

Dive Computers – Understand Your Choices

	Non Air Integrated	Air Integrated
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Tracks no-decompression limits and dive time remaining based on depth & time.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Tracks no-decompression limits and dive time remaining based on depth & time, PLUS air consumption.</i> ✓ <i>Highlights dive time remaining based on <u>shorter</u> of no-deco time or air time.</i> ✓ <i>Allows user to set alarms based on air pressure – turn alarm, ascent alarm.</i>
Wrist	<p style="text-align: center;">\$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Most economical single purchase. ➤ Most convenient for use with rental regulators. ➤ Will still need to refer to SPG (and possibly compass) during dive, splitting info you need between your wrist and your console. ➤ Still may have significant feature differences and cost when comparing models. ➤ Smaller “watch” style generally costs more than larger “puck” style. Larger style is usually easier to read. 	<p style="text-align: center;">\$\$\$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Usually at higher end of price range ➤ Smaller “watch” style generally costs more than larger “puck” style. ➤ Requires optional (additional cost) transmitter for “hoseless” air integrated function. ➤ Can also operate as non-air integrated, without a transmitter. ➤ Can eliminate console and hose altogether if diver chooses to do so, or keep them as redundant back-up. ➤ Some models can be used with multiple gases/transmitters.
Console	<p style="text-align: center;">\$\$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Most economical when purchasing a full gear set – replaces the Depth Gauge on the hose/console. ➤ Great for your own gear; not all dive operators will allow you to install on their gear if renting. ➤ Depending on console configuration, usually just one place to look for all depth and pressure info, but sometimes one compass or gauge is mounted on the back side. ➤ Still may have significant feature and/or price differences when comparing models – usually just a console mounted version of an identical wrist computer. 	<p style="text-align: center;">\$\$\$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Optimal choice for balance of features and function versus cost – replaces <u>both</u> Depth Gauge & SPG on the hose console. ➤ Great for your own gear; not all dive operators will allow you to install on their gear if renting. ➤ Depth & pressure info definitely on same screen; if compass is added it is almost always on the same side of console. ➤ Still may have significant feature and/or price differences when comparing models.

Other common features/options to consider:

- Night dives – luminous dial or true back light*
- Calendar/clock function*
- EAN Nitrox*
- Downloadable diver log
- Setting for more conservative profile.
- Algorithm used – most important is to be the same as or similar to your buddy’s computer
- Quick disconnect on hose computers
- Digital compass
- Color screen
- Battery life and ease/method of battery change
- Deep Stop function
- Auto Safety Stop Countdown
- Capacity of dive log/memory – number of dives and/or dive time

**Already on all but a few very basic entry level models*