This tiny Polyclad Flatworm, Prosthecaereus sp. is on a blue Tunicate which is about 25/27 mm tall, the animal is 3 to 4 mm long. Scuba Seraya house reef, Tulamben, Bali, Indonesia. Sigma 105mm macro lens with a Marelux +15 C/U lens stacked with an additional MX+5. Sony A7RV, Marelux housing and two Apollo S strobes. ISO 100, F/13, 1/250th sec

Boxer Crabs, (Lybia tesselata) also called Pom-Pom Crab, Scuba Seraya House Reef, Tulamben, Bali, Indonesia. Sony A7RV, Sigma 105 macro, Marelux housing, Apollo S strobes, Marelux +10 C/U lens, UWT flash trigger. ISO 100, F/20, 1/250th sec

Mexichromis multituberculata, Scuba Seraya, Tulamben, Bail. Sony A7R V, Sigma 105 Art macro, Marelux housing, Marelux Apollo S strobes, ISO 200, F/22, 1/250th sec

tracking spot, single frame, if I shoot multi-frame it is always at five FPS with the Apollo S strobes set to MTL mode. Around 95% of the time for macro with the 105mm I am shooting at ISO 100 to 200, at 1/250th sec. I shift around from F/11 to F/22 with the higher stops being the norm. I set the Apollo S strobes to manual and the power level to 6 of 12 settings or half power. I have diffusers but use them mostly for wide lenses and I also like to play with the color filters and the SOFT snoot. I shift off of 1/250th sec. depending on the ambient light background, higher F/numbers are used for greater DOF at 1:2 or greater magnification, I favor ISO 100 and will tweak the strobes rather than go to a higher ISO if needed. I use the +10 and +15 C/U lenses most frequently but find the +5 and +10 & +15 stacked best for some subjects.

I have provided several photos for this review using C/U lenses selecting the amount of magnification based on my experience sizing up how I think the subject will fill the frame. My advice for those just getting into shooting macro is that life-size on is quite small, about 35mm on the long side for full frame. If your subject is not filling the frame in the EVF or LCD adding a closeup lens is counter productive. Once you have learned how to capture subjects at life-size then and only then should you add additional magnification.

If you have issues with your lens "hunting" try focusing on a fixed object like a rock about the same distance as your subject to get the lens into the proper focus range then move to the subject. If you only intend to shoot macro at 1:2 or greater magnification then setting the focus limiter from 1:1 to 0.5 meters will reduce hunting but if you are backed up beyond 0.5 meters the lens simply won't focus until you move back into the under 0.5 meter range.

If you own a Panasonic L-mount or Sony full frame underwater system and want to add a macro lens option or add to your current macro collection the Sigma 105mm F/2.8 macro provides excellent image quality at an affordable price with ports and extension combinations you may already own. The Sigma 105 macro is a lens I would highly recommend for Sony users especially if you love shooting beyond life-size.

I would like to thank marelux.co for their input and technical support with this review.

Phil Rudin
Instagram

The Author is the Senior Advisor for the Marelux Management Team

Scubalamp Snoot

by Alexey Zaytsev

Taking a picture with a snoot is not what you'd call an easy activity. But it sure is fun. Especially when you're just learning how to do it. I already have experience using snoots, so I can't be called a beginner. This time I was testing a snoot from the Chinese company Scubalamp.

It is originally designed for use with strobes from D-MAX, and D-PRO from Scubalamp. But with the help of special adapters, it can be installed on strobes of other popular brands: Seacam 150D, 160D; Ikelite 161, 160; Sea&sea YS-D2, YS-D3, and Retra stobe. The snoot is easy to set up on the strobe both on land and underwater. Push the button, twist and it's already mounted. When it's not needed, I stash it in my BCD pocket.

I usually dive with a 14-42mm zoom lens on my Olympus M1 Mark 2 camera and a VIFINE wet wide-angle lens. I have a wet macro lens Olympus PTMC-01 or Nauticam CMC-1 mounted on arms.

When I need to photograph small subjects I swap the wide-angle lens for a macro lens right underwater. In this configuration, I use two D-PRO strobes. The left strobe has a wide-angle diffuser attached. The right strobe has a snoot adapter attached. When the adapter is attached, it is not possible to use the diffusers. But the D-PRO strobes even without diffusers have an extremely wide beam angle of 120 degrees, so this is not a problem. When shooting small and small objects with the snoot, I switch off the left strobe. Adjusting the size of the light spot is very easy. You just turn the special adjustment wheel on the snoot.

Olympus M1 Mark II, Nauticam housing, YUNEEC 14-42mm/F3.5-5.6 on 12 mm

Olympus M1 Mark II , Nauticam housing, YUNEEC 14-42mm/F3.5-5.6 on 42 mm + lens Olympus PTMC-01 1/250 f13 ISO 64

By rotating the adjustment wheel, you smoothly adjust the size of the light spot. The Focus/target light of the D-PRO strobes has an output of 500 lumens. Surprisingly, the light spot of the snoot can be seen even in the daytime. But of course, it is easiest to operate the snoot in twilight or at night. Macro photography with the snoot becomes a real and exciting adventure. With my left hand, I hold the flash and point the light at the subject, while my right hand naturally presses the shutter lever. Interesting observation. The snoot's optical system is arranged in such a way that you