



BUOYANCY
COMPENSATOR
Owners Manual



Congratulations on the purchase of your XS Scuba buoyancy compensator, hereinafter referred to as a “BC”. You can dive with confidence knowing each XS Scuba BC is built to the highest standards. Your BC is the result of quality engineering, material selection and precise assembly methods. With proper care and maintenance, as prescribed in this manual, your BC will continue to provide you with many years of enjoyment.

XS Scuba hopes that you have many exciting underwater adventures ahead of you. We are pleased to play a part in those adventures.

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Definitions of Warnings, Cautions and Notes

It is important to pay special attention to the information provided in warnings, cautions and notes, which are accompanied by the following symbols:



A **WARNING** indicates any situation that, if not avoided, could result in serious injury or death.



A **CAUTION** indicates any situation or technique that could cause damage to the product, and could subsequently result in injury to the user.



A **NOTE** is used to emphasize important points, tips, and reminders.

Important Safety Information



Do not use this BC if you have not received supervised instruction and certification in SCUBA diving and buoyancy control from a recognized training agency. Use of scuba equipment by uncertified or untrained persons is dangerous and can result in serious injury or death.



Before using this BC, it is important to completely read and understand all of the instructions provided in this owner's manual, any accompanying inserts, and labels or markings affixed to the BC. Should you have any questions or do not completely understand these instructions, consult your Authorized XS Scuba Dealer.



Before diving with this BC in open water, it is important to familiarize yourself with it first in confined shallow water with the assistance and supervision of an instructor or experienced buddy. Do not enter open water until you have weighted yourself properly and have become comfortable with using all of its features and adjustments.



Before every dive, perform a complete pre-dive inspection following the instructions provided in this manual. Check to ensure that all valves are functioning properly and no signs of damage or leaks are present. If any signs of damage or malfunction are found, do not dive with the BC until it has received service from an authorized XS Scuba dealer.



Before entering the water, check to ensure that you can remove and ditch your weights quickly and easily, without any obstruction or entanglement with any hoses or accessories. In the event of an out-of-air emergency or uncontrolled descent, do not hesitate to remove and ditch your weights.



Do not use your BC to lift heavy objects to the surface. Doing so may cause permanent damage to the BC, and could easily result in an uncontrolled ascent should you become separated from the heavy object.



Do not over inflate your BC or rely on using the power inflator to lift yourself toward the surface. Control all ascents. A rapid, uncontrolled ascent may cause a lung overexpansion injury or decompression sickness, and could lead to serious injury or death.



In the event of an uncontrolled, rapid ascent, it is important to immediately vent as much air as possible from the BC to slow your ascent rate. Continue venting air to slow your ascent rate if neutral buoyancy cannot be reestablished.



DO NOT attempt to modify your XS Scuba BC for use with more than one cylinder. Doing so could damage the structural integrity of the BC's backpack and harness system and could lead to its failure underwater.



Do not inhale from your oral inflator. The BC air cell may contain harmful contaminants or gasses, which could cause suffocation, serious injury, or infection of the lungs.



It is important to obtain factory prescribed service for this BC from an Authorized XS Scuba Dealer at least once each year. Annual service can vary from a thorough inspection to a complete overhaul of the power inflator and other related hardware.

Intended Use and Function of a BC

The main purpose for wearing a BC is to achieve and maintain neutral buoyancy at all times while you are underwater, regardless of changes in depth or cylinder pressure. This allows you to be much more relaxed while you dive – and safer – since you won't need to struggle against the forces of positive and negative buoyancy. Modern jacket and back inflation style BCs provide the most effective and streamlined buoyancy control, since they are specifically designed to support the diver in a comfortably balanced, face-down position while swimming underwater. Stress and exertion can now be minimized, if not eliminated altogether.

Since the introduction of the jacket style and back inflation designs, the modern BC has evolved into a consolidated harness and pack system that carries the cylinder and serves as a fixture point for first stage regulators, instrumentation, and accessories. For even greater convenience and comfort, many models are now available with integrated weight systems that can supplement or replace the weight belt.

Your BC can also provide you with non-emergency flotation to help you rest on the surface, but you should never rely on it to function as a life preserver or personal flotation device (PFD). In order to meet approval by U.S. Coast Guard regulations, a PFD must be designed so

that it automatically rights you to a face-up position and supports your head out of the water on the surface to prevent drowning. The design characteristics and intended function of a PFD are therefore very different from those of a BC, since a PFD is specifically designed to function on the surface and a BC is primarily designed to function underwater.

