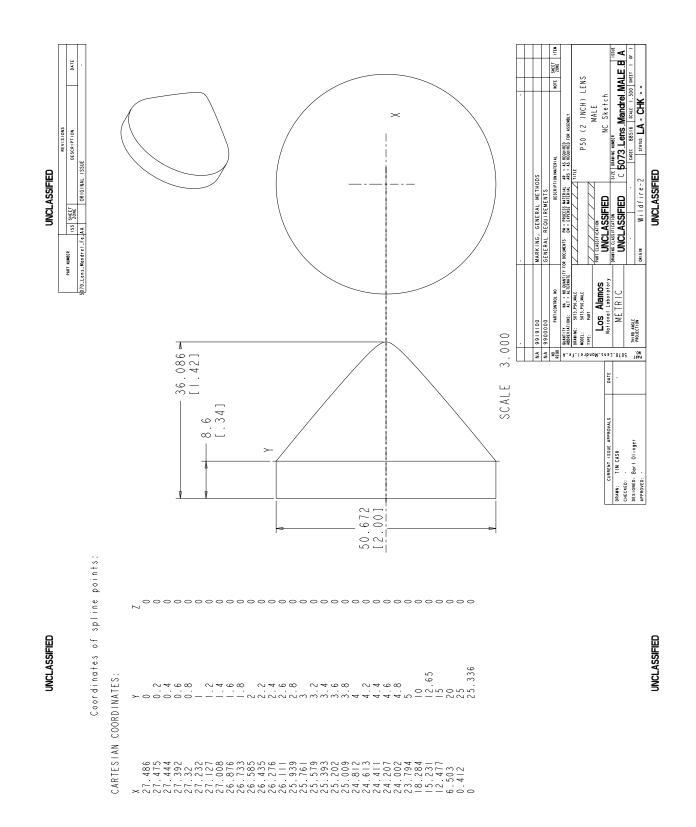
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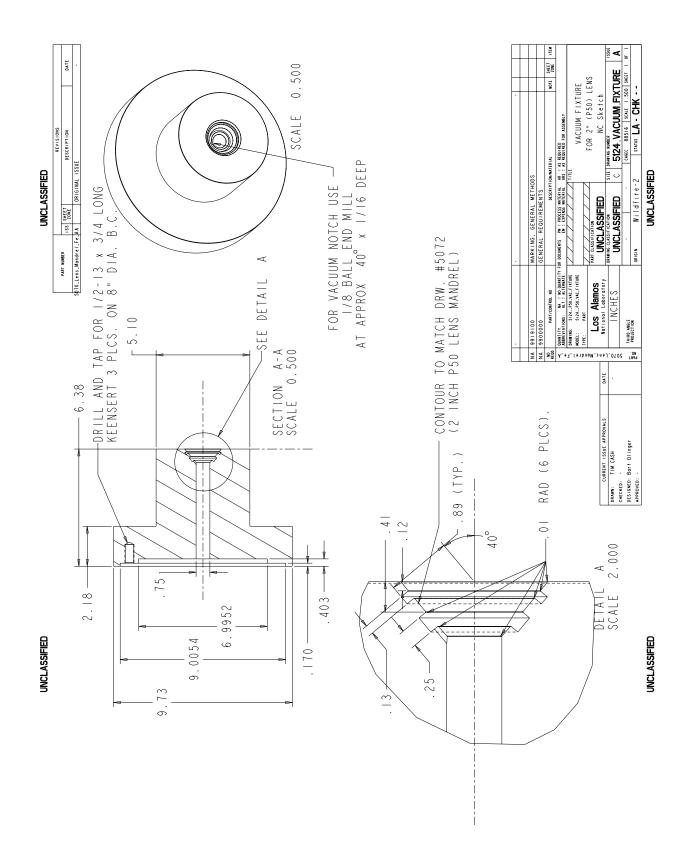
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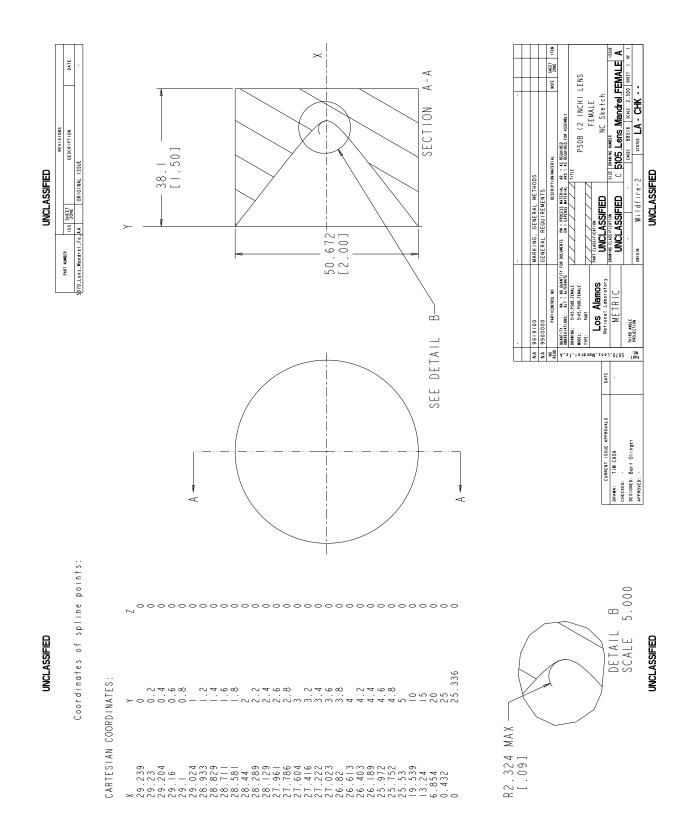
