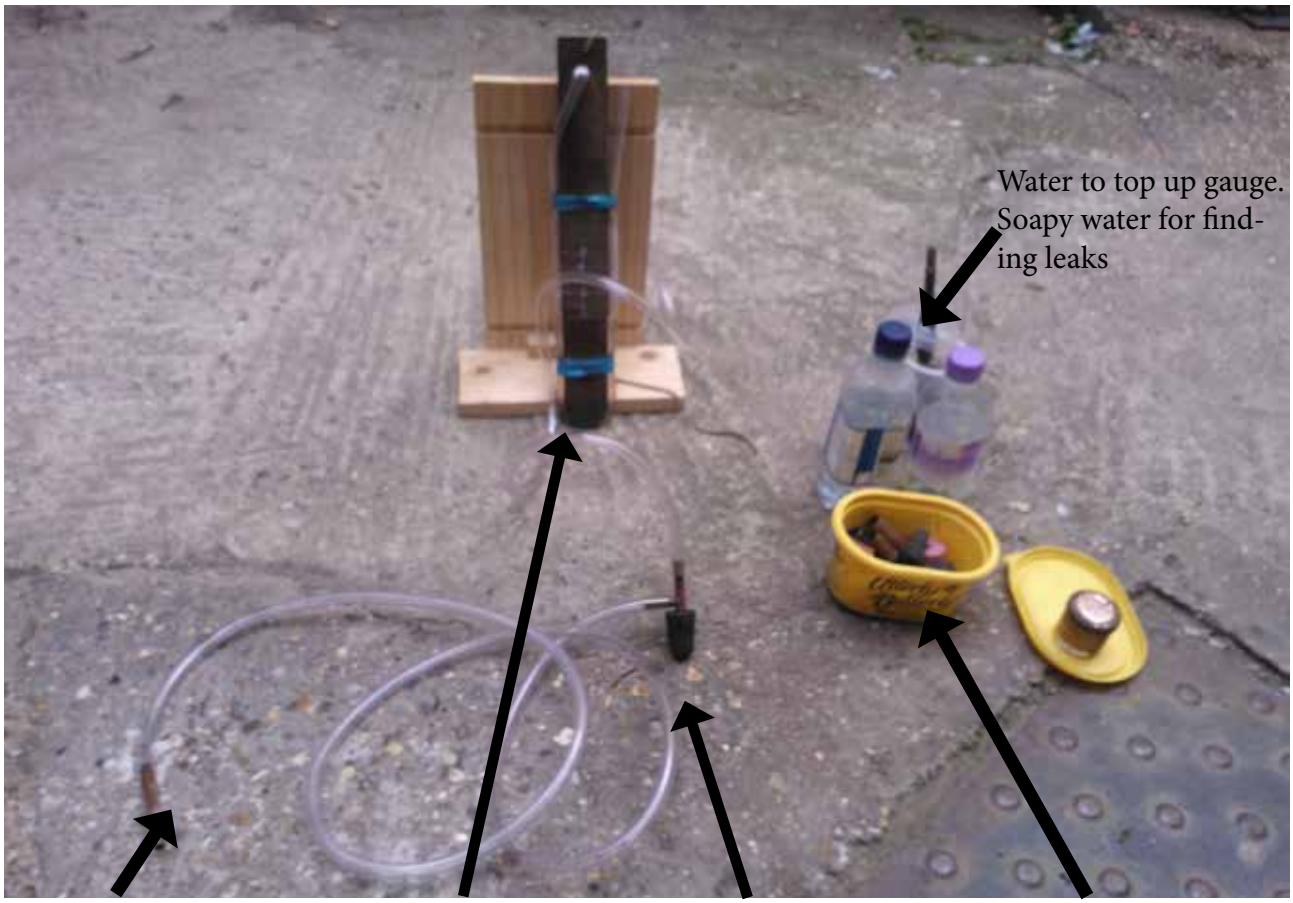
The Minima Manometer



Mouthpiece – blow in this, then put your thumb over the end to see how the tank holds pressure.

Gauge – hang this on its string, vertically where you can see it while you are blowing, or stopping the end. Add water until both sides are level on 0.

Tank end – push this firmly into the hole in the tank you are testing. You may need vaseline to make a good seal.

Selection of bungs to fit in different sized tank holes. Pot of vaseline to help seal hole

The T-joint close to the tank end means that all three ends are connected. When one end is in the tank and your thumb is over the mouthpiece end then the gauge measures the pressure in the whole system, ie in the tank. It takes a bit of blowing to get the pressure in a big tank up to 5”

The ISAF Enterprise Class rules:

“... the adequacy of buoyancy tanks and units may be determined by subjecting them to either a pressure or a vacuum test. The tanks and units shall be deemed satisfactory if an initial pressure differential of 125mm of water does not reduce below 50mm in 30 seconds.”

This standard was originaly imperial, and the Minima is still imperial (natch), 5”= 125mm, 2” = 50mm. The gauge is marked in half inches because half an inch up on one side is half an inch down on the other. When the top water level is on 5 there is 5” of pressure. It must take more than 30 seconds to get down to 2.