



New accessories for the YS-D3 Lightning strobe mount bayonet style, snap into place and are very secure, accessories include:

- Snoot- Reduces the spread of the beam flash to assist with creative lighting
 - Domed diffuser- assist's in widening (150°) beam spread
 - Flash Prism to assist with off camera lighting*
 - Standard 110° diffusers
 - Diagonal ball mount
- User interface:
- Power on/off - knob
 - Flash Duration adjusted in 1/3 stops-knob
 - Duration selection in guide number and EV +/- values
 - Backlit panel for visual confirmation of TTL and control knobs
 - Push button control for activating spotting light

In the real world

I've been using the strobes now in various scenarios over the last few months while diving from shore and by boat in California, Florida and Cozumel and have pushed the strobes as needed. Macro, wide, bluewater, blackwater and in kelp, I've trudged through parking lots and was even humiliated by breaking waves trying to get out of the water a few times.



I've also used all of the accessories and can report that the D3 lightning strobe's and accessories all performed well in all scenarios.

The life span of batteries depends on usage and output. I normally live by the "rule of thumb" to swap batteries after every 2 dives no matter what, but I've gone 3 dives without any issues.

Standard Eneloop nI-MH 1.2 volt/1900 mAH batteries:

- Full power discharge- 200-225 exposure
- EV +1.5 275+
- EV +1.0 power = 325+ exposures

Recycle times using:

Standard Eneloop Ni-MH 1.2 volt/1900 mAH batteries

- Full power EV +2 = 1 second
- EV+1.5 power less than a second but needs a little break after 3 - 4 rapid photos
- EV 1 and less - No waiting



(Above) The deep water diamond squid displaying its incredible colors, deep in the Gulf Stream off the Atlantic coast of Florida

Nikon D850/60mm/f,14 @ 1/200 | EV 1.0 | Domed diffusers

(Left) Shooting Sailfin Blennies is certainly fun and surely fast action shooting. Quick recycle times and fast shutter speeds are needed to freeze the action of the rapid "bobbing" movements, a trademark for this type of blenny. The sand and sunlight were both bright so I decided to carry that through and overexpose the background to create a high key image using different strobe durations.

Nikon D850/105mm/f,11 @ 1/400 | strobe power, forward strobe EV 1.5 | Rear strobe EV+2 (full power) domed diffuser

- Snoot- The snoot bayonet mounts and snaps into place (as do all of the strobes accessory items) allowing the user to drastically reduce beam spread when used. The snoot is equipped with a small diffuser which also decreases any harsh contrast



The flash prism works well to slave on camera or off and even works with off brand products that require slaving. They are highly sensitive and small and fit right into the strobe head.

when using the snoot while the strobes focus light becomes your snoots targeting light. Its accurate and effective for macro subjects such as larger nudibranchs. One thing that i like is that the focus aiming light does NOT turn off between shots which makes it easier to keep your eyes on the prize. The downfall of the snoot is that the aperture in this version is too large for super macro.

Domed Diffuser

I've used the domed diffusers for wide angle and CFWA and found that the increased beam spread is easy to manage and really works well against backscatter. In addition, the intensity of the output is softened slightly which decreases and smooths away



The D3 has large a strobe attitude, packs well for travel and performs like a larger strobe. Its tough to make a comparison to the 250 but i think we all want that strobe back. The D3 isn't the 250 but it sure feels like its mini me. Stronger than the D2 series yet, smaller and lighter than the 250.

“hotspots” resulting in better detail in the shadow and further smoothing contrast. This became apparent when shooting aggregations of fish, particularly when there are reflective and dark fish hanging out together. Ive come to love the domed diffusers with these strobes.

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*Gorgonian in California
Nikon D850/60mm+Kraken wide angle
conversion lens/f14 @ 1/40 | EV +1.5,
dome diffusers*





Framing a boat at the surface in portrait mode and taking advantage of the seemingly endless visibility of Cozumel.

Nikon D850 | Sigma 15mm | Sea and Sea Optical Dome | f,13 @ 1/1125, strobe power EV 1.5 (3/4 power)

simple with an easy to understand user interface and can be fired using either fiber optic cables or electric synch cords.

I know there is a huge elephant in the room in regards to the YS-D2 overheating issues (although rectified on the D2J model) but as more and more people begin diving again, I believe that these strobes will restore the lost faith. I find myself excited to dive with these strobes and feel that they can take whatever I demand of them, the simple, travel friendly design makes them an even easier choice for globetrotting or shore diving.

Blue water, blackwater, green water, macro or wide, I've found the D3 strobes to be fast, responsive and accurate. With quick recycle times and the new accessories, the YS-D3 strobe will definitely prove themselves to be the new flagship strobe from Sea and Sea. The dual strobe elements and domed diffusers add a new level of accuracy and beam spread that I'm very happy with it overall.

On land testing showed a sensitivity range on low power of about 10+ feet. Underwater is approx. the same depending on visibility, increasing the distance with a clear line of site. They don't require any battery power to operate either-FYI.

One of the things that keeps bringing me back to the Sea and Sea brand is the reliability of the product, ease of use, durability for everyday use and the power output achieved using standard Eneloop (or compatible) AA batteries. Their strobes are



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