

Stage Tank Set-Up

By CURTBOWEN

Extended range diving often requires the need for large volumes and multiple mixes of breathing gas. Many times, the diver will be required to transport the extra gas cylinders to staging areas or possibly even throughout the whole dive. The following article illustrates the basics for stage tank preparation.



Hogarthian Stage



1. One end of a 4 foot, 1/4 inch nylon line is tied around the cylinder valve using a Clove Hitch knot and a Safety. (see page 40)

2. Use a #1 or #2 brass clip. Thread the clip onto the long section of the line.



3. Loop the line back upon itself and tie a half knot, securing the clip into place. The clip should be a couple inches from the valve (on the curve of the cylinder). The position of the clip will have to be adjusted according to your liking.



4. A small diameter rubber hose is slipped over the line for ease of carrying. The line is slipped under a hose clamp and pulled tight along side the cylinder. A knot is placed on the underside of the hose clamp to prevent the line from slipping. Another #1 or #2 brass clip is added to the line. The line is then looped back under the hose clamp and another half knot is added. The hose clamp is then tightened against the cylinder. The hose clamp will need to be adjusted up or down according to the size of the cylinder and D-rings on your harness.



D-Ring Stage

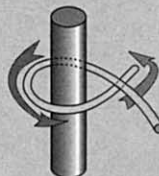
Drain cylinder and remove valve, place a 2-inch brass ring over the neck of the cylinder and replace valve. Cut a 3 to 5 inch section of old tire inner tube that fits snugly around the cylinder. Slide the innertube down onto the cylinder, this will be used to hold the regulator hose tightly against the tank when not in use. Secure a 1 or 1-1/2 inch D-ring tightly into place with a hose clamp towards the bottom of the cylinder. Use double headed brass clips to secure the stage cylinder to the divers harness. A 6-inch high pressure hose can be used to keep the pressure gauge into place beside the neck of the cylinder.



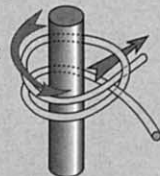
Clove Hitch

A basic knot used in diving, it is fast, strong, and will not easily come untied. This knot can be used to attach the neck of the stage tank and the clips to the line on the stage tank.

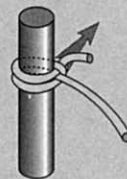
1. Loop the line around the object and back under itself.



2. Loop the line around the object again and under itself but above the first loop.



3. Pull both ends tight.



4. Take the short end of the line and make a half knot around the long end of the rope, adding a safety.

