

It's time your Coolpix P7000 learns to dive

Sharon Rainis is the Content Manager for Fantasea Line, an international company dedicated to developing, manufacturing and marketing creative and affordable products with a special focus on water-sports, diving and underwater photography equipment. This article covers the FP7000 housing; however the general underwater photography techniques and challenges discussed are applicable to a broad line of Nikon cameras and Fantasea Housings.



In the old days, introducing your camera to the underwater realm was a matter of considerable expense, complex systems and sophisticated skills. Underwater photography was therefore a small niche, which only a few experienced divers with a great love of photography dared to invest in (if they could have afforded it at all). Using film cameras and without the ability to review the results during the dive, the learning curve

was slow and success rate was pretty poor. Even the most qualified and professional underwater photographers at that time often ended up with only a few reasonable images out of the whole film they shot during their dive.

Nowadays, it's a whole different success story. Waterproof housings are available for a variety of compact digital cameras, making it easier than ever to take pictures in any wet environment.

A good example would be the Fantasea FP7000 Housing, which serves as a perfect waterproof home for the Nikon Coolpix P7000 camera. Affordable, durable, ergonomically designed, fully functional and easy to use, the FP7000 Housing offers all you need in order to fulfill your wet photography fantasies. Why, where, when and how is mostly up to you, but there are certainly some interesting ideas to start your underwater journey with.

Why would you like take your Coolpix P7000 underwater?

Just when you think you've seen and done it all – leopards, mountains, flowers, vases and smiling friends – the underwater world introduces you to a whole new set of challenges. Dazzling fish, colorful corals and mysterious shipwrecks are only some of the new and interesting subjects your lens can find there. The unique optic and physical characteristics of water

produce a challenging, yet very worthwhile and rewarding, photo studio. The blue water background compliments the colors of any subject you photograph, buoyancy adds



Underwater photography for the Coolpix line

the most dramatic effect, sun balls can be used to generate spectacular silhouettes and water surface naturally creates charming, silvery reflections.

Furthermore, since the FP7000 Housing is shock resistant and protects the camera from water, dust, sand, frost and other damaging elements, you can start capturing images in all the other wet and extreme environments you have never dared to take your camera to, such as pools, kayaks, surfboards or rainy forests. The variety of high standard features the P7000 has to offer, along with its relatively compact size, provides you with an opportunity to enjoy a unique experience while producing absolutely stunning images and high definition videos.

Where would you take the Coolpix P7000 to dive?



If you're a snorkeler or a certified scuba diver, you are already familiar with the beautiful treasures of the sea. Taking your P7000 along will enable you not only to share this scenery with your friends and relatives, but also to take some incredible images, introducing dramatic compositions which cannot be captured on land. Even fashion photography is slowly adapting the underwater world as an attractive alternative for a studio, where breathless models are featured in breathtaking scenes. The

housing is depth rated to 60 meters/200 feet, so if you're a recreational diver, you have nothing to worry about but your air supply and decompression limits.

However, oceans are only some of the many places you can take your Coolpix. You will find the proper underwater housing is perfect for taking exquisite pictures of your kids gracefully swimming in the pool, capturing the excitement of a kayaking or extreme rafting trip, showing off your surfboarding and snowboarding skills, or photographing during the rainy days of your holiday. The relatively compact size and light weight of the housing ensures that at the end of the day, you will be nothing but happy you took your camera along to any of these wet destinations.

How do you use the Coolpix P7000 inside the FP7000 Housing?

Using the P7000 camera with the FP7000 Housing couldn't have been more easy and intuitive. It's basically nothing more than a Plug 'N Play system.

Installation is carried out by simply placing the camera inside the housing, closing it and turning the housing secure dial for a perfect watertight seal. The FP7000 Housing is fully functional, providing you with access to all camera controls and functions, so there is no need to set any of the camera functions beforehand. However, it's certainly recommended



to verify that a charged battery and empty memory card are installed inside the camera prior to inserting it into the housing, as according to the rumor, it takes a miracle to produce images in the absence of these two precious electronic components.