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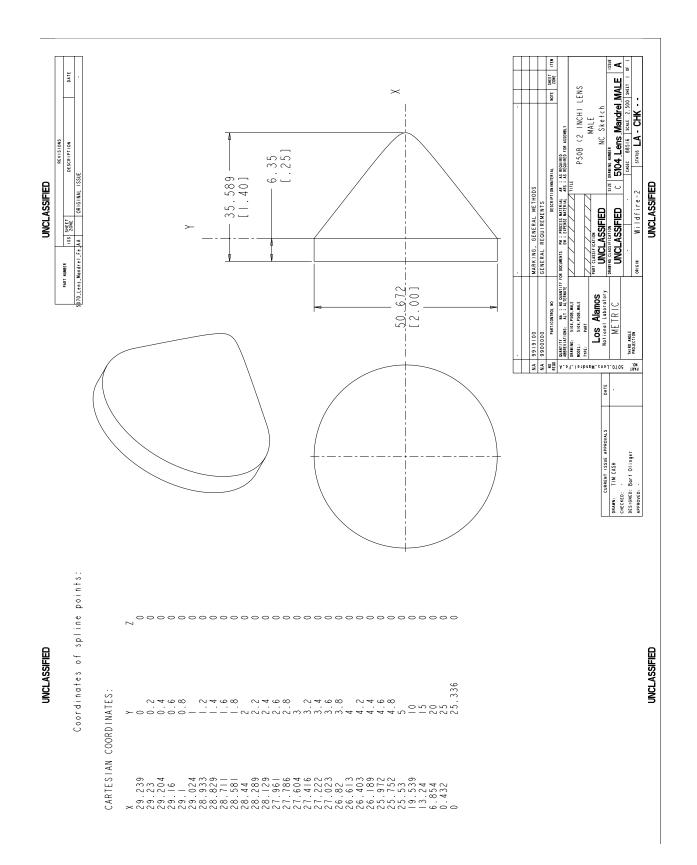
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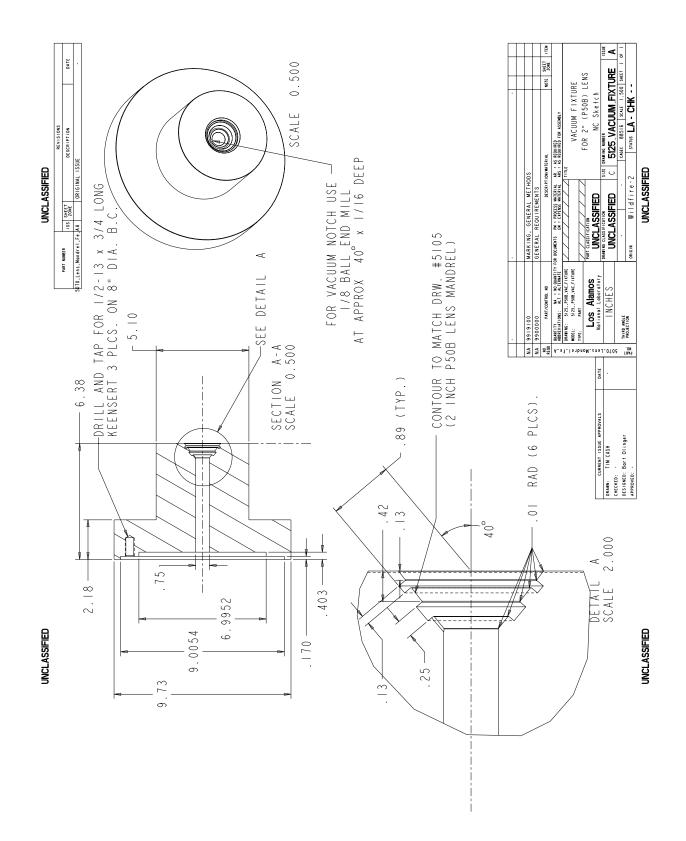
