

# DIVE

# BRIGHTENING UP

## METALSUB XL7.2 TORCH

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**WHEN WE** took delivery of the new Metalsub XL7.2 diving torch I thought CPS, the UK distributors, had sent us the military version by mistake. Upon checking with them, I discovered this is how the torches are manufactured for all uses. These torches are supplied to various navies around the globe and it is easy to see why. The lamp oozes testosterone and is produced using an armygreen coloured anodised aluminium housing. All this ruggedness gives it a claimed maximum working depth of 240m. The torch includes an SOS function whereby you can select it to illuminate the bulb in a sequence of three short, then three long flashes. The standard light source is provided from a 20-watt Xenophot bulb with a 10-degree beam angle giving a 70-minute burn time, and there are options of a 10-watt version that effectively doubles the longevity to a massive 140 minutes or 15-watt LED (light-emitting diode) version that lasts an hour and a half. The on/off button features a locking mechanism to prevent accidental power-up and has three settings

– quarter, half and full power. A clever piece of electronic gadgetry ensures a constant power discharge of the battery takes place giving a consistent light output and accurate burn time. The burn time itself can also be checked by observing the multi-coloured LED at the rear of the torch. It remains green when the battery capacity is greater than 50 per cent, turns orange between 50 and 20 per cent, then red from 20 to 10 per cent and finally flashes red when there is less than 10 per cent remaining, at which point the light output reduces by half. If you run the torch right down, a deep discharge protection mechanism is triggered by the onboard electronics to prevent damage to the cells. Charging the torch is achieved externally so there is no need to break any O-ring seals. The charger supplied is multi-voltage so that you can use it worldwide, and full capacity is reached after six hours. An internal safety timer prevents over-charging. In case the batteries emit any gas during charging, there is an over-pressure valve fitted. I've been using the torch for the past couple of months and it's a neat, compact

lamp that produces a punchy light. It certainly can take a knock or two and even after some fairly abusive treatment during a deep wreck diving trip there isn't a mark on it. At under £250 you get a lot of gadgetry for your money and, when you combine this with the robustness and relatively long burn time, I can see this torch gaining a strong foothold in the UK diving market.



### AT A GLANCE

Rugged, deep-diving torch

Value: 8/10

Performance: 9/10