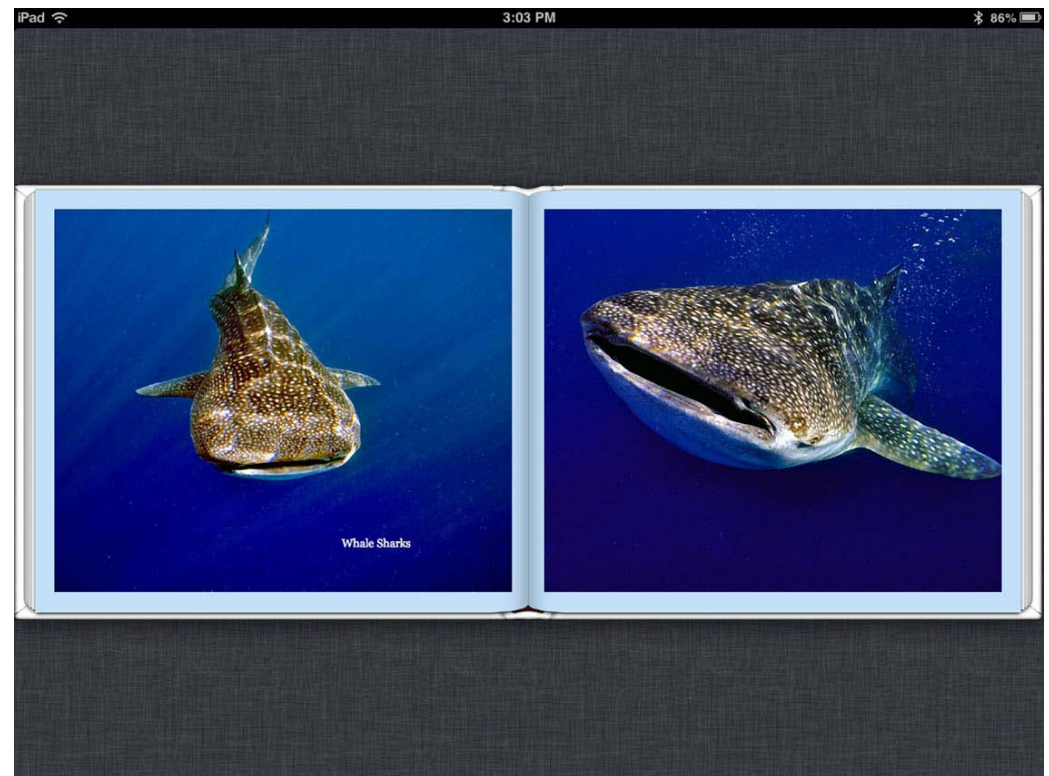
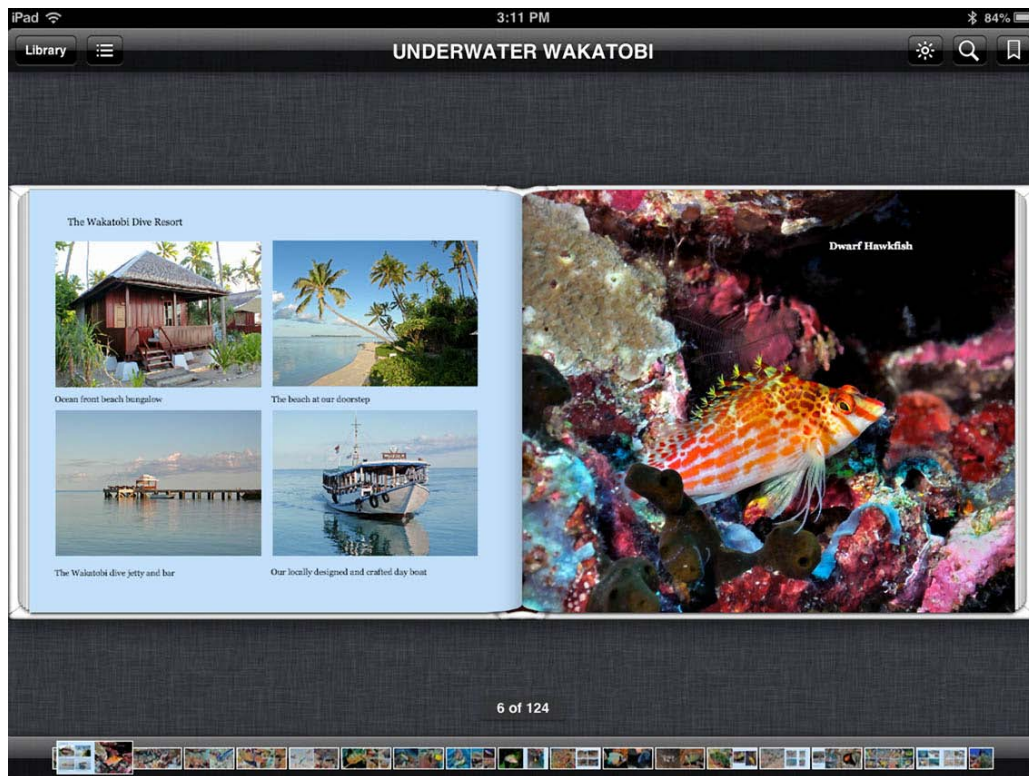