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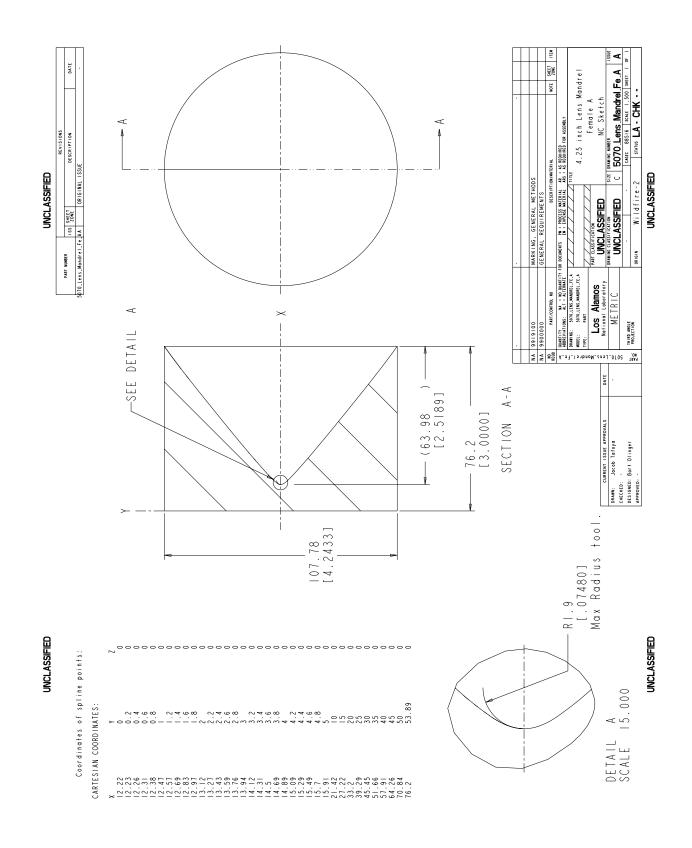
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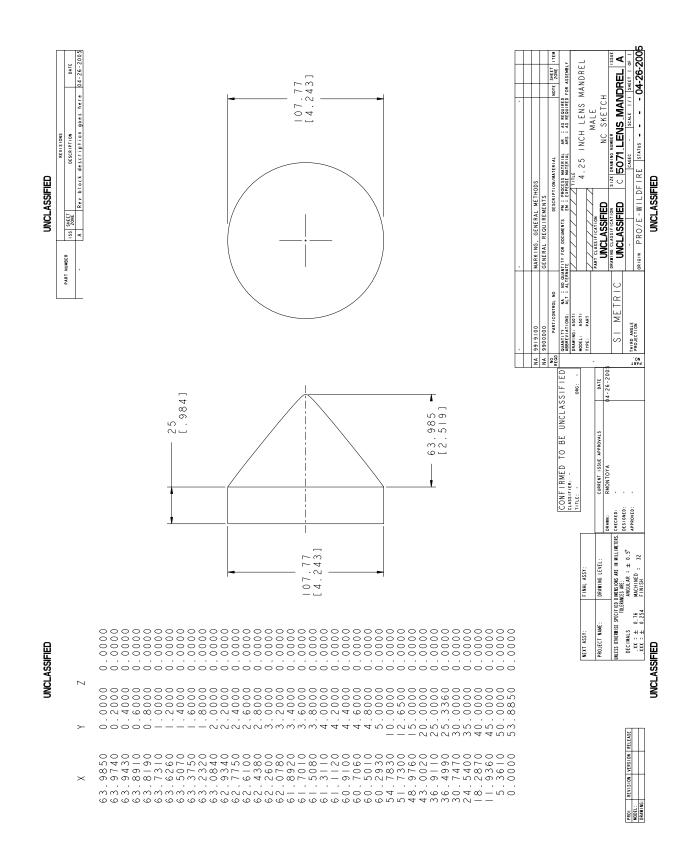
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