

## About the Author



Author at 200ft. Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman.

Photo taken by Robert Hew

Anton Swanepoel is a diving instructor for IANTD, TDI, NAUI and PADI. He is an OC Tri-Mix instructor and a Tri-Mix gas blender instructor. He has a passion for wreck, cave and deep diving.

Although he dives both CCR and OC, his passion is in OC. Working as a technical instructor in a busy dive center in the Caribbean, he gets to live his passion. He has dove OC in excess of 400 ft and loves to share his passion with all.

## Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1: How on- and off-gassing works .....</b>	<b>10</b>
How on- and off-gassing works .....	10
Effects of gasses .....	14
Nitrogen .....	14
Nitrogen narcosis signs .....	15
Oxygen .....	18
Helium .....	20
CO <sub>2</sub> .....	22
CO .....	25
<b>Chapter 2: Dive computers compared to dive tables</b>	<b>26</b>
Dive computers compared to dive tables .....	26
Dive tables .....	26
Dive computers .....	27
Are dive tables dying? .....	28
Which is better, tables or computers? .....	29
Planning mode exceeding recreational depths .....	30
<b>Chapter 3: Dive computer history .....</b>	<b>32</b>
Dive computer history .....	32
First pressure related injuries noted .....	32
First human pressure related injuries noted .....	33
Link between inert gas bubbles and decompression sickness .....	33
Birth of the U.S. Navy Tables .....	34
First dive computers .....	34
First electronically controlled dive computer .....	35
First digital dive computers .....	36
First Nitrox capable dive computers .....	37
First air integrated dive computer .....	37
First hoseless air integrated dive computers .....	37
Multi gas Nitrox computers .....	38
Multi gas dive computers .....	38
Decompression algorithm adjustment .....	39

<i>Downloading of dive data</i>	39
<i>U.S. Navy dive computers</i>	39
<i>Digital interface computers</i>	40
<b>Chapter 4: DCS and A.G.E.</b>	<b>41</b>
<i>DCS and A.G.E.</i>	41
<i>Speed of descents</i>	42
<i>CO<sub>2</sub> problems on fast descents</i>	42
<i>On-gassing</i>	42
<i>Decompression</i>	43
<i>Temperature and gas solubility in decompression</i>	43
<i>Diffusion rates of gasses</i>	44
<i>Fast and slow compartments</i>	45
<i>Deep stops</i>	46
<i>Free bubbles and decompression calculations</i>	47
<i>Natural bubbles in your body</i>	48
<i>Movement during diving and stops</i>	49
<i>Fast ascent to the surface</i>	49
<i>PFO and ASD</i>	50
<i>Post dive exercise</i>	51
<i>Warmth after a dive</i>	51
<i>Reaction to inert gas bubbles in the body</i>	51
<i>A.G.E. or Pulmonary Barotrauma or L.O.P.</i>	52
<i>A.G.E. problems</i>	54
<i>Mediastinal and Subcutaneous Emphysema</i>	55
<i>Pneumothorax</i>	55
<b>Chapter 5: ICDS DCS</b>	<b>57</b>
<i>ICDS DCS</i>	57
<i>ICDS Prevention</i>	60
<i>Rebreather bailout</i>	61
<b>Chapter 6: How a dive computer works</b>	<b>62</b>
<i>Pressure at depth</i>	62
<i>On-gassing</i>	64
<i>Dive computer workings</i>	65

<i>Decompression sickness discovery</i>	66
<i>Tissue compartments and decompression</i>	67
<i>Water vapour in the lungs</i>	68
<i>Bühlmann formula</i>	69
<i>Descent speed</i>	69
<i>Schreiner equation</i>	70
<i>Descent on-gassing calculation</i>	70
<i>Bühlmann deco stops</i>	71
<i>ZH-L16B table</i>	72
<i>Deco dive</i>	74
<i>Deep stops</i>	76
<i>Pressure ratio deep stop calculation</i>	78
<i>Richard Pyle deep stop calculation</i>	79
<i>ZH-L17B tissue compartment 0 included</i>	79
<i>Gradient factors</i>	79
<i>Direct ascent no safety stop</i>	80
<i>Comparing different gasses</i>	83
<i>Using EANx for a dive</i>	84
<i>Changing deco gas</i>	84
<i>Residual inert gas</i>	85
<i>Helium diffusion rates</i>	86
<b>Chapter 7: Computer algorithms</b>	<b>92</b>
<i>Computer algorithms</i>	92
<i>Haldane's decompression theory</i>	92
<i>Statistic models</i>	93
<i>Serial Models</i>	93
<i>Bühlmann's decompression theory</i>	94
<i>Gene Melton</i>	95
<i>EL Model</i>	95
<i>VPM or Variable Permeability Model</i>	96
<i>Slab model</i>	98
<i>ABM or Arterial Bubble Model</i>	99
<i>RGBM or Reduced Gradient Bubble model</i>	99
<i>Robert Workman</i>	100

<b>Chapter 8: Dive computer features .....</b>	<b>101</b>
Dive computer features .....	101
EANx mode .....	101
Multi gas mode .....	103
Freedive mode .....	103
Gauge Mode .....	104
Nitrogen loading reset .....	105
Tri-Mix gasses .....	106
CCR mode .....	107
Air integration .....	108
Compass .....	110
Planning mode .....	110
Simulation mode .....	111
Logbook .....	112
Download capability .....	113
Warnings .....	114
Heart rate monitors .....	115
Personal profile adjustment .....	115
Altitude diving .....	115
Backlit function .....	116
Auto activation .....	117
Lock out time .....	117
User replaceable batteries .....	118
Depth rating .....	119
Sample rate .....	120
Depth accuracy .....	120
Compartments used .....	121
Deep stops enabled .....	121
RGBM enabled .....	122
Safety stop count down timer .....	122
Games and books .....	122
Time to desaturate .....	123
Available bottom time .....	124
Ascent time .....	125
Ceiling .....	125
Decompression stops .....	125
Gradient factor adjustment .....	126

<b>Chapter 9: Types of dive computers .....</b>	<b>127</b>
Types of dive computers .....	127
Wrist mounted computer .....	127
Console mounted computer .....	129
Wrist watch dive computer .....	131
Mask integrated computer .....	133
So what model is right for you? .....	133
When to buy a dive computer .....	134
<b>Chapter 10: Multi gas dive computers .....</b>	<b>137</b>
Multi gas dive computers .....	137
<b>Chapter 11: How many dive computers to carry .....</b>	<b>141</b>
How many dive computers to carry .....	141
<b>Chapter 12: Using your dive computer .....</b>	<b>143</b>
Using your dive computer .....	143
Straps .....	146
Gas Switching .....	146
<b>Chapter 13: Caring for your dive computer .....</b>	<b>149</b>
General care .....	149
<b>Chapter 14: When your computer decides to quit on a trip .....</b>	<b>152</b>
When your computer decides to quit on a trip .....	152
Failure after a dive or between dives .....	152
Failure before a dive .....	153
Failure during a dive .....	154
<b>Chapter 15: Last notes on dive computers .....</b>	<b>158</b>
Last Notes on dive computers .....	158