



**Manual for Fantasea CP 8N Camera Housing for
Nikon Coolpix 8800**



www.fantasea.com

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info@fantasea.com

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the exciting world of underwater digital SLR photography. Your purchase of the Fantasea CP 8N housing for Nikon's 8800 digital camera will set you apart from other photographers. With this system, you will enjoy the best chance of capturing the widest variety of superior underwater images. The CP 8N offers you the opportunity to use the exact Nikon lenses for the best circumstances, including a choice of macro, wide angle, fisheye and zoom lenses. You will find the housing to be easy and intuitive to use and operate and you will have countless dives in which to experiment with the CP 8N's advanced imaging capabilities. Fantasea Line Photo is please to offer our help with any of your photographic needs.

The purpose of this manual is to provide you with the basic introduction to your CP 8N, which should get you comfortable with the housing and allow you to get started taking great underwater images right away. We strongly urge you to thoroughly read the Nikon 8800 instruction manual as well to familiarize yourself with the most common controls and settings that you will use for your underwater photography. The CP 8N housing will permit access to most of the important controls on the camera. To take full advantage of these features, it is recommended to have a good command of what each option can do for you, so you will know when you should use each specific control.

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Test Pressure Fantasea Housings are individually tested to 300 feet
- Closure Design Air Lock
- Body Material Polycarbonate
- Overall Size 210 x 210 x 170 mm (LxWxH)
- Total Weight Approximately 2.0 Kg (Housing only)
- Buoyancy (with camera) Approximately neutral in salt water

FEATURES AND ACCESSORIES INCLUDED WITH THE HOUSING

- Additional Features Visible main O-ring for final pre-dive check
- Double O-ring design on all controls
- Bulkhead and hotshoe plug for strobe
- Accessories Standard Port (included)
- Spare main O-ring (included)
- Universal tool (included)
- Silicone O-ring grease (included)
- Carry bag (included)
- Red filter (optional)
- Extension arm for strobe or video light (optional)
- Video light VL035(optional)
- Macro, Wide Angle Lens (optional)
- Macro, Wide and Dome Ports (optional)
- Housings for DTTL Speedlight SB800 (optional)

FUNCTIONS [CONTROL DETAILS]

1. ON/OFF, Shutter
2. Mode:
 - Exposure Compensation,
 - Backlight, FUNC
3. Command Dial
4. Flash, Image Quality:
 - AE/AF Lock, Focus Mode
5. Zoom
6. Quick Review / Play
7. Selector Confirm
8. Monitor
9. Quick View
10. Multi Selector
11. Delete, DISP



SET UP INSTRUCTIONS

Exclusive Pressure Release Plug

The body and lid are uniquely designed with a "no clip" closure arrangement. Our testing has shown that this arrangement allows the water to exert an even pressure on the O-ring, thus increasing the reliability of the watertight seal. To open the housing, the pressure release plug must be first unscrewed and then pulled all the way out. This provides a channel for the air to pass through and eliminate the pressure differential between the inside of the housing and the ambient air pressure.

The plug consists of an internal double O-ring seal on a stainless steel slide shaft. These internal O-rings form the watertight seal. There is also a large outer O-ring under the knob. This O-ring serves to prevent contamination [dirt or salt] of the slide shaft, and is not required for watertight integrity. If this O-ring should become detached, it can simply be pushed back in place.



Important!

Before diving, make sure the pressure release plug is pushed closed, and then screwed home, do not over tighten this plug (finger tighten only).

Opening Levers

After unscrewing and pulling out the pressure release plug, the lid can be opened. To overcome the friction of opening, two levers are used to push against the lid with a cam action. On some models these opening levers are bolted to the body. On the other models, they are detachable levers.

Important!

Be sure they are inserted all the way flat to the housing before turning to avoid damaging the protrusions on the lid.

