

UNDERWATER PHOTO EQUIPMENT

Generally, when a manufacturer introduces an underwater housing designed for a specific land camera, there are trade-offs. In an effort to simplify and streamline the housing, many of the camera's functions are eliminated. That's not the case, however, with the CX-600 housing for the Canon Rebel G camera. Sea & Sea Underwater Photography USA has produced a compact camera housing that is not only streamlined but retains all the Rebel G's capabilities. This makes it one of the most versatile camera housings on the market today.

When you pick up the CX-600, you will be amazed at its size. Since it uses few mechanical controls, the aluminum housing is tightly molded around the camera. It fits like a glove, with very little space between the housing and the camera. The housing breaks down into three basic parts: the lens port, the backplate and the main housing. The port screws onto the main body and uses a wall type O-ring to maintain the seal. The backplate is held in place with two catch and carry latches with safety locks that cannot be opened accidentally underwater. Simply push forward on the safety locks, move the latch to the side and the backplate easily separates from the main body.

Two large screws at the bottom of the

main housing hold twin handgrips. The tops of each handle have a slotted fitting that mates to Sea & Sea strobe arms. These fittings can be removed and replaced with a variety of arm adapters. The strobes connect to one of two bulkhead connectors (on each side of the viewfinder). Thus, if you use two strobes, there is no need for a dual connection.

The shutter is in front of the right handgrip. It is placed so that by gently pressing your index finger the camera will autofocus the lens and trigger the shutter.

Nine controls on the CX-600 give you full control over the Rebel G camera. With all the camera controls at your fingertips, you can easily set it for full automatic, semi-automatic or manual. As each control is operated, the information is displayed in a large window on the top right of the housing. The mode dial, on the top left of the housing, operates 14 separate functions: ISO film speed, automatic, depth of field, program exposure mode, aperture exposure mode, shutter exposure mode, manual exposure mode, power off and six specific shooting situations, including full auto mode, portrait, scenic, close-up, action and backlighting. The electronic dial, on the top right of the housing, allows you to modify the selections using the mode control. For exam-

ple, you might select aperture priority with the mode control and then select a specific f/stop using the electronic dial.

Two small buttons on the left edge of the viewing window give you access to some of the Rebel G's more advanced features. The upper left button, the autofocus selector, allows you to choose one of three focus points in the viewer or all three. The function button lets you select red eye reduction, beeper sounds, multiple exposures or access the exposure bracket function. A single lever on the back right hand side of the housing also allows you to make exposure compensation up to plus or minus two stops.

