

Fantasea CP-3 Camera Housings For Nikon® Coolpix® 3100 & Coolpix® 2100 Digital Cameras

General Introduction:

The *Fantasea CP-3* housing is specifically designed for the Nikon Coolpix 3100 and 2100 digital cameras. The housing is dedicated to these two cameras, which are physically identical, to insure the most compact design for easy handling and accurate access to camera functions through the critical placement of push-button controls.

The *CP-3* housing provides access to the cameras' shutter release, zoom control, and quick review functions. It also allows setting of flash mode options, and macro focus. This housing is ideal for outdoor and underwater photographers who prefer to use the camera's automatic exposure features for capturing fast action pictures easily and creatively.

Fantasea CP-3 Uses:

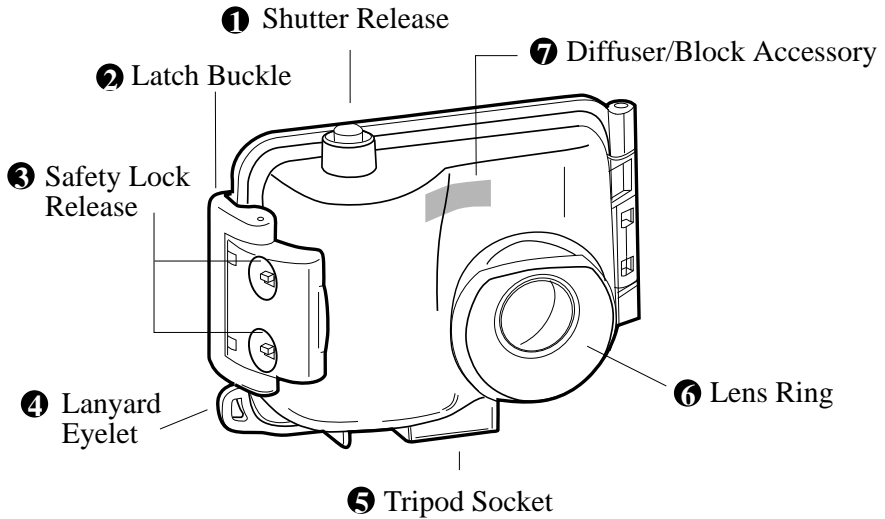
The *Fantasea CP-3* housing is designed as an underwater/outdoor camera housing. It has a working depth of 130 feet/40 meters. Underwater photographers can dive or snorkel and capture all the excitement of this fascinating world, while outdoor photographers also have the option of capturing the action of such activities as white water and paddle sports, sailing and boating, surfing, fishing and hunting, backpacking and camping, and for family activities around the swimming pool or at the beach. The *CP-3* will protect the Coolpix camera from water, sand, dust, and other damaging elements.

General Camera Description:

The Nikon Coolpix 3100 is a 3.2 megapixel camera and the Coolpix 2100 is a 2.3 megapixel camera. With this resolution and the outstanding quality of other Nikon features, such as optical performance, you will be able to produce high quality images of the thrilling outdoor activities in which you participate. These cameras were selected as the basis for the housing design due to the combination of image quality and consumer value. For specific features of each camera you should reference your camera's instruction manual or obtain product technical information from Nikon or their dealers.

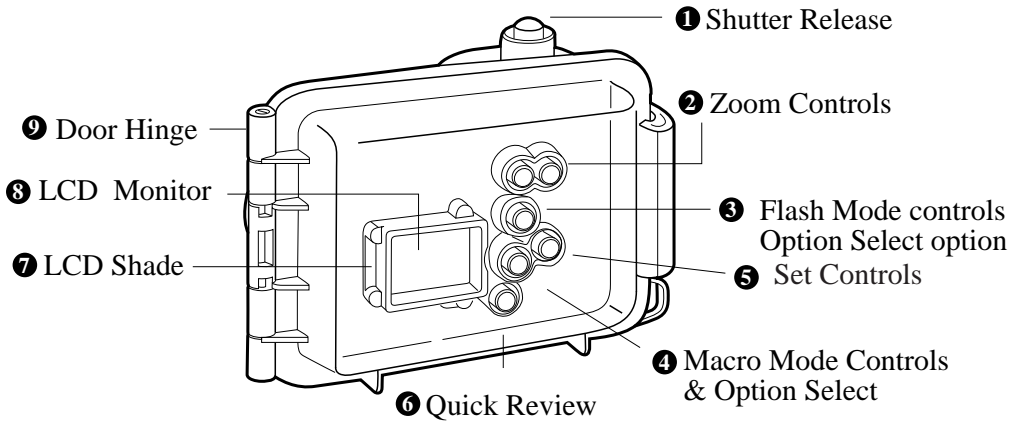
Housing Orientation & Nomenclature:

Front View:



Rear View:

CP-3 Model:



Using the *CP-3* Housing:

Opening Housing:

Using two hands, pinch the (**Blue**) Latch Buckle Release together to unlock the safety device. While holding the release in this position, pull the **Blue** latch open in a front to back direction. The latch is hinged on the front half of the clamshell. Pulling the latch toward the rear of the housing will unclip the latching buckle and allow it to swing free, for opening.

