

getting started in u/w photography

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL



The Sea & Sea Motor Marine II-EX with Macro Lens 3T was used to capture these Social Featherduster Worms on film.

Learn to Shoot Macro Photography With the Right Tools—It's Fun!

Some of the most interesting marine critters are very small. Tiny animals, however, cannot be photographed with a normal lens. For great photographs of these animals you need a macro lens. Easy to use, macro lenses make it possible to achieve great images right from the start.

Sea & Sea makes two macro lenses for the Motor Marine II-EX underwater camera system. The Macro Lens 2T produces photos of animals that are one-half life size; those taken with the Macro Lens 3T are one-third life size. The lenses attach to the front of the built-in lens and can be taken off or put on U/W. This allows you to take a picture of your buddy one minute; quickly add a framer and photograph a nudibranch the next.

12 SKIN DIVER AUGUST 1998

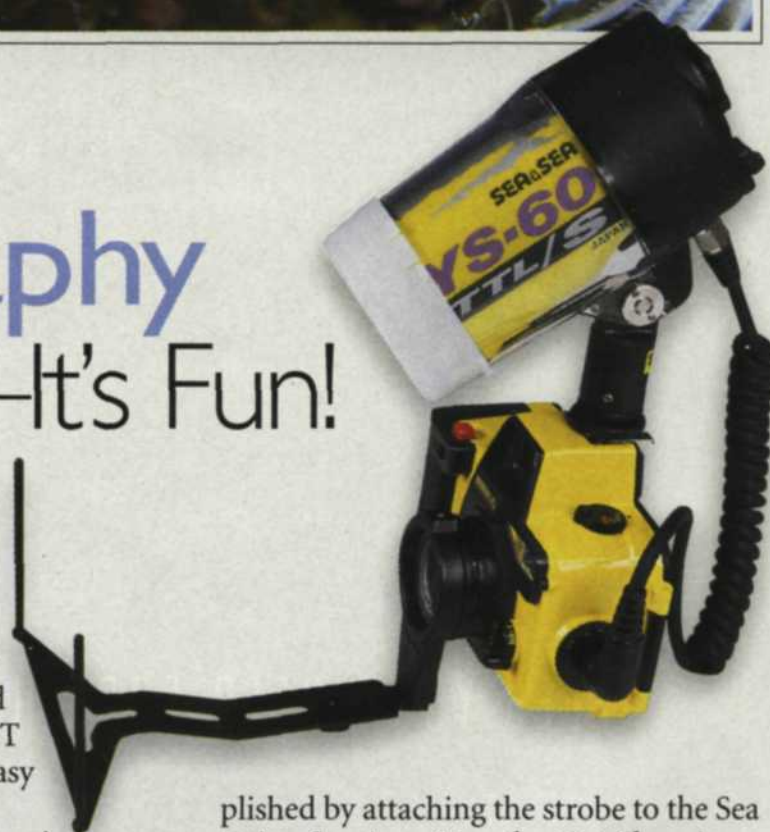
The macro lenses have upright bars to help define the image area and focus point. The Macro 3T guide rods detach and are stored under the baseplate; the 2T guide rods fold down for easy storage.

Even though a macro lens is easy to use, a few simple tips can help ensure high quality images. In order to obtain good lighting, you will need a strobe. Since the subject is very close to the camera, the strobe can be small. In our tests we found both the Sea & Sea YS-30 and YS-60 worked extremely well. There are several different positions for the strobe, but we like to place it directly over the camera. This can be accom-

plished by attaching the strobe to the Sea & Sea Sea Arm V or the Hot Shoe Arm. Take care to position the light so it shines in the center of the framer. This way the shadows created by the strobe will fall behind the subject and be minimized.

You can also position the strobe to the right or left of the camera on the Sea Arm V. Be sure to remove or fold down the upright guide bar in the direct path of the strobe light. If you don't, the

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strobe will create a shadow that falls on your subject. When your subject fills the framer area, TTL flash provides very accurate exposures.

Although the built-in strobe is designed mainly for topside photography, it can be used with the macro lenses. This internal strobe has only one power setting, so the exposure is controlled with the f/stop. Test this setup ahead of time to ensure good exposures on your dive trip.

You will want to fill most of the framer area with your subject. Leave a little space around it because the actual image area is slightly smaller than the inside the framer uprights. A good rule of thumb is to keep the subject two widths of the uprights away from the edge.

Since the focus is fixed on the front of the framers, exact subject placement is critical. Instead of looking through a viewfinder, check the framer area from at least a 45 degree angle to the side of the camera. When the subject is fairly flat, a starfish for example, use parallel focusing; keep your framer parallel to

the subject. Position subjects with greater depth at the front edge of the framer. Use small apertures such as f/16 or f/22 to achieve the greatest depth of field (area in focus).

