

2010 WETSUIT GUIDE



FOOR HQ1 £75.00

Currently on sale at TriUK the HQ1 offers exceptional value for those starting out in open water swimming. It's made from SCS neoprene throughout using flex panels in the back and neck for ease of movement and a Hydro Friction forearm panel to help grab the water.

Triuk.com



BLUE SEVENTY SPRINT £105.00

The Sprint offers a great fit and plenty of buoyancy for the first timer. High stretch underarm gussets provide ease of movement as you stroke while the legs are anatomically cut and shaped for quick removal.

Blueseventy.com



2XU TEAM £199.00

Australia-based 2xu may be known as a high-end brand, but they still know value and the sub-£200 Team offers plenty of bang for the buck. We dug the free and flexible back panels and, of course, the price tag.

2XU.com



ORCA EQUIPE £150

The slick looking Equipe uses 1mm thick Yamamoto neoprene on the arms for increased movement and comfort. The body and upper legs use thicker 5mm neoprene to help keep you high in the water and 3mm lower legs make for speedy removal.

Orca.com



SPEEDO ELITE £260

Swim suit company Speedo have been making waves into the wetsuit world and the Elite one of their top end models. Super Stretch panels in the shoulders and arms help as you stroke and knurled forearms give a little extra pull.

Speedo.co.uk



ZONE 3 VANQUISH £295.00

Zone3 are relatively new to the wetsuit market, born and bred by racers for racers, in Loughborough. A one piece shoulder panel offers freedom of movement and the Pro Speed laminated arm and leg cuffs help make it one of the quickest suits to remove in transition.

Racezone3.com

BY BRAD CULP AND JAY PRASUHN • PHOTOS BY NILS NILSEN/NZFOTOSERVICES.COM



AQUA SPHERE IRONMAN WRACER £329.99

The Ironman Racero, made of Yamamota SCS Nanoskin, offers ease of movement along with the little touches that make all the difference in long races: leak-resistant cuffs, chafe-guard under the arms and a 4.5mm thick core for optimal buoyancy.

Aquasphereswim.co.uk



AQUA SPHERE IRONMAN ICON £330.00

The Ironman Icon offers many of the same features of the Racero but trims off a little weight. It also offers a 5mm core for maximum buoyancy in the water.

Aquasphereswim.co.uk



QUINTANA ROO SUPERFULL £340.00

The 2010 edition of this wetsuit includes a new jersey material throughout critical high-stress areas on the leg for improved durability. There is also a new internal neck gusset to prevent water flow into the suit.

Quintanarootri.com



ORCA 3.8 £349.00

Using the buoyancy of hundreds of air cavities trapped within the suit's neoprene, the 3.8 places your legs and torso in an optimum swimming position so you can worry about more important things-like getting to T1.

Orca.com



FOOR SYN FLEX £350.00

Foor's top range suit is hand stitched and glued and uses exclusive flexible Nanomoto Cell 44 SCS neoprene throughout. 1-Piece A2A Flex-i-Panels means no arm seams, which help reduce restriction and a low cut anti-chaff neck helps to seal water out.

Triuk.com



SAILFISH ONE £375.00

Sailfish introduced a new top-end suit (the G-Range) this year, but we think the One is still the German brand's best offering. We enjoyed the uber-flexible inner liner that kept the suit from disturbing our stroke.

Sailfish.com



NINETEEN FREQUENCY £375.00

For 2010, Nineteen retains its excellent cut, but upgrades the Frequency with top-end Yamamoto 40 rubber where it counts: on the back and lats, making for a suit with uninhibited overhead reach.

Multisportdistribution.co.uk



ORCA ALPHA £399.00

The Alpha offers many of the same technologies as the Orca 3.8, along with panels of Yamamoto Aerodome neoprene on the front and rear of the torso, which generate 30 per cent more buoyancy once you dive in.

Orca.com



SNUGG SLIPSTREAM HYPERFLEX £399.99

Snugg offer a bespoke fitting when it comes to wetsuits, tailoring made to measure suits in Cornwall. Their top range Slipstream is available with three different types of buoyancy control system to suit individual body types. Great quality backed up with second to none service.

