

Parting shot

I have always enjoyed photography and finally made the leap to digital a couple of years ago. The flexibility of being able to delete and easily store images was the main motivator for the move.

Before I had a digital camera, I went to the Coral Reef on my first scuba dive and bought a Kodak underwater camera. I was so excited to get the pictures back and so disappointed with the results. The colour wasn't there and I'd missed most of the shots I wanted to capture.

Things move on and digital cameras have become smaller (I have a Cannon EOS and my wife and Cannon IXUS 500) and the quality is much better than before. In February this year I took my family to Eilat and was keen to not only go scuba diving and get some better pictures, but also to capture my son Adam's first time in a swimming pool. I soon realised that it would be impossible to get a housing for the EOS, so I started looking for one for the IXUS. I was delighted to find that they were actually quite reasonable in price at around £150 from Ocean Optics.

I managed to get two amazing shots. One was of a dolphin swimming towards me ready to head butt me. Just before it swam past she turned her head and smiled for the camera and I have a beautiful close up as a result. The second, and perhaps more unusual picture is of Adam in the swimming pool. I'd been experimenting doing split shots in the

pool earlier in the week and never thought I'd be able to pull it off (specially with such a limited camera).

Taking the shot was tricky. Adam was just 4 months old and had never been in a swimming pool before, he wasn't even (and still isn't) sitting up by himself. My wife and I had him in the water for about 5 minutes and he was enjoying the feeling so we just kept pushing him through the water. Before we got him out, I said to Karen that I wanted some last shots of him in the water and started taking the split-level shots. I needed to keep most of the camera in the water and most of my face out of the water to make funny faces at Adam. The final result, about 5 shots later, is the one you see here.

Sometimes when you don't have the time to set a picture up you'll end up getting some great results. The colours are fantastic, the contrast between the water and outside works perfectly and the model is drop dead gorgeous! We love the picture so much that it's been blown up and put in the bathroom so Adam can remember his time in the great big bath of Eilat!

My wife thought I was mad spending £150 on an underwater housing for her camera that I'd only use a couple of times, and maybe she's right. However, I'm so pleased I spent the money as I have some great pictures that there is no way I would have got with a cheap disposable.

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Do you have a nice shot with a short story behind it?

If so e mail me and yours could be the next "Parting shot".

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