

New Lantern Torches From JMD

BASED IN Yorkshire JMD Technologies has been making umbilical style torches popular with technical and cave divers for a number of years. Now they have turned their attention to those of us who are less ambitious in our diving. To this end they have produced two hand-held lantern-style torches, the L2075 and the L5060.

The 2075 has a 20W Xenon bulb and is powered by NiMH rechargeable batteries. It comes with a standard charger which will fully charge in 12-16 hours although there is a fast charger available that will charge in three hours, burn time is estimated at 75 minutes. Made from precision machined anodised aluminium they come in any colour you like as long as it's black!

The L5060 is bigger and more powerful with a 50W Xenon bulb, the same charger and has a burn time of 60 minutes. The batteries are charged through a bung hole in the back which is sealed by a simple knurled knob with an 'o' ring. Another knurled knob with a thumb screw locking device which is secure and yet easy to use even with gloved hands in cold water. Depth rated to 150m they should satisfy even the most demanding of techies.

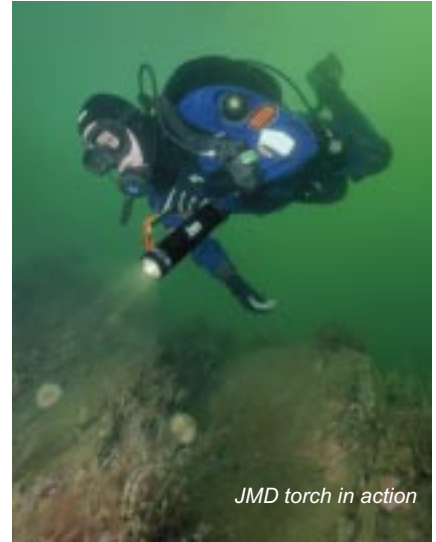
I started with the big one and was very impressed, it is heavy but from something this well made I expected that. I kept it

on throughout the dive which lasted 53 minutes, it died halfway through the second dive about another 20 minutes so I reckon the burn time quoted is a bit conservative and if you only turn it on when you need to it should last at least two dives. The light was excellent and had a good bright beam with a wide halo that filled out the area around the main beam.

The following week I used the 20W version which easily lasted both dives of about the same duration - 50 minutes. The light was as you would expect not as bright but it was perfectly acceptable with the same halo lighting up a wider area than most torches.

I gave them to various members of my branch to try on dives and with one exception we all agreed we preferred the 20W version, simply because it was smaller, lighter, easier to carry and the difference in light output was not an issue.

I have said on several occasions in these pages that I prefer small torches to these lantern style ones, however if I had these JMD ones for much



JMD torch in action

**JMD Technologies Lantern Torches L2075 - £165 with standard charger
£188 with fast charger.
L5060 - £195 standard
£220 fast charger.**

longer I could be hooked. They look great and are as the makers say precision engineered, robust, stylish and they are very good value for money. Torches are for many divers nowadays the object they desire most after their regulator, either of these JMD torches would enhance the kit of any discerning diver who chooses to buy one.



the limited edition O2EII Nitrox analyser

Happy 25th Birthday Analox

MANUFACTURERS OF analysers for both commercial divers and the military - Analox have a reason to celebrate this year. It's their 25th birthday. To celebrate this anniversary they are producing a limited edition O2EII Nitrox analyser.

This limited edition analyser will be black in colour with a black and silver lanyard. The O2EII container will have a sticker confirming it is a limited

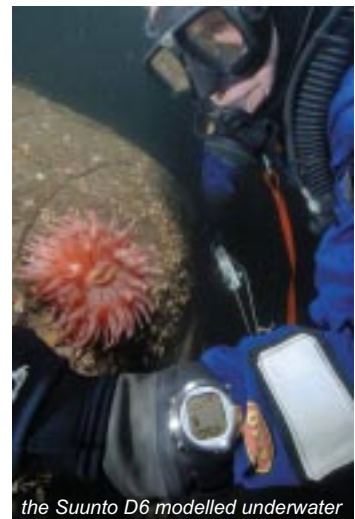
edition 25th Anniversary analyser.

There are only 1000 of the analysers being manufactured and they will be available from 01 April, so you better get your skates on if you want to be a part of their celebrations and mark their quarter of a century with them!

For more information visit, www.analox.net.

The D6 - Suunto's New Affordable Dive Computer

Already a fan of the mega expensive Suunto D9 dive computer, columnist Jack Morrison took an early shine to its recently delivered 'wee brother' the D6. To avoid accusations of nepotism Jack asked pal Gordon McSkimming for his thoughts. Never a man to pass the buck Gordon took it on holiday and found some experts ...



the Suunto D6 modelled underwater

LAST YEAR the nice people at Suunto sent me a D9 dive computer to try out and I was very impressed with it. However at just under £1,000 I couldn't justify buying one, well I could if I tried hard enough, but I anticipated that my wife would see through my feeble attempts as she always does.

Anyway this year they sent me their latest computer the D6 - another wristwatch style computer. At £470 it is a lot more affordable than the D9 but has fewer features. What's missing from the D9 is the wireless gas integrated function and the third gas switch option. It is made from stainless steel rather than the more expensive titanium and is rated to 150m instead of 200m. All the other features of the D9 are still there including the ability for deep stops.

In appearance it is slightly smaller than the D9 and the face is raised which makes it easier to read. In fact that's the first thing all the divers I gave it to noticed, the clear easy to read display. I thought it might be a good idea to get a few opinions of the D6 rather than just my selfish thoughts, after all what new could I say about it that I haven't already said about the D9. So I gave it to Gordon MacSkimming who promptly went off to Tenerife for a few days with the D6.