Snuggwetsuits.co.uk



BLUSEVENTY HELIX £420.00

The Helix is a top choice among strong swimmers seeking neutral flotation, with maximal flexibility and reach. New for 2010 are paper-thin, laminated fabric panels on the forearms, reinforced to create a tactile sensation during the stroke, for greater arm position awareness.

Bluseventy.com

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TYR HURRICANE CATEGORY 5 £450.00

We agree, that's a lot of money to spend on a wetsuit, but when a suit feels so good that you kind of feel like you're cheating, it may be worth more than £450. This suit is so buoyant that it might freak you out the first time you take it to the open water.

Tyr.com



ZOOT SYNERGY £314.00

Zoot's mid-tier offering serves up plenty of value and borrows a number of features from the brand's top-end Zenith suit. Sized properly, this suit feels like a second skin and the buoyancy panels make your mid-section look really shredded—a big bonus.

Zootsports.com



AQUAMAN CELL GOLD £525.00

If you're looking for flexibility, look no further than the Aquaman Cell Gold. Using super-stretchy Yamamoto GIGA #40 neoprene on both the inside and outside of the wetsuit, the Cell Gold has unrivaled stretch where you need it most.

Aquamantri.com



2XU PROJECT X £650.00

The new Project X will be in very limited supply in the UK, reaching only select dealers. It features a rollbar (for hip lift), vertical strakes for straight-line swim tracking and thin 1.5mm rubber under the arms and across the lats for added flexibility.

2XU.com



AQUA SPHERE IRONMAN £125

Leave it to upstart Aqua Sphere to buck the industry trend and actually make an affordable speedsuit. The M-Dot-branded suit is extremely light, plenty hydrodynamic and it'll leave you with a little money to actually race.

Aquasphereswim.co.uk



MAYSTORM SA 1 £POA

Japan-based Maystorm has made inroads on the Xterra Triathlon circuit and now aims to bring its suits to the rest of the tri scene. The SA 1 was one of the most flexible speedsuits we tested, but unless you plan to shed a few pounds, order a size larger than you usually would as they run a bit tight.

Maystorm-gear.com



AQUAMAN INSULATOR £159.99

This unisex suit offers a super-slick SCS coating and superior Yamamoto rubber for a buoyant but pliable fit. This suit is slightly tighter than other ones, so keep that in mind when trying it on.

Aquamantri.com



BLUSEVENTY POINTZERO3 £180

Bluseventy use Helix technology to make this of the most flexible swimskins on the market. The SCS fabric helps reduce passive drag by up to five per cent. Fold over stitching in the shoulders reduces chaffing and neutral buoyancy means it is FINA, USAT, WTC and DTU legal.

Bluseventy.com



SAILFISH FURIOUS £169.99

Sized right, the Furious can be an extremely comfortable and flexible option. Sailfish uses only top-dollar materials in designing this super-stretchy speedsuit. Just remember, Sailfish is based in Europe, so you may want to order one size too big.

Sailfish-wetsuits.com



DESOTO LIFTFOIL £240

The Liftfoil wetsuit does double-duty as a tri suit, meaning if you're at a warm-water race, this is the only thing you'll wear from start to finish. The 16-inch zipper is the shortest on the market for less drag.

Desotosport.co.uk



2XU FUSION £POA

Australia-based 2XU didn't see a need for seams when engineering its suit and instead welds (or "fuses", hence the name) the would-be seams together. Doing so adds an extra level of comfort and flexibility.

2xu.com



ORCA RS1 SWIMSKIN £199.99

Orca has long been at the front of the pack in the wetsuit market and continues that tradition with the RS1. We like the breathability of Orca's Aeroskin rubber, a big help when the water temps close in on 80 degrees.

Orca.com



ZOOT SPEEDZOOT 20 INCH £POA

A 20-inch inseam makes this suit a bit more water resistant than thigh-length wetsuits, but a flexible cuff ensures that your SpeedZoot will come off in a flash.

Zootsports.com



TYR SAYONARA FULL BODY £349.99

This suit ought to be outlawed on all seven continents. It's too fast—too much like a wetsuit. But, while it's still legal, we think you should enjoy the most buoyant wetsuit we've ever tested.

Tyr.com