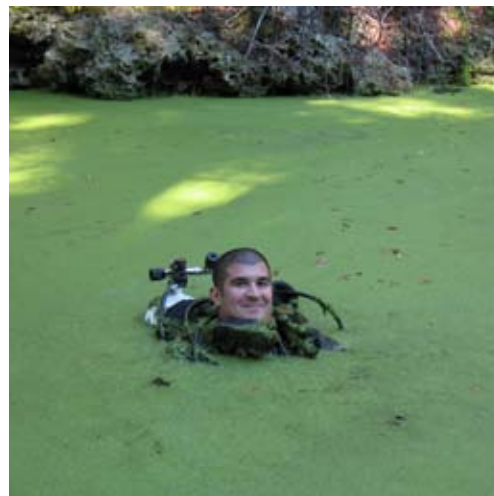




was great. It was not unwieldy, not heavy, nor cumbersome to swim with. The light output itself seems to be fairly even when both arms are used. It's definitely not a sexy piece of kit and there is definitely room for improvement in the aesthetics category, but until a commercial product becomes available, I'd recommend trying something like this yourself. Probably the main area I think needs improvement is not with tweaks in the design or construction but with my ability to aim the arms and adjust light output accordingly. I am already eager to jump back in and practice! This has definitely been a fun project and I know I will be using this new piece of UW photography kit often in the future!

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the entire setup in a bucket of water. I wanted to remove any glue residue with an initial soaking so that most of the dissolvable compounds would be gone prior to taking it underwater and in direct contact with my strobe or affecting the fibers themselves. I thought that this extra step could possibly protect my strobe rather than thinking later it could have been preventable.

Modifications would be made of course if a different strobe was used or if a longer arm length was necessary. The INON strobe that I use has two flash points which both fire, this has enabled me to isolate each flash point for each arm with the bundle of fiber optic cables but this may or may not be possible with other strobes. A larger single flash point would still be usable for a design like this and splitting the fiber optics into two arms would be just as easy. As I had hoped, the use underwater

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breaking the cycle of poverty that exists in the developing world. As of May 2010, we have established 241 elementary school libraries. We've put more than 150,000 Chinese language children's books into the hands of eager young readers. Over 50,000 children now have access to improved educational infrastructure. Together we are changing the world, one book at a time.

"Libraries put children in the driver's seat of their education," says Tom Stader, founder of the Library Project. "Library books are different from textbooks. Kids may be inspired by the teachers in lessons and then explore their interests further in a library. With a library their imagination gets involved."

Education is change, and The Library Project is creating change in the simplest way possible, by giving children the resources to learn and grow. To succeed, they need support. If you are interested in donating or finding out about other ways of becoming involved, please visit their website at www.library-project.org or contact Tom Stader at tom@library-project.org. Our website contains a wealth of information about each of the libraries we have donated in China to date as well as prospects for future libraries

www.library-project.org



The New Kid Named G11

By Lawrence Alex Wu

The Canon G11 might be a new kid on the block, but only to replace the already market dominant G10 which has won the hearts of many photo hobbyists as well as professional photographers as a must have camera. After befriending this newbie with its Canon WP-DC34 housing and some diving snaps in Bali, I realized that this kid really has what it takes to get those great underwater shots that I strive for as a professional underwater photographer.

Being accustomed to shooting with a dedicated wide angle lens which fits outside my usual housing on a dive, I am skeptical of the wide angle performance of most compact cameras underwater, never mind the young G11. But after a few snaps of adult diver sized corals fans (Figure 1), I was surprisingly convinced that the 24mm wide angle on the G11 with its matching WP-DC34 housing really has what most underwater photographers' need to capture images from the macro range to the wide - exactly what you'll see on a typical dive. As well, with two strobes from my own underwater camera setup and less than two meters from a giant moray, I could even frame in the

meter and a half high barrel sponge above it.

