

SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

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*Bestseller
Series*

U/W CAMERA
HOUSINGS

IKELITE'S SLR-AF CASE

HOUSING NIKON'S 8008 AUTO FOCUS CAMERA

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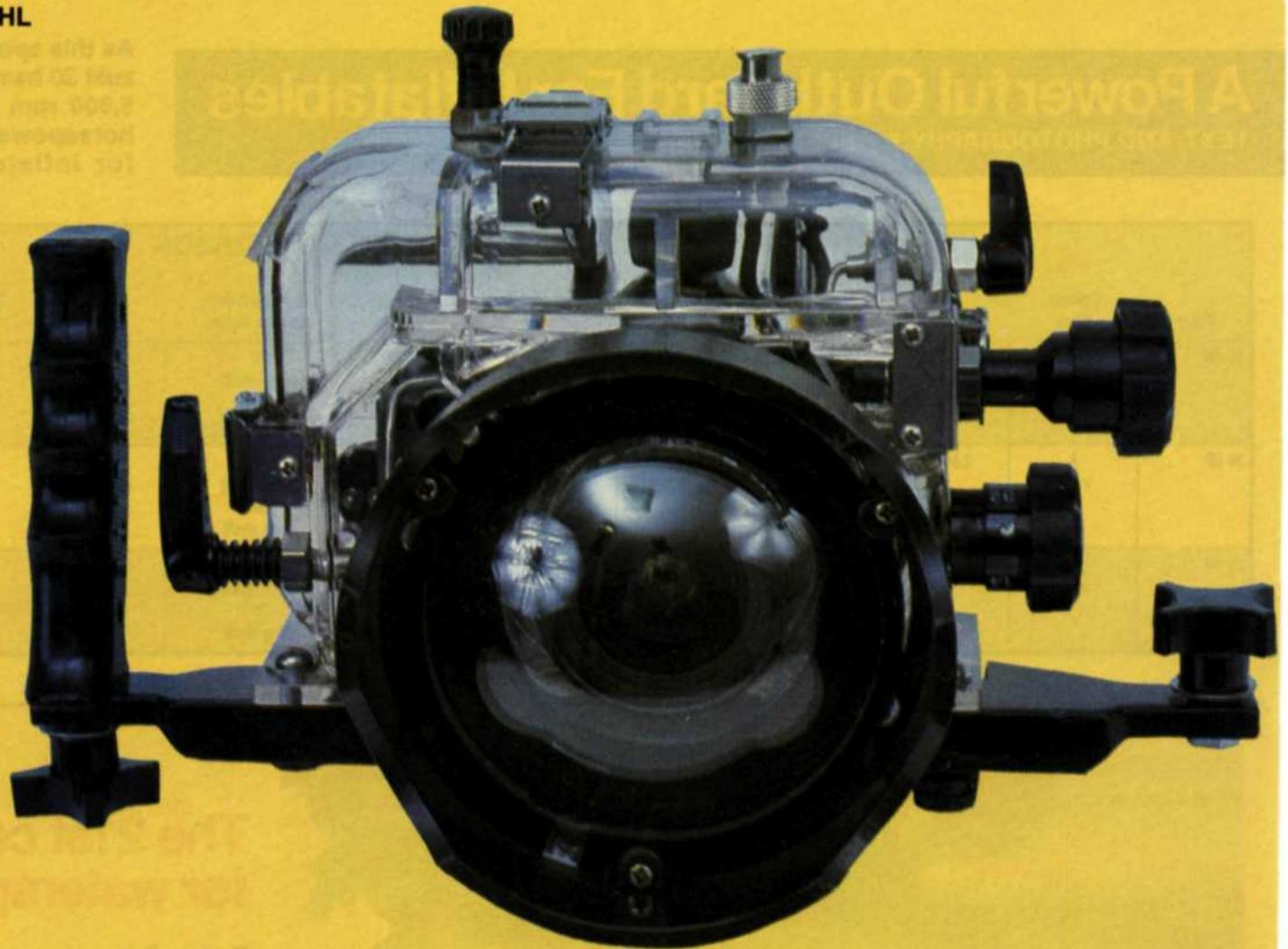
As SLR cameras become more and more sophisticated, Ikelite Underwater Systems modifies and improves its housings to accommodate them. This has resulted in some of the most versatile underwater camera systems to date. Technology soars and we, the photographers, reap the benefits!

Ikelite's most recent accomplishment is the housing for Nikon's new 8008. This camera has auto focus, five exposure modes, matrix metering, DX coding, motordrive, auto rewind, and superior lens optics. Ikelite's housing adapts to most all the features of the 8008, allowing the photographer to shoot wide angle scenics one moment and fish the next, all with auto focus and auto exposure.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The SLR-AF housing is molded from GE Lexan, with all sealing surfaces and camera controls visible for easy use and trouble shooting. The housing separates into three parts: the body, the backplate and the front port. The backplate is held in place with four stainless steel catch and strike clamps that press a large O-ring between the two surfaces to form a seal. The backplate also has an extension to accommodate Ikelite's Super-Eye. This attaches to the eyepiece of the 8008 and provides full frame, corner to corner viewing even when wearing a facemask.

Ikelite offers a full range of SLR ports. If you use wide angle lens or auto focus zoom, a specially designed dome port is recommended to eliminate distortion and vignetting of the image. For standard, macro and telephoto lenses, Ikelite offers flat ports in different lengths, depending on the lens. All ports are easily interchangeable as they are held in place against the main body using two spring



loaded, quick-release locks.

