



### Source

The Annelé snorkel is made by **Sommap** (Société Méditerranéenne de Matériels de Pêche sous-marine), a diving, swimming, spearfishing and nautical equipment manufacturer and wholesaler located in Roquefort la Bédoule near the southern French port of Marseilles. This breathing tube (Sommap Reference Number 1500) is stocked by a number of European online retailers, including [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk), [Amazon.fr](https://www.amazon.fr), [Eanfind.co.uk](https://www.Eanfind.co.uk), [Mikes-diving.co.uk](https://www.Mikes-diving.co.uk) and [Vieuxplongeur.com](https://www.Vieuxplongeur.com). Spare accordion mouthpieces (Sommap Reference Number 1612) for this snorkel can be bought separately at [Vieuxplongeur.com](https://www.Vieuxplongeur.com).

### Measurements

Size	Outer length	Inner diameter	Inner volume	Mouthpiece size	Weight
	290 mm + 200 mm	20 mm			

## Description

The Annelé (English: ringed) retro snorkel consists of a rigid barrel connected to a flexible corrugated rubber hose terminating in a mouthpiece. The barrel is 29 cm long, while the length and inner diameter of the hose are 20 cm and 2 cm respectively.

When the “accordion” mouthpiece is out of use, it is designed to spring away from the face, enhancing comfort and freeing the swimmer’s hands, which would otherwise be deployed during removal of the snorkel from the mouth. This feature has proved popular in the past with scuba divers who found that a regular snorkel’s hard bend could catch on underwater obstacles or get in the way of the scuba mouthpiece.

The Annelé has a high-visibility top and a durable connector for fastening the snorkel to a mask strap.

## Antecedents



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Scubapro founder Dick Bonin, who died in 2015, once claimed when interviewed “We brought out the first flexible snorkel. In Chicago, they used to sell surplus aircraft parts so I took a hose and put it on a snorkel tube, and I never forgot that. Swimaster priced it at \$2.95 and everyone said we were out of our minds, but we sold them like crazy.”

This flexible-hose snorkel was dubbed the Bello-flex (left), whose launch was in 1959.



The Bello-flex may well have been one of the earliest American snorkels to feature a flexible corrugated rubber hose ending in a mouthpiece that dropped out of the way when it was not in use. However, the Capewell Explorer Snorkel (right) with its corrugated rubber elbow leading into its mouthpiece unit may have a prior claim, as it first appeared in 1955.



Snorkel in alloy tube with corrugated end in rubber, with ball valve and mouthpiece. 21/- inc. 3/6 P.T.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the British 1956 underwater swimming catalogues of both Lillywhites and Cogswell and Harrison of Piccadilly in London list an “Abbey” brand snorkel with a “corrugated end in rubber” (left).

Since the late 1950s, flexible-hose snorkels have occasionally appeared in the product ranges of many diving gear manufacturers, e.g. Britmarine, Cavalero, Dacor, Healthways, Mares, Scubapro, Typhoon, US Divers, Voit and White Stag. Later snorkels of this kind improved airflow by providing the corrugated hose with a smooth interior.