

SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

1989

*Bestseller  
Series*

U/W CAMERA  
HOUSINGS



# IKELITE DISC CASE SYSTEM

**A POINT AND SHOOT U/W CAMERA FOR THE  
BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHER**

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL

**W**hen it comes to point and shoot cameras, the disc camera has made its own mark in photography. Basically, this is a modern day version of the old box camera. It has a fixed focus lens, an aperture, a shutter and a box to hold the film. The main difference is in the film size and storage. Instead of a roll of film, there is a disc that contains a flat, circular piece of film. Disc cameras weigh only

five ounces and are only three-quarters of an inch thick, so they are easy to carry.

Because of the disc camera's popularity with amateur photographers, Ikelite Underwater Systems produced its first Disc-Case in 1984. The target market for housed disc cameras is the 70 percent of the diving industry classified as non-underwater photographers. Ikelite's idea is that once someone has tried underwater

photography with an inexpensive, no risk system, he or she will be hooked on collecting photos. Then, when better quality photos are desired, that person will upgrade to a more sophisticated system.

#### **HOUSING CONSTRUCTION**

The Disc-Case is injection molded from clear Lexan for strength and durability. The clear material makes it easy to view

the O-ring seal as well as the camera operation. The housing with the disc camera installed weighs less than 24 ounces. The housing itself separates into two parts, with all the controls on the front half. The camera is held in place on three sides by the inside edge of the housing itself. A rubber spacer holds the fourth side in place. Two large catches secure the two halves, making a watertight seal.

On the front of the housing you will find two basic camera controls. The spring-loaded shutter advance lever comfortably fits into a diver's hand. The second control is a small knob in the front center of the housing that allows the internal electronic flash to be turned on or off.

The ultra compact Ikelite Disc-Case features a removable, water correcting lens. This small square lens easily snaps into place and allows subjects from two to six feet away to be in focus. If you decide to shoot pictures above water, just unsnap the correction lens and shoot subjects ranging in distance from four feet to infinity. A small black sports finder can be attached to the top of the housing, allowing the user to properly frame the subject.

### CLOSE-UP ATTACHMENT

A valuable accessory to the disc camera housing is a special close-up attachment. The close-up lens itself is a black plastic device that snaps into the front of the housing and is held in place with a small screw. A wire framer is then attached to outline the area being photo-

graphed. This framer allows you to take pictures of animals only eight inches away, with a depth of field of approximately two inches. A diffuser softens the illumination from the camera's built-in flash for sharp, colorful close-ups. All you have to do is position the subject within the framer and depress the shutter.

If you are shooting close-ups and run across a subject much larger than the wire framer, you can unscrew the whole assembly underwater and shoot with just the normal correction lens. The only problem is where to store the close-up lens and wire framer while you are shooting with the normal setup.

### OPTIONAL SUBSTROBE S

If diving conditions are not optimum, dirt particles in the water may be illuminated by the camera's flash, producing backscatter. Ikelite has solved this problem with its Substrobe S. A black ten inch arm is attached to the base of the housing, extending the flash up and away from the housing. A special reflector is inserted in the camera's flash. It reflects the camera's flash to trigger the Substrobe S via a slave system. A switch on the back of the strobe selects on, off and a test fire position.

Power for the Substrobe S comes from 4 AA batteries found under a small O-ring sealed door on the back of the strobe. If you use alkaline batteries you can expect a recycle time of five seconds and about 550 flashes per set of batteries. Rechargeable nickel cadmiums recycle in

three seconds and usually deliver 200-250 flashes per charge. A ready light on the back of the strobe tells the diver when it is ready to use.

### CAMERA INSTALLATION AND USE

The idea behind the disc camera system is simplicity. All you have to do is install fresh film and batteries in the camera and turn on the flash to ensure all systems are working. Unsnap the two housing catches, slide the camera in place, secure it with a small holddown bar inside the housing, mate and latch the housing halves, and start shooting. If you would like to shoot both close-up and normal shots, the optional close-up kit can be installed in the water.

### CONCLUSION

You don't have to be an experienced photographer to get great snapshots with Ikelite Disc-Case. Simply find the subjects and push a button; the disc camera takes the picture and advances the film. We feel that this type of inexpensive underwater camera system is a great option for divers considering getting into underwater photography. They can enjoy a taste of taking pictures underwater without having to take the big plunge. Besides the minimal investment, the Ikelite disc system is compact and requires minimal luggage space. Leave it to the folks at Ikelite to think of another way to make diving more fun and bringing home the memories easier. 🐠



Case/camera, Close-up, strobe, bag.



System ready for strobe-lit close-ups.

#### KEY FEATURES

- Compact
- Inexpensive
- Lightweight yet durable
- Simple to use
- Adaptable for close-ups
- Rated to 100 feet

#### OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

- Substrobe S # 4038 .....\$139.95
- Disc Close-up # 5201 .....\$39.95
- Disc U/W Photography # 3105...\$6.95
- Photo Bag # 5205.....\$29.95
- Cloth Cover # 0200 .....\$5.95

#### IKELITE PACKAGES

- Disc-Case without camera .....\$79.95
- Disc-Case with Ansco camera .....\$109.95
- Ikelite Disc-Case, Ansco camera, Close-up kit, Photo Bag, book.....\$179.95
- Disc-Case, Ansco camera, Substrobe S, Close-up, Photo Bag, book .....\$289.95
- Substrobe S, Close-up, book and Photo Bag (camera/housing not included) .....\$184.95