It is important to remember that other equipment you wear, in addition to your BC, including your cylinder, exposure suit, or weight system, will also affect your position in the water. An empty cylinder, for instance, can create counter-buoyancy that could roll you into a face down position if you were to lose consciousness.

For this reason, XS Scuba recommends that you always dive with a buddy, and remain close enough to them to be able to render assistance to each other in the event of an emergency. Do not depend on your BC, exposure suit, or any other equipment to hold your face above the surface in the event that you are rendered unconscious in the water while diving.



A buoyancy compensator BC is NOT a life jacket! It is not designed to provide face-up flotation in all situations, and it does not meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations for a life preserver or personal flotation device (PFD). If you become unconscious in the water without a buddy present to immediately assist, you may suffer serious injury or death from drowning.

Intended Use and Function of a Pony Pac Harness

The Pony Pac Harness, by itself, is not a BC, and therefore does not provide any buoyancy. It is a specialized product designed for shallow water use by individuals who are proficient with their diving skills or individuals who want to experience scuba in water shallow enough in which to stand up. As such, it is popular with first responders who need to enter the water quickly as well as swimming pool demos such as “Discover Scuba”.

By adding the optional Companion Air Cell, it can become a BC in which case the preceding paragraphs apply.

Preparation and Set Up / Pre-Dive Inspection

XS Scuba recommends that you bring your BC, together with your regulator, to your Authorized XS Scuba Dealer for the installation of the quick-disconnect inflator hose that is provided with your BC. If it is not possible to return with your regulator to your Authorized Dealer, you may install the inflator hose by carefully performing all the steps in the following procedure.

Inflator Hose Installation

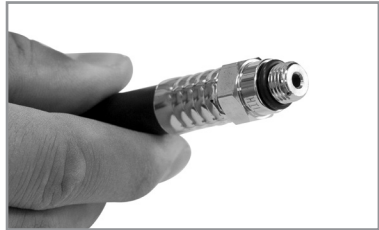


Do not attach the inflator hose to a high pressure (HP) port (greater than 200 psi/14 bar). This may cause the hose to burst when pressurized, which can result in serious injury.

The hose has a 3/8" (9.5mm) male fitting that will only fit the standard medium pressure (MP) ports found on most first stages, and is smaller than the standard 7/16" (11mm) HP port. All XS Scuba regulators, and most provided by other manufacturers, have one or more high-pressure ports that are clearly marked "HP" with a small restrictive orifice that is visible when the plug is removed.

Follow this procedure:

1. To select the best MP port, mount the first stage on a cylinder valve to determine the correct orientation and hose routing.
2. Remove the port plug from the MP port on the regulator using the appropriate size wrench or hex key.
3. Your BC was shipped with the inflator hose connected to the power inflator. Remove the inflator hose from the power inflator body by sliding the knurled collar back while pulling the fitting off the quick disconnect nipple.
4. Check the male end of the inflator hose to ensure the O-ring is present and in good condition,



and screw the threaded end of the hose into the port. Tighten the hose to 40 lbs*in (4.5N*m) with a 9/16” wrench.

Adjusting and Using Tank Cam Band

Tank Cam Band with Separating Stainless Steel Buckle



XS Scuba’s BC models that have stainless steel cam buckles are shipped preassembled. If rethreading becomes necessary, please follow these steps:

Slide the knurled post to the rear of the clasp. With hook and loop facing towards you, insert the loose end of the cylinder band through the back of the forward slot. Slide the knurled post forward towards the front of the clasp. Run the band around the knurled post and out the rear slot. The hook and loop can mate together.



Position the tank band over the cylinder. Position the stainless steel buckle so that it is centered opposite of the BC. Make sure that the extra length of webbing with the rubber traction pad is located squarely under the buckle.



Engage the wire bail with the clasp. With the lever positioned straight out 90° from the cylinder, pull the tail of the band through the clasp until the band is snug. Secure the tail of the band with the hook and loop.



While closing the lever, keep all fingers free and clear of the lever. It can snap down forcefully pinching a finger in the process. This can cause finger injury.

Close the lever. If it is too difficult to close, unfasten the tail of the band and loosen it through the clasp. Likewise, if the lever closes too easily without firm tension, open the lever and pull the tail of the band further through the clasp. This may take some trial and error.



