



Sea & Sea's MX-10 and Macro Lens

GET GREAT SHOTS ON YOUR FIRST TRY!

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL

When divers first venture into underwater photography, positive results are critical to keep the interest sparked. The perfect camera system to achieve great photos in one easy try is the MX-10, by Sea & Sea Products, Ltd. The standard 32mm lens works great for photos of most reef scenics but there are also three additional lenses; one each for macro, close-up and wide angle. Best of all, you can change lenses underwater! Yes, we said underwater. We think the first lens to add to your basic MX-10 system is the macro. It is the easiest to use and will yield the highest amount of "keepers" in your first few photo expeditions.

The MX-10 system is designed to be compact and offer total freedom. The macro lens folds up when not in use, which streamlines it and makes it easy to carry. Sea & Sea even offers a lens caddy, which allows you to carry the macro lens underwater and put it on once you make the plunge.

When you unfold the lens, you will find it has three working sections. The lens itself has a bayonet mount and fits right onto the standard lens with just a twist of the wrist. The extension bar drops down and the framer wings can be moved into position. A single upright bar is mounted on the underside of the extension bar, out of the way until you make your dive. When you are ready to use the system, remove the bar and screw it into the right side of the framer wings until it is finger tight. The left side does not have an up-



The top photo was taken with the Sea & Sea MX-10 set-up pictured here.

SDM Editors Pick Items That Make Diving Safer, Easier and More Fun!

BY TY SAWYER
PHOTOS BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

EDITORS' PICK OF THE MONTH

HEADHUNTER LIFEGUARD HAT:

This hat started a mini tug of war among the editors here at SKIN DIVER. For more than 20 years, this palm woven hat has been standard issue for beach lifeguards in Hawaii and Southern California. The five inch brim provides great protection against overexposure to the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, especially for the often overlooked back of the neck area. This ultra light hat is one size fits "most." It has a nylon chinstrap with a spring-loaded tab to cinch up during windy conditions. Headhunter Lifeguard hats sell for \$19.95. For information on your nearest dealer, call (800) 808-8228. 🐟



ENTRECRAZE RUBBER BANDZ WATCH STRAP: These unique rubber watch bands are great for watersport wear. They are colorful, comfortable, won't absorb perspiration, odor or pull your wrist hairs. The stretchy watch strap easily fits over wetsuits. As a bonus they are noncorrodible, can be cut to fit and are an eye-catching accessory for day-wear. Rubber Bandz sell for \$5.49. For information on your nearest Entrecraze dealer, call (800) 637-6263. 🐟

NATIONAL DIVERS SCUBA LEASH: This 12 inch scuba leash reins in your dangling gauges or alternate air source. It features a large plastic clip for easy attachment to BC D-rings and has an expandable eye opening for securing items. A colorful rubber outer layer protects an elasticised inner cord from abrasions, cuts and scrapes. The leash is available for \$12 and comes in a variety of bright colors. For information on your nearest National Divers dealer, call (800) 729-3483. 🐟



DAN DSS GUARDIAN FIRST AID KIT: DAN (Divers Alert Network) has become synonymous with diver safety.

This reputation is further enhanced with its new Guardian first aid kit for divers. The list of items included in the kit is extensive and includes the basics for wound management and dressing/bandaging as well as tools, instruments and miscellaneous items that might prove handy in a variety of circumstances. The Guardian is available for \$89 for

DAN members. For information on the Guardian or DAN's other vital services, call (800) 446-2671. 🐟

WITZ SUNGLASS SPORT-LOCKER: This rugged, weatherproof case is made specifically for the new and popular contoured or wraparound sunglasses styles. The hard case and generous foam padding inside protect and cradle your sunglasses from impact damage, crushing, scratches and moisture. The case is 6.5 by 2.9 by 3.8 inches and includes a nylon webbing strap with a quick-release buckle and detachable clip and ring. The Sport-Locker is available in black, purple, green or red for about \$17. For information on your nearest Witz dealer, call (916) 773-1433. 🐟



ALOE UP WATERPROOF SUNSCREEN: Beat the burn. If you are planning to dive in the tropics, Aloe Up Pro Sport patented dry (nongreasy) lotion formula will provide just the protection you need for extreme conditions. Pro Sport uses a 35 percent aloe vera gel base, four active sunscreen ingredients and a nonwater soluble emulsifier, which protects even after eight hours in the water. It is available with SPF 30 or 15 in a one or four ounce tube; the cost is \$4.99 or \$9.99 respectively. For information on Pro Sport or any other Aloe Up product, call (800) 950-ALOE. 🐟

SEA & SEA'S MX-10 AND MACRO LENS

right bar so the flash won't throw a shadow on the background.

To use the macro lens, find an animal smaller than the four by six inch frame, place the framer up to your subject and press the shutter release. The focus point is at the front edge of the framer; the picture area is just less than the framer indicates, an important feature that keeps it out of your photos. Don't look through the viewfinder to line up your shot because you will have an incorrect depth perception. Instead, view the scene from a 45 degree angle off to the side of the camera. This allows you to place your subject at the front edge of the framer rather than through it, which will produce out of focus photos.

The best part of using this lens is that you don't need an extra flash to get good exposures. The MX-10 camera has an internal flash that has two settings—f/4.5 and f/11. When you use the macro framer set the camera to internal flash at f/11. Each photo will be illuminated correctly and have good depth of field.

SEA & SEA MX-10 MACRO SYSTEM COMPONENTS

MX-10 camera	\$413.00
Macro Lens	\$161.00
Lens Caddy	\$ 39.95
YS0-40A strobe	\$264.00

There will be times when the water will contain particles that can cause backscatter in your photos. In less than clear water, don't use the internal flash, switch to the YS-40 or YS-40A. With both of these strobes the flash head is farther from the camera, resulting in less backscatter in your photos.

When shooting macro with the YS-40A, use f/16 for dark subjects and f/22 for normal and light subjects.

Creative lighting effects can be accomplished with the YS-40A by removing the flash from the camera and holding it over or behind your subject. For this type of photo you will need to set the internal flash to f/11. This will trigger the YS-40A so both flashes will illuminate the subject. You should hold the YS-40A at least 1.5 feet from the framer.

With the MX-10, you can take a picture on the beach one moment and U/W the next. You can photograph the reef using the normal lens and then a colorful nudibranch using the macro lens. No other manufacturer offers this kind of versatility in a camera system.

For more information, contact your local Sea & Sea dealer or Sea & Sea Underwater Photography USA, 2105 Camino Vida Roble, Suite L, Carlsbad, CA 92009; (619) 929-1909. 🐟