

SIDE 16 Sidemount System
User Manual

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Introduction

Scubatech gear is the result of many years of research and development, and Scubatech has utilized proven materials and design to maximize reliability and performance.

This manual is intended as a guide for the end user.

The sidemount system described here is designed and intended for divers who have successfully completed a special training course for sidemount diving and who are aware of the distinctive features of this product.

This system must NOT be used by untrained persons, not familiar with sidemount diving or diving in general.

Should you have any further questions, please contact your dealer, the distributor in your country or Scubatech Sp. z. o.o.




Safety Precautions

This manual provides an overview on the usage of the Scubatech SIDE 16 Sidemount System.


Please read each section completely and carefully PRIOR to using this system. This will familiarize you with the product features.

Pay close attention to all WARNINGS, CAUTIONS, and NOTES that are intended to draw your attention to items of importance.

Definition of Notes, Warnings and Cautions

	Note Emphasizes important information and hints.
	Warning Indicates any situation or technique that may result in potential damage to the product, or that renders the product unsafe, if instructions are not followed correctly.
	Caution Indicates a procedure or situation, that may result in serious injury or death for the user, if instructions are not followed correctly.

General Warnings

	Please read the following carefully!
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- The Scubatech SIDE 16 Sidemount System is intended for divers trained in sidemount diving. If you are not trained, please refer to a local or national diving association, offering such training courses.
- As with all diving equipment, improper use or misuse of this system can lead to injury or death.
- This system is not a life jacket. It will not stabilize the person wearing it on the surface. It will not provide a head-up position for unconscious persons.
- This system is intended for temperature conditions between 1 °C and 40 °C.
- Always inspect this system before diving.
Should it not function properly, DO NOT DIVE.
- Always adapt your choice of tanks to the maximum lifting capacity of this system (16 l). The manufacture recommends using 2 x 80 cft aluminum cylinders.

Technical data

- Buoyancy: 16 kg/35 lbs
- Integrated weight pockets and external weight pockets on the waist belt
- Max. weight pocket capacity: 16 kg
- Aluminum back plate
- Adjustable waist and chest belt
- Adjustable crotch strap
- 5 D-Rings (stainless steel)
- Quick release valve
- K-type inflator (33 cm/13")
- Inflator can be mounted left or right
- Integrated shoulder pads
- Material: Cordura 2000
- Ready to use with all hardware and bungees needed

EC type examination by:

Polski Rejestr Statków S. A.

(www.prs.pl)

Notified body no. 1463

Certificate CW/PPE/218/2013

This product complies with

- PN-EN 1809:2001

- PN-EN 250:2003/A1:2007

Overview

This chapter describes the general setup and the features of the SIDE 16 Sidemount System.

Front view I

The front side of the SIDE 16 looks like this:



- 1 – Shoulder belts
- 2 – Back cushion
- 3 – Tank bungees
- 4 – Inflator
- 5 – Waist belt
- 6 – Crotch strap

Front view II

After removal of the back cushion, the SIDE 16 looks like this:



- 1 – Internal weight pockets
- 2 – External weight pockets
- 3 – Quick release valve
- 4 – Inflator connection

Back view

The Backside of the SIDE 16 looks like this:



- 1 – Special moveable D-rings
- 2 – Rails
- 3 – Integrated weight pocket in top position

Configuring the SIDE 16



Overview

The SIDE 16 Sidemount System is delivered pre-assembled and only needs to be adapted to your size and diving gear.



Note

The proper configuration for your individual needs might take some time, but it is worth it. With a thorough configuration, you will gain a perfect trim, so you can enjoy all the advantages of sidemount diving.

Adapting the harness

- Wearing your diving suit, put on the SIDE 16 and close the chest clip.
- Tighten the shoulder belts by adapting their length. Do not over-tighten – they should fit comfortably, but close to the body.
- Adapt the position of the waist belt buckle.



Note

Do not shorten the waist belt by cutting it, if you are not sure about the fit or when you are not the only person using the SIDE 16. If you want to cut the waist belt, make sure the cut end is sealed with a lighter or similar, to avoid fray.

- Adapt the length of the crotch strap. It is recommended to keep a snug fit, in order to hold down the rear end of the SIDE 16 while in a horizontal position.
- Closely observe the harness adaption during the first dives and change it, when necessary.

Recommendations for tank rigging

It is recommended to use 80 cft aluminum tanks with mono valve.