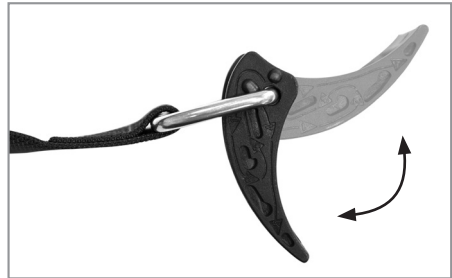
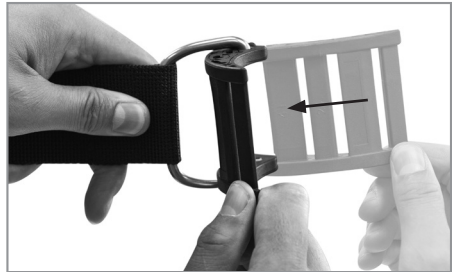
While trial and error may be needed for initial set-up, once you get it dialed in, you will be able to switch from one cylinder to another of the same diameter without any further adjustment.

Tank Cam Strap with Standard Buckle *Threading the Cylinder Band and Buckle*

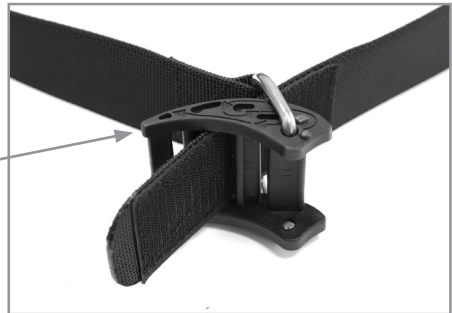


All XS Scuba's BCs are shipped with the nylon band pre-threaded through the buckle. If rethreading becomes necessary, please follow these steps:

5. First you must fold the buckle back on itself. While holding the metal D-ring, known as the bail, in your left hand, rotate the buckle back towards the webbing. The buckle should form an angle with the bail as shown in the top view.



6. Insert the loose end of the band through the metal bail then through the middle slot.



For reference, the tank band weaving instructions are shown as a diagram on the side of the buckle.

7. Pull a U-turn and come back through the slot at the fat end of the buckle.



Attaching the BC to the Cylinder

1. Slide the cylinder band over the cylinder so that the BC is at the desired position in relation to the cylinder valve. Make sure the cylinder valve air outlet is facing the back of the BC. Secure the valve strap around the base of the cylinder valve.
2. While holding the cylinder secure, pull the free end of the cylinder band until there is a very tight fit between the pack and the cylinder.
3. Close the buckle half way to hold the cylinder band taut, and thread the free end of the band through the open slot in the end of the buckle.
4. Pull the cam buckle closed so that it lies flat against the cylinder. Secure the end of the cylinder band with the hook & loop attachment.
5. Test the tightness by repeatedly pushing / pulling on the frame and cradle





Verify the tension of the cylinder band prior to every dive. Failure to do so may result in the cylinder slipping during the course of a dive. If the cylinder slips free from the BC during the dive, you may lose your air supply, which could lead to serious injury or death.



There may be situations, when short cylinders are used e.g. aluminum 50s, 63s or steel 65s where where it may be better to place the tank band around the cylinder boot. There is no problem with this.



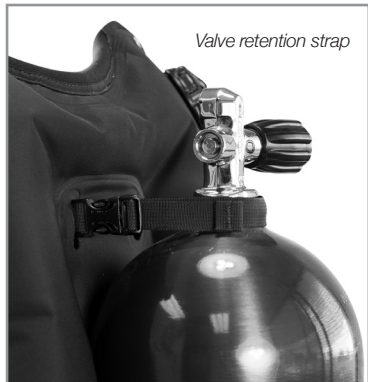
Tank band over the tank boot

Valve Retention Straps vs. Positioning Straps

Some BC models use a valve retention strap. The purpose is to pull the top of the cylinder in close towards your center of gravity. This will shift the weight of the cylinder straight down so that the waistband will carry most of the load.

Wrap the retention strap around the base of the valve and secure with the clip. Position the BC on the cylinder so that the valve retention strap is as close to horizontal as possible. Do not tighten the valve retention strap all the way. Tighten it only until the cylinder becomes vertical or parallel to your back.

Positioning straps are used to ensure that the BC gets placed on to the cylinder with the same positioning each time. Through trial and error and personal preference, the strap gets adjusted so you can set your cylinder height exactly where you like it in relation to the back of your head



Valve retention strap



Positioning strap

Attaching a Knife

Most BC models feature knife mounting grommets. The grommets are 4 inches apart on center and easily accept any XS Scuba BC knife.



