

Sea & Sea's MX-10 WITH 20MM LENS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL

Most point and shoot cameras on the market today are limited by their own simplicity. In an effort to make them easy to use, manufacturers often restrict the system's growth. However, as underwater photographers learn to use their cameras, they ultimately want to expand their capabilities.

When Sea & Sea Products, Ltd., created the MX-10, they made a basic point and shoot camera system that

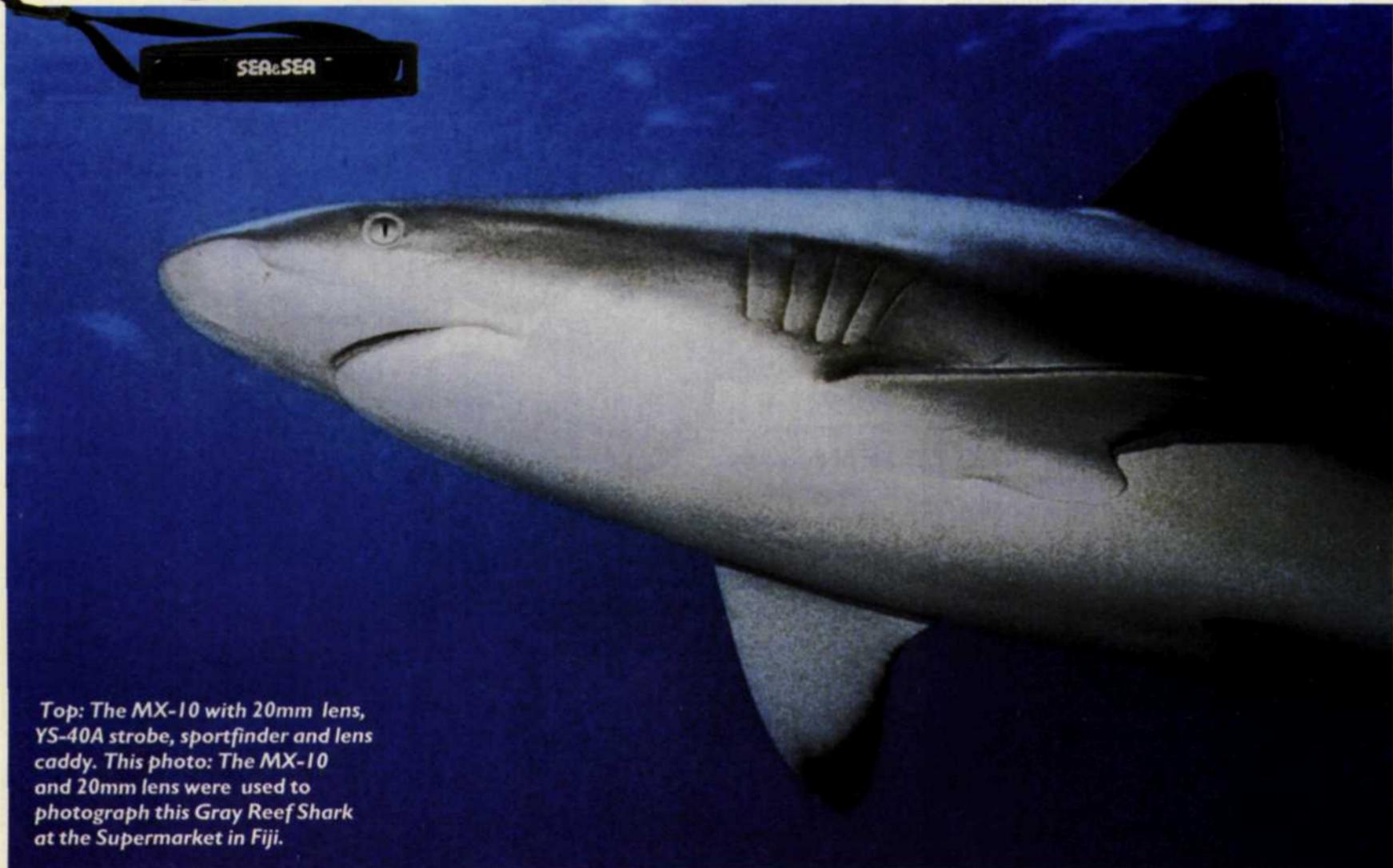
evolves as the photographer's skills evolve. The MX-10 comes with a built-in, fixed focus 32mm lens that allows you to take standard underwater photos with ease. For pictures beyond the capabilities of this normal lens, Sea & Sea makes a macro lens, close-up lens and a 20mm wide angle lens. Now that's really nice, but it gets even better—you can change these lenses underwater! Each of the auxiliary lenses attaches to the built-in lens, offering a camera system with versatility galore.

Our articles over the past few months have shown how the MX-10 works with the standard, macro and the close-up lenses. Now we take the MX-10 system one step farther with the 20mm wide angle lens. This compact, three element fixed

SEA & SEA 20MM LENS SPECIFICATIONS	
Focal length	20mm
Field of view	74.4 inches
Construction	3 elements in 3 groups
Focusing range	1.3 feet to infinity
Minimum focus	16 inches
Weight	4.7 ounces
Dimensions	2.6 x 1.6 inches
Sportfinder	80 percent coverage
Maximum depth	150 feet

focus lens has a 74.4 degree angle of view and a focus range of 1.3 feet to infinity as the lens is stopped down. A depth of field scale is attached to the top of the lens for easy reference underwater.

