

Don't settle for 2nd best



Film - No Filter No
White Balance



Digital - No Filter Manual
White Balance



Magic Filter Manual
White Balance

Digital cameras have opened up new possibilities to underwater photographers. For available light photography manual white balance is an invaluable tool for restoring colours. But when you use it without a filter you are not making the most of the technique. You're doing all the hard work without reaping the full rewards. These three photos are all taken of the same wreck in the Red Sea. The left hand image was taken on slide film, which rendered the scene completely blue. The middle image is taken with a digital SLR without a filter, using manual white balance. The white balance has brought out some of the colour of the wreck, but it has also sucked all the blue out of the water behind the wreck, making it almost grey. The right hand image is taken with the same digital camera and lens, but this time using an original Magic Filter. The filter attenuates blue light meaning that the colours of the wreck are brought out and it stands out from the background water, which is recorded as an accurate blue.

www.magic-filters.com

DeepSpot, Warsaw

by Wojciech Dopierala

Outdoor sports and activities tend to make their way indoors and slowly, but surely we get the opportunities to enjoy tennis courts, climbing walls or even ski hills under the roof and often in the middle of the big cities.

Swimming pools have been here since the very beginning, even in the Roman Empire people enjoyed indoor pools with warm water. Nowadays there are plenty possibilities for swimmers but how about divers? Is there any chance to dive deep under a roof? but first of all is there a need to do so?

Well for both questions the answer is YES. Deep pools for divers exist and they are becoming more and more popular. If you are not lucky enough to live close by a convenient diving spot and you want to learn or practice your skills before diving trip of your dreams - deep pools are great option. For Freedivers such opportunities for training close to home is priceless too.

How deep are these pools? Well most of them allow you to dive down to around 20m but for example the famous Y-40 The Deep Joy from Italy is 40m deep and was the deepest diving pool for many years.

But the world keeps spinning, engineers like new challenges and so do divers. In 2020 near to Warsaw in Poland a 45m pool called DeepSpot was opened and become the deepest in the world. Until 2021 when in Dubai a 60m deep pool took the lead in this unusual competition.

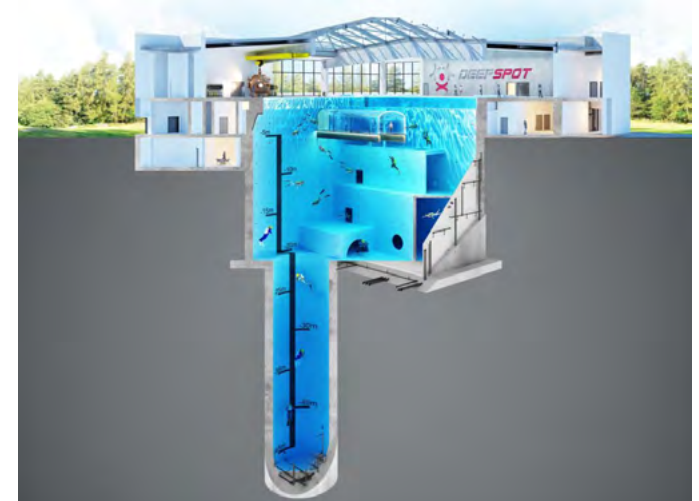
I was lucky enough to have an opportunity to spend 3 days and freediving for the first time in my motherland. I was invited by DeepSpot to enjoy the pool and take some photos there. It turned out to be a great experience and was more fun than I was expecting.

As a freediver and photographer I was “raised” in



the raw waters of Atlantic Ocean so at the first sight the diving pool didn't seem very fascinating; but my photography instinct was strongly attracted. In addition my friend Piotr (who works there as Freediving instructor) and I had already some ideas planned. And it took nothing to my inner child to get crazy happy about the idea of having fun in the best playground for the divers ever!

The very first impressions in the pool are related with the water itself. I am definitely not used to such temperatures.





32-33°C is something very surprising at the very beginning, but it allows you to spend hours playing around without even thinking about the cold (or wetsuits of course!). The second thing, and even more important for the photographers is the insane clarity. Powerful filters are taking care to keep 8000 m3 of water clean & clear 500 litres every second. It means that there is no problem with backscatter, low contrast, lost details and the colours are more natural.



