

U/W PHOTO EQUIPMENT

Sea & Sea's Dynamic Duo

THE YS-120 AND YS-30 STROBES

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACK & SUE DRAFAHL

Successful underwater photography depends a lot on the flexibility of your system. Sea & Sea Photography, USA offers a variety of strobes, lenses, sync cords, arms and cameras for every experience level. In addition, Sea & Sea also makes a variety of items for the ever popular Nikonos system. In this spirit of compatibility, Sea & Sea now offers the dynamic Duo strobes. The YS-120 Duo was introduced in 1995 but the YS-30 Duo is new this year. These powerful, yet compact strobes use a unique dual circuit system that accepts both four and five pin connectors so they can work with Sea & Sea and Nikonos cameras. To change from one system to the other, you merely change sync cords; the strobe will automatically know which camera is running the show.

The YS-120 is the most popular strobe made by Sea & Sea because it is so versatile. It has a beam angle of 105 degrees so just one YS-120 can easily cover a 15 or 20mm lens with minimal falloff. The battery compartment holds eight AA-cells so you can make several dives without changing batteries. The batteries also contribute to the fast recycle time; three seconds with nickel-cadmiums, four seconds with alkalines. The strobe's main electronics are sealed from the battery compartment; if the compartment should flood, simply rinse it with fresh water, dry it, put in fresh batteries and you are ready to take photos again.



The YS-120 was the main strobe for this shot. Set on TTL, the YS-30 served as a cordless slave, filling in the shadow areas.

The YS-120 has a guide number of 72 on land for ISO 100 films, which converts to good exposures in tropical waters at f/8 to f/11 at distances of three to four feet.

The YS-120 offers TTL, full power, half power, slave and test modes. It doesn't matter if you use the strobe on the left or right side of the camera because there is a set of ready and TTL confirmation lights on both sides. This really comes in handy when you are using two YS-120s.

The YS-30 was introduced at the DE-MA Show. Everyone who saw it was amazed at its size—it's small enough to fit into the palm of your hand. With a beam angle of 80 degrees and a guide number of 66, the YS-30 is designed for use as a macro strobe, companion fill strobe, a lighting prop or for backlighting. The most amazing thing about it is that it oper-

ates on TTL without a sync cord. This means you can have a master strobe with a single sync cord and the YS-30 mounted on a second arm without cords and both will work in tandem. It operates off two double AA-cells and has recycle times of four seconds with nickel-cadmiums and five seconds with alkalines. It offers manual, TTL and slave functions. A sync cord port allows you to use this strobe with any Sea & Sea camera and a Nikonos. Its small flash head makes it well-suited for macro photography but we especially loved it as a compact cordless TTL slave.

We did extensive testing of the YS-120 Duo in both California and Fiji and found it an outstanding primary strobe. We used it for wide angle scenics, close-up, macro and as a slave. We tested two YS-120s using Sea & Sea's dual sync cord, dual strobe tray and super wide 12mm (167 degrees) lens with super results. The YS-30 Duo went on a recent assignment to Fiji. It performed as a TTL slave fill
(Continued on Page 62)

COMPARISON OF SEA & SEA STROBES

Model	U/W Guide # (ISO 100)	Picture Angle	Color Temp.	Recycle Time (seconds)	Weight In Air	Retail Price
YS-300 TTL	49	100°	5500°K	4 (N)	4.4 lbs.	\$999.95
YS-120 DUO	45	110°	5100°K	4 (A) 3 (N) 4 (L)	2.9 lbs.	\$803.00
YS-60 TTL S/N	36	105°	5400°F	6.5 (A) 5 (N)	1.6 lbs. (S) 1.7 lbs. (N)	\$559.00
YS-50 TTL S/N	40	90°	5400°K	5.5-6.5 (A) 4-5 (N)	1.6 lbs. (S) 1.7 lbs. (N)	\$426.95
YS-30 DUO	33	80°	5900°K	6 (A)	12.6 oz.	\$395.00

A = alkalines, N = nickel-cadmiums, L = lithium

RIDING ROCK INN

the entrance to a 90 foot deep ravine that passes through the crest of the reef. There are several Nassau Groupers here that take great pride in getting underfoot and make great live photo props for your dive buddy. In addition to the groupers, a pair of large Barracuda also makes frequent visits; don't be too surprised to find one a foot or two in front of your face.