price to sell the book publicly in the Blurb.com Online Bookstore or allow it to be downloaded for free. It can also be kept private.

The process is similar: download the latest copy of BookSmart to your computer, import photos to select from and either follow a guided path or wing it which is what we do. Then upload your creation and follow the directions online to edit/convert for iPads. Blurb.com now offers the facility to create books online, but I much prefer to work offline and upload later.

I love to share my best photos from exotic underwater destinations and although I could be classed as a semi - pro photographer as I have sold images, the greatest reward is to see others enjoy them. So the majority of the time I donate photos and digital photo books. I get a real boost when contacted by researchers looking for images for papers or students working on thesis who want copies of photos they have found in these publications or on my website: www.ronlucasphoto.smugmug.com

In addition to personal use, I see

this process being of great interest to Professional Photographers, Teachers, Researchers etc. who want to produce low cost publications for sale in the Blurb.com Online Bookstore or to convert to a book for sale in the iBooks Store. Yes, Blurb.com now offer this facility although I have not yet looked into it.

Shown are some book front covers, double and single page screen prints from my iPad so that you can see the quality. Normally I view by expanding the double page so that only one page at a time is visible.

If you would like to download any of my recent digital underwater books for free to see for yourself before making one of your own go to the Blurb.com Online Bookstore and search Ron Lucas. Downloads do take a little while as they are bigger than regular apps.

Hints:-

Where possible include a text box with photo/species title. I started adding captions three years ago and they definitely improve books. Ask others to review before you upload



the book for conversion and/or printing. Be aware the more words the greater the chance for bad grammar or spelling mistakes. Do not have too many photos per page as then they blend together. I like between one and four. As with photography use negative space to good use. Only use good quality photos if you wish to show your work to others. Create, save and have fun with your own templates. Use the best possible paper and covers for print versions.

Enjoy.

Ron Lucas

Ron is an adopted Bermudian who supports the Bermuda Zoological Society by donating images and publications. December 2012 BZS published the 5 star app Bermuda Reef Life HD for Apple iOS devices featuring his underwater photos.

www.uwpmag.com

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eBook Review

Complete Guide To Underwater Digital Photography

by Mathieu Meur

by Dan Bolt

Having previously co-authored two successful underwater photography books with Michael Aw; 'An Essential Guide to Digital Underwater Photography' and 'An Advanced Guide to Digital Underwater Photography', you are likely to have come across Mathieu Meur's photos and words before.

The latest offering from Mathieu is entitled 'Complete Guide To Underwater Digital Photography' and updates both 'essential' and 'advanced' subjects into one single electronic publication. Yes its an 'iBook' rather than a traditionally printed paper-based physical product and I'll explore what that means shortly. It's also interesting to note that even now the word 'Digital' still makes it into the title - I wonder when we'll stop making the distinction between a camera and a digital camera?

