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## THE TENDERS & TOYS ISSUE

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# FLY THROUGH THE



A NEW DIVING ACCESSORY CAN OPEN UP NEW WORLDS TO WEAKER SWIMMERS OR BUDDING AQUATIC EXPLORERS.

WORDS ISLA MCKECHNIE

**REMEMBER JAMES BOND** pootling along with his underwater scooter in *Thunderball*? A new kid on the diving propulsion block is set to fulfil all your fantasies of making like Bond and cruising effortlessly underwater. The Pegasus Thruster is a high performance underwater propulsion vessel that attaches to a diver's scuba tanks.

Propelling you along at around 50 metres a minute (for a 77 kilogram man), the Pegasus Thruster was designed by scuba divers for scuba divers. Marissa Wiganowske of the

Pegasus team says its applications are diverse: "The Thruster is used and can be used by any type of diver. It is an excellent tool; it just depends on how one chooses to use it. Recreational divers have a blast cruising over wrecks, spearfishing or looking for lobsters, and those that have sub-par cardiovascular fitness save their energy and cut their air consumption in half, increasing their personal safety on a dive." The Pegasus Thruster is also in demand with divers carrying out underwater maintenance or inspections.

# WATER

The unit is designed to be stored on a tank holder next to the diver's equipment on their back, leaving their hands free to take photos or collect objects (*not that we are encouraging you to pilfer from wrecks or pocket protected shells illegally – Ed.*). It can be used to help divers descend and weighs just under six kilograms out of the water.

Is your coordination more Powers than Bond? The unit is simple to use and manoeuvre. "The Thruster is easy to control, we have designed a seven-degree angle to the way the unit is mounted, allowing you to maintain neutral buoyancy. It does take one or two dives to feel comfortable. With regards to turning, it is all in the way you steer your shoulders," says Wiganowske. And it is easy to care for, even if you do not have a Q to maintain your gadgets for you. Wiganowske says that a freshwater rinse after use and the application of a small amount of lube on the pins and switch are all the unit needs to keep running smoothly.

[PegasusThruster.com](http://PegasusThruster.com)

Watch the video at [TheCrewReport.com/PegasusThruster](http://TheCrewReport.com/PegasusThruster)



## THE TECHNICAL BIT

The first prototype was created in 2002, and the product has been continuously developed since. The Pegasus Thrusters currently on the market are made of aircraft-grade 6061 marine-sealed anodized aluminium, with high-impact plastic for the shroud and propeller. The units and batteries have a depth rating of 122 metres and each one is pressure tested, post-build, to 76 metres before being sent out. The nickel metal hydride (NiMH) battery takes 2.5 hours to recharge and will run for 35 to 45 minutes (if you were to hold down the switch and run the Pegasus continuously). And if you do get through all the battery time, the battery pack can be changed underwater or the whole unit can also be plugged in underwater.

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