Securing an Octopus Regulator

Some BC models have a scooped pocket on the top front of the lobe. To insert an octopus regulator, fold the hose back on itself and insert downward into the pocket.

All of the BCs have strategically placed D-rings where an octopus attachment device may be used.



Securing instrumentation

The scooped pockets on some BC models can also be useful for instrument consoles. Your console can be run behind the pocket and out the scooped opening.

Instrument consoles can also be attached to the D-rings using an XS Scuba retractor.



Catch n' Release™ Integrated Weight System

Most XS Scuba BC models feature the Catch n' Release™ integrated weight system. This unique system allows you to jettison one or both of your weight pockets in an emergency by a simple pull of the handle. It also allows for easy loading of the weight pockets while the BC is being worn.



Releasable vs. Non-releasable Weight Pockets

The Catch n' Release™ front loading weight pockets with the handles attached are “releasable” pockets. One or both pockets can be jettisoned by the diver in an emergency. They can also be handed up to another person before climbing up a boat ladder.

The fixed pockets on the back of the BC are non-releasable. They hold supplemental weight and help the diver to achieve better attitude or trim in the water. It is important to remember at all times that weight installed in these pockets **MAY NOT** be easily released in an emergency situation.

You should always have the ability to ascend in emergency situations. Therefore, the strong majority of your lead weight must be kept in the front-loading releasable pockets.



Since it is common practice to ditch your weights in an emergency situation, it is critical that the strong majority of all of your weights be kept in the front-loading releasable pockets. If you are placing weights in the non-releasable pockets, be certain that you will be able to ascend from depth by removing the releasable pockets.



If your BC does not have non-releasable weight pockets in the back and you need more lead carrying capacity, XS Scuba offers ankle weights as well as accessory weight pockets that can be mounted to the tank band in back.

Filling the Catch n' Release™ Weight Pockets

XS Scuba recommends that each pouch is loaded with equal amounts of weight for optimum balance, preventing the tendency to roll to one side during the dive. Also, it is strongly recommended that each weight pouch is fully loaded with two separate pieces of weight. For example, two 2lb weights would be better than one 4lb weight.



While either hard block lead or lead shot bags may be used, you will find that it is much easier to load the Catch n' Release™ weight pockets into the BC if hard block lead is used.

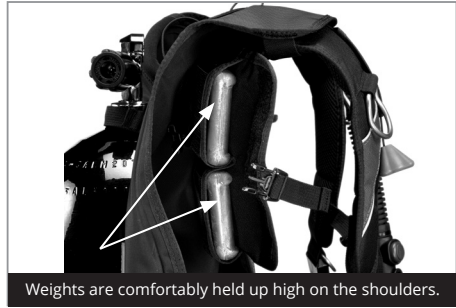
To fill the Catch n Release™ pockets with weight, it will be necessary to first remove each one from its respective compartment by firmly pulling straight out on the release handle. Open the flap, and fold it back out of the way. While holding the pocket fully open, insert the weight and then close the flap. After each pocket has been loaded with weight, firmly run your hand over the flap to secure the hook and loop fastener securely in place.

Filling the Non-Releasable Fixed Weights in Back

SeaBlazer - Open the side-release clip and lift the flap. Insert a piece of lead, or lead shot bag, between 2 to 5 lbs (1 to 2.25 kg). Replace the flap and secure the clip.



Phantom SL - Reach underneath the bladder at the back of the shoulder, unclip the side release buckle and open the flap. Each of the two cavities can accept a 2lb (1 kg) piece of lead. Either a lead shot bag or a hard lead block will fit. Fill one or both cavities on each side.



The non-releasable weight pockets are designed to hold single rectangular weight blocks or lead shot bags. To avoid accidental loss of weight, XS Scuba advises against using small bullet-shaped weights and small 1 lb. lead shot bags.

Installing the Catch n' Release™ Weight Pockets in the BC

The Catch n' Release™ weight pouches should be installed while the BC is fully deflated. The Catch n' Release™ weight pouches are installed with the smooth panel facing outward (pouch flap facing toward the BC). To install either pouch, grasp the front edge of the BC lobe with your opposite hand to keep it stationary and slide the closed end of the pouch into the opening of the holster. Insert the male portion of the Catch n' Release™ buckle into the female receptacle on the BC until you can hear/feel it click into place.



