



Kit Cat Tips on a catalogue of kit

Tools and Spares

Kit List:-

Mask ✓

Fins ✓

BCD ✓

Weight Systems ✓

Exposure Suits

● Drysuits ✓

● Wetsuits

Regulators ✓

SMBs ✓

Reels ✓

Lights ✓

Kit Care ✓

Tools & Spares

Gear Bags

Cameras

You are very excited. You've made it onto your favourite dive boat. You've survived the slightly choppy ride with the prospect of seeing an awesome wreck. You're nearly ready to jump, just tighten the strap on your fin – it breaks. Buggery bollocks! It's OK to call a dive if you're not feeling up to it, that's your choice, but this is different and extreeeeeemly irritating. And avoidable - all for the sake of not having a spare.

You don't need to take the entire contents of the dive store but a few well chosen items won't set you back that much (or weight too much) are well worth it.

- **Fin strap** – preferably complete with all the clips. I've had "helpful" crew on a Red Sea boat unclip my strap as I climb the ladder and even more "helpfully" chuck the fin into the boat only to find bits have fallen off never to be seen again.



- **Mask Strap** – less likely to wear if you use a slap-strap.

- **O-rings** – in several sizes for: cylinder valves, low pressure inflate hoses, torch etc

- **Allen key** – two main uses, two sizes: for the insert in cylinder valve and the plug in regulator 1st stage (you might need to add/remove drysuit hose for example)



- **Spanner** – exact size if you can as it's kinder to the nut but you could choose a good quality adjustable. Main use for hoses

- **Beeswax / lube** – keep your drysuit zip freely operational



- **Batteries** – torch, computer, camera etc



- **Cable ties** – for a multitude of sins



- **Tape:** Gaffer, Duct or simply Masking– ditto but not all of them publishable here

- **Knife or Line cutter** – as the PADI Open Water manual tells you a dive knife is a tool for cutting and prizing not a weapon. They come in a range of sizes, styles and prices – it's really a matter of personal choice.



If you don't want to get into the whole dagger thing and your main concern is entanglement then a line cutter is fine (although I've now got both!)



- **Black Witch** (or similar) – for exposure suit repair



- And lastly something to carry it in



This list is by no means comprehensive and there are plenty of specialised tools but these few items cover the most common eventualities.