CAMERA INSTALLATION

Installing the camera in the housing is quick and easy. Attach aperture gear if necessary, screw the Super-Eye into the eyepiece of the 8008, reattach the lens and secure the camera to the aluminum tray. Remove the backplate of the housing, making sure you don't let any of the catch and strike clips release too quickly. Slide the camera and lens into the housing, holding the TTL cord out of the way. Attach the TTL cord and replace the backplate. Inspect all O-ring seals and operate all controls before taking the housing underwater.

If an Ikelite TTL strobe is to be used, it should be attached to the strobe mount and the flash connector on the top of the housing.

HOUSING CONTROL

The main body of the housing contains five camera controls. Each is easy to op-

erate and is kept watertight with an Ikelite designed gland and quad-ring seal. On the right side of the housing you find the focus/shutter release control. Pressing down lightly will activate the auto focus system on the 8008, which quickly focuses the lens. Pressing down further will activate the shutter.

The lens f/stop control is on the lower left part of the housing and connects with two gears inside that align with a special plastic gear that surrounds the f/stop ring on the lens. This control has a large display for easy viewing.

The zoom control is above the f/stop control. This operates a single gear inside the housing that meshes with a large, slotted sleeve. When the control is turned, the inside gear turns the slotted sleeve, which in turn moves a plastic ring attached to the zoom part of the lens. If the lens has a macro lock function (28-85mm Nikkor), the plastic ring can be placed over the lock, allowing full zoom and macro function, all with one lens.

The mode control on the left rear of the housing works in conjunction with the input/selector control on top of the housing. Press the mode control forward and turn the selector to one of the five exposure functions: manual, aperture, shutter or one of the two program modes.

USING THE HOUSING

Keep in mind that most of the controls are rarely used except at the beginning of the dive or if a major change in shooting technique is desired. For example, if you set the camera to aperture priority and select f/8, you can essentially point and shoot the rest of the dive. The camera's ability to set the ISO with DX coding, motordrive advance, fast auto focus and through the lens viewing allow the photographer to concentrate more on the subject and less on the mechanics needed to take the picture.

The Ikelite SLR-AF case has near neutral buoyancy. It has an aluminum tray with two strobe mounting points and a contour handle that places the shutter release at your fingertips.

We found that most all the camera functions were so easily visible in the Super-Eye that when we made any adjustments, we used the viewer instead of looking at the controls.

Another nice function on the 8008 viewer is the light. In normal sunlight it stays off, but in darker conditions such as underwater, the light comes on as soon as the auto focus control is depressed. The resulting viewer image is very bright and information on shutter speed, f/stop, exposure mode, in/out focus and over/

| COMPARISON OF IKELITE SLR-AF HOUSINGS | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--|--------------|
| Model | Cameras Accepted | Suggested Retail Price | Type | Controls | Depth Rating |
| # 6722 | Nikon 2020 | \$449.95 | Clear Lexan | Focus/shutter release Shutter speed Zoom Aperture | 150 feet |
| # 6728 | Nikon N8008 | \$449.95 | Clear Lexan | Focus/shutter release On/off/input dial Exposure mode Zoom Aperture | 150 feet |
| # 6731 | Pentax SF-1 | \$449.95 | Clear Lexan | Focus/shutter release On/off/select switch Exposure mode Zoom Aperture | 150 feet |
| # 6765 | Minolta Maxoum 5000 | \$449.95 | Clear Lexan | Focus/shutter release Zoom On/off/aperture | 150 feet |
| # 6767 | Minolta Maxoum 7000 | \$449.95 | Clear Lexan | Focus/shutter release On/off/aperture Zoom | 150 feet |
| # 6767.1 | Minolta Maxoum 7000i | \$449.95 | Clear Lexan | Focus/shutter release On/off Aperture Exposure mode Zoom | 150 feet |
| # 6770 | Canon EOS 620 EOS 650 | \$449.95 | Clear Lexan | Focus/shutter release Exposure mode Input dial Zoom Manual set button | 150 feet |

under exposure are all easily viewed.

ACCESSORIES

If the photographer is planning on using both wide angle and macro or telephoto lenses, extra ports are available for use with the housing. A variety of Ikelite TTL strobes is also available for both wide angle and close-up photography.

CONCLUSION

This housing brings together Nikon's high technology and Ikelite's versatility and reliability to make one of the most professional underwater systems available today.

For more information and/or an Ikelite catalogue write the company at 50 West 33rd, P.O. Box 88100, Indianapolis, IN 46208.



The housing has a protected dome port.



The 8008 camera with 28-85mm lens.

Equipped with the auto focus 28-85mm lens, the Nikon 8008 camera offers everything from macro to wide angle to zoom. The Super-Eye viewer delivers a bright image. Ikelite's SLR-AF housing adapts to the features of the camera and options include a dome port, extension port, extension port with focus, and several strobes.

KEY FEATURES

- Auto focus
- TTL Super-Eye viewing
- TTL auto exposure
- Motordrive and motor rewind
- DX coding
- Interchangeable lenses
- Wide angle, close-up and macro shots on one dive



The housing back seals with an O-ring.

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

Ports

- Dome Port.....\$99.95
- Extension Port.....\$49.95
- Extension Port w/focus.....\$99.95

Strobes

- MV # 4042.....\$199.95
- 100 # 4048.....\$409.95
- 150D # 4049.....\$489.95
- 150 # 4050.....\$599.95
- 225 # 4056.....\$679.95