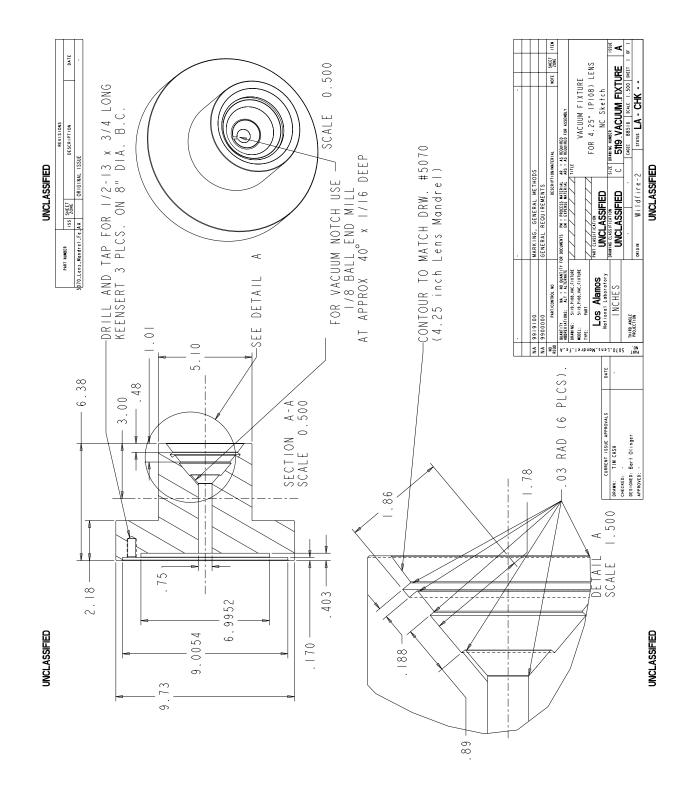
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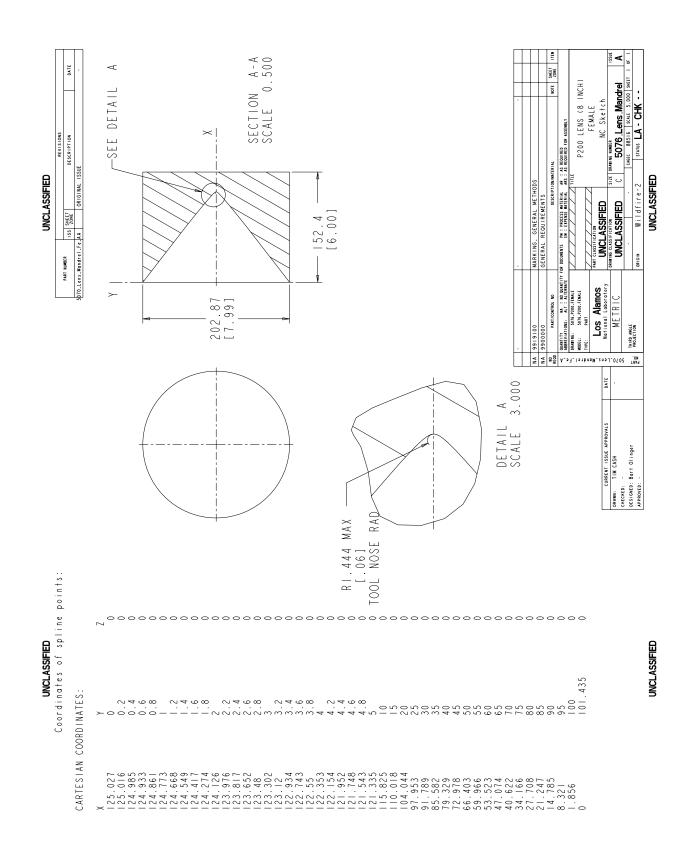
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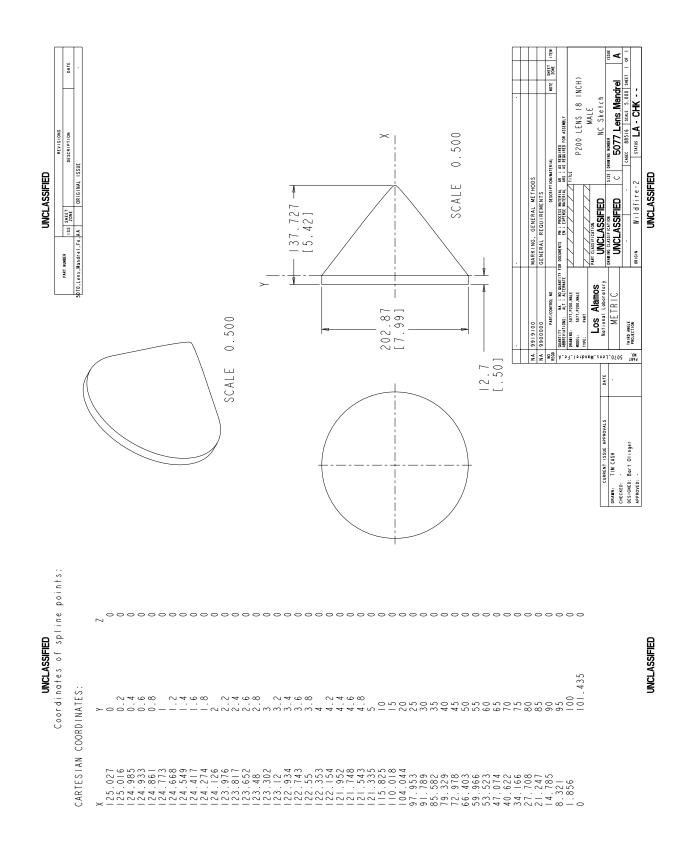
