

Baker's Dozen for not using a Dive Computer

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- 1) Dive computers tend to induce significant levels of diver dependence, eliminating the awareness so common and essential to all diving but particularly obvious when diving tables
- 2) Dive computers do not allow proper planning as divers can't properly "study" the impact of various mixture and decompression choices.
- 3) Dive computers are of very limited educational benefit as they do not induce questioning, or proper planning discussions as can be found with tables and most particularly with deco programs.
- 4) Dive computer programmers often play games with computational process so that they can take insulate themselves from the risk of taking largely square profile data and utilizing it on a multilevel dive. These games tend to result in odd and often ridiculous levels of conservatism.
- 5) Dive computers are expensive and in some cases leave divers with limited resources carrying equipment that is of far less benefit than other equipment that may have been purchased.
- 6) Dive computers significantly limit the likelihood that divers will track their residual nitrogen groups.
- 7) Dive computers do not allow for Helium diving in any formats but the bulkiest and most questionable format.
- 8) Dive computers will often generate longer decompressions than could be figured by an astute, well educated diver with experience.
- 9) Dive computers often create confusion by giving the user too much useless information, sometimes even obscuring depth and time in favour of blinking CNS and/or deco limitations.
- 10) Dive computers can become very difficult to properly if a deco stop has been violated. Some computers lock up completely while others just beep or generate erroneous and distracting information. Divers using mixed gasses are likely to often violate computer profiles.
- 11) Dive computers do not allow the educated diver to properly modify their decompression to account for advancing knowledge such as the use of deeper stops in a decompression profile.
- 12) Dive computers do not offer divers as much flexibility in the generation of profiles with varying conservatism. For example the right mix would allow 100 min at 60 vs 60 at 60 but I might prefer to do one or the other and indeed might like a compromise. Computers confuse this issue by not providing divers with the proper information.
- 13) Dive computers users often ignore table proficiency and therefore do not learn tables properly. When confronted with a situation where they can't dive the computer (failure, loss, travel etc) these divers are at a serious handicap.