



Digital Photography using the Sea&Sea DX8000G

This seminar will cover the necessary tips to create colorful high contrast images using the Sea and Sea DX-8000G camera with its dedicated wide-angle lens and a digital lighting package.

Remember the 3 most important rules of underwater photography

- 1) get close
- 2) get closer
- 3) get closer again!

The 3 secrets to making vibrant colorful underwater images are:

- 1) use a wide angle lens to get closer to your subject
- 2) use auto strobe lighting to restore color and increase contrast
- 3) use the camera and lens controls for creative control

Sea&Sea Digital Auto Strobes - description

YS-90A – high power, wide beam automatic strobe that also has manual adjustment

YS-55A- high power, wide beam automatic strobe that also has manual adjustment

YS-25A - medium power, medium beam automatic strobe that also has manual adjustment

YS-15A – medium power, medium beam automatic strobe

Digital lighting package - features

Can be used with any compact digital underwater camera system and with some D-SLR systems

Complete package with strobe, arm, tray and fiber optic connector

Built in Automatic flash exposure

The DX-8000G **does have** a pre-flash and strobes should be set on “2”.

All three strobes use popular AA NiMH rechargeable batteries or alkaline batteries.

The YS-90A, YS-55A, YS-25A and YS-15A are all triggered by another flash (slave mode) or by fiber optic cable. The YS-90A and YS-55A is also triggered by a 5-pin sync connector for use with housed D-SLR cameras.

Setting the YS-90A ,YS-55A and YS-25A strobes

Set strobe power switch to Auto 2 (2) for the DX-8000G (Auto2 is for cameras w/o pre-flash cancellation).

Set power setting to “8”. That setting corresponds to the f8 setting on the camera.

Set Slave switch to on (YS-90A only no slave switch on YS-25A)

Setting the YS-15

Turn strobe power switch to 2 for the DX8000G.

Wide-angle conversion lens for DX-5000G/DX-8000G - description

A 0.6x magnification (17mm equivalent) wide-angle lens that focuses both topside and underwater with a 150 degree picture angle topside for panoramic images and a 94 degree picture angle underwater for reef scenic images.

Wide-angle conversion lens for DX-5000G/DX-8000G - features

Wide angle of view for close up use underwater down to

Focuses both topside and underwater

“Wet lens” can be added or removed underwater.

Setting and shooting the DX-8000G for Advanced wide-angle imaging

Set the Mode dial to A for Aperture Priority

Set the shutter speed to 1/125th second

Set the f-stop to f8

Set the flash to on. That’s the lightening bolt icon.

Close flashlight diffuser

“Burp” the wide-angle lens and then attach it and make sure it’s secure (locked on).

Push down the shutter button ½ way to auto focus watch for green indicator on LCD

When focus indicator is green push the shutter button

Push quick review button to review last image taken

Shooting tips

Stay close to your subject. 1-3 feet is the recommended distance for best results with the wide-angle lens.

Stay low and try to shoot upward toward the light.

Keep the strobe over the top of the camera when using only one strobe.

Aim the strobe straight ahead to minimize backscatter

Shoot the same image several times and bracket the strobe power

Use different angles and make sure the sunlight is behind you.

Try some vertical images.

Hold the camera steady. Allow it to auto focus before shooting. Remember the green focus indicator. If it has trouble focusing in low contrast then place the green center indicator over an area of high contrast. You can lock the focus by holding the shutter button down ½ way.

Battery information

The DX8000G camera can use standard AA batteries or an optional lithium ion battery. The camera will take approximately 80 pictures with standard batteries. Using a lithium ion battery the camera will take approximately 300 images. ALWAYS recommend that the customer buys a lithium ion battery. The battery they need is the equivalent of the Ricoh DB-43. A good source for this battery is www.batteries.com.