

Book Review

Glass and Water by Mark Harris

Reviewed by Peter Rowlands

Freediving is enjoying increased popularity nowadays and it was only right that a good book should be produced on how to freedive specifically for underwater photography. Mark Harris and Dived Up Publications have done just that and come up with a very informative book which will help freedivers improve their images should they feel the need.

Just as with scuba diving you need to adjust your activity to maximise your photographic potential and “Glass and Water” starts by covering the equipment you should consider to increase your performance in the water for it is only by doing this that your image success rate will start to improve.

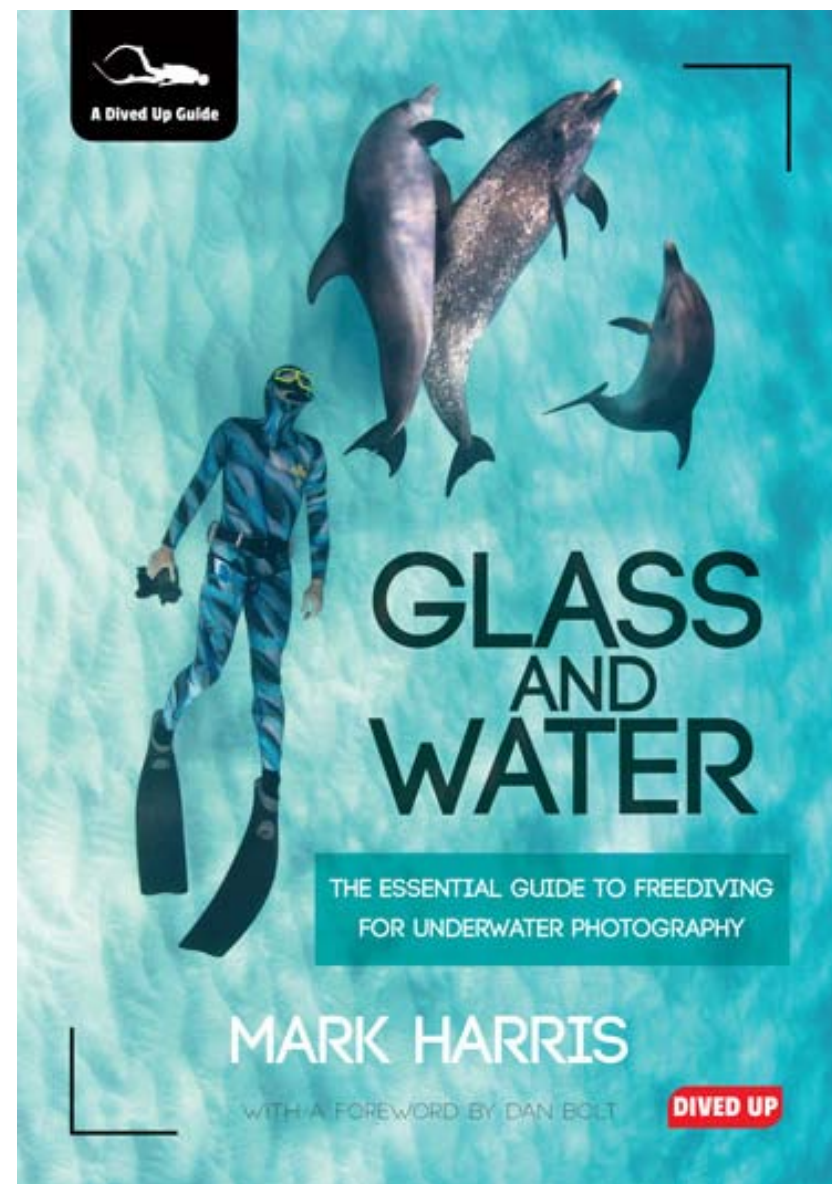
Then there follows a useful chapter on the choice of photographic equipment with informed opinion on what does and doesn’t suit freediving. There are differing requirements for this skill set and this chapter will help you decide what’s best for you.

This is followed by a chapter on Underwater Photography Basics which by its own admission “Glass and Water” just skims the surface of this extensive subject and I think it was right to do so. There’s plenty of other publications which go into far more detail. “Glass and Water” then devotes the majority of the book to go into detail about the Techniques of Freediving aimed at helping you become a much better freediving underwater photographer and that is the core aim of this book - an aim which it achieves very well.

A section on the creatures you can encounter whilst freediving is very informative in terms of how to approach and work with them. They have included most subjects you are likely to come across whilst freediving and even though the list is not comprehensive, the techniques imparted can be applied equally well to those subjects not covered.

The nicest surprise for me was the ‘Virtual Dive’ chapter. As the name implies it takes you on a hypothetical trip to the Hebrides on the remote NW coast of Scotland. The delivery is as if you are being watched from above and guided as to how to conduct yourself and make your decisions in order to get the best images from the trip. The result is a subtle body of information which will prove invaluable and I suspect will live in the minds of those emerging freedivers, on location, keen on perfecting their underwater images. This chapter alone is worth the price of the book which is £16.95.

“Glass and water” is obviously aimed at freedivers but scuba divers would also benefit from the content of this book. We are, after all, after images.



Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com

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 150dpi

Size - Maximum length 20cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 20 cm wide and verticals would be 20cm.

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.