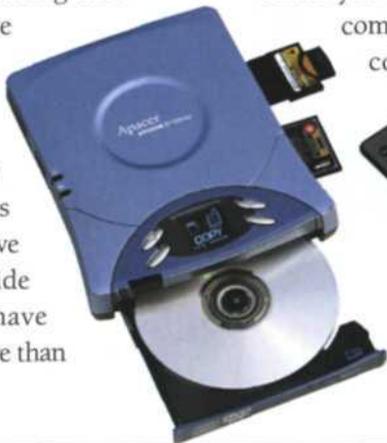


# Smart Saves for Digital Images

ELIMINATING THE RISK OF LOSING HARD-WON SHOTS AND BRINGING THEM HOME INTACT

TEXT & PHOTOS BY JACK & SUE DRAFAHL

One topic that greatly concerns many new digital photographers is how to store images during dive expeditions so they arrive home safely. There is no set solution to this problem, as underwater photographers seem to have different agendas for their images. What we can do to help is provide several solutions we have used for storing our more than 20,000 digital images.



## LAPTOP WITH A CD/DVD BURNER

This solution provides the most options since you can download images to your computer via a card reader or camera communications cable and preview your images between dives. On a couple of our recent trips, we were surprised to see photographers saving their images solely to the laptop hard disk. We consider this

## Digital-Camera File-Storage Options

>> Store your images on your laptop's hard disk. >> Burn your images to a CD via a laptop, and store a second copy on its hard disk. >> Use a separate memory card for each dive or each day's dives. >> Keep your images on a portable hard disk. >> Record your images to a portable CD burner that doesn't require the use of your laptop. >> Make two CD copies, and store them separately when traveling home.

very dangerous. Computers do crash, and with the higher heat and humidity in dive locations, your computer is even more at risk. Remember that every time you go through airport security, you must now separate yourself from your laptop, so there is always the threat of theft or damage.

The solution: Organize your images according to dive days, and burn off a copy on CD of each day's dive. Each CD can hold about 700 MB (megabytes), so buy a stack of blank CDs (a small price to pay to ensure your images are saved). When you travel home, store the burned CDs in a different place than your laptop, just for added insurance.

You will notice that we do not mention burning images to DVD. The main reason is that a DVD can store up to 4.7 GB (gigabytes) of data. That's a lot of images to store in one place, and if it becomes damaged, those images are lost forever.

#### MEMORY CARDS FOR EACH DIVE

If you like to travel light, you can invest in enough memory cards to cover your entire trip. Calculate how many dives you plan to make, estimate how many images you will use on each card and then add a few cards for the unforeseen. We have found that a 128 MB card works well with digital cameras up to 6 megapixels, while the 256 MB card is great for 12-megapixel SLR digital cameras. If you want to gang up an entire day on one card, consider either a 512 MB or 1 GB.

#### PORTABLE HARD DISK

One of the first storage concepts used to replace laptops, this device is a small battery-operated hard disk that boasts an internal card reader. To transfer images, merely insert the card and copy the images to the hard disk. Some of these devices even have viewers to allow you to preview the images stored on the hard disk. They are compact and usually cost less than \$400. The downside is that all your images are stored on one fragile device that can be damaged or stolen. If you do decide on this storage solution, we recommend that you buy two for added insurance.

#### PORTABLE CD BURNER

The most recent entry into digital storage is one of the best solutions we have found yet. These units consist of a small portable CD burner with an internal card reader. Most of these units burn multisession, which keeps

each memory card separate on the disk. Best of all, you can leave your laptop at home if you want, and the images can be viewed on any television.

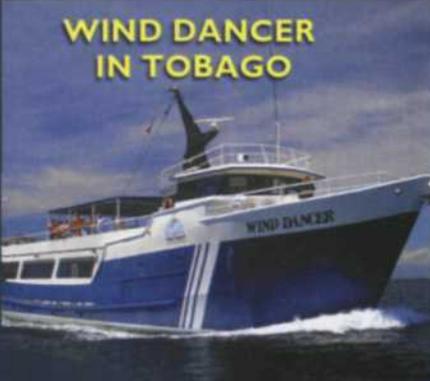
If you find that your memory card is not compatible with the burner, not to worry. You can find special memory-card adapters that take the new memory type and convert it to a CompactFlash or SmartMedia card for ease of transfer.

After many trials and tribulations, this portable CD-burner unit is our preferred method of storage: The Apacer Disc Steno

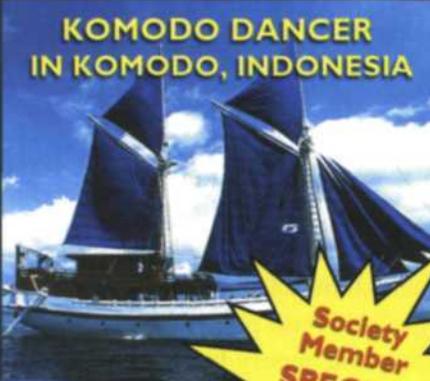
CP200 is one of the best portable CD burners we have seen. It allows multisession and disc spanning so that you can maximize the storage space on the CD. You can view your images on any television with a yellow video port, and the CD burner runs on either a rechargeable battery or AC/DC power. It can even function as a DVD player, so you can view movies while on location. The Apacer CP200 is available on our Web site.

For more tips and wisdom from the Digital Duo, go to [www.jackandsuedrafahl.com](http://www.jackandsuedrafahl.com).

# Get the Top Liveaboards

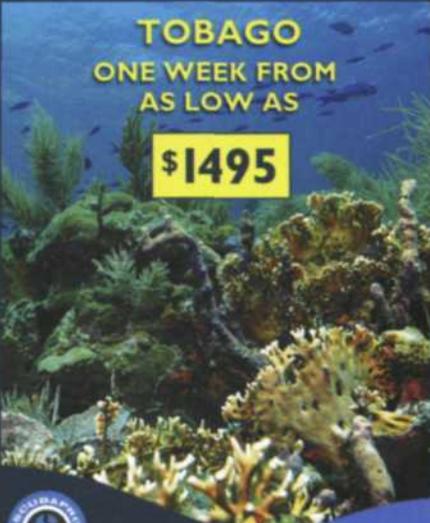


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IN TOBAGO**



**KOMODO DANCER  
IN KOMODO, INDONESIA**

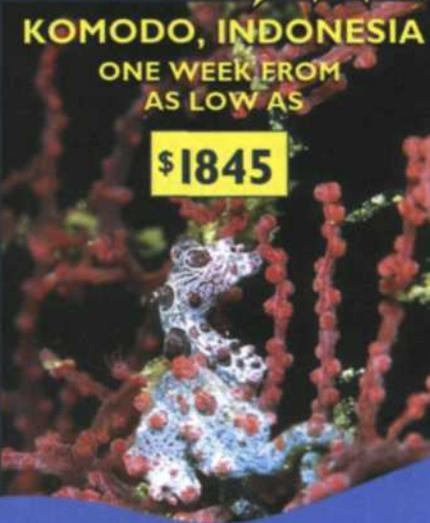
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**KOMODO, INDONESIA  
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