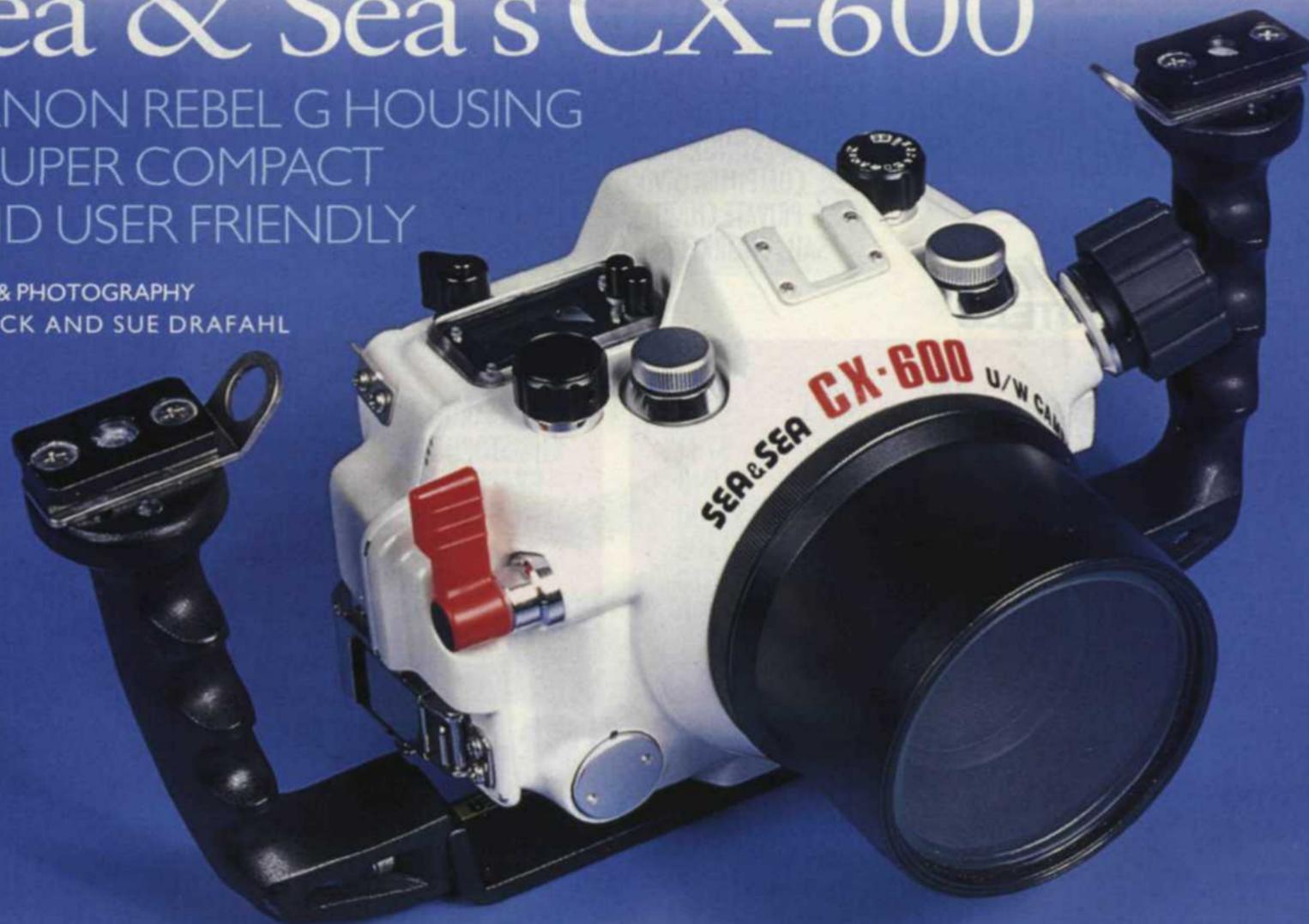
If you are planning on using a zoom lens or want to manually focus another lens, a large mechanical control next to the left handle both rotates and pulls out from the housing to make the necessary adjustment to the lens inside. This control mates with a special focus/zoom ring that slides over the lens. If you don't plan on using either function, the ring is not needed.

There is a silver button on each side of the housing back. The right button locks the exposure when depressed; the left one turns on a small viewing light inside the housing. The light stays on for ten seconds, then goes out. This is a great feature for night or deep diving.

Sea & Sea's CX-600

CANON REBEL G HOUSING
IS SUPER COMPACT
AND USER FRIENDLY

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHY
BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL



The best way to open the housing is to set it face down on the lens port or between your knees. Release the safety catches and undo the two clamps so the backplate can be set aside. As you set it down you will notice a moisture detection circuit built into the back of the housing. If moisture is detected, a light will be displayed.

To change film, remove the backplate, open the camera back, load film and close the back. You don't have to remove the camera, align gears or make adjustments.

If you do want to remove the camera, simply press a small lever at the bottom right of the camera. This releases a quick-disconnect device on the base of the camera. Next, remove the hotshoe connector on the top of the camera and slide the camera out.

Each time you open the housing you should check the soft blue O-ring. This new type of O-ring is being used on all Sea & Sea products today and provides im-

SEA & SEA CX-600 SPECIFICATIONS

Weight.....	3.5 pounds
Dimensions	8.5 by 5.7 by 4.5 inches
Construction.....	Corrosion-resistant aluminum alloy with hard-almite galvanized pearl-white finish
Depth rating.....	200 feet
Price.....	\$1,595

proved protection against leaks and flooding. Make sure you use the special Sea & Sea grease that comes with the housing.

Since most serious underwater photographers use more than one lens in their quest for the ultimate photo, Sea & Sea offers four lens ports. They accommodate lenses from 14 to 100mm, including the 28-80mm zoom lens.

Other accessories include a focusing light holder, camera straps and an adapter ring that fits around the lens port. This ring can hold a focusing light or a small electronic flash in a variety of positions.

The best part of working with this housing is reduced preparation time. Most U/W photographers would agree you can spend as much time getting your gear ready as you do diving. The CX-600 requires a few minute's preparation. Open the housing, load film, check the O-ring, close the housing—you are ready to dive.

Sea & Sea is working hard to prove themselves a leader in the U/W photo marketplace with innovations. If your photo plans include a new housing, take a good look at the CX-600. With a suggested retail price of \$1,595, it's a winner.

For more information, contact Sea & Sea Underwater Photography, USA, 2105 Camino Vida Roble, Suite L, Carlsbad, CA 92009; (760) 929-1909, fax (760) 929-0098. 🐟

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