

Housing design dilemma

For a lot of underwater photographers the advent of digital cameras which can shoot stills and video is without doubt a welcome arrival but for housing designers it represents something of a dilemma.

Until recently, compact cameras have been able to shoot video for some time but the quality has not been full HD. That has now changed with the Sony NEX-5 and there will no doubt be other cameras to come. This higher quality capability will no doubt attract the discerning user but they will be looking for a housing which is ergonomically suited to shooting video as well as stills and the two disciplines require different handling qualities.

I recently shot video with the Nikon D300s and Canon 7D in Nauticam housings and whilst the operation controls for stop/start were well placed ergonomically, the physical act of holding the housing up at eye level to see the LCD screen made it inherently difficult to hold steady. It was a bit like shooting with a 2 legged tripod. Now this is in no way a criticism of Nauticam as all other housing manufacturers suffer from the same limitation which is caused by the fixed position of the LCD screen which needs to be viewed when shooting video.

With the Sony NEX-5 the LCD screen can be tilted up to give a much more comfortable viewing angle and allows steadier handling when shooting

Editorial



both video and stills. Also, in terms of handling, you need to hold the housing differently when the screen is tilted up. The handles need to be angled forward whereas they are more comfortable in the upright position when shooting with the screen in line of sight. This may seem like trivial detail but it transforms the handling which in turn gives much better results.

The optimal solution is to have the ability to control the screen angle and the handle angle on the housing and then you can shoot both stills and video comfortably.

In the past, manufacturers have designed SLR housings to be used primarily for stills photography

but now, with the advent of HD quality stills and video, they need to build a design which can work ergonomically well with both.

I, for one, am awaiting events with interest.

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Readers Lives

First NAUI now Facebook!

I'm sooooo glad to read this in the last issue of UWPmag! I've avoided this competition on purpose for just this fact!!

However, recently I saw something much more shocking than this...Facebook terms pretty well say the same thing! All photos posted on FB automatically grant rights to FB to sell without further permission from the photos owners!!

People of course have complained...but there's just not enough media about this & as it's buried in tons of fine print!

Regards,

Lawrence Alex Wu