To prepare your tanks, you need 2 standard tank belts, 2 big bolt snaps (stainless steel), 2 tri-glides, some nylon rope and optionally 4 bungees and 2 trim weight pockets.



Attach the nylon rope to the bolt snap as shown.

Attach the bolt snap to the tank belt by using the tri-glide.

Optionally, attach a trim weight pocket to the tank belt.




Attach the tank belt with the bolt snap to the tank (approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ down the tank). Make sure, the bolt snap faces inwards (to your body).

Optionally, attach 2 bungees to the tank, in order to stow away the regulator hoses during transport.

Tank configuration

There are numerous ways to configure your diving tanks. Different diving organisations and instructors have different opinions and strategies regarding this topic. Hence, the following configuration is just an example.

	<p>Note Sidemount diving requires a special adapted set of regulators, e.g. the Scubatech R2 Tec Sidemount set. These regulators include special swivel adapters, matching hose lengths and small SPGs.</p>
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Left tank

Please note, that the valve knob faces down and the 1st regulator stage faces inwards during the dive. So this is the tank, you wear on the left side.




Right tank

Please note, that the valve knob faces down and the 1st regulator stage faces inwards during the dive. So this is the tank, you wear on the right side.



How to attach a tank to the SIDE 16


	<p>Note Normally, sidemount tanks are attached in the water. Hence, deposit your tanks carefully in the water or nearby, so you can easily grab them. Please note, that even an empty aluminum tank DOES NOT FLOAT!</p>
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Left tank

- In the water, attach the bolt snap of the left tank to the left rail of your SIDE 16.
- Lead the left SIDE 16 bungee from the outside under the tank valve and then to the inside.
- Attach the left bungee to the left shoulder D-ring.
- Connect the inflator hose.
- Lead the regulator hose behind your neck to your right and put the regulator necklace around your neck.

Right tank

- Attach the bolt snap of the right tank to the right rail of your SIDE 16.
- Lead the right SIDE 16 bungee from the outside under the tank valve and then to the inside.
- Attach the right bungee to the right shoulder D-ring.
- Connect the dry suit hose (if any).
- If you use a long hose on the right side, lead it in front of you to the left, then around your neck, so it comes from the right.


	<p>Note During the dive, pay attention to your trim (your horizontal position in the water). If necessary, adjust your trim for the next dive by changing the weight positions and the positions of the tank belts.</p>
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Instructions for maintenance and care

Due to its quality, your SIDE 16 Sidemount System will function reliably for many years. Nevertheless, a certain maintenance and care is required, to keep the system in this condition.

Before the dive

Please observe the following, to prepare your SIDE 16 Sidemount System for a safe dive.

	<p>Caution Do not dive with your SIDE 16 Sidemount System, if you are not convinced about its safety.</p>
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- Connect a pressurized inflator hose to the inflator and make sure, that the inflator is working properly (manual inflation, automatic inflation, deflation).
- Make sure, that the inflator clip is undamaged and working properly.
- Check the inflator connection and the corrugated inflator hose for leaks (e.g. by holding it under water).
- Inflate the SIDE 16 and make sure, that there are no leaks.
- Check the quick release valve and make sure, that it works properly.
- Check the belts and bungees for signs of wear and tear.
- Make sure, that the SIDE 16 Sidemount System has been adapted to your size and your diving suit.
- Make sure, that the weight pockets hold the correct amount of weight.

After the dive

To keep your SIDE 16 Sidemount System in optimal condition, please carry out the following steps after each day of diving (especially after diving in salt water).

- Use the inflator mouthpiece to fill the SIDE 16 at least 1/3 with clean fresh water.
- Inflate the SIDE 16 fully (manually or via an inflator hose) and disperse the water in the bladder by rotating, turning and shaking it.
- Hold the SIDE 16 upside down, detach the inflator clip, hold the inflator straight down, and drain the water by pressing the inflator release button.
- Externally rinse the SIDE 16 with clean fresh water.

**Note**

It is recommended to add some disinfectant fluid to the rinsing water every now and then. This special kind of cleaning product is available in diving stores.

- Inflate the SIDE 16 partially and let it dry outside the direct sunlight.
- Store the SIDE 16 in a cool, dry place outside the direct sunlight.
- Transport the SIDE 16 in a separate case or bag, away from sharp items, that might damage it. Do not put heavy objects on the SIDE 16.