Before every dive, it is important to make sure each weight pouch is secure, in order to prevent the pouches from falling out. Involuntary release of both weight pouches underwater can cause a sudden increase in buoyancy causing a rapid ascent, which could lead to serious injury or death due to arterial gas embolism, decompression sickness or drowning.

Releasing the Catch n' Release™ Weight Pockets

Releasing the Catch n' Release™ weight pouches is simple, just grab the handles and firmly pull forward. It is by pulling on the handles that the Catch n' Release™ locking mechanism becomes disengaged.



Ensure that your weight pouches are not obstructed by any straps, lines, etc. **DO NOT** add weight to the BC's utility pockets, as this may interfere with the removal of the pouches in an emergency. Failure to ditch weight in an emergency may lead to serious injury or death due to drowning.

Overview of Inflator and Dump Valves

Please take the time to acquaint yourself with the various methods available to inflate and deflate your BC.

Power Inflator

For the power inflator to operate, the MP inflator hose must be connected. To connect the MP hose, grip the knurled collar at the connection fitting with your thumb and forefinger, and slide the collar back. Place the fitting over the quick disconnect nipple (**a**), and firmly push forward while releasing the sleeve. Check to ensure that the hose is securely attached. After the hose is attached to the power inflator, pressurize the first stage regulator by slowly opening the cylinder valve.

To inflate your BC with medium pressure air, depress the power inflator button (**b**). Do not hold the inflator button depressed continuously underwater, as this could cause you to become excessively buoyant. Instead, depress the button in short bursts until you become neutrally buoyant.



Do not rely on the power inflator as the only means to inflate your BC. It is important to practice the technique for orally inflating your BC so that you are prepared for any type of malfunction or out of air situation that could render the power inflator inoperable. You may otherwise be unable to achieve positive buoyancy in an emergency, which could lead to serious injury or death.

Oral Inflator

To orally inflate your BC, place your lips on the oral inflator mouthpiece **(c)** and exhale a small amount of air into the mouthpiece to purge any water that may still be in the housing. While continuing to exhale into the mouthpiece, depress the oral inflator button **(d)** to inflate the BC. Immediately after exhaling, release the oral inflator button to prevent air from escaping.

Dump Valves

During each dive, it will be necessary to release air from the BC using one of the three methods described below. Each method uses a valve that is in a different location. The method you choose depends upon personal preference along with whether you want to descend feet first, headfirst, or just maintain neutral buoyancy underwater. Always remember to use the dump valve that is at the highest point on the air cell.

Deflation via the Oral Inflator

To deflate the BC using the oral inflator, lift the power inflator to its highest possible position (above the head). Press the oral inflator button to start venting air. This method is most effective on the surface when starting the initial descent.



Deflation via the Rapid Exhaust Valve

Inside the power inflator's corrugated hose is a cable that attaches the power inflator to the Rapid Exhaust (RE) valve at the top of the airway assembly (left shoulder). You can vent air from the BC by firmly pulling straight down on the power inflator. This dump valve provides an effective and convenient way to vent air from the BC while in either an upright or swimming position. The Rapid Exhaust (RE) valve also doubles as an overpressure relief valve, as it will automatically relieve pressure should the BC's air cell get over-filled.



Deflation via Traditional Dump Valve

Besides the Rapid Exhaust valve, your BC may have one or two other traditional dump valves. They are equipped with a cord and pull bob. They can be opened wholly or partially by pulling on the pull bob. Remember that air located in the BC's air cell resides at the highest point. Therefore, you should always reach for the dump valve that is at the highest point on the BC. For example, the dump valve located at the lower rear of the BC should be used when making a head first descent.



Pony Pac Harness + Companion Air Cell = The Companion Buoyancy Compensator

The Pony Pac, by itself, is a harness only. It does not possess an air cell and therefore cannot provide any amount of buoyancy in the water.



The Pony Pac harness, without a Companion Air Cell fitted to it, does not provide any buoyancy in the water.

The Pony Pac being a harness only, can prove very useful to those that are certified divers and are aware of its limitations. It comes with two short length tank cam straps which are designed to hold popular sized pony tanks. Specifically, the straps fit 13, 19, 30 and 40 cu. ft. pony tanks with 4.0 in (102 mm) – 5.4 in (137 mm) diameters.

