

Fisheye FIX NEO Remote Controller

by Jussi Hokkanen

Fisheye FIX Neo remote kit Almost everything seems to be already invented for underwater photography so it's quite rare to bump on to a novel product. However, when I do, I still get a bit excited. Fisheye's FIX light remote system has been bubbling under for some time so it's not necessarily news for the initiated but now the system is finally physically ready for sale and I have before me one of the first FIX Neo Remote Controller FR1 units in Europe.

Fisheye FIX NEO Remote is a small controller unit for the new Fisheye FIX Neo DX series video lights. You can read about the lights [HERE](#). The FR1 will also work with previous FIX Aquavolt products. Fisheye FIX Neo remote The idea of the unit is of course that you can control your video lights without reaching for them. The remote controller unit itself can be mounted in various positions on your housing set-up where it is easily reachable. The optimal placement would of course be on top of your tray handles, where you could easily use the

remote-buttons with your thumb. For this test I mounted the controller on top of a housing simply by inserting a ball mount through the bracket that ships with the FR1 unit. With a bit of imagination you will easily find a perfect placement for almost all set-ups I'm sure.

Fisheye FIX remote controller FR1 The controller unit itself is a small battery operated light emitting contraption that mirrors the controls of a FIX Neo light proper. I.e. it has all the same buttons than a Fisheye video light has. (Although the uber-cool blue LCD screen is missing) The signals travel to the lights via a standard UW-strobe fibre optic cable that is attached into the two ports on the top of the controller. Correspondingly, all current FIX lights have a YS-type fibre optic cable port on them where the other end of the cable fits. If you have ever used an underwater slave strobe this is all very familiar to you. From the controller you can also to control two lights at the same time or by choosing them individually. The guys from Fisheye also tell me that they are bringing out



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little extension pieces for the optic ports that allow you to control a total of 4 lights via one unit. This will mean that the lights can be controlled in blocks of 2 or 4 at a time.

Fisheye FIX remote ports on 2000DX Light Once everything is plugged in you have to turn the lights physically on once without the remote. From then on you have a full control of the lights, including a special sleep mode where the lights turn off but will be able to wake up when needed, with the FIX remote. Very clever indeed. You can control the light intensity quickly in 25 – 50 – 75 – 100% increments or manually from 1% to full blast. The only





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slightly annoying thing is that you still have to look at your light's LCD screen to figure out what power-level they are set in case you need to know. Adding a screen to the controller unit would have been nice but could have made the unit big and pricey as for now the FIX Neo Controller FR1 sells for very good 150 quid. Of course you will also need to get fibre optic cables for the lights in case you haven't got any yet.

It's good to see the Fisheye-chaps' remote controller finally as a complete product. It's one of these products you don't think you would ever need but once you use it for a while there is no going back. I

mean... You wouldn't go back to a remote-less telly would you now? It is a unique product and if you need to control your lights quickly, even without taking your eyes off the camera screen, this is a product for you. Next time I will be diving with my video lights, that do not work with the remote, I will be missing it. Recommended.

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FIX products are available from
Ocean Leisure Cameras in London
www.oceanleisurecameras.com

www.uwpmag.com

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