



The gauge can be worn in three positions as illustrated in the three photos at far left. One of the favored positions is just to let the gauge hang as it can be easily picked up and swung into viewing position. When the gauge is attached to the shoulder strap, it is difficult to see as the regulator and mask restrict downward head movement.



four to one as it is pressure tested to over 12000 psi. Should the hose ever rupture, which is highly unlikely, a diver will still have time to ascend safely due to the small orifice in the regulator leading through to the high pressure hose of the gauge. This small orifice restricts the rapid loss of air.

The body of the gauge is machined from solid brass stock and is chrome plated rather than cast in a mold due to the porous qualities of castings. A swivel is incorporated just below the housing to facilitate positioning of the gauge for easy viewing.

The plexiglas face which is 120/1000 of an inch thick is made out of shatterproof lucite. The two round indentations on either side of the faceplate enables it to be taken from the mold, during the manufacturing process and has nothing to do with the actual mechanical function.

A rubber plug on the outside base of the gauge housing is a safety plug. In case a leak develops through the bourdon tube, rather than have the lucite faceplate break outward, the plug will blow at 50 psi above the ambient water pressure. Again, this is rather unlikely to happen as the bourdon tube is made from a stainless steel alloy.

UTILIZATION

1—How often do you actually put a pressure gauge on your tank to check the air pressure just prior to the dive? If you're in a hurry to hit that sparkling clear water at the same time as everyone else is, chances are that you won't bother using one—even though you know that you should.

So on goes the regulator; you suit up and hit the water. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, there will probably be no hang-ups. It's just that one time, though, when you perhaps have a slow leak in your tank valve, or it got turned on accidentally, depleting your air supply by half, that it could mean problems for you . . . or, perhaps, something even serious. With a visual gauge to check before you even put your tank block on though, you'll know at a glance what the status of your air supply is.

2—If you are diving from shore on a wreck that is three or four hundred yards away, a constant check on your gauge will let you know exactly what your air supply is, allowing an easier return swim underwater than on the surface through the swells and wave action. Also when diving a little deeper than usual, and planning to return to the surface when the gauge hits 500 psi, it will give you an

adequate reserve to comfortably and safely make your ascent. While the J-valve is certainly a wonderful piece of safety equipment, it can be breathed through if it is accidentally tripped open. This, of course, can't happen with the Sea Vue gauge. You know at a glance exactly how much air you have left and can plan your dive accordingly.

3—As a constant check of your air at all times, you'll know without a watch approximately how long you've been down and how much time you have left providing you know what your breathing rate is. This can only be approximate as your breathing rate can fluctuate due to environmental conditions and psychological factors as well as other determining factors, but you can figure your time close enough for most diving applications. For example: if a 71.2 cu. ft. cylinder filled to 2250 psi will last you 45 minutes at fifty feet, in a familiar diving area, you'll know that when the Sea Vue Gauge reads 1100 psi, you've been down close to 22 minutes, and you have approximately another 22 minutes of total diving time left, before you run out of air, or roughly 15 to 17 minutes before you hit your reserve of 300 psi. As stated before, these figures can fluctuate, but you can see the advantage of using the gauge, especially if you do not have an underwater watch.

POSITIONING

There are three positions to wear the gauge.

It can come from behind the diver underneath the left arm down by the waist and attach to the tank harness waist strap. By bending the head down and holding the gauge up slightly, it can be read in this position.

It can also be attached to the shoulder strap as illustrated in the accompanying photo but this makes it awkward to see, as the regulator in the mouth and the mask over the eyes and nose restricts the head movement downward.

One of the favored positions, especially among the old pros is just to let the gauge drag. In this position it can easily be picked up by the left hand and swung around to view.

SUMMARY

By reviewing these three obvious safety factors again: 1—An air check prior to donning the scuba and entering the water. 2—An instrument to help plan your dive while underwater. 3—A constant check on your air supply at all times . . . the SKIN DIVER staff feels that the Sea Vue gauge is hard to beat as an accessory of safety diving equipment.