

Sea & Sea YS-01 strobe

by Peter Rowlands

Of all the advances in equipment design and performance, underwater strobes (flashguns) seem to have benefited the most as more and more power can be generated from smaller and smaller units and fibre optic cables make triggering much simpler and far more reliable. The result is most welcome especially for the air travelling underwater photographer.

The Sea & Sea YS-01 is the latest to benefit from such miniaturisation yet it still packs a punchy Guide Number of 20 at full power and should give well over 200 flashes with alkaline batteries and in excess of 300 with NiMh rechargeables. The 100° angle of coverage will light most wide angle scenes and if 2 units were used they would easily light a full frame fisheye coverage of 180°. In addition the diminutive size is just 68 x 108 x 129mm and underwater it is virtually neutral.

A bright white LED target light helps ensure the correct positioning of the strobe head in relation to the subject and would be useful as a night dive spotting light as well. This light turns off when the strobe fires and lights up again when it has recycled.

The YS-01 is designed to be triggered by a fibre optic cable and there is also the provision to fire a second strobe with another fibre optic cable