In addition to the groupers, a broad assortment of inhabitants include various

angelfish, wrasses, damselfish, butterflyfish and sea turtles.

HAMMERHEADS, ANYONE?

San Sal is also home port to a relatively abundant population of Hammerhead Sharks. Most prevalent are the Scalloped, *Sphyrna lewini*, which grow to a maximum of eight to nine feet. The same species is known to school in large aggregations (often numbering from 100 to 500) in the Eastern Pacific. Similar to their Pacific Ocean kin, the Scalloped Hammerheads of San Sal do occasionally school in groups of 8 to 30. They can be

found along the edge of the reef's drop-off at depths between 70 and 150 feet, particularly from winter to early spring. San Sal is still the only place on record in the Atlantic or Caribbean to feature this unique phenomenon. During a week's stay, it is considered rare for guests not to see a few of these T-headed rogues passing by. Presently, the most consistent sightings occur from the tip of Sandy Point to Telephone Pole/Turtle Alley.

Besides the diving, San Sal is a neat little island with miles of some of the most beautiful, deserted beaches in The Bahamas. Worth visiting is the Dickson

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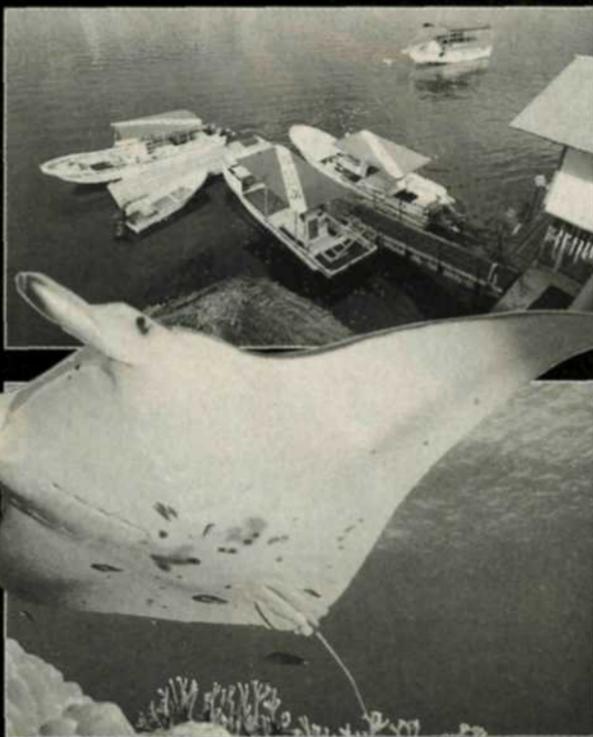
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BEFORE YOU GO AND GETTING THERE

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For more information and booking, write to Out Island Service Co., 1170 Lee Wagener Boulevard, Suite 103, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315-3561. You can also call (800) 272-1492, (954) 359-8353, fax (954) 359-8254 or e-mail your request to ridingrock@al.com.

Hill Lighthouse, built in the early 1800s and in its original, operating condition, and the ruins of the colonial plantations. The staff at Riding Rock Inn is more than happy to set up a short tour or you can grab one of the inn's bicycles and do your own exploring. With the great diving, friendly staff, good food and casual, tropical setting of Riding Rock Inn, San Sal, the only difficult part of the trip is knowing you have to go home. 🐟

SEA & SEA'S DYNAMIC DUO

(Continued from Page 22)

strobe for most of the trip. We put it on a short arm to the right of the housing, while a YS-120 Duo served as the main strobe on the left. Both strobes worked very well together and the YS-30 definitely helped fill in any shadows. We also tested the YS-30 as a primary macro strobe and found it hard to believe that something so small could pack such a wallop. The YS-30 even saved the day as a TTL slave for some of our topside guestroom shots.

If you are in the market for a new underwater strobe or two, consider Sea & Sea's dynamic Duo. The YS-120 (\$803) and its baby brother the YS-30 (\$395) will add versatility to your U/W photography system. For further information contact your Sea & Sea dealer or Sea & Sea Photography, USA, 2105 Camino Vida Roble, Suite L, Carlsbad, CA. 92009; (760) 929-1909. 🐟