

Cinebags CB70 Square Bag

by Gregory Sweeney

In July I tested out the new CB70 Square Grouper made by Cinebags while on a whale shark snorkel and dive trip on Isla Mujeres, Mexico.

The CB70 Square Grouper is a padded bag designed to conveniently carry a fully assembled underwater camera (or video) rig to the dive boat and provide storage for it while on the boat. It folds up compact for travel in checked luggage then unfolds to be a large bag to hold a camera in a housing. It's rugged and water tight construction also allows for the bag to be used as its own rinse tank. I am excited to try out this new concept in camera protection.

At the hotel I load my Canon 5D MK3 in a Nauticam housing into the CB70 Square Grouper and headed to our golf cart transportation down to the dock and our boat for the day. When we reached the boat, it was easy to carry the Square Grouper containing my housing slung over my shoulder and hand it onto the boat as one neat package.

The CB70 Square Grouper features a center carry strap with neoprene handle, as well as a padded, adjustable, and removable shoulder strap robust enough to take the weight

of a housing and still be comfortable.

I also loaded up the bag with my small items including sunscreen, sunglasses, hotel keys, phone, and hat. There are pockets on the outside and inside for all my various extras. The numerous external cargo loops, external mesh storage pouches, and mesh storage pouches inside hold all the small items you need for your day out. The bag is sturdy and keeps its form while standing empty or full of rinse water. I placed quick access items like my hat and swim towel in the bungee laces on the lid.

Snorkeling with whale sharks has us getting in and out of the boat frequently as the boat moves with the aggregation. When I reached the ladder, the boat crewman was able to take my camera and place it right into the CB70 Square Grouper which was full of fresh water: my own personal rinse. Other cameras were placed around the deck between dives while my camera was protected, out of the sun, and clean.

No matter if the bag gets wet or splashed with salt water – the CB70 Square Grouper is easy to clean and dries quickly. When not used as a rinse tank the bag kept my housing



The CineBags CB70 Square Grouper is a padded bag designed to hold a fully assembled underwater camera rig, is waterproof, and can function as a rinse tank as well as hold all your small gear.

and personal items dry and safe from saltwater splash, sun, and getting lost on the boat. Even on the days when I brought along stobes and large strobe arms, the rig fit well inside.

This is a well thought out bag: Product designer and underwater photographer Markus Davids developed and tested the CB70 Square Grouper over many dive trips in warm and cold water and on all different boat situations. It is well constructed of premium materials; high quality marine grade YKK zippers, safety reflectors, and durable

straps will stand up to the rigors of dive travel and life on a boat. The fabric is far better for this task than that used on standard canvas camera bag. It is waterproof and sturdy as well as very resistant to tears and punctures. The bag is made from a fabric called Tarpaulin; the same fabric used to make the drybags for kayaking.

You already have loads of things to bring on a dive trip but because the CB70 Square grouper folds down to a flat and lightweight bundle in your checked luggage, it is an easy decision

to include it for every dive trip and boat excursion from now on. I use a specialized travel camera bags (also from Cinebags) for on the airplane, but that bag is best for equipment that is broken down; it can not hold a fully assembled housing with arms, floats, etc. The CB70 Square Grouper does what that bag cannot. Once I arrive at the dive destination, I just pull the compacted bag out of my luggage and use it exclusively for the rest of the trip.

As a bonus, the CB70 Square Grouper has non-photography uses: after your camera is done for the day it can hold cold drinks and ice for the beach or around the pool.

My Conclusion: Where have you been all my diving life?

It was wonderful having the CB70 Square Grouper along on this underwater photography trip – I am completely enamored with this bag. The CB70 Square Grouper fits the need for a serious bag designed to carry a fully assembled camera in a housing, even with strobes, plus all the things the underwater professional needs for day out in the water. . The ability to convert to a rinse tank and to fold flat for air travel is a bonus. The convenience of all my items in one bag that can keep them safe, dry, and protected is a joy and I will not be without this bag on all future dive trips



The bag is designed to hold your full assembled underwater housing and holds water so it can be used as a personal rinse tank.

CineBags specializes in camera bags designed for professional use. Their catalogue of products includes large bags for production use as well as bags designed for photography travel and now specialty underwater camera travel and storage solutions.

The new line of Underwater CineBags including the CB70 Square Grouper, will debut and be featured amongst the existing line of CineBags professional camera bags at the 2016 DEMA show in Las Vegas booth No. 8205. The CB70 and all other



The CineBags CB70 Square Grouper folds down flat for easy packing in your luggage. When you arrive at your destination, simply unfold it and load it up.

bags will be available through the CineBags dealer network right after the show.

Gregory Sweeney
www.gregorysweeney.com

Gregory Sweeney is an underwater photographer who hosts trips designed for underwater photographers. He also owns a safari lodge in South Africa where he hosts photo safaris.