Weight Pockets

The Pony Pac has one weight pocket on each side that can hold up to 5 lbs (2.3 kg) each. The pockets can accept hard block lead, or a mesh shot bag.

Releasing Pony Pac Weights

To release the weight pockets simply pull down on the handle. This will activate the release mechanism.

Loading the Pony Pac Weight Pockets

Open the side-release clip and lift the flap. Insert a piece of lead, or lead shot bag, between 2 to 5 lbs (1 to 2.25 kg). Replace the flap and secure the clip.

Installing the Pony Pac Weight Pockets

Align the upper guide post and the lower catch mechanism on the backside of the pocket, with their associated receptacles on the Pony Pac harness. Install in an upward direction until you hear the catch mechanism engage.

Chest Strap

The chest strap on the Pony Pac is not only adjustable in length but up and down too. To raise or lower the chest strap, grasp the slider firmly and push it towards the rail while raising or lowering it.



Converting a Pony Pac Harness into a Companion BC

If you already own a Pony Pac Harness and would like to convert it into a Companion BC by adding the Companion Air Cell, here are the necessary steps:

Mounting the Companion Air Cell

Remove the Pony Tank Cylinder Bands

The Pony Pac Harness comes with two short tank cam straps designed for smaller diameter pony tanks. To create a Companion BC that accommodates popular size diving cylinders, you will need to remove the shorter tank cam straps and replace them with full length tank cam straps that accept cylinder diameters of 6.9 in (175 mm) to 8.0 in (203 mm).



A pair of standard length tank cam straps are available from XS Scuba under part number BP500.

Install the Companion Air Cell

Lay the Companion Air Cell over the Pony Pac with the over-pressure dump valve facing up. Align it so that the square holes fit over the square brackets of the Pony Pac.



Install the Standard Cylinder Bands

While firmly holding down the Companion Air Cell over the square brackets, insert the free end of the cylinder band under each bracket and out the other side.

See the section earlier in this publication on how to properly weave the cylinder band through the cam buckle.





If you experience any difficulty feeding the nylon tank band out the slot in the bracket, try using a putty knife or other non-sharp tool to open the slot wider.



Installing the Left Shoulder Epaulette

The Companion Air Cell comes with a left shoulder epaulette that can be attached to the left shoulder of the Pony Pac. This will allow you to secure the inflator airway.

To install, open the outer hook and loop retainer. Open the inner hook and loop retainer. Slide the open assembly underneath the crossband, from the bottom up, on the left shoulder. Secure the inner hook and loop retainer over the crossband. Lay the inflator airway through the center of the epaulette and secure with the outer hook and loop retainer.



Donning and Adjustment Procedures



To avoid possible injury, XS Scuba recommends that you should always don your BC with assistance from a buddy.

1. Remove the Catch n' Release™ weight pouches from the BC.
2. Disconnect the waist buckle and waist band.

3. Fully extend each shoulder strap to its maximum length by pulling up on the tab on the lower side of the buckle.
4. While your buddy lifts and supports the BC/cylinder behind you, reach back and place your arms through the shoulder straps.
5. While your buddy continues to hold the cylinder, fasten the cummerbund followed by the waistband. Some BCs do not have a cummerbund in which case you secure the waistband only. The best positioning is between your hips and rib cage so that the weight of the cylinder transfers to your hips.
6. Fasten the sternum strap. Do not overtighten or it will constrict breathing
7. After your buddy has released the cylinder and the BC feels comfortably supported on your hips and shoulders, bend forward at the waist and adjust the shoulder straps to a comfortable length by pulling straight down on the D-rings.



Adjusting the shoulder straps too tightly will transfer the cylinder weight from the hips to the shoulders. It will also raise the BC lobes too high to be comfortable.

Adjusting the Cummerbund Length

The cummerbund should be adjusted so that the hook and loop lay on top of each other in the front center of your waist. As a minimum, the hook and loop should join each other by a full 4 inches. The cummerbund should not be so long as to have an extra tail that cannot be laid down flat.

Both halves of the cummerbund can be adjusted in the back where they run through the back pack. This may take some trial and error. For each side of the waistband, detach the hook and loop and adjust to the desired position and then re-secure. The hook and loop must overlap a minimum of 4 inches.



