

Scubapro Hydros Pro

Company: Scubapro

Price: £570

Web: www.scubapro.com

Scubapro's Hydros Pro is an innovative design that won its manufacturer the prestigious Red Dot award on its launch. The single-cylinder wing system takes the approach that almost each and every part is interchangeable and replaceable.

Break, damage or lose anything – from a buckle, strap or weight system – then it's simply a case of 'bolting' on a replacement. The air cell is constructed from a PU-coated 420-denier nylon, while much of its other components are made from an injection-moulded thermoplastic elastomer.

This rubbery Monoprene material is used not only for the backpack but also in place of traditional webbing and for the integrated weight system too. The advantages of Monoprene lie in its inherent ability to repel liquids rather than absorb them and reduced drying times are a welcome bonus.

The shoulder straps' swivel pinch-clips allow plenty of room for manoeuvre, making this wing easy to get into. Thanks to the very clingy properties of the Monoprene backplate plus the Pro's lightweight crotch strap, once it's on, it stays on.

At the end of the jacket's corrugated hose is a responsive two-stage inflator. Three alternative dump valves are located on the left and right shoulders plus at the customary bottom left side. These allowed easy venting whatever position you find yourself in.

A cleverly designed tri-bungee system also prevents any flapping around of the wing itself, while the Hydros Pro's weight system copes with a total of 8kg of lead split between the two pouches. The rear of the jacket also provides extra trim-weight slots.

SCUBA says

The Hydros Pro may be limited to single cylinder use, but it's an innovative wing-style BC and remains one of my favourite BCs from 2017.

