

## DIVE MASKS; FORM VS. FUNCTION



**Frameless vs. Frame:** The lenses in frameless designs will sit closer to your eyes offering a little wider field of vision in all directions. Frameless designs are also typically lower volume than rigid frame designs. The lack of a thick rigid frame means frameless styles can be folded up very flat and easily stowed in a pocket as a 'backup' mask. Most people find that the traditional rigid frame designs offer the most stable and secure fit. Select a framed design if you are one of those rare individuals who have difficulty finding masks with a good fit.

**Single vs. Double Lens:** Single lens styles will normally offer a somewhat less obstructed view compared to double lens styles because of the absence of the nose bridge. However, single lens masks are typically heavier than double lens mask because there is simply more glass. Double lens styles are also usually lower volume than single lens designs. The extreme teardrop lens shapes offer better 'look down' vision, but at the expense of increased volume.

**Low Volume vs. Snorkel:** Divers should never use the typical 'snorkel mask' because it holds such a large air volume that it requires excessive effort to clear of water and as well as being wasteful of breathing gas. There is no 'perfect' mask, but all the masks we offer are suitable for diving and have been carefully selected to be relatively low-volume designs with good field of vision. Some low volume masks we offer are very low volume and sit very close to the face, making them a poor choice if you have a large nose or facial hair.

The differences of frame and lens styles are very subtle in the high-quality masks offered by RecTEC Divers. Choice is largely a matter of personal preference and your experience.

### **Why Black Dive Masks Are Better**

Clear skirts on masks are popular because they minimize the claustrophobic feeling some people get when they wear a mask. Nevertheless, clear skirts and even colored frames actually interfere with vision. Extraneous light entering through the clear skirt makes it more difficult for the eye to focus and causes reflections that obscure vision. Demonstrate this by looking out a window from a lighted room at twilight. You will see better by cupping your hands around your eyes as you press your face to the window. Brightly colored glossy accent frames can also cause annoying color halos around the lenses. For these reasons, knowledgeable divers seeking the best possible vision prefer masks with solid black skirts and frames.