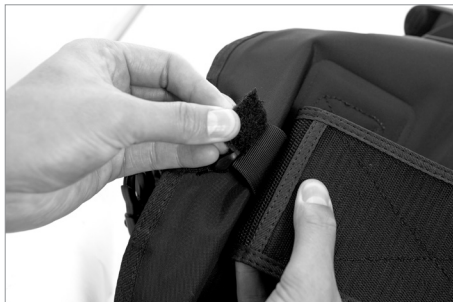
Different size cummerbunds are available as spare parts from your XS Scuba Dealer.

Keeping Your Cummerbund in Place While Donning Your BC

During the donning process, while rare, it is possible for the left and right cummerbund to back out of their respective retaining loops causing them to get trapped behind the diver. This can be very inconvenient. To prevent this from happening, XS Scuba has incorporated a unique Cummerbund Retention System (CRS). It is comprised of two small hook and loop tabs which are sewn to the plastic waistband loops.



Before donning the BC, engage the left and right hook and loop tabs with the opposing hook and loop on the cummerbund as per adjacent images. Don and adjust the BC as normal. Upon inflation of the bladder, the hook and loop tabs will separate from the waist band automatically so that the BC lobes are still able to migrate back on the web rails to prevent squeeze.



The Unique Phantom BC Waistband

The waist straps on the Phantom SL BC run through rectangular loops and then come forward. To tighten the waist strap on the Phantom SL BC, grab each end of the strap and pull forward (as opposed to outward on other models).



The waist strap on the Phantom SL BC can be enlarged up to 12 inches. To do this, work the terminal D-ring on each strap through its tightening loop. It may not seem like it will fit at first, but with persistence you'll get it. Now, the enlarged strap may be tightened in the traditional way by pulling outward on each end.



Pre-Dive Inspection

Before each use, the BC must be visually inspected and tested. NEVER dive with a BC that shows any sign of damage to its air cell, inflator or valves until it has been serviced by an authorized XS Scuba dealer.

Pre-Dive Inspection Checklist:

1. Connect the power inflator to your regulator via the inflator hose. Depress and release the inflator button intermittently to ensure that the airflow is unobstructed, and that the airflow stops completely when the button is released.
2. Ensure that the air cell does not contain any water from a previous dive or from internal rinsing. An excessive amount of water inside the air cell can reduce the BC's internal air volume and lift capacity.
3. Manually operate each of the overpressure valves (OPVs) by pulling on the attached pull bobs to release air from inside the BC, and then fully inflate the BC until one of the OPV valve opens. Ensure that one or both opens to relieve excess pressure, yet closes immediately afterward to allow the air cell to remain fully inflated.
4. Check the function of the oral inflator button, rapid exhaust (RE) valve, and over pressure valve (OPV) to ensure a rapid and unobstructed exhaust from each valve. Fully inflate the BC once again, and disconnect the Power Inflator to listen for any leakage.



If any leakage can be heard, or if the air cell begins to deflate within 5-10 minutes, DO NOT attempt to use the BC until it has received service from an Authorized XS Scuba Dealer.

5. Make a final check of the cylinder band's tension to ensure that it is as tight as possible and the cylinder is securely held without any noticeable slippage. Retighten if necessary.

6. Before entering the water, check the trim weight compartments to ensure they are closed, and the Catch n' Release™ Integrated Weight System pockets to ensure that they are correctly installed into to the BC. Refer to the Catch n' Release™ Weight System Pocket Installation for details.



The Catch n' Release™ Weight System pockets may fall out unexpectedly if the buckle connections are not securely fastened. Involuntary release of both weight pockets can cause a sudden increase in buoyancy and rapid ascent, and could lead to serious injury or death due to arterial gas embolism or decompression sickness.

7. Post Dive Care and Storage

As with most scuba gear, your BC's life expectancy, performance and reliability depend upon its care and maintenance. XS Scuba recommends the following:

- Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight and heat. The colorfastness and integrity of the air cell can be compromised when subjected to intense ultraviolet radiation.
- Keep your BC away from sharp objects that could puncture the bladder. Do not let your BC drag on rough surfaces as abrasion may weaken the fabric.
- Avoid repeated or prolonged use in chlorinated or brominated pool water. Rinse thoroughly and air dry after each pool use. To do otherwise can shorten the life of your BC.
- Avoid contact with fuel, oil, aerosols or chemical solvents.
- To preserve the life of the BC air cell, rinse it inside and out with fresh water after each day of use, following these steps:
 1. Pressurize the power inflator with medium pressure air via the inflator hose.
 2. Using a garden hose turned on low, direct water through the depressed oral inflator to flush the interior of the air cell, and then thoroughly rinse the exterior of the BC.



