

Editorial

DEMA and Antibes

Apologies for the late arrival of UwP45 but I've just got back from exhibiting at DEMA in Las Vegas and Antibes in the south of France. Both were very pleasant events but rather than include details of them in this issue I'd like to point you to some excellent coverage at

www.wetpixel.com

and

www.divephotoguide.com

Digital capability

The old chestnut used to be "Will digital ever be as good as film?" but now, with the advent of cameras such as the Nikon D3 and D700, we have a situation where digital cameras are easily outperforming film, certainly in terms of high ISO capability. This, in turn, should release a whole new set of images, never practically possible before, of, for instance, deeper wrecks in sharper detail. I say wrecks because they are of particular interest to me but what is so exciting about underwater photography at present is how these new capabilities are being embraced and will be used to produce a whole new genre.

Is enough enough?

An interesting situation was brought home to me recently when I tried to burn an HD footage video about Shooting Magic Filters onto DVD. Imagine my surprise when I found out that I had to compress/downgrade the image quality slightly in order for it to fit onto a conventional DVD. I say conventional referring to the universally popular single sided DVDs rather than the double sided or Blu-Ray discs with their increased capacity because the latter two, whilst capable of storing much more information, are not at all popular. It seems that the general public can see no reason to upgrade their DVD players and computer manufacturers have not fully embraced Blu-Ray.

In the old days there was a distinct advantage with DVDs over VHS tapes. The quality was visually much better, the size smaller and the loss-less copying capability quite groundbreaking so there was an almost universal takeover.

Now it seems that the general public are staying put for the time being and I suspect that the preferred method of video delivery in the future will be online rather than on disc.

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