The body has two holes on opposite corner edges of the housing for opening. Gently lever off the lid with the supplied cams taking care not to twist the lid excessively. The lid should be opened keeping it approximately parallel to the body at all times. If using a single lever, turn first one side a little, then the other an equal amount, and repeat again until the lid is opened. **Remember** to unscrew and pull out the pressure release plug all the way first, otherwise the air pressure will resist attempts at opening. Lay the lid on a flat stable surface after opening.



Cam Levers



Cam Lever in Housing

Maintenance of the O-Ring Seal

The O-ring seal is the only barrier between the water outside and the air space within the camera. It is an effective barrier only if the seal is properly maintained. The O-ring seal should be inspected before every dive. The following information is provided for your guidance in using and maintaining the O-ring seal.



Maintaining the O-Ring Seal:

If the main body to lid O-ring is not installed, install the O-ring before diving. This is the only user serviceable O-ring. Its care and maintenance is critical to the watertight integrity of the housing. The O-ring should be replaced at the proper service interval (see Section on Service). If the O-ring is contaminated, or not already installed, inspect, grease and install the O-ring according to the following guidelines.

Guidelines For Inspection, Cleaning And Re-Instillation Of The O-Ring [Gasket]:

Materials Needed:

You will require a soft cotton cloth or q-tip. Make sure these are free of all chemicals or contamination such as loose fibers. You will also require the tube of silicone grease supplied with the housing. Note that other types of silicone grease specifically for use with underwater camera equipment can usually also be used. It is advised to carry out the following procedure on a firm clean level surface, e.g. at a table), to prevent skidding. This is especially useful if you are doing this maintenance from your diving boat as it moves with the wave swells.

When To Maintain the O-Ring Seal:

Remove the O-ring periodically for inspection. It is not necessary to remove, clean and re-install the O-ring after every dive provided the O-ring did not become contaminated. The housing may be required to be opened between dives, to replace memory card or recharge the batteries. Before opening, make sure the outside of the housing is thoroughly toweled dry. After removing the lid and servicing the camera, replace the lid straight away rather than leaving it lying around. Before replacing the lid, make sure that no contamination such as dust, hair, salt, etc. has fallen onto the O-ring or O-ring recess, as a precaution we recommend maintaining the O-ring every time the lid is opened.

Procedure for O-Ring Maintenance:

1. Place the lid on a firm non-slip level surface.
2. The O-ring can be extracted using an O-ring extractor tool (make sure the tool has no sharp edges). Alternatively use the flat surface of your thumbs to gently stretch the O-ring on two faces thus making a small loop protruding a few mm. The loop can then be grasped between finger and thumb, to pull the O-ring over the lip.
3. Clean the O-ring recess (the square groove where the O-ring sits) with a cotton bud.
4. Inspect the O-ring all the way round its surface for damage such as cuts tears or contamination. This should be done visually and also by feeling the surface texture between finger and thumb.
5. **IF THE O-RING IS DAMAGED OR SUSPECTED OF BEING DAMAGED, DISCARD IT IMMEDIATELY.** A spare O-ring is supplied with your housing, or a replacement O-ring can be obtained from Fantasea. If the O-ring is contaminated or suspected of being contaminated, clean it with a cotton cloth that is free of all chemicals or contamination. After cleaning inspect the O-ring again.
6. Once the O-ring has been inspected and verified fit for use, apply a **SMALL** amount of silicone grease to the O-ring. The silicone grease must be evenly distributed around the O-ring
7. Replace the O-ring into the groove; run a finger round the O-ring to make sure it is snugly seated in the groove.

Mounting The Camera In The Housing

Remove the lens cap and wrist strap:

Make sure the camera lens to body orientation is set so the LCD screen is at top view with lens at the extended position. The pressure release plug is pulled out before inserting the camera.