The best feature of this 20mm lens is that it is guaranteed to reduce frustration. What? You doubt us? Just imagine photographing a small starfish with the macro lens. Suddenly a huge shadow blocks the sun above you. As you glance up, your heart skips a beat because a Whale Shark is heading your way. Just think how frustrating it would be if you



Top: The MX-10 with 20mm lens, YS-40A strobe, sportfinder and lens caddy. This photo: The MX-10 and 20mm lens were used to photograph this Gray Reef Shark at the Supermarket in Fiji.

couldn't replace that macro lens with the 20mm lens with the twist of a wrist! (The lenses you aren't using can be carried on the optional Lens Caddy, which attaches to the top of the YS-40A.) Sea & Sea takes the frustration out of underwater photography by giving you the opportunity to capture small subjects and large subjects on one dive with one camera.

Using the MX-10 and the 20mm lens is very simple. After entering the water, remove the lens to release any air bubbles that may have been trapped between it and the standard lens, then reattach it. Framing your photos is accomplished with a sportfinder that attaches to the top of the camera just under the eyepiece. A small groove on its inside edge allows you to attach both the close-up lens mask and the 20mm finder together. Find a subject about two arm lengths away and frame the subject holding the camera and sportfinder about seven to eight inches from your facemask.

We highly recommend the use of ISO 400 color print film when using this lens. The additional film speed will give you greater depth of field, thereby allowing you to move in closer to your subject. The YS-40A strobe mounted on the side of the MX-10 provides good autoexposures at f/8 using ISO 400 film and the 20mm lens.

**SEA & SEA MX-10
WIDE ANGLE COMPONENTS**

MX-10 camera	\$413.00
20mm lens & sportfinder	\$278.00
Lens Caddy	\$ 39.95
YS-40A strobe	\$264.00

We have tested the 20mm off California and Fiji and found it to produce professional quality photos. We now use the MX-10 and the 20mm during travel assignments. We carry this system in a BC pocket on every dive. When using a housed camera for macro work, it's comforting to know we have a wide angle system available should something large and photogenic happen by!

For further information about the MX-10 and 20mm lens contact your local Sea & Sea dealer or Sea & Sea Underwater Photography, USA, 2105 Camino Vida Roble, Suite L, Carlsbad, CA 92009; (760) 929-1909. 🐟

REVEALING PNG

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featherstars and can be many different colors. It is a rare Milne Bay cruise when one or more are not found.

Milne Bay also has its sharks and pelagics and some outstanding wreck dives, including the B17 bomber **Blackjack** and a perfectly preserved **P38 Lightning** aircraft, both from World War II. But, those

with a yearning for big fish should consider Kavieng, in northern PNG, as their mecca. In 1989, *Telita* started feeding a family of 11 Silvertip Sharks at **Valerie's Reef**. These awesome beasts, much larger than reef sharks, are now accustomed to regular visits by divers. The clear water provides superb photographic opportunities along with the special thrill of close encounters with wild, powerful animals. **Big Fish Reef** and **Chapman's Reef** offer extraordinary diving with massive schools of Barracuda and Bigeye Trevally, often accompanied by giant groupers and Dog-tooth Tuna. Squadrons of Eagle Rays pa-

trol **Eagle Ray Pass**, which is carpeted with seafans, whips, soft and black corals.

Bookings for *Telita* in 1997 and *Paradise Sport* in 1998 can be made by contacting Carol at (888) MIKE BALL, fax (520) 556-9598 or e-mail OzDive@aol.com. Check out the Mike Ball Web site at <http://www.mikeball.com>. 🐟

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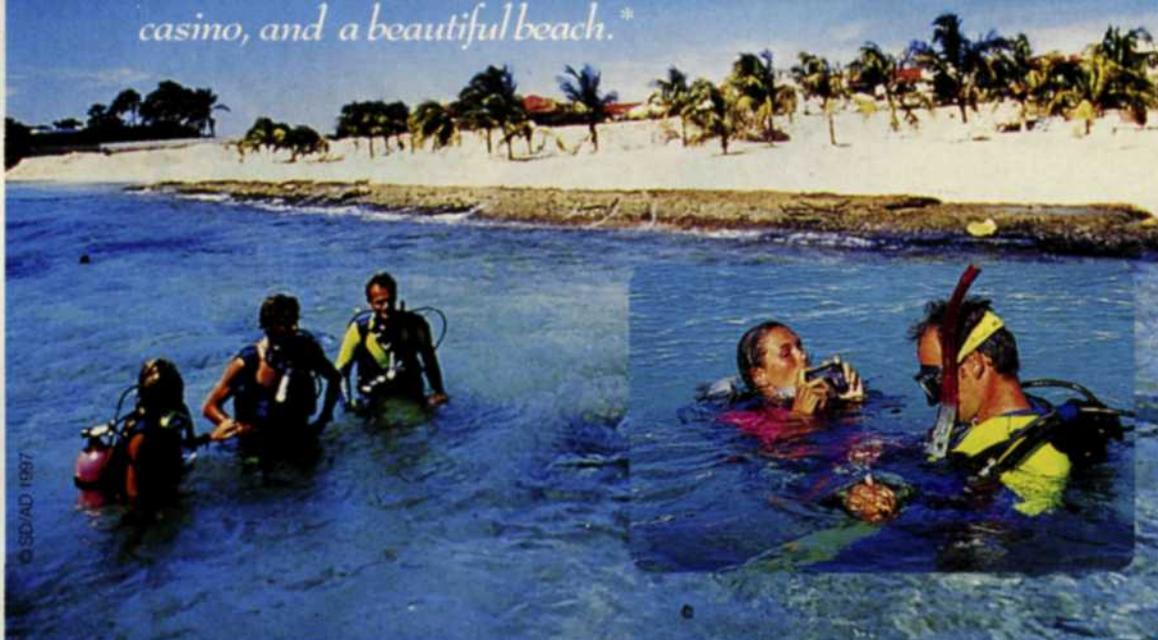


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