



# Underwater Photo-Tech

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## Digital SLR Set-up Macro

1. Install flat port and any extensions that lens calls for.
2. Set the camera to (M) manual exposure and shutter speed to 1/125 second & f-stop at f11, ISO 100 or lowest ISO setting.
  - a. This is only a starting place. The shutter speed only makes a difference when shooting fish portraits or something where ambient light will be part of the photo. Start with an f-stop at f-8 or f-11 because, while diving and a grab shot happens, you will be ready for it. F-11 or f-8 is good f-stops for subjects that are 3-3.5 feet away with strobes at full power.
  - b. When moving closer to a subject change to a smaller f-stop to create more depth of field and reduce over-lighting from strobe. i.e..... f-16 @ 2.5' f-22 @ 2' f-32 @ 1'. Again these are starting points. The subject matter and strobe power will make a difference so you can turn on the cameras highlights or histogram setting to help in adjusting exposure. I find it easier to change f-stop than change strobe power. Remember the smaller the f-stop the more depth of field.
  - c. ISO is set at 100 or 200 depending on camera but never on Auto ISO.
3. Meter can be set on matrix for help in ambient light when doing fish portraits but flash will be doing most of your lighting so this setting will have very little impact on your photo's.
4. Set focus to (S) single servo setting. This will help to lock focus on critical spots like the eye of a fish. Once the focus is locked, move the camera for good composition and fire. Use the auto focus lock button if you wish to take several shots without losing focus.
5. When shooting very small subjects and you find that the lens keeps tracking back and forth because the subject is moving, try focusing at a stationary subject that is roughly the same distance away, shut auto focus off or lock it by using auto focus lock. Now you can move in and out until the subject appears sharp in the viewfinder and shoot away.
6. Use a focus light to add more contrast to the subject when camera is having a hard time locking focus.
7. Do a strobe fire test or TTL test if applicable to make sure camera and strobe are working correctly. When using a manual strobe make sure not to use a shutter speed higher than the sync speed of the camera.
8. Test all functions controls like f-stops, shutter speeds and focus lock to make sure everything is working correctly before entering water.
9. Do a fresh water dunk test after every system set-up and look for any bubbles that might be signs of a leaking problem.