



# The Best Dive Computer In The World?



IS THE SUUNTO D9 the best dive computer in the world? Well I suppose that's subjective but I'd feel safe in saying that it is the most advanced general purpose computer in the market to-day.

First impression it is a rather large wristwatch which other reviewers have criticised as being ugly and lacking in style. Perhaps it says more about me but I think it looks pretty good and being made from titanium it is surprisingly light. I was quite happy wearing it for the short time I had it.

The face is recessed which should protect it from scratches. There are four function buttons which make it very easy to select the various modes and settings. There are three modes to choose from: Gauge mode, Air and EAN nitrox where pre-dive you can select another two nitrox mixes which can then be selected underwater during decompression.

The D9 works on Suuntos' Reduced Gradient Bubble Model (RGBM) and you can choose between 100% or for the more experienced diver 50% - a bit less conservative but handy for divers like me who tend to dive fairly shallow but for longer times.

This model is designed for multiple dives over a continuous period of a few days with short surface intervals, and it even takes into account the fact that sometimes the second dive may be a little deeper than the first. In air mode you can set alarms for maximum depth say 30m, duration say 45 mins and 50 bar limit. These alarms are quite discrete and shouldn't frighten the fish if you're a photographer as they switch off with the push of a button.

Suunto has also taken into account the latest ideas for decompression so you can select deep stops. In nitrox mode you can pre-select three mixes for instance 21% for most of the dive then 32% for your first stop and for even greater safety switch to 50% for the last shallow stop. At least that is what I wanted to try but had to return the D9 before I got a chance to.

It also comes with a transmitter to make it air integrated. Again the user can choose the sample rate and if set to 1 second changes, to gas pressure and temperatures, are refreshed very quickly.

The D9 has another trick up its sleeve, hold the select button in for 2 seconds and it activates a compass which is a joy to use. It can be pre-set on a heading and arrows will appear on the left or right indicating you are deviating from your set course and indicating what direction to turn to get back on track.

You can also push the select button twice and this will bookmark that point in the dive recording the depth and heading. This could be really useful for mapping dive sites. I found all the displays easy to read and understand.

Between dives you can in memory and history mode run through your dives at the push of a button with the on-screen graph. And that brings me to the software that comes with the D9. The computer comes with a download cable that has a USB connection which means you can connect it direct to your computer.

Dive Manager 2 has the capability to let you create a library of regularly visited dive sites and equipment used which you can then add with a click of the mouse.

I'm not in any way a gear freak who has to have the latest toy, my BCD is fifteen years old and still going strong. But I did enjoy the D9 and wish I had asked the nice people at Suunto to let me have it for longer as there were things I just did not have time to try.

Suunto has always been at the forefront of computer technology and the D9 sets a new standard for others to follow. What sets it apart is the degree to which you can personalise it. I haven't mentioned some of the other choices you can make which are common to the rest of the Suunto range such as altitude etc.

In my opinion and I could be wrong but I think computer manufacturers especially Suunto are heading towards giving divers enough choices to make their computer their own. By this I mean you will be able to tell the computer your weight etc, the computer will also 'read' from your first few dives what kind of diver you are and adjust what it tells you accordingly. As I said I could be wrong but the degree of choice offered by the D9 certainly points to this.

This degree of sophistication of course comes at a price, the basic computer is £750, add the wireless transmitter and the RRP is £1,050. The D9 is in a class of its own and considering what you get for your money it is good value and I want one.

Dear Santa, I have never asked for much in the past and I have been very, very good so is there any chance.....

# Time To Try A Yellow Turtle?

OPEN A DIVING magazine and rebreathers are everywhere proving that they are steadily becoming more mainstream with 'Yellow Turtles' being regularly spotted from Scapa to the Scillies. Although it may be hard to believe, the Inspiration was and still is the first production line closed circuit recreational rebreather. It's just that all the techies saw this breather and liked it so much, they pretty much kidnapped the unit.

Now Dales Divers are giving you the opportunity to kidnap a rebreather yourself and take it for a try dive in July. This very popular Try Dive Rebreather Weekend will be happening at Capernwray (a short hop from Junction 36 on the M6) on Saturday and Sunday July 23/24.

"This is the second year we've run 'Experience A Rebreather'", stated Andy Hayhurst, Chief Instructor for Dales Divers. "Last time we did this over 40 divers turned up and we found that they appreciate us putting on this event because it allows them to try the units in open water. We'll be bringing a great selection of rebreathers to Capernwray including a KISS, a Megaladon, a Submatix and, last but not least, an Inspiration. We are rather hoping to have a Dräger Dolphin too, but that is yet to be confirmed.

