IST ProEar Diving Mask – User's manual

Introduction

Congratulations! You are now the owner of the revolutionary IST ProEar mask. As it offers an entirely different concept to diving safety and comfort, the full benefits of the ProEar may take.one or two dives of getting used to. There are 3 models available to choose from: ME7 single lens mask (clear blue), ME55 twin lens mask (all black) and the original twin lens ProEar ME80 (carbon fibre pattern or clear blue). All are equipped with the same silicone ear cups, equalisation tubes and the twin lens models can also accommodate IST specially made optical lenses (item no.: OL55 and OL80).
Excellent for diving as well as snorkelling, the benefits of the ProEar mask are:

- Improving comfort and preventing painful ear problems while diving
- Improving hearing and sense of direction underwater
- Simplifying pressure equalisation
- Increase warmth around the ears by insulating them from water

We recommend you to try this unique mask in confined water until you are familiar and comfortable with it.

Preparation

Prior to using your new mask for the first time, thoroughly clean the mask lens(es) with a non-abrasive liquid detergent or toothpaste to remove any production residue, and then rinse with fresh water.

Wearing the mask

When putting on the mask, it is preferable to hold the ear cups in the palm of each hand as you gently slip the whole mask over your head. Do not use excessive force to pull or it may break apart. Also make sure:

- As little hair gets into the silicone ear skirts and mask skirt as possible.
- Both ears are entirely covered.
- The seal is not bent or deformed so it becomes leaky.

It would be helpful to have your diving buddy to check for you.

Checking the seal

After putting on the mask, tighten the strap slightly and check the seal by inhaling through the nose. The mask should pull in toward your face as a vacuum is formed. The ear cups should also respond with the vacuum as the silicone cups collapse slightly inward. **Do not** enter the water if there is nay leakage; if it is leaking

- Check all silicone skirts (mask and ear cups) are lying flat and there are no kinks.
- See if there is any hair or object trapped between the skirts and skin.

Adjusting the strap

Make sure the mask is snug but not overly tight. It needs to be sitting well on the back of the head. Please note that the strap sits a little lower than normal because of the ear cup configuration. It may take a little getting used to but does not hinder the ProEar's functions.

Diving

Before diving, anti-fog the ProEar mask as you would normally.

When you begin your dive, descend slowly while very gently blowing air through your nose. Air will go through the tubes and the one-way valves (which prevents a back flow of water in case of flooding), which may "whistle" slightly if you blow too hard into the ear cups.

Exhaling through your nose helps equalize the pressure in your mask and ear cups and creates a "closed circuit" system of ambient air pressure. Do not blow too hard. You may also need to pinch your nose shut (as normal) to perform the Valsalva manoeuvre occasionally to help with the equalization.

Diving with a hood

When diving with the ProEar mask in conditions that require hood, one may use the specially designed IST ProEar hood (optional, item no. HD-6) or a modified conventional neoprene hood with holes made in appropriate places. To cut the holes, put the hood on when wearing the ProEar mask & mark where the plastic ear cup are. The holes should just be big enough for the plastic ear cups to show through but smaller than the silicone skirt. Wear the mask over the hood but tuck the silicone skirts into the holes for better seal.

Mask leakage

In the unlikely event of water entering the ear cups while diving (through leakage or the taking-off of the mask), water can be drained with the head facing forward, air is exhaled through the nose while the top of the ear cups and the mask are firmly pressed against the head (due to the slight resistance caused by the one-way valves located in the equalisation tubes). Water clearance can also be done one ear cup at a time by pinching the opposite side of the equalisation tube shut. The increased air volume should push water out through the drainage cuts at the bottom of the ear cups. This can easily be done using both hands.

Please note that while sudden flooding may involve water entering the ear canal, no pressure difference will be felt as the entire system is under the same ambient pressure at all time.

Please do practice the clearing exercise in confined water prior to using the mask in open water.

Post dive care

After every dive, carefully clean the mask with fresh water and mild detergent and air dry properly before putting it away. Do not expose the mask to direct sunlight.