

SCUBAPRO MK25 EVO/A700 Black Tech - Tested by TAUCHER.NET. Germany's largest dive forum.



Regulators are among the most important equipment for divers. Manufacturers laboratory tests based on theoretical conditions and values are always somewhat suspect. We have therefore performed a "real" test on SCUBAPRO's MK25 EVO/A700 BT in a challenging diving environment: cold deep water.

Report by Achim Schloeffel

It feels a bit like Christmas when I open the boxes that were just delivered to my house. Contents: two brand new MK25 EVO/A700's in very fine "Black Tech" and with the new XTIS system.

The "Black Tech" coating is more of a metallic shiny charcoal and gives the regulator not only a very exclusive appearance, but also an exceptionally good feel. What's the new system XTIS about? XTIS stands for "Extended Thermal Insulating System" and completely isolates the internal components of the first stage from the environment. According to the manufacturer, it improves the resistance against freezing on the MK25 EVO by a staggering 30 percent.



At this point I must add, that none of my regulators have ever frozen. I am convinced that it is the diver who makes the mistake here and not the regulator - but this discussion is a very long one and deserves its own article.

KEY DATA: TEST DIVE

Date/Time: 11.02.2015 / 12:37
Water temperature: 4° C (freshwater)
Max. depth: 138 meters
Duration: 116 min
Gases: Heliox 6, Trimix 21/35, Nitrox 50, Oxygen

Main regulator: SCUBAPRO MK25 EVO/A700 BT
Backup regulator: SCUBAPRO MK25/S600
Stage regulator: SCUBAPRO MK25/S600
Stage f. free flow test: SCUBAPRO MK25 EVO/A700 BT
Instrument: Henry Weikamp OSTC2N in gauge mode
Scooter: Bonex Edition





I wanted to find out the hard way and configure the regulator for its first use (see regulator settings (youTube). The idea is to find out how a regulator combination behaves when I take it very deep, very quickly in cold water and then see how it can handle a free flow...

Finding cold water is not a problem, it is right outside the front door. So I took a double 20 liter filled to 300 bar stage tank and headed down to the lake. Thanks to a drop off and dive scooter a fast descent in to the required depth was no problem.

At the gas exchange to Heliox 6 I switched to the new MK25 EVO/A700 BT and scootered straight into the depths. After about 3 minutes I reached 120 meters: The regulator behaved discreetly and did exactly what it

should, delivered gas in a perfect manner. This is unspectacular for the reader, sorry, I know a complete failure would provide a more exciting read.

Once at depth I opened a 80cft (11.2 liter) tank filled to 230 bar to which the second test regulator is mounted and pushed the purge button, with the diver adjustable inhalation set to "max". I let the regulator free flow for 60 seconds, let go of the button and the gas flow stopped immediately. Impressive!

There was still about 30 bar in the tank, which means that approximately 2,200 liters of air flowed out in just 1 minute (which corresponds to a consumption of 170 liters per minute at the surface!). I spent another 5 minutes at depth then dipped a little further to 138 meters. From here I started the ascent. The rest of the dive remained unproblematic and after 116 minutes I reached the surface.

SUMMARY

A great new launch for one of the most prestigious manufacturers in the diving industry. The regulator performs in every respect, sets a very high standard and should be an integral part of many diving equipment configurations in the years to come; whether as part of holiday equipment package destined for colorful reefs or for deep trimix dives in cold lakes. The only criticism is the fact that the second stage can't be opened without tools under water, which for me means that I would rather use the S600 with the MK25 EVO for technical dives.

INFORMATION FROM THE MANUFACTURER

MK25 EVO 1st stage

- New XTIS (Extended Thermal Insulating System) mechanism fully insulates the internal components from the environment, improves cold water / freezing resistance without compromising breathing performance
- Piston size allows greater inhalation sensitivity for a low effort ultrafast breathing response
- Additional fins on the body provides extra thermal exchange
- Meets the requirements of the new standard EN250-2014

