

Book Review

Underwater Photography for Compact Camera Users

by Maria Munn
by Dan Bolt

There is no doubting that since taking her first camera snorkelling in 2001, Maria Munn has developed a deep (no pun intended) understanding of underwater photography and has been able to combine those skills with her unbridled passion for the marine world to produce some spectacular images.

“Underwater Photography for Compact Camera Users” is Maria’s first, self published, book and as the title suggests is clearly aimed at divers and snorkelers choosing to shoot with compact digital cameras. Primarily aimed at beginners/intermediate photographers, there is still plenty of material in the pages to offer more advanced shooters, and even dSLR users, one or two interesting tips; good composition, light control and the basics of photography are universal across the plethora of cameras on the market today.

As Maria’s photographic career is testament to, using a compact camera is no hurdle to producing eye-catching photos, winning competitions and even getting your work published.

This book is based on her experiences of growing her own skills with a camera, and is logically laid out and takes the reader from selecting the right camera/housing combination, to adding accessories such as wide-angle lenses and external strobes, all the way through to taking split-level shots and the use of colour-correction filters.

What is a nice touch, and very helpful to understanding the fundamentals of photography, is that most of the images featured in the book are accompanied by information about the camera settings and add-on accessories used to attain the particular effect being illustrated. Many further examples are included which clearly shows the effect of changing just one setting (like shutter speed or aperture) will have while shooting the same subject.

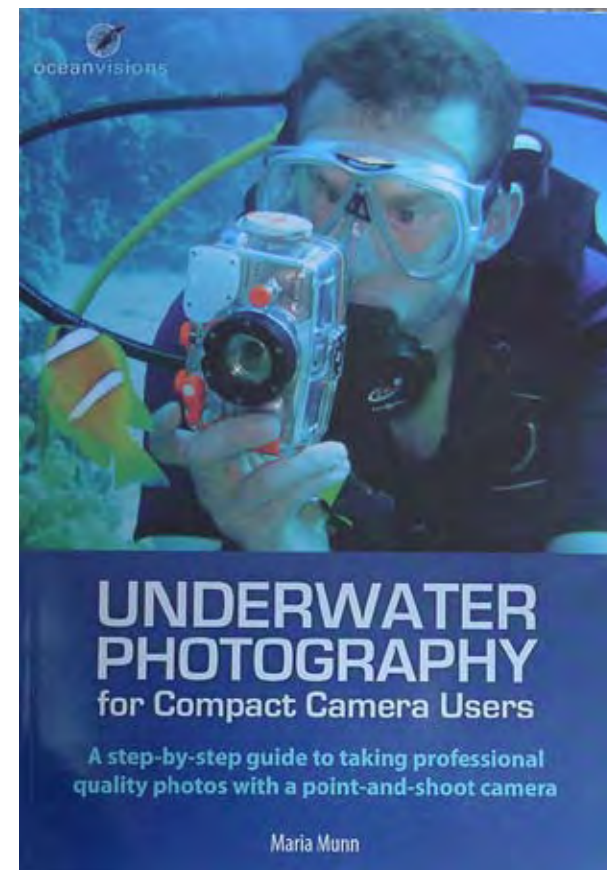
The 170+ pages are adorned with some of Maria’s own beautiful photographs from around the world. Many from popular diving spots like the Red Sea and Lembeh, with others from harder to get to destinations like The Sea of Cortez and Swanage Pier (UK!). This helps to strengthen the message that having mastered your compact camera, those skills will help you in a wide variety of conditions where-ever you choose to get wet. It was great to see the inclusion of a number of lovely images taken by

divers who had completed one of Maria’s photography courses which were accompanied by enthusiastic descriptions from the photographers themselves.

By far the largest chapter is that given over to “Composing A Great Underwater Photograph” and I found myself lingering on these pages more than any other. Here a good number of photographic styles like close-focus wide-angle, abstracts and fish portraits are explained in full with suggestions for both accessories and in-camera settings. Each style is, again, accompanied by sample photos to illustrate what can be achieved by applying the correct technique.

As if to prove how brave she really is, Maria has included a number of her own images that did not come out exactly as planned as an aid to the learning process. This is fabulous because it makes those of us who still manage to produce some stunningly rubbish shots feel a whole lot better knowing that we’re not alone - thank you Maria!

All in all this is a great beginner to intermediate u/w photography manual, and will certainly help you get the most out of your compact camera, especially for those heading



out to warm, clear-water holiday diving destinations.

The book is available from Maria’s online store for £17.95 plus p&p or as an EBook for £9.95.

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For Sale



Canon EOS20D camera and Aquatica digital housing with 8" dome and macro port

For sale is the housing, 8" dome port w/shade, macro port, and camera. All ports come with neoprene covers. Both ports have some small scratches on the outside of the acrylic. I will include a free sync cord with each port.

The housing has never flooded and comes with its instruction manual and I will also provide tips & setup advice (if wanted).

Prices are as follows:

Full set (includes camera): 1550EUR

Full set (without camera): 1450EUR

Housing: 875EUR

8" Dome port w/shade: 400 EUR

Macro port: 350 EUR

Buyer pays shipping from Europe. Will ship worldwide.

Glenn Lawyer. Contact me via email

dr.g.lawyer@googlemail.com

or telephone (+352 661 967 244) More photos are available.

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Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you! UwP is the perfect publication for you to increase your profile in the underwater photography community.

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

Uw photo techniques - Balanced light, composition, etc

Locations - Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards

Subjects - Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail

Equipment reviews - Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment

Personalities - Interviews/features about leading underwater photographers

**If you have an idea for an article,
contact me first before putting pen to paper.
E mail peter@uwpmag.com**

How to submit articles

To keep UwP simple and financially viable, we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:

1. The text should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail

2. Images must be attached to the e mail and they need to be 144dpi

Size - Maximum length 15cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 15 cm wide and verticals would be 15cm.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality. This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.