

Nexus Nikon D2x housing

By Peter Rowlands

Nexus is a well established Japanese housing manufacturer and their latest Nikon D2x housing continues their cast aluminium approach whilst nearly all the other manufacturers are moving to solid block machining. Similarly the Nexus D2x housing follows their traditional mechanical design in a form-fitting hull.

The casting is really fine and intricate and Nexus must have burnt some midnight oil to get a cast housing to market so quickly.

The front and rear housing sections are secured by five overcentre catches and are best opened with the housing in the upright position rather than face down. I've never been a fan of Nexus overcentre catches as they are very close to the handles and prone to trapping your fingers but I guess I could get used to them in time.

Installing the camera is a breeze and very positive but the camera's eyepiece cover must be removed and replaced with an element which forms part of the viewfinder optics.

The image through the viewfinder is good but if there is any surface action happening you'd have to remove the element and refit the Nikon cover. Minor detail I know but when that Great White is breaching...

The camera is mounted onto a saddle with a tripod socket screw and the only alignment needed is the MSC switch on the left. That said it is possible to load the camera with the shutter release



The Nexus Nikon D2x housing is cast aluminium with 26 function controls. The notched adaptor ring allows Nexus F90 ports to be fitted. Without the ring, Nexus F4 ports can be fitted.

lever pressed down which could be a pain if you don't check it and then get into the water in a hurry! It would be possible to fit a small return spring which would solve this possibility.

There are push button or rotary controls for 26 camera functions and whilst most can be seen on the camera through the large rear Perspex port the ones through the aluminium hull could really do with stickers to say what they are for to avoid any confusion when things are happening fast. The large Perspex port top right gives a good view of the camera's LCD screen.

The rotary controls for the two main command dials are particularly effective, well placed and positive. These are probably two of the most used





The large rear perspex viewing port is good for viewing the camera's controls but I wonder whether in bright sunlight the LCD screen could do with some sort of shade.

controls.

The Nexus D2x comes in two versions to accommodate Nexus's Nikon F4 ports or F90 ones which are a different thread size. The housing I reviewed was for the F4 ports but an adaptor was provided to take F90 ports. To my liking the handles are too close to the housing especially when wearing gloves but I understand extenders are available to create a more comfortable spacing.

All of the controls line up nicely except the dynamic focusing lever.

This a friction/turn control which would be better as a claw lever design. I don't use a Nikon D2x but I am reliably informed by UwP major contributor Alex Mustard that this is a function he uses a lot.

With such an expensive camera installed I would have liked to have seen a leak detector fitted but the large rear Perspex screen should let you see any water ingress.

The housing body weighs 2.75kg which is similar to the Subal D2x and it comes with two Nikonos style



The camera mounts onto a saddle with a tripod socket screw and is very positively positioned. The housing form follows the camera closely.

sync sockets. The right hand socket is placed so that there is no room for a metering mode switch control so if you like to switch from matrix to spot metering on a regular basis you will be disappointed.

In terms of price (which varies from country to country) the Nexus is dearer than an Aquatica but cheaper than a Subal.

For those who already use a Nexus housing it makes sense to stick with them and use your existing ports. You will already be used to working

with the Nexus design.

For those D2x users buying a housing for the first time I would take time to look at other housings because this is an important investment and what may suit me may not necessarily be your cup of tea.

One thing's for sure the demand for D2x housings is outstripping supply so you may need to wait to get your delivery.