

INON UFL-G140 SD

and SD Front Mask for HERO5/6/7

by Peter Rowlands

The INON UFL-G140 SD is a semi-fisheye conversion lens primarily for the GoPro 3-7 but also the Olympus STYLUS TG-Tracker, Sony FDR-X3000 and HDR-AS300 action cameras.

INON supplied me with a review lens for my GoPro Hero 7 black in their dive housing onto which attaches the INON SD Front Mask for HERO5/6/7. This is a well designed bayonet fit accessory for quick and easy mounting and removal of the UFL-G140 SD.

At its widest setting on land the GoPro Hero 7 Black covers 151° but underwater behind the flat port of their dive housing this is reduced to 94°. Whilst this is still usefully wide for most GoPro users, the full image potential of the GoPro will only become available if you use the INON SD Front Mask and UFL-G140 SD lens. This will restore the underwater angle to 140° and give an extremely wide depth of field which virtually eliminates the need to focus.

For the majority of GoPro users who want to expand the capability of their diminutive package, the first accessory they should consider is a base tray and handles, both of which INON manufacture and this simple non optical addition will make a significant improvement in overall image quality because the housing on its own is hard to hold still during an exposure or when shooting video. The base tray and handles transform the way the camera handles plus it provides the ideal platform to mount

the SD Front Mask and UFL-G140 SD.

The INON UFL-G140 SD is not much larger than the GoPro dive housing itself so it provides a very neat package.

The UFL-G140 SD front acrylic dome has five layers of multi-coating on its inner surface which provides the same image quality of optical glass dome at a lower price and weight.

The SD Front Mask is well designed in heavy duty plastic and has an easily accessed button to unlock the bayonet to fit and remove the UFL-G140 SD. This is especially useful underwater because the lens must be removed and refitted to make sure there are no bubbles on the housing or the rear of the lens.

Underwater the base tray and handles make shooting much more manageable. The left handle is for holding while the right one acts as a leaning post for the back of your right hand. In this position it is ideally placed to press the shutter to take a still image or stop and start shooting video footage.

Back in the days of film the 'go to' lens for a Nikonos was the 94° 15mm UW Nikkor and this produced some ground breaking images but it was not until the 180° full frame fisheye lenses were housed behind dome ports that things really took off. The only downside was corner sharpness, the solution for which was either a small aperture or a large diameter dome.





(Above) Hero 7 Black

(Below) Hero 7 Black with UFL-G140 SD

(Right) The big advantage of a wide angle lens like the UFL-G140 SD is that you can get closer and still include a large subject. This results in a much sharper, punchier image.



It is no coincidence that most modern supplementary wide angle lenses are about 140° which is the design trade off between image quality and angle of coverage and the INON UFL-G140 SD is no exception. The other big benefit of this lens is the increased depth of focus from 4cm right through to infinity so everything will be in focus.

The result is very much a point and shoot, hassle free combination.

The INON UFL-G140 SD together with their base plate and handles offers a very capable but very small and light outfit. The wide depth of focus will open up a whole new style of imaging with close focus wide angle.

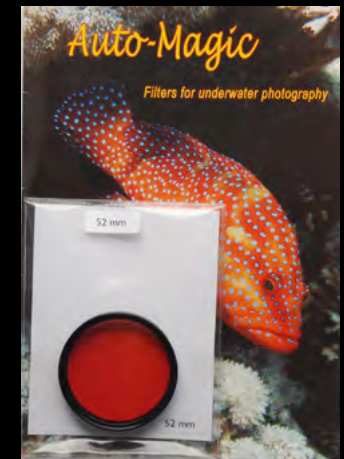
If you are serious about

your GoPro photography underwater, this combination will enable you to capture seriously better images.

The INON UFL-G140 SD costs £439.99 in the UK and the SD Front Mask for Hero 5/6/7 is £79.99.

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