Inserting Camera:

Since the *CP-3* was specifically designed for the Coolpix 3100 and 2100 digital cameras. Insertion is a simple matter of placing the camera in the housing. Make sure the camera lens is properly aligned with the port and that the camera is perfectly flat. There are no screws or mounts to worry about or any other alignments once the camera is properly inserted.

Note: It is necessary to make some camera settings prior to inserting into the housing. Please refer to the Coolpix owners manual for menu options and personal preferences to choose from, that are not accessible through the housing push-button controls. **Turn the camera on before inserting in housing.**

Underwater photographers will probably want to set the flash mode to the “Anytime” setting to insure they always have a flash with every exposure. It is also wise to set the focus mode to allow the lens to focus in the macro range for capturing great images of the tiny and exotic subjects that you can find underwater.

Checking the Gasket:

Each time the housing is opened, the gasket seal should be visually inspected. If there is any debris present, including dirt, sand, dust, grease or other matter, it must be cleaned to insure a proper water-tight seal. Cleaning the gasket is a simple matter of wiping it with a damp, soft cloth to remove any foreign matter. Be careful the cloth you use does not leave any of its own material behind as this can also affect the effectiveness of the gasket. It is not necessary to remove the gasket for cleaning unless visual inspection determines that there is foreign matter underneath the gasket as well. If this occurs, be sure the surface of the housing is also clean and wiped free of any debris.

Since the gasket in the CP-3 is a face-to-face compression seal, and is not subject to friction as it is closed, there is no need to lubricate it. Grease or any other form of lubrication does not help seal the housing. It only reduces friction, which is commonly present if the housing has an O-ring seal. Lubricating the gasket before use could cause it to slip out of its groove, and not form a proper seal.

The gasket should also be checked visually for any cracks or perforations. If any part of the gasket shows signs of wear or damage, it is imperative that it be changed before going into the water.

If the gasket is removed from the channel groove it sets in, be sure to get it completely back into place so it is properly seated. Starting at one corner, press the gasket with your finger and feel it seat into its channel groove. Then continue this procedure continuously in one direction until the entire circumference of the gasket has been pressed flat into place. Go over it a second time to be sure it is properly in place. Then you are ready to clean it and close the housing.

Closing the Housing:

Make sure the camera is flat and that the back door of the housing closes easily without interference. Once the door is closed, latch the buckle behind the ridge on the back half of the housing. (If the camera is not flat, the door will not lie closed, and the latching buckle will have a hard time catching the ridge on the back door. In this case, open the back door and reposition the camera until it is flat and the door closes correctly.) With the latch behind the ridge on the back door, push the latch buckle forward until it lies flat against the front half of the housing and the safety release snaps into place..

Viewing the Subject:

Underwater photographers and outdoor photographers will appreciate the large LCD viewing monitor for composing photographs. The LCD monitor will allow you to see your subject in sharp focus and framed properly. Hold the camera housing in your outstretched arm at a position that is both comfortable and also allows you to easily see the LCD monitor, for best compositional options. The anti glare LCD shade will assist your viewing in high ambient light.

Taking the Picture:

Once you have composed your scene or subject in the LCD monitor, depress the

shutter release button to take the picture. A half depress will activate the live viewing ability of the LCD monitor, and a full depression of the button will take the picture. You may notice a pre-flash and slight delay in the shutter release. This is to allow the camera to make its final focus and exposure calculations before taking the picture. With a little practice, you will become used to this and taking pictures of moving subjects will become easier.

Image Files:

There are several image file options to choose from that offer different resolution and file sizes. This determination must be made prior to camera insertion from menu options. Please refer to the Coolpix instruction manual for details on setting these preferences.

Battery Life:

The AA Lithium battery that comes with the Coolpix is very efficient and lasts for more than enough time for a typical photo dive. However, there are certain things that users can control to help with battery life. The most important is to set the camera to turn the LCD off after a set time, during periods of non-use. It can then be automatically turned back on if you depress the shutter release control half way. Please refer to the Coolpix instruction manual for details on how to make this adjustment setting. It is always wise to have backup batteries in case you do run out of power. **Rechargeable Ni Cad batteries can also be purchased and used.**

Using Flash:

The Coolpix has a built-in flash, which will illuminate nearby underwater subjects. For subjects that are farther away, an accessory slave strobe is recommended. (See Below.) Due to the presence of suspended particles in the water, the use of the supplied flash diffuser is recommended. This is a static cling device that should be pressed against the inside of the housing, and in front of the camera's flash. It will widen and soften the light, providing more coverage and less likelihood of "backscatter", the unattractive "snowstorm" affect of the flash reflecting off the suspended particles.

Underwater photographers, needing artificial light to restore color in nearly all pictures, should set the flash mode to "Anytime" flash. This will insure the flash fires on every exposure regardless of the ambient light conditions. (Please refer to the camera's instruction manual for more details.)

Outdoor photographers do not have this same concern. There is no backscatter to

be concerned about, and due to the ability of the flash to travel farther and more effectively in air as compared to in water, there is normally not a need for an accessory flash to provide proper illumination for most subjects.

