

SCUBALAB WHAT'S NEW

SCUBAPRO MANTIS M1 | £369 (€512.06)

EXCLUSIVE REPORT

Editor Mark Evans takes a first look at Scubapro's latest foray into the world of wristwatch dive computers, the technologically advanced Mantis M1.

Scubapro, initially under the Uwatec brand, now sporting SP, have been producing dive computers for many, many years, but they were late to the game with wrist-watch-style computers, first entering the fray with the Xtender, which to be fair was simply a rebranded Seiko unit and not a true 'Scubapro' product. They seriously upped their game with the Meridian, which really took the fight to their competitors, and this was soon joined by its junior sibling Chromis. Now the latest incarnation is the Mantis M1, which replaces the Meridian in the product line-up.

What made the Meridian stand out from the crowd was the design - it was a serious chunk of metal, with a real 'industrial' feel to it. The Mantis takes this one step further, with the button functions engraved quite large into the marine-grade 316L stainless steel around the scratch-resistant mineral glass screen - the whole thing screams heavy-duty. It is depth rated to 120m and has a user-replaceable battery that is calculated to last two years or 300 dives.

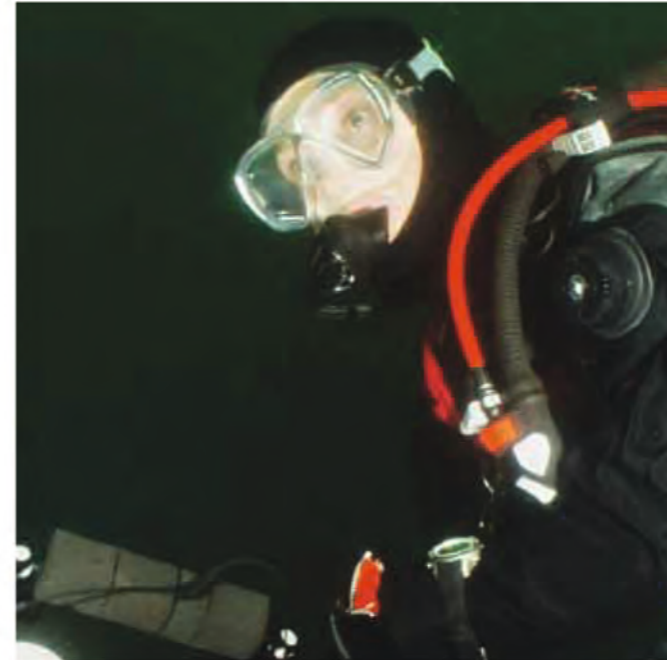
One of the first things you notice about the Mantis is how easy the operating system is to navigate. Much like the larger Galileo range, the button use is very intuitive, and thanks to the engraving, you will never be in doubt as to what each button does. And talking of the buttons, these utilise a magnetic system, which means that the casing remains totally watertight, as well as ensuring mechanical reliability. They have a nice, definite push action - there is no 'sponginess' at all.

It is a good job that the menu is so simple to explore, as the Mantis not only offers scuba, apnea (freediving) and gauge modes alongside the basic clock functions, it can also cope with closed-circuit rebreathers and even has a 'swim' mode.

Like the range-topping Galileo Sol, the scuba setting uses Scubapro's tried-and-tested ZHL-8 predictive multi-gas algorithm and can handle



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up to three nitrox settings from 21-100 percent, as well as offering Profile Dependent Intermediate Stops (PDIS) and micro-bubble selection. The apnea mode features an enhanced logbook for storing repetitive dives under the same session, and alarms for session cumulated depth, dive time interval, surface interval, ascent speed and more. The CCR mode has a fixed PPO2 algorithm, with two set points and bailout, while the swim setting has a stroke counter and a distance tracker. There is even an altimeter and barometer, so you can bring the Mantis into use when you are walking or hiking. The screen boasts extra-sharp characters for easy readability underwater - these were 'inspired by the sharpness of Samurai katanas', according to the Scubapro promotional material, but whatever the source, the result is a crystal-clear display, albeit quite small due to the nature of the unit,

especially compared with the much-larger wrist-mounted Galileo range. The Mantis is certainly one of the most-advanced wrist-watch computers on the market, and you can pair it with an optional heart-rate monitor to make the most of the computer's biometric capabilities. Through heart-rate analysis, which constantly readjusts the decompression schedule, combined with PDIS and personalised settings for micro-bubbles and level of conservation, you have a computer which incorporates your unique physiological factors into its calculations. Uniquely, this heart-rate monitor can also be used in the 'swim' mode, further enhancing the multi-use aspects of this wrist-watch computer. The Mantis can also be fitted with coloured straps (blue, red, yellow and pink) for those who want to add a bit of vibrancy to their kit. www.scubapro.co.uk