

Another development which can clearly be seen in image 11 was the use of different sized minute and hour hands. The minute hand was much larger than the hour hand. This made sense because a diver normally measures time underwater in minutes rather than hours and a large hour hand could cause confusion.

The last innovation, which was designed to increase the ease of using the watch, was a new kind of flex-buckle on the stainless steel bracelet (image 12). The innovative expansion device attached to the buckle and easily adapted itself to the diameter of the wrist with or without a wet suit.

The vintage DOXA SUB bracelet also had a novel ratchet mechanism built into the clasp (image 13). This allowed the bracelet to be sized almost automatically for many wrist sizes without the need for removing links. Once the watch was placed on the wrist and the clasp closed, the ratchet mechanism could be moved until the length of the bracelet corresponded to the

wearer's wrist size. During the production life of the SUB, there were 3 versions of the bracelet made, with 4 different clasps (image 14). They all had the expanding endpieces, and ratcheting inner clasps. A major difference was the size of the clasp on the SUB 750T. It was much wider and had the name DOXA stamped into it. Depending on when the watch was made, the bracelet could have had; DOXA, DOXA SUB 300, the Synchron logo or the Synchron logo and the word SYNCHRON stamped into the clasp.

Putting all these innovations together resulted in a timepiece that was destined to become a pivotal point in dive watch history. The watch was called the DOXA SUB 300, where the 300 signified that it was tested to withstand the water pressure at 300 meters (1,000 ft). Because the luminous material on the hands and dial was Tritium, the name quickly changed to 300T with the T signifying the use of Tritium. Tritium is radioactive.



Image 12 – Expanding Bracelet



Image 13 – Bracelet Ratchet System

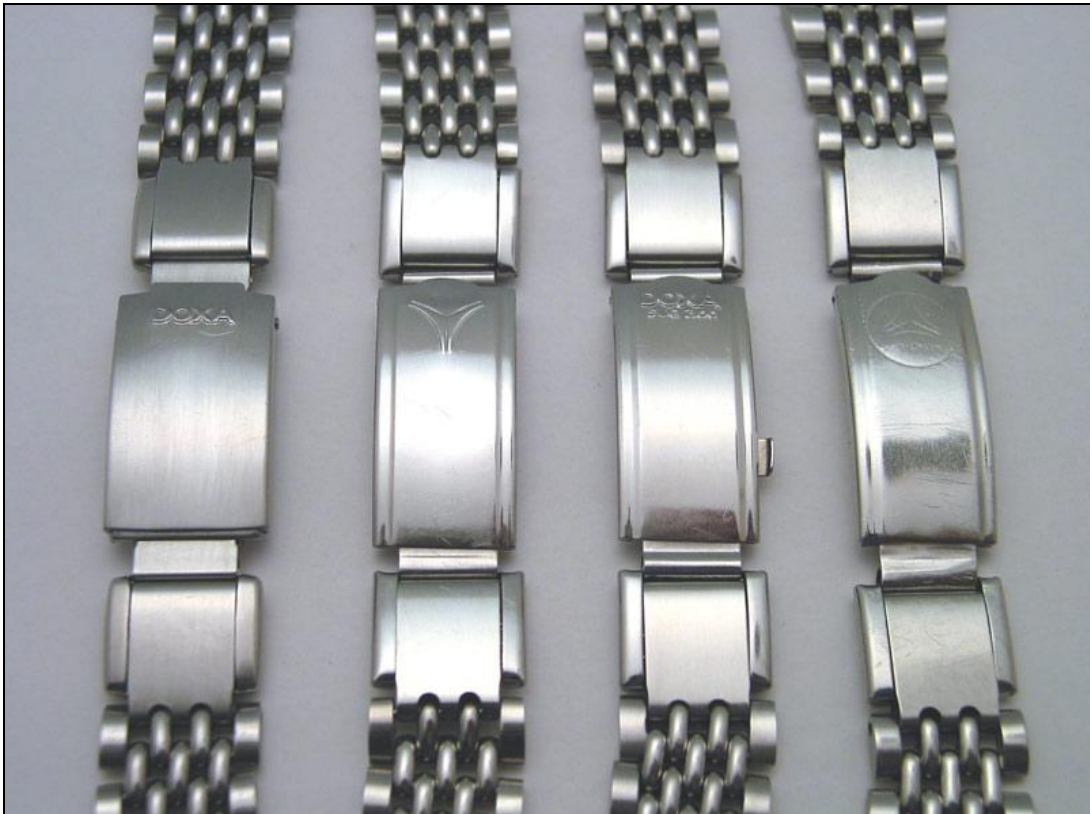


Image 14 – Clasp variations

It was itemized in a US Divers catalog with the reference number - US Divers 7336-000 as an Aqua Lung diver and listed for US\$368.00. The watch was also produced with silver and orange dials (images 20 and 21). Looking at images 22 and 23 it is easy to see that the bracelet on the US Divers Aqua Lung watch resembles the DOXA SUB bracelet from the later 750T models.

In fact they were the exact same bracelets without the DOXA logo. By this time, DOXA was under the ownership of Aubry Freres and the bracelets were sourced from West Germany and were marked 'Expandro'. They were an evolution of the original bracelet designed in 1967. The ratchet expansion system had become more robust and the size of the whole clasp had increased considerably.



Image 22 – Aqua Lung Bracelet



Image 23 – Aqua Lung Bracelet