



Predator vs. Petrel Comparison

Revision: 1.1

Date: Dec. 20, 2012

The following table compares the new Shearwater Petrel with the Shearwater Predator technical dive computers.

 Indicates upgraded feature on Petrel

Feature	Predator	Petrel
Ship Date	Dec. 2009	Sept. 2012
OC Model	\$1145	\$950 (includes CC)
OC/CC Standalone	\$1345	\$950
OC/CC Ext PPO2 (Fischer)	\$1895	\$1495
Display	2.4", QVGA, Full-Color OLED	2.4", QVGA, Full-Color LCD
Battery Life (Saft 3.6V LS14500)	90 hours diving + 1 year standby	90 hours diving + 1 year standby
Battery Life (1.5V Alkaline)	N/A	35 hours diving + 6 months standby (almost any AA battery can be used)
Deco Tissues and Clock restored on battery change	No	Yes (If battery changed within 15 minutes)
Settings retained on battery change	Yes, settings stored in permanent memory	Yes, settings stored in permanent memory
Size	3.5" x 3.25" 1.75"	3.25" x 2.875" x 1.375"
Weight	358g	258g
Decompression Models	Buhlmann ZHL-16C with GF (standard) VPM-B (upgrade option)	Buhlmann ZHL-16C with GF (standard) VPM-B (upgrade option)
Gases	Air, Nitrox, Trimix	Air, Nitrox, Trimix
Gauge Mode	No	Yes



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Feature	Predator	Petrel
Screen Brightness	Fixed or Auto	Fixed or Auto
Dive Log Memory	20 hours	1000 hours
Communications to desktop/laptop	Bluetooth	Bluetooth
Firmware upgradable?	Yes	Yes
Dive planner	Yes	Yes
Units	Metric or Imperial	Metric or Imperial
Buttons	2 Piezoelectric buttons	2 Piezoelectric buttons

Summary:

The Petrel incorporates all features of the Predator, plus includes new hardware and software features.

The Petrel firmware was branched from the Predator V45 firmware, and will be very familiar to users of the Predator.

A Fischer connector version of the Petrel is coming soon which will allow external PPO2 monitoring.

The Petrel display is an LCD with LED backlight as opposed to the OLED display in the Predator. Size and resolution are the same. We find the display to be as readable as the Predator's, and better in some conditions such as bright sunlight. The Predator OLED was discontinued 2 years ago and is not a viable option for a new product. We evaluated the OLED displays on the market, including those used in other dive computers, and choose the Petrel LCD as the best combination of readability and battery life when used in diving conditions.