

Panorama update

by Peter Rowlands

Following on from my article on panoramas in the last Issue UwP24 I thought you might like to know that I have found the perfect lens to shoot the individual pictures which can be combined using PanoramaMaker software (www.arcssoft.com).

The lens in question is the old 16mm Nikkor which is a full frame fisheye on a 35mm film camera but when it is used on Nikon DSLR cameras such as the D100 and D70 it's angle is reduced to around 100°.

More importantly, being a non-rectilinear design, the geometry remains constant throughout the frame and the reduction in coverage reduces the pronounced barrel distortion almost completely. Both of these attributes are ideal for panorama making because the scale of a subject will remain constant throughout the frame and the reduction in barrel distortion makes matching up the individual images much easier for the software.

The resulting images are ideal for combining into panoramas as this two shot one shows. The position of the fast moving swirling glass fish obviously varies from frame to frame but PanoramaMaker has combined them to a very pleasing effect.

The camera was a Nikon D70 in a Subal housing with GS viewfinder and fisheye dome port,



16mm lens with a magic filter, preset white balance, ISO 200asa, Aperture priority, 1 stop underexposed, F3.3 @ 1/90th. The shot was taken about 7.30 in the morning at Ras Mohammed in about 10 metres of water.

As to who the diver is, I have no idea. He just swam past as I was taking the shots, looked in the

right direction, struck a good pose and breathed out at exactly the same time. If I ever meet him again, the beers are on me!