

The HangLine

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The iDive – Product Review

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The iDive, simply sound. Well - everything is subjective when it comes to dive toys and music but I have to say that ... for me... the \$480 (yup the cost after taxes and exchange) was well worth it but here is why.

- I love music.
- I do a lot of cave diving and in that environment music is magic.

Many of my dives accrue long deco so being able to listen to and browse through music, photo albums listen to podcasts and movies on a deco line was great - made long deco pass very fast and you don't think about the cold.

I have only taken it to 140 fsw but I have been diving deep to 300 plus feet for many years and have developed a good sense of what can handle depth and what cannot. I have no doubt this unit will handle that depth. It is very rugged and the sealing system is well designed and easy to inspect. Originally my only concern was the buttons, but they too are tough and designed for pressure (when you see the

buttons you will understand) - they are very deep and support plunger like springs so depth will not affect how they are manipulated. On one cave dive we got into some really tight spaces and current - zero vis. For 25 minutes we worked through a passage where we banged our gear up - I blew a hose, a mask, tore my dry suit and bent a valve. The iDive came out unscathed and continued to deliver music.

A couple of things on the discouraging side but not serious. First - you will have to





come up with a system of mounting it as the housing is large. At first the size kind of bugged me but after pulling it out in the water to change play lists in the middle of my dive I appreciated the large buttons and big screen (i.e. I am far sighted and where thick gloves). To mount it I ended up using an old weight pouch. The iDive slid perfectly into and then I just weaved the pouch onto my BCD belt. Worked well. I cut a couple of holes for the buttons so I could adjust volume on the fly without having to take it out of the pouch. Another issue is the head phones, at first I tried to Velcro them into the inside of my hood - uncomfortable. After pulling off the Velcro I just started sliding the phones in under and they held in place on there own, after

awhile you get an idea where they need to sit so that they are comfortable. I ended up modifying a hood so that they sit in the perfect spot every time, I can't feel them at all and that I was able to cancel the noise from my bubbles - I can take pictures of it if anyone wants to see what I did) . I have not tried it hanging of my mask strap but I no doubt think it would be comfortable.

With regard to Rebreathers - be prepared - you will not be able to hear your solenoid firing, and for those of you who like that sense of comfort, the iDive's ability to lose you in an on-board concert hall is a consideration.

~ Safe Diving