Before rinsing, ensure that the power inflator is pressurized with air. This will prevent debris and contaminants from entering the inflator valve if the inflator button is accidentally depressed.

3. Completely drain the air cell of water through the lower dump valve by pulling the ball/cord assembly.

- Inflate the BC about one third full, and allow it to dry.



An alternative method to wash out the inside of your BC is to use the dedicated BC Washout Hose from XS Scuba (p/n TL112). This hose connects your garden hose to your power inflator. This not only flushes out the air cell but it flushes the inner workings of the power inflator too.



Storage

- Store your BC on a non-rusting hanger that has wide shoulders.
- XS Scuba offers a variety of hangers dedicated for BC storage.
- Remove all lead weight, both ditchable and non-ditchable, from the BC.
- Hang your BC in a clean dry area, out of direct sunlight, away from electric motors. Do not store in an enclosed space, such as the trunk of a car, where it can be subjected to extreme temperatures.

Maintenance, Dealer Inspection and Service Record



WARNING: DO NOT attempt to perform any disassembly or service of your BC. Service requiring disassembly must only be performed by an authorized XS Scuba dealer or distributor. To obtain service or repair, such as power inflator or dump valve service, see your authorized XS Scuba dealer or distributor.

1. Do not assume that a BC is in good working condition just because it has had little use since its last servicing. Prolonged or improper storage can still result in internal corrosion and/or deterioration of o-ring seals and valve springs, as well as air cell seam degradation.
2. You should have your BC inspected at least once a year from an authorized XS Scuba dealer, regardless of the amount of use it has received. This inspection includes a general air leak inspection and proper functionality of the power inflator and OPV/dump valve(s). Your BC may require this service more frequently, depending on the amount of use and quality of maintenance that it receives.
3. If the BC is used for rental or training purposes, it will require complete overhaul and service every three to six months. Chlorinated swimming pool water is an especially damaging

environment for SCUBA equipment, due to the high level of chlorine and pH balance chemicals which cause certain parts to rapidly deteriorate.

4. DO NOT attempt to perform any disassembly or service of your BC. Doing so may cause the BC to malfunction, and will render the XS Scuba Warranty null and void.

Warranty

Limited Two-Year Warranty

XS Scuba, Inc. warrants, to the original owner, this product to be free of defects in materials and/or workmanship for a period of two years from date of original purchase. Warranty applies only under normal sport diving use and with proper care and maintenance. This warranty is non-transferable and limited to repair or replacement at the discretion of XS Scuba. BC must be returned with proof of purchase.

What Is Covered

All non-wearing valve parts and the welded seams of the BC air cell are covered under this warranty. Should any part of your XS Scuba BC be found defective, XS Scuba, at its discretion, will repair or replace the component at no charge to you.

What Is Not Covered

1. This warranty does not extend to abrasion, punctures, or tears of the air cell, or seam separation caused by chemical attack; including, but not limited to prolonged exposure to chlorine or other pool chemicals.
2. This warranty does not extend to damages caused by improper use, improper maintenance, neglect, unauthorized repairs, modifications, accidents, fire, or casualty.
3. Cosmetic damage, such as scratches, fraying, and nicks are not covered by this warranty.
4. This warranty does not extend to equipment used for rental, commercial, or military purposes.

What You Need To Do

1. Keep a copy of the original purchase receipt and subsequent inspections with this manual.
2. Your XS Scuba BC should be inspected and serviced by an authorized XS Scuba repair facility at least once a year.
3. Provide proof of original purchase and annual servicing by an Authorized XS Scuba Dealer in the form of receipts/invoices.
4. This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have rights, which vary from state to state and country to country.

XS SCUBA DISCLAIMS AND EXCLUDES ANY LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. Some states in the U.S. and certain foreign countries do not allow exclusions or limitations of liability for incidental, consequential, or indirect costs, expenses, or damages incurred while using this product, so this may not apply to you.

Returning Your BC for Service

Whenever your BC requires annual service or warranty repair, it is important to bring it to an Authorized XS Scuba Dealer. Be sure to provide the dealer with photocopies of your original sales receipt and service records. For the location of the dealer nearest you or additional information, visit our website at: www.XSScuba.com.

Service Records

DATE	DEALER NAME	CITY/STATE	TECH NAME
SERVICE(S) PERFORMED			

DATE	DEALER NAME	CITY/STATE	TECH NAME
SERVICE(S) PERFORMED			

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