

Sea & Sea YS-D2 strobe

by Peter Rowlands



The arrival of a new strobe in the post is always exciting so I was delighted when the postman dinged my door bell and requested a signature in return for releasing a parcel from Sea & Sea. It was their new YS-D2 strobe.

First impressions out of the box are of solid quality and a similar size and weight to the previous D1; 623gms and 89x133x116mm. The depth rating remains at 100m which will appeal to techies.

You have a choice of arm mounts - Sea & Sea's YS base or ball joint and it uses the same 4 x AA batteries for power but the compartment has

been improved by incorporating slots for each cell.

The standard coverage is 80°x80° with an output/GN of 32 but for wider coverage two diffusers are supplied to increase to 100°x100° with one stop light loss or 120°x120° with two stops light loss. In addition the diffusers give very slightly warmer colour output. This makes the D2 a market leader for this size of strobe.

Recycle time with NiMh batteries has improved almost 25% from 1.9 to 1.5 secs at full power but the maximum number of shots is down from 250 to 200. However in my experience it is rare to use



strobes at full power with today's high ISO cameras so this should not be a limitation.

As primarily a simple available light video shooter I must admit to being baffled by DS-TTL with ± 2 stops override and Pre-Flash control but the YS-D2 can do both as well as Manual (11 steps) and Slave TTL. In addition it can be triggered by traditional hard wire or fibre optic. With the latter, Sea & Sea have provided a nice touch by incorporating lugs to retain the thin cable and prevent tugging.

The aiming light has two power settings and the whole rear panel lights up with different colours depending on the Mode setting - a very useful visual aid for both day and night use.

The main control knobs are 1/4



knurled and should prove simple to operate with even the thickest of gloves. The YS-D2 has been designed for and caters to all types of diving.

Dan Bolt has been assigned to dive the D2 and produce a full in water review in the next issue of UwP but my conclusion is that the YS-D2 should be at the top of your shopping list if you are in the market for a new or indeed your first strobe. At £579.95 in the UK it is slightly more expensive than an INON Z240 but I think the D2 is a much better strobe all round.

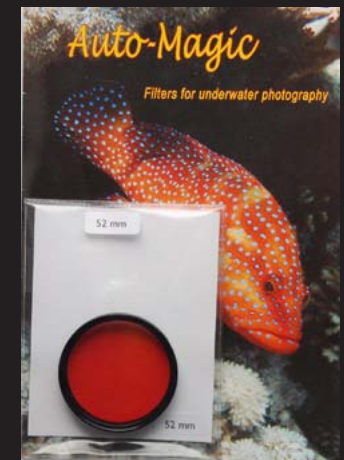
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