"A lot of divers find that once they have tried a breather they love it. Rebreather diving has a lot to offer recreational divers. It's quieter, warmer, there are no bubbles and the gas bill is insignificant with the breather allowing you, the diver, to breath the best nitrox mix at all times. We will have 40 places over the weekend, with each diver going into the water with a Rebreather Instructor and a safety diver for a 20-30 minute dive.

"Any one who has dived Capernwray will know how animated the fish can get with Open Circuit Scuba Divers. You can imagine with a breather and no bubbles the marine life is just incredible to observe. So we do find that the spaces fill up fast. The best way to guarantee your place is to book a slot and send us a cheque for £20.00. If you have any questions then please contact us at Dales Divers."

For further information call 07702 819 381 or visit [www.dalesdivers.co.uk](http://www.dalesdivers.co.uk)



# Amabilia Is On The Case

DIVERS OFTEN travel with expensive photographic and computer equipment so the question of safe transfer is important. Step up the Amabilia HPRC range of cases. High performance, stylish and available in a number of colours, these cases will not only keep the most valuable items of your gear exceptionally well protected, they'll also improve your social standing as you draw admiring glances at airport terminals around the world.

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The cases range from £20 to £200 and can be supplied empty or with a cubed foam insert, the three largest cases can be supplied with or without wheels.

Now CPS Partnership Ltd has been appointed as the sole UK distributor for the Amabilia range so for further information contact CPS Partnership Ltd on 01424 442 663 or visit [www.amabiliacases.co.uk](http://www.amabiliacases.co.uk)



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# DIVESHOP 2

## SeaCURE - For An Even Bite

THE MOULDABLE mouthpiece is now a small but important part of many divers' kit. And this situation has led to the question - which is the best regulator mouthpiece on the market?. One contender is the SeaCURE Mouthpiece, now distributed in the UK by Custom Divers, and for those who have never come across the SeaCURE mouthpiece before here are some facts that could lead you to adding it to your diving wish-list!

SeaCURE mouthpieces were designed in 1992 by orthodontist, Dr Randall Moles. His aim was to create a mouldable mouthpiece which divers could easily self-mould to fit their mouth, teeth, gums and jaw uniquely. So what is so special about this mouldable mouthpiece compared to a conventional one?

Divers who experience headache pain when using a conventional mouthpiece have found that switching to a SeaCURE, can either reduce or stop headaches. By spreading the biting pressure, the SeaCURE mouthpiece decreases the load placed on the jaw muscles, automatically reducing jaw fatigue and susceptibility to headaches. In addition the diver gains maximum retention, control and support of the regulator second stage, so there is less chance of the mouthpiece dropping out. This concept has made SeaCURE extremely popular, especially with dive professionals who spend so much time in the water.

"What I particularly like about this mouthpiece is that it uses your entire jaw",

says Alex Vassallo, Custom Divers CEO. "With a normal mouthpiece, the 'bite' is concentrated in one small area, so it's no wonder that divers can easily chew and bite off their mouthpiece lugs. With the SeaCure, the 'bite' is evenly distributed along the whole of the jaw, therefore there is less pressure on one spot, which is why this mouthpiece is so popular.

"The actual process of moulding your mouthpiece is uncomplicated and takes about 5 minutes. It is also a process that can be repeated time and time again - so if you get it wrong first time or if your bite changes due to dental work, don't worry!"

Now SeaCURE has developed a streamlined mouthpiece that is thinner and lighter and yet retains the durability that the Classic SeaCURE has enjoyed. The changes in the contours make this new sport model even more comfortable for divers of all ages. Both the Sport and the Classic SeaCURE mouthpieces fit most regulators.

For further details, or trade enquiries, please contact Custom Divers on 01737 773 000.



## QuickTide 2005-2006

LAST YEAR the kind people at QuickTide sent **SCOTTISH DIVER** a copy of their tide ready reckoner for Scotland. I stuffed it into my dive bag and thought no more about it.

The following week we planned to dive in Oban and I thought let's have a look at the tide times. I pulled out my QuickTide and 'quickly' worked out how to use it.

Dead easy, just look up the date and note the code from A0-G9 then look at the colour code for the section of coastline you plan to dive. Turn the coloured triangle to the tide code and there you have it a graph which shows low and high water.

It is pretty accurate - with use you can tell when high and low water is going to be to within 15 minutes.

I use mine all the time as it saves me carrying two little books one for the East and one for the West. Then I have to do sums to add or subtract to find high water where I am going.

Spring and neap tides are highlighted on the code page, however it does not give you the range of the tide but if you know it's springs you know it's big.

Quicktide is simple and easy to use and good value at £7.99 for a two year prediction. Get one at your local dive shop.



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