All housing controls are labeled and ergonomically designed, while the transparent back door of the housing allows for a perfectly clear view of the camera LCD monitor. Although the housing is compact and quite easy to hold in one hand, an optional hand strap can be installed on the housing in order to further improve hand grip when using the housing during extreme sports activities.

Underwater photography for the Coolpix line



If diving with the housing, it's best to visually monitor the housing during every descent, especially for the first 10 meters/33 feet, in order to make sure that its watertight seal hasn't been damaged during storage or transportation.

As for housing maintenance, the FP7000 Housing requires only minimum care for safe and reliable performance. The main seal of the housing should be periodically cleaned and lubricated with a slight amount of Silicone Grease for the purpose of a proper watertight seal.

After each dive, the housing should be rinsed in fresh water in order to dissolve salt water crystals. Other than that, housing maintenance is similar to camera maintenance. It should be kept away from direct sun and stored in a dry, cool area, preferably inside a padded bag.

What are the challenges of underwater photography?

Underwater photography differs from land photography in quite a few parameters. Therefore, underwater photographers are often required to employ slightly different techniques and in some cases to make use of underwater-photography-dedicated accessories. As in every field, the more experience you gain and the more you read about underwater imaging, the better your photos will eventually turn out.

For instance, since both light and color are absorbed by water, artificial light is often used in order to enhance the color in underwater images. The FP7000 Housing includes a built-in flash diffuser which enables effective use of the camera's built-in flash. However, in most cases you will find that an external underwater slave flash, which triggers in sync with the camera's built-in flash, makes a big difference.

These underwater slave flashes usually produce a more powerful output, which is capable of traveling farther through the dense media of water, resulting with better lit

and colorful images. In addition to retrieving the color and light absorbed by water, underwater flashes also allow for creative lighting, assist in reducing the amount of backscatter and prevent the shadowing effect caused by the housing lens port when using the built-in camera flash, especially when accessory lenses are mounted on the housing.



The FP7000 Housing features a double fiber optic cable connection, which enables connecting up to two slave flashes to the housing. Fantasea Nano Ray Sets are complete lighting sets which were specially designed for compact digital housings and are fully compatible with the FP7000 Housing.

Lens accessories can also be used in order to upgrade your underwater images. For instance, the Fantasea BigEye Lens FP7000 is a patented wide angle lens that is perfect for shooting seascape, divers, ship wrecks and schools of fish, without moving further away from the subject, thereby still taking full advantage of water clarity and artificial light sources. Fantasea RedEye and PinkEye color correction filters assist with

Underwater photography for the Coolpix line

producing colorful and vivid images or videos. The Fantasea SharpEye Lens M67 is a macro lens that enables shooting close-up images of fish and corals and the EyeGrabber FP7000 is a lens holder that enables safely securing any of these lens accessories once removed from the housing lens port. All of these lens accessories can be installed and removed during the course of the dive.



So in simple words, you can definitely produce stunning images by using the camera and housing only. Once you're ready for it, you can choose to upgrade your system with any of these accessories, thereby expanding your underwater photography skills and further improving your results.

Further information regarding any of the products mentioned above can be found at www.fantasea.com, where you can also find a list of authorized Fantasea dealers in your area.

Images and videos produced by the P7000 accommodated inside the FP7000 Housing can be found on the dedicated FP7000 Housing website- www.nikondive.com.

Now the last question remaining unasked is a tricky one, and this one is for you:
How come your P7000 is still afraid of water?

TAMRON® SP 70-300mm Di VC USD



The new 60th Anniversary model tele zoom features an XLD lens element to deliver best in class resolution in a compact design that includes VC image stabilization and Tamron's new USD (Ultrasonic Silent Drive). Winner of the 2010-2011 EISA Award. \$50 mail-in rebate thru 7/31/11.



Get updates on your phone. Text TAMRON to 80802.
www.tamron-usa.com