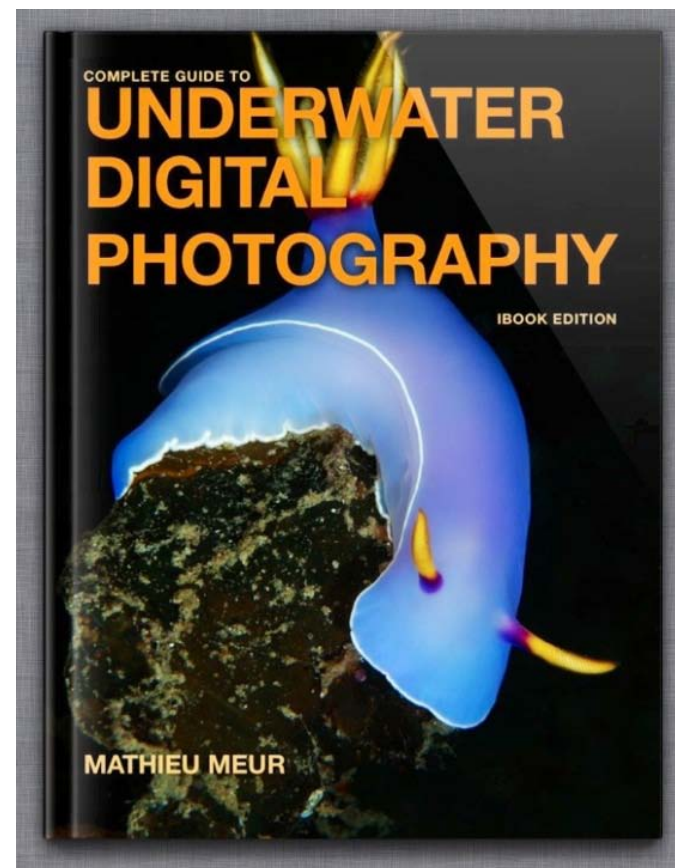
An iBook is an Apple based electronic document format which offers authors and readers greater levels of interaction and media-rich experiences than other e-book formats such as pdf or ePub. Obviously being an Apple format, purchasing iBooks can only be achieved through iTunes in the iBookstore and you can only view them on Apple products such as iPhone, iPod, and iPad. This may sound like quite a restrictive avenue for an author to take, but the ability to create a media-rich 'book' is an exciting prospect and one which can outweigh the restrictions of a tie-in to

Apple users.

Mathieu's iBook has embraced the technology with gusto, and offers over 350 pages of beautifully illustrated topics which are aimed at both 'an absolute beginner trying to determine what equipment to purchase, or a seasoned photographer seeking to further sharpen your skills'. 'Illustrations' in this sense not only means traditional full-page images of stunning underwater subjects such as whale sharks and frogfish; but also galleries of related images which the reader can flip through while staying on the same page, clickable illustrations to emphasise technical points such as focal length, and finally videos to showcase the capabilities of modern cameras to record more than just still images.

Earning its title of being a Complete Guide, the book covers many topics aimed at first-time shooters like selecting your first camera/housing combo and adding your first strobe. But rather than the book as a whole taking you through progressively more advanced topics as you read, each chapter is its own little journey from beginner to advanced information about the topic in-hand.

To get the very best out of this book you do have to read it from cover to cover. Take, for example, strobe positioning. Even advanced photographers can struggle to get it right, and I would liked to have seen a section dedicated to this single subject that covered all the various



techniques. The information you need to learn about strobe position is actually in the book, but its spread out over a number of chapters and it can take a feat of memory to remember the different techniques mentioned. Happily though, iBooks allow you to make notes & add bookmarks so you can easily save all the relevant pages clustered together in your bookmark list.

Through-out the book Mathieu uses his own stunning photographs taken from a wealth of different dive-sites from around the world to emphasise the technical points being made. There are also some entertaining illustrations used where