



Nikon Z6, Nikon 8-15mm fisheye at 8mm, Ikelite housing with compact 8 inch port, two Ikelite DS-161 flashes, ISO-320 F/10, 1/60th sec

should be presented. One is that the image should be full frame in the 3:2 format with all of the black negative space showing and the other is to use a 1:1 format much like the old 2 1/4 inch medium format film cameras where less of the black space is shown. This becomes an issue of personal taste for you or your editor depending on how the image will be used.

Typical with all fisheye lenses is having to contend with chromatic aberration, (also known as purple fringing) in the corners of the image.

In the circular images CA appears as a 360 degree blue ring between the exposed image and the black negative space in the frame. Most CA can be removed in post with LightRoom, Photoshop and other photo software. I have seen much worse CA in other fisheye lenses but it is difficult with very wide lenses to avoid sunlight entering your images and causing CA. The best solution for this issue is trying to keep your back to the sun while shooting.

It has become clear that DSLR cameras are going to suffer the same

Kayaker, Ginnie Springs, Nikon Z6, Nikon 8-15mm fisheye at 8mm, Ikelite housing with compact 8 inch port, two Ikelite DS-161 flashes, ISO-320, F/13, 1/125th sec



fate as film cameras have over the next few years and manufacturers should be offering full frame users mirrorless fisheye lenses by now. While I can understand manufacturers wanting to flex by being able to offer exotic \$8000.00 F.95 lenses but is this really what the market is asking for? Perhaps they should take a look at Olympus and Panasonic who have had great success selling 8mm auto focus fisheyes for M4/3 camera systems.

The Nikon 8-15mm fisheye is a lens I would recommend highly for Nikon full frame mirrorless camera

users who are looking for both quality and versatility in a fisheye lens until a native fisheye comes along.

Phil Rudin
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Sony Action Cameras

by Phil Rudin

In the May/June 2021 UWP issue #120 I reviewed the GoPro Hero8 camera and housing along with some of the basic accessories for ambient light video in shallow clear water. This is a follow up review of the more advanced accessories for the Sony FDR & HDR X3000, X3000R and AS300, AS300R cameras that all use the same MPK-UWH1 underwater housing.

The Sony HDR & FDR cameras all look the same and use the same housing. The FDR X3000 will record up to 4K with the Sony balanced optical steady shot, it will shot 12MP stills up to 10 fps, it has a three times zoom with built-in noise reduction, built-in mounting point and much more.

The HDR AS300 version shoots enhanced full HD 60p, this version has a 17mm F/2.8 (35mm terms) lensed all of the features of the FDR camera. The R versions of both action cams includes a live-view remote with a viewing screen for remote control and viewing. This is a unit mounted in a watch band that you can wear while shooting.

I would note that both of these cameras while still available in Japan and some other areas of the world are discontinued in the US. The HDR AS50R is available in Europe for around \$350.00 USD with the live-view remote and much the same specs as the AS300R version.

Sony Action Cameras Housing

The MPK-UWH1 underwater housing allows you to dive up to 60 meters (196 feet) but I could

not find any depth rating for the camera alone while not using the housing. The housing features a flat glass port with a black frame around it. This ensures a clear view while underwater or on land. If you need to adjust the camera settings while in the housing it has six controls on the top and side of the housing along with a LCD screen to view settings.

To open the housing a cam release is mounted on the top of the housing and the housing front hinges at the bottom of the housing. The housing door holds a single O-ring that seals the housing. This O-ring needs to be cleaned and maintained after every dive just as any underwater housing would. The housing is included in the price of the camera with most packages.

Inon Accessory for Action Cameras

Inon Japan is the company that produces excellent accessories for underwater photography and videography. I have used Inon flashes for almost two decades and have dressed out many housings with Inon accessories over the years. Inon also has a complete line of useful and extremely well made accessories for action cameras from GoPro, Olympus and Sony.

The SD mount supports the UFL-G140 SD and UCL-G165 SD lenses I covered in the last action cam review. The lenses are worth covering again so this is what I had to say.

The SD front mask which holds the housing



also has a bayonet mounting point for other Inon accessories including the UCL-G165 SD Underwater Close-up Lens and the wide UFL-G140 SD Underwater Semi-Fisheye Conversion Lens. Both of these lenses will adapt to the SD front masks. I used the UFL-G140 SD Semi-Fisheye lens without filters. I would also note that I was filming in shallow clear water in the North Florida springs.

The very wide angle of view of this accessory lens made it easy to get very close to most subjects



without losing focus or depth of field. The SD Selfie stick allowed me to get much closer to shy subjects than would be possible with such a wide lens on a larger housing system. The wide lens attaches to the SD front mask by inserting it into the bayonet mount and turning about a quarter turn. You will hear a snap of the locking device on the front mask when the lens is attached properly.

At first I was a bit skeptical about how well the lens would stay in place but after four hours of swimming and moving around the springs the lens remained rock solid on the front mask. I even removed and reinstalled the lens several times while in the water without any problems.

The UFL-G140 SD lens has a lens sun shade that can be moved by loosening four small Allen screws that hold it in place. The shade can shift a bit and should be realigned to prevent it from vignetting in the frame. The shade also helps to protect the front



optic from damage if it is bumped into a hard surface.

The UFL-G140 SD weighs about 300g/10.6 oz on land and 153g/5.4oz underwater. The UFL-G140 SD has a maximum 140 degrees angle of view was 94 degree Hero lens. The UFL-G140 SD retails for around \$390.00 in the US.

The Inon monitor housing is a dedicated U/W housing for the Sony RM-LVR3 live-view remote monitor sold with the “R” versions of the Sony action cams using the SD mount base UWH1. This base allows the Wi-Fi between the camera and monitor to work underwater.

For a better view into the viewing screen the Inon UCL-165M67 and UCL-330M67 closeup lenses can be mounted to the 67mm threads on the monitor housing. This is a cool feature that allows you to extend the housing out in front of you and still be able to see into the monitor housing.



The Inon support system also allows you to mount one or two of Inon’s excellent LF2400h-EW wide beam lights. These maximum 2400 lumen lights have 12 power levels and are powered by 6 AA batteries. The optically designed dome delivers a wide 100 degrees of coverage underwater. The light also features a shade much like the one on the Inon Z-330 flashes that rotates 360 degrees around the four LED light source that allows you to shape the light to avoid blowing out bright sandy bottoms or hitting the top of the housing when mounted of a housing cold shoe.

The light also ships with a red dome for changing color tone at depth. The color temperature of the light is around 6500K, it is rated to 120 meters (394 feet) and ships with a wrist strap. Using high quality Eneloop batteries at low power run

time is up to around 140 minutes and 35 minutes when run at full power. I got two hour night dives with these lights varying power levels with power to spare. The lights are relatively small and easy to pack weighing in at around 390g/13.8oz. Check with your local authorized Inon & Sony dealer’s for accurate pricing of all of the items listed in this review.

I would once again like to thank inon.co.jp for the loan of the equipment for this review.

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