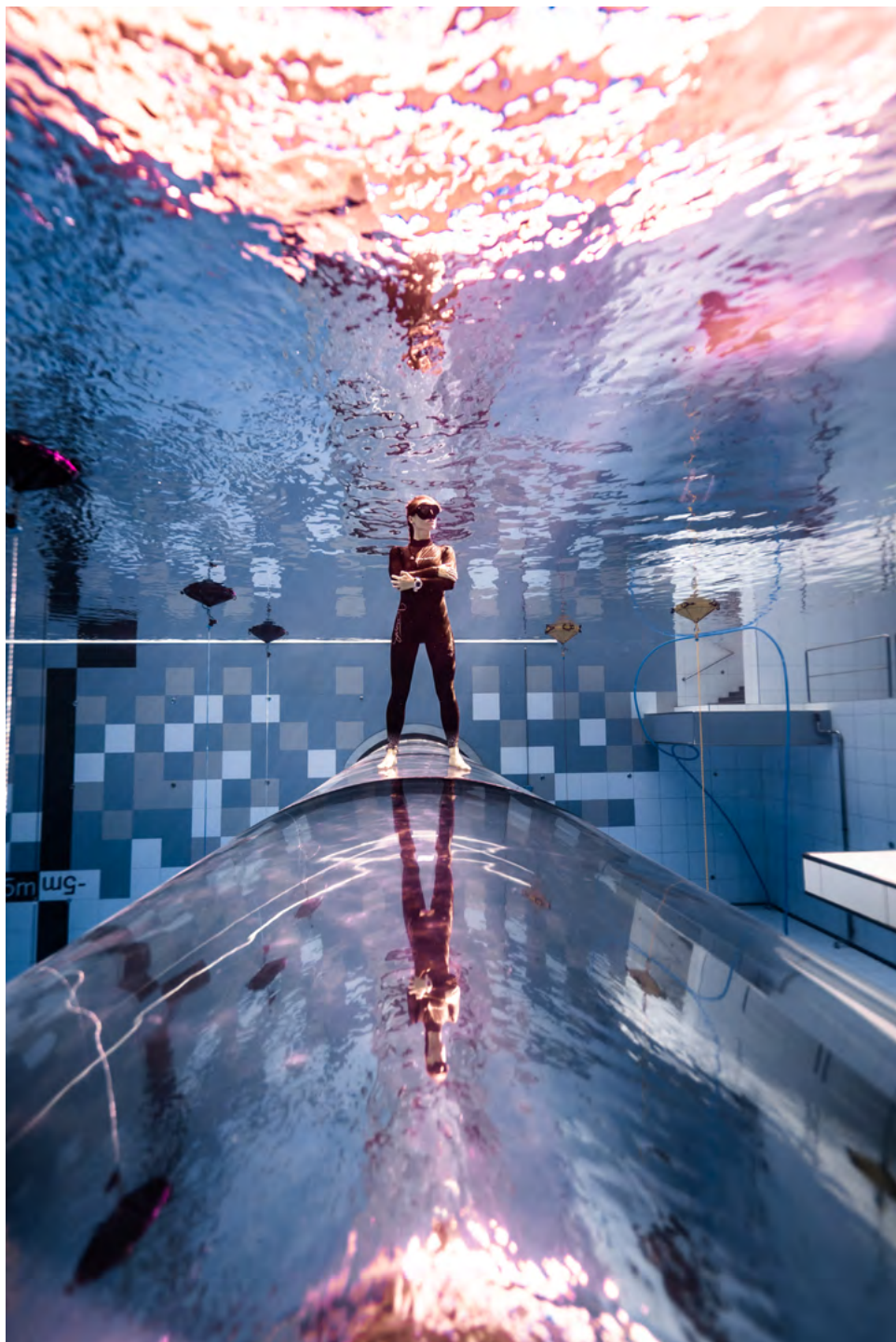
Used to salty water and the wetsuits I was very pleased with the freedom of movement with nothing more than a swimsuit, fins and mask was required. Slightly negative buoyancy near the surface gives the possibility to just free fall effortlessly from 10m to the very bottom at 45m. Altogether it made photography there a very pleasant experience.

The light in pool is quite tricky. During the daytime there is plenty of sunlight coming in through the huge windows and in the evening the pool is well illuminated with many lamps. Even so from the photography point of view it wasn't

so easy. I found the lamps in the evening easier for photography, but as they're not so bright (from the cameras point of view) I had to push the ISO quite high. Daylight is way brighter but quite harsh sometimes.

I took with me my standard setup which I have been using since the last year. The Sony A7III paired with the wide angle Samyang 14mm f2,8 in a SeaFrogs housing. It works well in the ocean and so it did in the DeepSpot.

For taking photos with the ambient light the fast lens combined with the great Sony sensor were



very appreciated and gave me the possibility to shoot without worrying about too noisy images.

Piotr had a fantastic idea to dive with his old MacBook and we made our first photo shoot around that plan. To make the photos more “real” we hid two Lume Cube lights inside the laptop. One was illuminating his face like a screen would do, and another lit the Apple logo. All together it created very natural effect of Piotr (who in fact is a programmer by the way) working on his computer underwater.

Our second photo shoot was with Emilia. Another freediving instructor from the DeepSpot and one

of the strongest and most experienced Polish freedivers. We were focused on avoiding typical photos of “girl posing in the water” and decided to play with perspectives.

Taking advantage of how easy it is to trick gravity underwater we achieved the photos where you need a while to realise where the “up and down” are. It was a great exercise for creativity looking for strange angles and new ideas. Of course in between we took some “normal” photos taking advantage of the light during the daytime which offers nice orange tones.

The third and last shoot was planned for Wednesday evening. That is