

New products

Nexus housing for Nikon D100

The Nexus housing for the Nikon D100 digital SLR camera is now available and it is extremely compact and lightweight (just 1.8kg).

Unlike most European manufacturers who machine housings from a solid block of aluminium, Nexus housings are still cast aluminium. There is no real physical advantage to either method of production but the solid machining method is supposedly faster from drawing board to production as a mould does not have to be made to produce a casting which is then machined to take the controls.

The truth, in reality, seems not to be the case because Nexus housings are readily available whereas most other housings are in short supply.

The Nexus D100 housing continues the same design philosophy which has attracted many pro underwater photographers. The handles are an integral part of the design and they place your hands/fingers very ergonomically. However, on a camera with so many buttons and dials, no manufacturer could get all of the controls in the perfect place but the Nexus does a pretty good job.

All of the controls are mechanical and they include Function dial, Flash sync mode



button, Exposure compensation button, Shutter release button, Power switch, Focus mode selector, Sub-Command Dial (Aperture), Main-Command Dial (Command), Multi selector, Protect button, Enter button, Delete button, Focus area lock switch.

Whilst all of the rotating controls are very easy to use, the small push button ones are not quite so easy. The reason is that

they have to be pushed down flush or even slightly further than the perspex (plexiglas) plate in which they are housed. Some of these controls are also very close together which can be confusing.

I think the reason these controls operate as they do is because they look very similar to those used in the highly popular range of Olympus digital housings but, because the



perspex plate is quite a bit thicker, the operation of the control is not as good, especially with gloves. Also other manufacturers offset the controls inside the housing so that the controls, on the outside, are further apart.

A simple solution to improve the Nexus design would be to remove the inner rubber covers on the internal buttons and replace them with ones just slightly longer (perhaps as little as 2-3mm) and I think this would help a great deal. Another alternative would be to make the external buttons longer and I understand Nexus are working on this.

The two halves of the housing are retained by traditional spring-loaded overcentre catches which are positive and secure. However care has to be taken when undoing them not to get your fingers trapped between the catch and the handle. As far as I can remember, this has always been the case with previous Nexus housings so forewarned is forearmed (or should I say forefingered...).

The camera mounts positively onto a traditional baseplate and the controls align up well. The rear section of the



housing incorporates a large rectangular port to view the camera's LCD display and it is very easy to see through. The viewfinding optics reduce the viewing image size slightly (as all so called image "magnifiers" do) but the resulting image is full frame and the internal display is still large enough to view comfortably.

The Nexus D100 takes the same screw thread ports as previous Master Series housings so you should be able to accommodate virtually any lens in the Nikon range.

Two Nikonos flash/strobe connectors are provided and there are two extra ports for customising purposes. The internal design of the flash connections is unpluggable so it would be possible to have a "manual" (i.e. non DTTL) connector if you aren't using a Nikon DTTL strobe or a fully DTTL one if you are.

The Nexus D100 housing is an attractive, compact package with high quality construction and finish. It is competitively priced compared to other aluminium housings so if you are a Nikon D100 owner (you lucky thing) and you are looking to use it underwater down to 75m (246 feet), I would recommend you check it out.

As you probably have gathered this is a 'dry' review and by that I don't mean that I was sober when I wrote it but rather that I didn't take it on a dive (too busy working for UwP...) but I'm sad to report that I'm a bit of a housing anorak and I'd like to think I know a thing or two.

Hopefully, in a future issue of UwP we will include a 'wet' review.

Peter Rowlands
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Nexus Wet Lens fits UK Coolpix 5000 housing

The Nexus Wet Lens is the convenient way to shoot larger than life. Add it to your 1:1 macro lens and get a 30% increase in magnification.

The Nexus Wet Lens slips on and off underwater and does not affect your autofocus.

The Nexus Wet Lens is available in three sizes - 110, 100 and 90mm diameter so they may fit other systems but they can be fitted directly onto Subal and Nexus macro ports. In addition, as is shown here, they also fit the UK Coolpix 5000 housing.

For further details contact Ocean Optics.
optics@oceanoptics.co.uk



Ocean Brite digital lights

The TREK LED Light generates a very bright light (5500 Degrees Kelvin) with a 70 Degree Beam for use with your Digital Camera.

These lights are depth rated to 300 feet and will provide up to 5.2 Hours of usable Video Light at 5500 Degrees Kelvin.

The Cannon 100 HID Light generates a very bright, intense light (6000 Degrees Kelvin) when used with the standard UK diffusers will generate a



slightly wider 50 Degree Beam for use with your Housed Digital Camera.

The Ocean Brite 100 Degree Beam Diffusers are, optional @ \$50 each.

These lights will burn at full video power (6000 Kelvin) for 1.5 to 2 Hours and are depth rated to 500 feet.

The Ocean Brite Quartz Halogen Light (4200 degrees Kelvin) is more compact and provide an adjustable source of light for your Digital pictures burning 30 minutes at full power (33 watts) and 60 minutes at 1/2 power (17.5 watts).

For further details contact Ocean Brite
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