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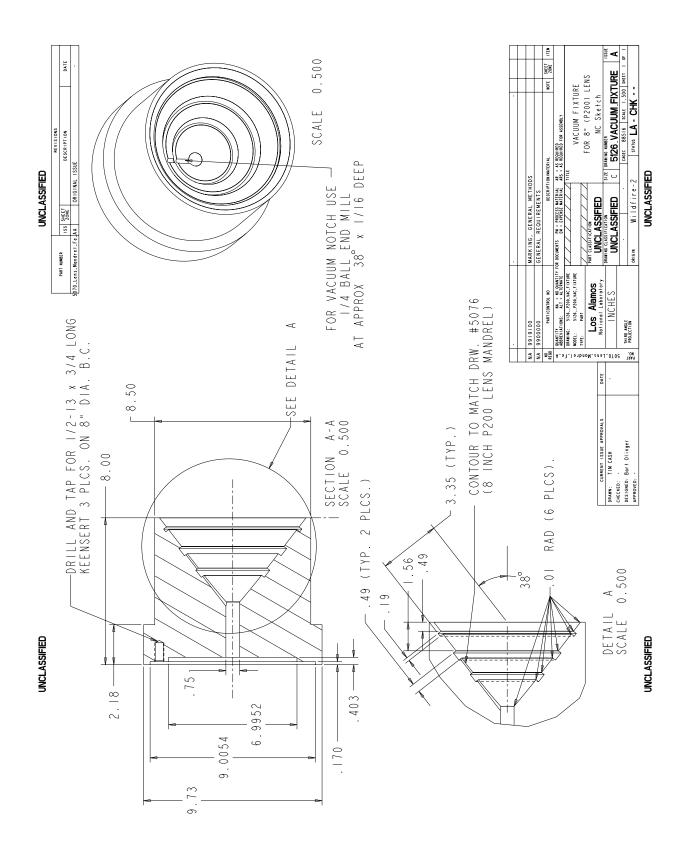
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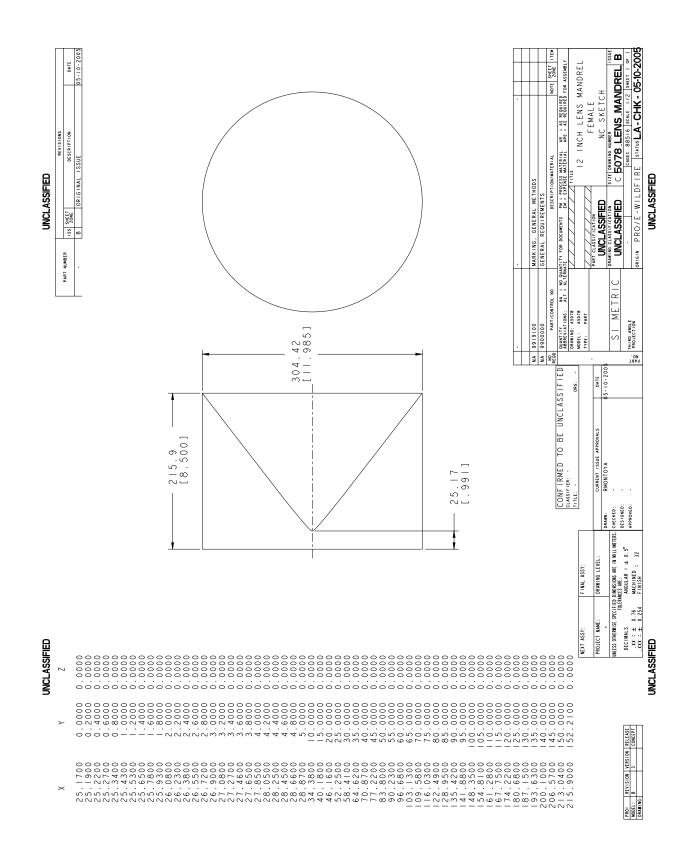