For quicker and easier ambient* light underwater photos without the green or bluish washed-out look, setting the Custom White balance regularly is essential and performs better than the 'underwater scene mode'. Fortunately, junior G11 can have his shortcut button - on the left of its LCD screen - programmed to perform this task, turning white balance calibration to an unbeatable SINGLE button action! So coupled with its improved low light performance from the new Dual Anti-Noise System and Image Stabilizer features, I wasted less time fiddling with strobes and camera settings to enjoy more of my dive with more great pictures and a new toy friend.

This newest G11 model now also lets you manually add or subtract the four principal colors to control White Balance; blue, red, green and yellow. So unless you are just too deep to shoot in ambient light, there's literally no reason to come out with bluish or greenish underwater photos with this new feature! (* photography that doesn't involve extra flashes or strobes and uses only the available



light)

Furthermore, with the two Custom Modes (C1 and C2) on the camera set for ambient light shooting on one and macro shooting on the other, changing shots with the G11 is literally a twist of a dial. Once programmed in, these custom modes will automatically preset much of the G11's settings like lens zoom, macro/landscape, flash/no flash, image size, continuous drive, metering methods, picture review screen, shortcut button, Av/Tv/M/P and much more. Word of warning though, if you use your ISO - which is not set by C1 or C2 modes - for shooting low ambient light photos like I do, remember to set it back to a lower ISO to avoid noise in your pictures.

The G11's focus point in Macro mode is 1 centimeter in front of the lens which means you can fit easily a whole nudibranch, crab or shrimp onto the full 10 megapixel frame - which also prints great



quality 12.2 x 9.1 inches (larger than A4) prints at 300 dpi. This is often where underwater compacts beat SLR cameras. Not only can they handle decent macro and wide angle underwater photographs with the same lens but also cost less - especially on

underwater accessories, weigh less and allow for LCD framing instead of having to fix your mask to a tiny optical view finder for every picture... imagine diving with a camera boxed in front of you!

Similarly to its younger G10, I found that the camera's LCD colours were actually more saturated than compared to the same image on my laptop; fortunately this is easily corrected with most image programs. Though the really great feature when reviewing photos on the LCD screen is that you can choose to show the blown out highlights...a common occurrence when shooting into the sun underwater. In addition, the G11 has an improved iContrast feature which helps reduce these common over exposed areas automatically. Another nice surprise was that the G11 downloaded all its photos and automatically rotated them on the computer - except for upside down taken shots which can you tell?...It's just something I do.

The partner Canon WP-DC34 housing performed well giving access to all the buttons except the main control dial next to the screen. However, the hard-to-find-documented replacement action which took me a few hours to find, is to hold the shortcut button while clicking the left (macro) or right (flash) buttons. So write this one down before you



lose track of which article you read it in. Favorably, this also works in most cases for the camera where the same dial is used.

In Continuous Drive Mode and connected to a fibre optic sync cord, the camera repeatedly captured over 20 successive images in one round at almost 0.9 frames per second after the first shoot. Perfect for shooting subjects underwater during an action sequence like mating or feeding. Maximizing the camera to that level usually takes a few more seconds for the flash to recharge, but even still, a full battery usually lasted me a full day of around 4_ hours of diving and shooting!

Worth mentioning also is that little brother G11 has a more powerful flash that can pack a punch over two



meters more than the G10 on land plus a new Low Light mode to take advantage it. This is one of those magic settings which anyone who likes night time people shots should know about. Most indoor and night photography flash shots only light up people - and usually unflatteringly - while losing the beauty of the background. But this mode automatically balances the ambience of night scenes like candle lit rooms or outdoor night lights with the flash to light up those lovely smiles too!

As well, the welcomed return of a flip out screen can offer shooting from all kinds of situations that can be very difficult such as from the floor or above the masses of heads in a concert. Rotating out the maneuverable screen also makes it the perfect

feature if you like taking self portraits.

So both above the waterline and below, junior G11 will perform for you on your dive with both wide and macro shots at your fingertips. And without a doubt, if you invite this kid to your kit, you'll likely be proud of the picture quality and find the seasoned signs of a mature camera in your hands.

Lawrence Alex Wu





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