Accessory Slave Strobes:

Using the Coolpix built-in flash as the master, you can trigger a second slave strobe to provide more artificial light when needed. To do this, you must use an accessory strobe that has a slave feature built in. The flash from the Coolpix must be “bounced” toward the accessory strobe’s slave sensor, or other fiber optic sensor. This will trigger the slave to fire. **Be sure to use a slave strobe that has the ability to ignore the built-in pre-flash in digital cameras, and synchronizes with the shutter release.**

Lens Accessories:

The CP-3 is designed to work with some of the wide-angle and macro adapters that are currently on the market. Fantasea Line offers a wide angle lens adapter for this purpose. For more information on these items, see your local photo dealer.

Shooting Techniques:

Exposure Modes: (Pre-set before camera insertion)

You can shoot in the A mode on the camera in which ambient light and artificial light will be automatically controlled by the camera according to the lighting conditions. Or you can choose the M mode, for the maximum creative control. Please reference the Coolpix instruction manual for details on which camera controls are used for this purpose.

Other Controls: Please reference Coolpix instruction manual for details.

Zoom Control: Zoom in for telephoto photos and larger subject size. Zoom out for wide-angle scenes.

Macro Focus: For capturing the tiny and exotic subjects that require close focus. Macro focus is possible when the lens is in the wide-angle position.

Quick Review: Immediate review of most recent images is available that will confirm that you captured the shot you want. You may scroll through your images to confirm your results. However, if you want to delete images from the compact flash card, this must be done when the camera is out of the housing.

Flash Mode: Choose to use the built-in flash in its Auto mode which will put out flash when the camera detects a low light situation, Anytime Flash, Flash with Red-Eye Reduction, or Cancel Flash for pure ambient light exposures.

Option Selects: When making camera settings, these two controls will allow you to scroll through the options associated with the particular feature.

Option Set Button: This control sets the option you select for the particular feature and instructs the camera to use the option until changed.

Camera Standby Mode: You can access the camera's menu to choose how long a period of inactivity before the camera goes into standby mode. Options are 30 seconds, one minute, five minutes, and 30 minutes. This feature allows you to conserve battery power by placing the LCD monitor in standby. When you want to resume shooting, pressing any button will re-activate the camera. However, if after the camera goes into standby, a further period of three minutes goes by without any activity, the camera will turn off. You can turn it back on by pressing and **holding** the quick review for about three seconds. The "Welcome to Nikon Coolpix" screen will appear. One additional press of the Quick Review button will then return the camera to active shooting mode. If the camera does turn off, flash and macro focus settings will be cancelled. You must re-set these features to your desired optional settings.

Care & Maintenance:

The CP-3 housing requires only a minimum amount of care for reliable performance. The following are tips that will enable you to get the best results.

1. Always soak your housing in fresh water for 20-30 minutes after every dive to dissolve the salt water crystals from around the controls and openings of the housing. Manipulate each of the movable controls to assist the removal of salt particles from these tight areas.
2. Allow the housing to dry thoroughly before packing away for the day or for the trip home. You may use a soft towel or cloth to dry the housing. Be sure there is no grease or other debris on the towel.
3. Visually check the condition of the gasket before every dive. If it is dirty, clean it with fresh water and dry it with a soft cloth as described above. If it is damaged in any way, such as cut or perforated, replace it immediately.
4. Do not use grease or any other type of lubricant on the gasket when closing the housing.. It does not increase the ability of the gasket to make a proper seal.
5. Be careful not to get greasy fingerprints or dirt on the lens port. This will

affect the image quality. Wipe any dirt or grease off with fresh water and a soft cloth.

6. Do not drop the housing on hard surfaces. It is not a shock absorber, and could crack, affecting its water-tight integrity. It could also cause damage to the camera inside.
7. Travel with the housing protected in a padded case. It is best to remove the camera from inside the housing when traveling and provide it with its own protective case, or compartment.
8. Never dive with the CP-3 housing to a depth greater than 130 ft/40 meters.
9. Give your CP-3 an annual tune-up, as you would any tool that gets rugged use. The Fantasea repair and maintenance facility will replace all O-rings on all controls and the main gasket. Then the housing will be pressure tested to insure it is in good working order.*

Flood Insurance:

Every CP-3 housing includes a one-year flood insurance policy. Supplied through the services of Innovative Programs Group Inc. (IPG), of Louisville, KY, USA, creators of the Divers Equipment Protection Program (**D.E.P.P.**) this insurance policy acts as additional protection to the warranty and is good for one year. If the water enters the housing and the camera is damaged then it will be repaired or replaced according to the terms and conditions of the anti flooding insurance policy. Only will only be responsible to pay for the shipping charge. After the first year, you will have the option of renewing the insurance policy with **IPG**.

All insurance policies are activated by filling out the product registration form, included in the box, and sending it along with a certified photo copy of the bill of sale to Fantasea Line. These documents can also be faxed in or sent by email using the electronic registration form on our website:

<http://www.fantasea.com/manuals/warranty.pdf> in order to expedite activation of the insurance policy. The policy will go into effect immediately upon receipt of completed documents.

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