

Magee's Memos

How Much Does Your Gear Weigh?

There has been considerable discussion and fun poked at technical divers lately concerning all the gear they wear. Technical divers are frequently seen carrying doubles, stage bottles, a dozen regulators, and dangling pieces of equipment (reels, lift bags, frying pans, etc.) not normally seen on recreational divers. But how much does all this equipment really weigh, and how does it compare to the weight of a recreational diver's gear?

To find out I pulled out all my gear and weighed everything. All tanks were gassed up, and the gear was exactly as it would be if I were to throw it on and go diving. Here are the results.

"Technical"

108 lb. = Double Steel 98's, Bladder, Stainless Steel Backplate

28 lb. = Steel 46 Stage Bottle, Regulator

8 lb. = V-Weight

22 lb. = Drysuit, Underwear, Hood, Gloves, Mask, Fins

9 lb. = Primary Regulator, Backup Regulator, Gauges

9 lb. = HID Canister Light

6 lb. = Knife, Shears, Lift Bag, Reel, Computer, Compass, Backup Lights

Total, One stage bottle (130'-170') = 190 lb.

Total, Two stage bottles (180'-250') = 218 lb.

"Recreational"

45 lb. = Aluminum 80, Jacket BC, AIR2

26 lb. = Weight Belt

14 lb. = 1/4" Wet Suit, Hood, Gloves, Mask, Fins

7 lb. = Regulator, Gauges

2 lb. = Main Light

6 lb. = Knife, Shears, Lift Bag, Reel, Computer, Compass, Backup Lights

Total = 100 lb.

So, there you have it. A technical diver can expect to carry double the weight one would normally carry on a recreational dive. Yeh, I guess it is a lot of gear! Anyone up for some weight lifting exercises?