Macro framers are best suited for photographing slow moving or stationary subjects. The better way to capture faster moving creatures is with a housed camera with autofocus capabilities. Sea & Sea features several models you might consider, see our sidebar for information.

A Simple Camera That Takes Pictures Like An Expensive One.

Exclusive bayonet mount lets you change lenses underwater!

Actual photo taken with MX-10 Close-up Lens. F/16, from 18 inches, ISO 100

Automatic YS-40A delivers the right light every time!

Infrared optical triggering. No chance of leakage at the flash connection.

No Experience Necessary.

You're just getting started in underwater photography and want a hassle-free foolproof camera that takes great pictures. The MX-10 can. The MX-10 has automatic film loading, advance and rewind, built-in 32mm lens, built-in exposure meter with LED, built-in flash. And with the new YS-40A automatic strobe, your pictures are perfectly illuminated every time. Add on a 20mm wide lens, macro or close-up and there's no limit to the kinds of great shots you can get. All at a point-and-shoot price.

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sea&sea macro lens specifications



MACRO LENS 3T

Lens structure: 2 elements in 2 groups
Picture area: 3.2 by 4.8 inches
Focal distance: 9.2 inches
Depth rating: 150 feet
Weight: 5.4 ounces
Focus knob: Set at 3.3 feet
Guide rods: Removable and stored in slotted grooves beneath baseplate
Price: \$144



MACRO LENS 2T

Lens structure: 3 elements in 3 groups
Picture area: 2.1 by 3.2 inches
Focal distance: 5.7 inches
Depth rating: 150 feet
Weight: 5.4 ounces
Focus knob: Set at infinity
Guide rods: Fold down to avoid shadow and for convenient storage
Price: \$185

The film you use should have an ISO of 50 to 100. They have very small grain, great color saturation, and excellent sharpness. Colorful subjects captured with framers on these films can easily be made into large prints of 16 to 20 inches or more. If you intend to create slide shows, then slide film should be your choice. If you want color prints to decorate your walls and put in scrapbooks,

sea&sea housings



CX-600:

This is Sea & Sea's compact housing for Canon's popular EOS Rebel G camera. It makes SLR photography as simple as point and shoot. A shutter-activated focus light is available as an accessory. The suggested retail price of the CX-600 is \$1,675.



NX-90 PRO:

This pro housing was designed for the Nikon N90 camera. The system allows full control of all camera functions and features more than a dozen different ports to accommodate a variety of lenses. The suggested retail price of the NX-90 Pro is \$2,175.



NX-5 PRO:

This housing was designed for the serious photo enthusiast who uses Nikon's top of the line Nikon F5 camera. This is the fastest, most accurate autofocus system in underwater photography. When we went to press, the retail price of the NX-5 Pro had not been determined.

choose color negative (print) film.

When you have mastered the basics of framer photography, it's time to experiment. Toplighting requires placing the strobe a few inches over the top edge of the framer. You can also use the same procedure to backlight subjects, but be sure you keep the strobe out of the picture area.

Advanced techniques can also be accomplished with the camera's internal flash and the YS-30 strobe. Set the internal strobe to the correct f/stop and the YS-30, used without its sync cord, to slave on. When the internal flash fires,

the YS-30 will also fire. This enables you to hold the YS-30 in any position without the sync cord getting in the way.

The Macro 2T and 3T Lenses for the Motor Marine II-EX enable you to record tiny reef inhabitants in living color. Take the time to practice these simple tips and before long you will be shooting like the pros.

For more information on the Sea & Sea Motor Marine II-EX, contact Sea & Sea Underwater Photography, USA, 1938 Kellogg Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008; (760) 929-1909 or fax (760) 929-0098. 🐠

A Pro-Calibre Camera That Operates Like A Simple One.

Actual photo taken with MMII-EX, 20mm Lens. F/11, from 5 feet, ISO 100

New! YS-60TTL-S Strobe with 105° x 95° coverage and three power modes

Exclusive bayonet mount lets you change lenses underwater!

Lens caddy holds two accessory lenses. Choose from 1:2 Macro, 1:3 Macro, 16mm or 20mm Wide Angle

Ultra-versatile Sea Arm V

Four shutter speeds

Creative Control Made Easy.

With the Motor Marine II-EX taking professional-quality pictures is easy. Automatic features make operation simple: auto film loading and advance, power rewind, ISO indexing, exposure metering, in-viewfinder LED, and four shutter speeds that sync for TTL flash photography. Its built-in close-up lens focuses to 18 inches at a flip of a switch. With four accessory lenses and four dedicated strobes, your artistic potential is infinite. The MMII-EX, an uncomplicated system that performs like a pro.

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