

# Parting Shot 1

My friend and buddy Pete Bullen told me about Fibre Optic Snoots having heard a talk by Martin Edge and Alex Mustard last year. We both decided that, 'I could make one of those' so we set about trying to build our own.

All those years of watching Blue Peter as a child had finally paid off. Mine started life as fibre from Farnells, Loc-Line from Cromwell Tools, some shrink wrap and Polymorph plastic from Maplins and a small baby bowl from Ikea! My wife Bea kindly donated some knicker elastic (from her sewing box, of course) to help secure the snoot to my Inon Z240 strobe.

Having tested the snoot in my living room and getting decent results, I was very keen for full sea trials. Pete and I decided that under Swanage pier was our dive site of choice.

Sadly, the British weather conspired against us and our 2 planned visits were both blown out. On our second attempt, we arrived in Swanage to see a 1.5 metre swell rolling in over our 5m dive site!

Two weeks later I was in Antarctica with the snoot packed into my camera bags; after all, it weighs practically nothing. Out of the total



10 dives we had in Antarctica, I used my macro lens on only 2 and took the snoot in on the second.

The site was an absolutely stunning wall in Paradise Bay. I set the snoot to be aiming downwards at an angle into the centre of the frame at just over the minimum focusing distance of my macro lens. It took me about 10 minutes to get this right, but after that, I could ignore my camera viewfinder and use the snout of the snoot to line up the shot. It worked a treat.

There can't be many home-

made pieces of underwater camera equipment that had their sea-trials in Antarctica!



**Chris Sterritt**



**Do you have an interesting shot with a short story behind it?**

**If so e mail us and yours could be the next "Parting shot".**

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