

AMPHIBIOUS CAMERAS

Sea & Sea Motormarine II-EX

A versatile camera system with lenses that can be changed U/W!

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
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With most underwater camera systems today, you must decide what type of photos you want to take before you get into the water. For one dive, you might set up extension tubes for macro and, on the next, put on a wide angle lens. The problem is that the animals under the boat don't have the same schedule you do. You inevitably end up with a macro lens when a school of Hammerhead Sharks appears or find a macro heaven when you have the

of both wide angle and macro conversion lenses.

The focus control knob allows focusing from infinity down to three feet. When you turn the focus control fully clock-

wise, a close-up lens inside the camera swings in behind the lens and changes the primary focus to 18 inches. The focus control has three click stops for easy location of infinity, 3 feet and 18 inches.

The aperture control has settings from f/3.5 to f/22. Standard exposure symbols of the sun, cloudy bright and cloudy are next to the corresponding f/stops. This helps when you use this camera for topside photos with ISO 100 film at 1/125 second. Both the focus and f/stop controls have a post extending from the dial, allowing easy manipulation even when wearing gloves.

The Motormarine II-EX features a shutter lock to prevent accidental firing. With the flip of a coin, you can open the battery compartment. This releases a battery holder in the bottom of the camera, into which fit two AA batteries.

The built-in flash allows you to take pictures when there isn't enough ambient light. This is recommended for topside use only, it can cause backscatter U/W. When you decide to use this flash, simply turn the dial to a special sync speed. In a few seconds, a small lighting bolt will appear inside the viewfinder, indicating the flash is ready.

An external flash is recommended for U/W use. Three systems were designed for the Motormarine II-EX. The YS-50TTL-S, YS-120 Duo and the YS-300TTL-S all connect to the side of the camera via a special, angled four pin connector. Each system synchronizes



Motormarine II-EX with flash arm featuring the YS-50TTL-S strobe. The special lens caddy attachment allows for instant underwater access to your macro and ultra wide angle lenses.

wide angle lens. The first solution is to take a good luck charm with you and hope for the best. The pros load a camera for each situation and jump into the water with camera-bearing buddies.

The most practical solution, however, is Sea & Sea's Motormarine II-EX. The key to the system is its adaptability. It allows you to change lenses from macro to ultra wide angle in seconds—underwater! You can jump in and capture those wide angle shots as the school of Hammerhead Sharks cruises the reef. A quick lens change and you can turn around and capture a macro photo of a nudibranch. When you tire of the small critters, remove that lens and take pictures using only the standard lens.

To understand just how this one camera can allow you to capture all these images on one dive, we'll take you on a personal tour of the Motormarine II-EX system. When you first pick up the camera you will notice it is made of a very lightweight, molded polycarbonate. This eliminates most of the metal parts and keeps corrosion and camera maintenance to a minimum.

On the front of the camera you will find two controls for focus and aperture. The watertight 35mm f/3.5 primary lens has an angle of view of 46 degrees (62 degrees topside) and allows you to take general U/W pictures without adding any other optics. This lens has a bayonet mount on the front to allow the addition

TTL flash photography at speeds of 1/15, 1/30, 1/60 and 1/125. The four combinations allow the underwater photographer to create flash fill pictures at various depths. As you go deeper, merely reduce the flash sync speed to match the available light.

The Motormarine II-EX offers fully integrated TTL (through the lens) metering with the three Sea & Sea strobes. A viewfinder LED indicates underexposure, flash ready, confirmation of TTL and battery and winder status. An accessory shoe on the top of the finder accepts an additional viewfinder for the wider angle lenses.

The backdoor opens by pulling the button forward on the side of the camera. This allows easy loading and unloading of film of three speeds: 50, 100 or 400. To load film, open the back of the camera, drop in the film cartridge with the leader lying over the take-up spool, then close the back. Press the shutter several times until exposure one is indicated in the counter on top of the camera. Rewinding the film is made easy by the motor drive mechanism. The rewind lever is on the bottom of the camera.

Four lenses are designed to mount on the front of the Motormarine II-EX. Each is attached over the standard 35mm lens. The 16mm f/5.6 Wide Conversion Lens covers an angle of 91 degrees and can focus down to one foot at f/22. The 20mm f/5.5 Wide Conversion Lens expands the angle of view to 80 degrees and allows focus down to 1.3 feet when the primary lens is set at f/22.

The Macro 2T and 3T lenses also mount on the 35mm lens and allow for

picture areas of 3.2 by 2.1 inches and 4.8 by 3.2 inches, respectively. The upright arms on the Macro 2T framer easily fold down when not in use or when you want to remove a framer shadow. The Macro 3T features removable guide rods that store in slotted grooves beneath the baseplate.

A special flash arm and baseplate attaches to the bottom of the Motormarine II-EX body and holds any of the three Sea & Sea flashes mentioned earlier. The arm itself can be extended to its full length with a built-in slide rail.

When you extend the arm, you can add a unique device called a lens caddy. It has bayonet mounts that can hold two of the four lenses available for the Motormarine II-EX. This makes it easy to carry auxiliary lenses underwater and increases your photo capabilities tenfold. When a situation requires a different setup, simply remove the lens from the caddy and attach it to the front of the standard 35mm camera lens. For example, you

may be shooting fish with the 35mm lens and spy a colorful nudibranch scaling a rock. You would remove the macro lens from the lens caddy and attach it to the primary lens. Set the focus to infinity, select the desired f/stop and you're all set to shoot.

You glance up and see a diver silhouetted against the sunburst. Quickly remove the macro lens and attach a wide angle lens. The focus is already set, all you do is decide which f/stop to use. If you are shooting available light, you could fire several frames in quick succession, thanks to the built-in motor drive.

If you don't want to mount the lens caddy on the upper part of the flash arm, you can use the touch-fastener closing strap to secure it to the lower part of the arm. This will allow you to bring the flash to a lower position for a different lighting effect.

CONCLUSION

If we had to sum up the Motormarine II-EX camera system in one word, it would be "freedom." It offers you the freedom to dive without wondering if you have the right setup for the photo opportunities you may encounter. With the Motormarine II-EX you can enjoy your dive knowing you have the right stuff. Since the camera and standard lens can be used topside, you're truly free to capture it all. Sea & Sea's Motormarine II-EX system gives you the freedom to have fun!

For more information on the Motormarine II-EX please contact Sea & Sea Underwater Photography USA, 2105-L Camino Vida Roble, Carlsbad, CA 92009; (619) 929-1909, fax (619) 929-0098. 🐟

SEA & SEA MOTORMARINE II-EX AND ACCESSORIES

Motormarine II-EX camera	\$672
Macro lens ML-II/3T	\$133
Macro lens ML-II/2T	\$172
20mm Wide Conversion Lens	\$355
16mm Wide Conversion Lens	\$332
Lens Caddy LH-II	\$49
YS-50TTL-S strobe kit	\$537
YS-120 Duo strobe	\$783
YS-300TTL-S strobe	\$1,000

The Motormarine II-EX (below) with standard 35mm f/3.5 lens. Upper right: The Macro 2T lens with close-up framer. Bottom right: Wide Conversion Lens.

