



Service Tip

"be a brass monkey and keep your nuts tight"

This is more of a simple suggestion, or a nagging reminder that you should check your tank valve nuts before the start of a dive season, or big dive adventure. As rebreather divers we are still stuck in an era of "open circuit" bail out at least until a redundant closed circuit bail-out rebreather is perfected, and if or when an Oh-Shite! emergency would require us to bail-out and go on our off board gas, it has to be ready to breath. That means that our bail out is turned on, but we get lazy or forgetful and things that should be open can be closed. To make matters worse, valve hand-wheels do fall off rendering it near impossible to open.

Perhaps I have a larger occurrence of tank valves slipping off than general public as I more frequently open / close my stage bottles for skills and practice during classes. But I also know from diving in popular locations that when I spot a shiny chrome object laying on the bottom, or round knob, that valve knobs fall off divers on routine basis.

Correct Tools Helpful

This modified screw driver with slot, or small diver tool with slotted keyway makes a great item to put into your drysuit tech pocket along with a small SS crescent wrench.



For more details on servicing your cylinder valves, see the Valve Maintenance block below.

Ron