Attach the plastic slide plate:

Attach the plastic slide plate to the camera's tripod mounting fixture with a coin, screw driver or the end of the universal tool supplied. Take care not to excessively tighten the screw. Slide the camera into the body along the guide rail inside the bezel. Make sure the camera body is inserted to the limit and test the function of the ON/OFF button on the body of the housing.

Note!

If you find that the control levers do not articulate properly with the camera buttons, please check again that the camera is properly seated to the limit of the guide rail.



Replace the lid:

Remember to pull the pressure release plug all the way out while closing the lid, otherwise the air cannot escape. Squeeze the lid closed all the way, you will hear the hiss of air being expelled.

Screw home the pressure release plug:

There is no need to excessively tighten this plug. The internal O-ring makes the seal. The O-ring on the underside of the plug is just to keep the shaft dirt free.

After replacing the lid, make a final visual inspection of the main O-ring for contamination.

Note!

If the O-ring is in good contact, a thin black line, about 0.5-1mm in width should be visible where the O-ring is in contact with the lid. Follow this line all the way round the edge of the seal as a final check that the seal is good.

The housing is now ready for the dive.

Use & Care of Housing

Pre Dive Function Check

Just before entering the water, review the steps that you have carried out to close the housing. Most importantly check that the housing is closed, and the pressure release plug is screwed to the home position. Take a visual check of the O-ring seal. It is also useful to switch on the camera and check that controls e.g. ON/OFF, ZOOM and SHUTTER functions operate normally. In case of misalignment of the camera, simply open the case and correct the problem. Check also the battery status on the LCD display.

General Operation

The control levers and push buttons consist of internal double O-ring seals on a stainless steel shaft. This arrangement is very reliable. As a precaution though, when operating the controls, one should avoid excessive rapid movements, as this may cause a distortion of the O-ring. You should realize that the camera takes a few seconds to POWER UP. If the camera does not appear to respond to a control action, be sure that no other controls are pressing on the camera, i.e. locking out further actions. Wear the wrist strap--it is easy to inadvertently let go of the housing, especially if you are distracted.

Cleaning & Storage

Care and Maintenance

The body and lid of the housing are made of polycarbonate. Polycarbonate was selected for its outstanding tensile strength, hardness, toughness and its crystal clear transparency/ high gloss surface. It has good resistance to weathering, although long-term exposure to sunlight should be avoided. Normal operating temperature range is from 3°C to 36°C (Storage temperature: -10°C to 50°C)

It is good practice to rinse off your housing with fresh water after every dive. Avoid exposure to fine sand. After a series of 10 or more dives, e.g. after a dive holiday, it is recommended to immerse the housing for 2-3 hours in warm water to dissolve any salt deposits that may have built up. No chemical cleaners should be used. Mild detergents e.g. shampoo and soap based cleaners are permitted.

Important!

Polycarbonate may be harmed by some household chemicals--the housing should never be exposed to the following classes of chemicals:

benzene, toluene, xylene, chlorinated hydrocarbons, methanol, any other solvents, strong acids and bases

For long-term storage please remove the main body to lid O-ring.

Traveling

When transporting by air, please ensure the housing is not sealed to allow the air pressure to equalize. Either remove the O-ring (recommended), or open the pressure release port (a spacer is provided to keep the pressure plug in the open position. Take note that there is no bending of the plug while in the open position).

Please protect the housing during transportation. It is recommended to remove the handle, and shutter extension, and wrap the camera in foam or bubble wrap.

Accidents

The impact resistance of the housing is excellent. However after an accident the alignment of the housing may have been damaged. Therefore in the event of your housing suffering an impact force, e.g. being dropped, it is essential you do not use the housing for diving. Please return the housing immediately for service. Please put a note inside to indicate the nature of the accident, so that we can assess the course of action to take to renovate the housing.

Warranty

The Fantasea CP 8 housing includes a 1-year limited warranty for defective parts that will be replaced by the manufacturer.

See separate insert page regarding our unique CP 8 flooding program by DEPP and the CP 8 Accessory products page.