

# Behind the Shot

with Martin Edge

Luck, instinct, creative or chance? I'm not sure if any apply to this month's 'behind the shot' but one thing I do know is that it's unlike any I have taken before and I cannot foresee an opportunity for repeating it in the future!

I had just finished a dive on the wreck of the *Giannis D* at Abu Nuhas in the Egyptian Red Sea. Our boatman was manoeuvring our small inflatable to pick up other photographers. With one hand on the tiller, he turned in a slow but sharp 180-degree direction. As he did so I noticed how this particular movement of the boat had 'slicked' the surface of the water. For a moment the water was glass calm and the sight of a huge portion of the wreck came into view. Whilst I had witnessed this phenomenon countless times before, I must have failed to notice the potential to make an unusual picture. I reacted quickly but instinctively. I grabbed the nearest facemask to hand, reached for my housing, turned my flashguns to 'off', and for the very first time in my life, set my camera exposure mode to 'P' Program.

"Someone grab my legs?" I leant over the side with just my face in the water and took about five shots looking down on the wreck. Within seconds the slick effect of the water surface diminished and the normal surface chop returned. Feet first, I was hauled back into the boat, eager to shield from the sun the LCD screen on the back of my housing to see what I had produced. I was hopeful! But had my choice of Program mode captured the shot in my mind's eye? Back on our live-aboard I could view the results in comfort. I was pleased. I felt that I had captured a unique angle on of the *Giannis D*, which I had not previously seen before. And whilst many of you may

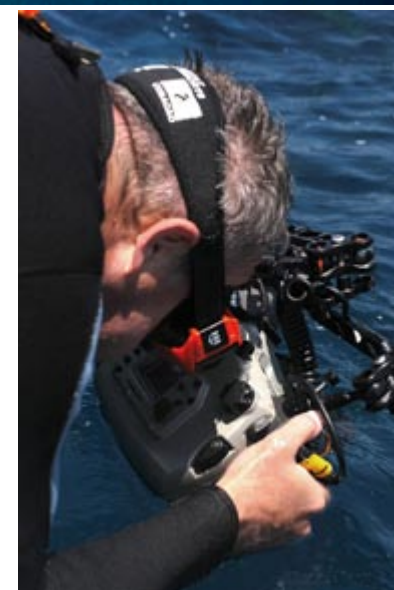


*Giannis D at Abu Nuhas . 250th sec F3.3 with a 10.5mm fisheye lens on 200 ISO .*

*As I was leaning over the side of the inflatable a member of the group grabbed the nearest camera available and snapped my antics. Notice the housing is only a few cm below the surface.*

have tried this technique before, I had never given it a second thought.

What have I learnt from this opportunity? Without doubt to act on instinct and reaction, no matter how barmy an idea might seem. Trust your judgement, your gut feeling and most of all, your eye. An opportunity does not present itself until





you recognise it as just that! An opportunity. Now I am much more likely to act on instinct than I have ever done in the past.

**Martin Edge**

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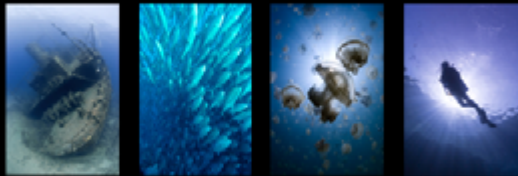
Photo: Martin Edge

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