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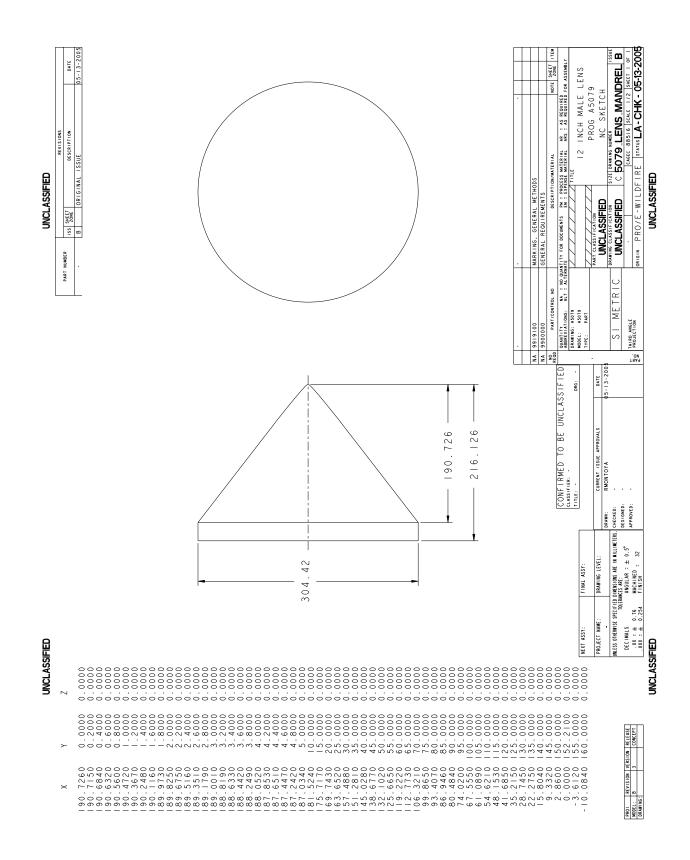
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PTS-P300-CONCAVE-#5078



PTS-P300-CONVEX-#5079

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