He wore it with his Mosquito and reported they gave very similar readings I did the same on my dives with the same results. Gordon tried very hard to lose it by taking it off to photograph it lying on the bottom beside various species of marine life, but thankfully always remembered to put it back on again. He then passed it onto the owners and staff of the diving centre at Los Gigantes and here are their observations:

Nev Widdrington BSAC advanced instructor, PADI open water instructor, diver since 1980

"I'm a great fan of Suunto computers, in particular their wristwatch range. I used to have a Solution, too big to leave on the arm between dives and I would often be half way to a dive and realise that the computer was back on the shelf. My Mosquito lives on my wrist and has never been left behind.

"Typical of Suunto, their latest wristwatch computer, the D6, has a few innovations that I'm sure other manufacturers will eventually incorporate into their own ranges, as we already saw happen when

Suunto introduced the safety stop feature.

"The D6 can be used in the traditional decompression mode or set to 'Deep Stop Decompression' where the computer gives stops at half the maximum depth then another stop at half this depth etc. I think that we will be reading more about this in the future.

"Another important safety feature on the D6 is a mandatory decompression stop if the maximum ascent rate is exceeded, giving time to clear any micro bubbles which may have built up.

"I was sceptical about the compass feature when I was told about it; I have an electronic compass from another manufacturer, which has been relegated to the shelf for toys I no longer play with. A traditional compass is much simpler to use on a dive. When I tried the D6 compass on a dive, I was pleasantly surprised at how user friendly it actually is. I am looking forward to Suunto putting all these features in a Mosquito case.

"Suunto wrist straps usually outlive the rest of the computer but only time will tell if the new design D6 strap will be as robust as its predecessors."

Lester Poxon Training DM (PADI)

"In comparison to my Mosquito which I am very pleased with I thought I would find it difficult to find many better points about the D6 and that it was going to be pretty much the same but with a better visual design. The steel face casing gives it a more professional look and a more robust feel. The strap is longer, which is a minus point with the Mosquito (the extension strap is too long and I am on the last hole when wearing my wet suit).

"One criticism of the new look is that I feel it is more masculine where as the Mosquito appeals more generally. The menu selection on the larger face is much clearer and easy to follow and again as a general rule all displays benefit from a larger display area.

"While diving it functions just like the Mosquito, so there are no new things to relearn, but it does have the added advantage of the built in compass. This I found excellent to use, by just holding down the function button the display changes from normal diving info to the compass and immediately shows your last input bearing

and which direction to take

to return to that point. It is also easy to find the reciprocal bearing and set it with one push on the function button as the new heading. I found it a lot better than fumbling around with a traditional compass - getting it level and adjusting the bezel.

"The post dive review is very good - giving depth, temperature and time on a very clear digital dive profile. This also brings up the marker points that you can set while diving which allows for a square or similar dive profile to be repeated with some accuracy as the markers indicate compass bearing as well as this other data.

"In time I believe these types of computers will become the norm as it bridges the gap between traditionalists and Techies. I think the D9 is perhaps a bridge too far for most divers."

Shiela Widdrington also had the computer for a day or two but her contribution has been lost in the ether, however she did make the comment that the user really needs to read the instructions first. We would always recommend that you become familiar with any computer you use but if you have a Suunto I think you will find it easy to follow the instructions for the D6.

In conclusion I think the D6 is a very worthy replacement for the Stinger - a computer I always found to be too big. It has more features than the Stinger, looks better and for those of us who are not really interested in air integration it is perfect.

While many people initially think the built in compass is a bit of a gimmick, let me tell you that it works extremely well and users will be surprised how often they use it. Dive Manager the software for downloading your dives is also very good, easy to use and is perfect for lazy divers like me who can't be bothered to fill in a log book.

Last year I made a plea to Santa to leave me a D9 in my Christmas stocking. I think he must have got the wrong address or something but I didn't get one. However this time I'm not putting my trust in some mythical fairy-tale character - I'm saving up for a D6 of my own!

Suunto D6 Dive Computer - £470.00.

Something Fishy About These DiveLogs

AND NOW FOR something completely different - introducing the transparent fish-shaped diving logbook, perfect for all you stylish divers out there!

The logbooks are available in various colours, from eel grass green to stingray anthracite, however if you want something that is really different then maybe you would prefer yours to look like a clown fish or a tiger fish - that is possible too!

You won't be let down on the content front either, with high quality sponge rubber inlays which are smooth to the touch and water resistant. Your diving licence will be well-protected in its own transparent holder and enough space for all your personal data from A for age and P

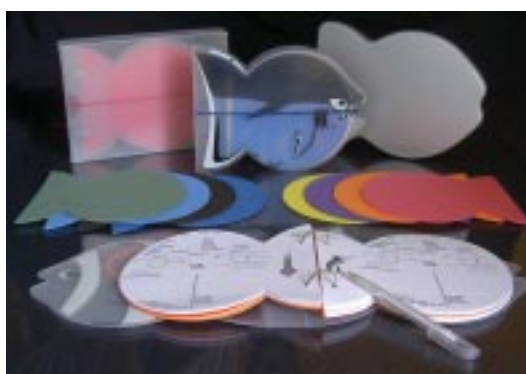
for passport picture to W for whatever!

There is a startlog and enough room for recording up to 120 dives and 30 different illustrations provide variety. Calenders include the year in advance and there are world maps with international time zones, weather information and much more.

For people useless at keeping in touch there is a personal 'who-is-who' of friends you make while diving and 10 whole pages free for you to make your very own important notes

There is also an equipment check which will mean that you will never forget anything important when packing again.

So if this sounds like your kind of logbook, you can get more information at www.uw-diveware.com.



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