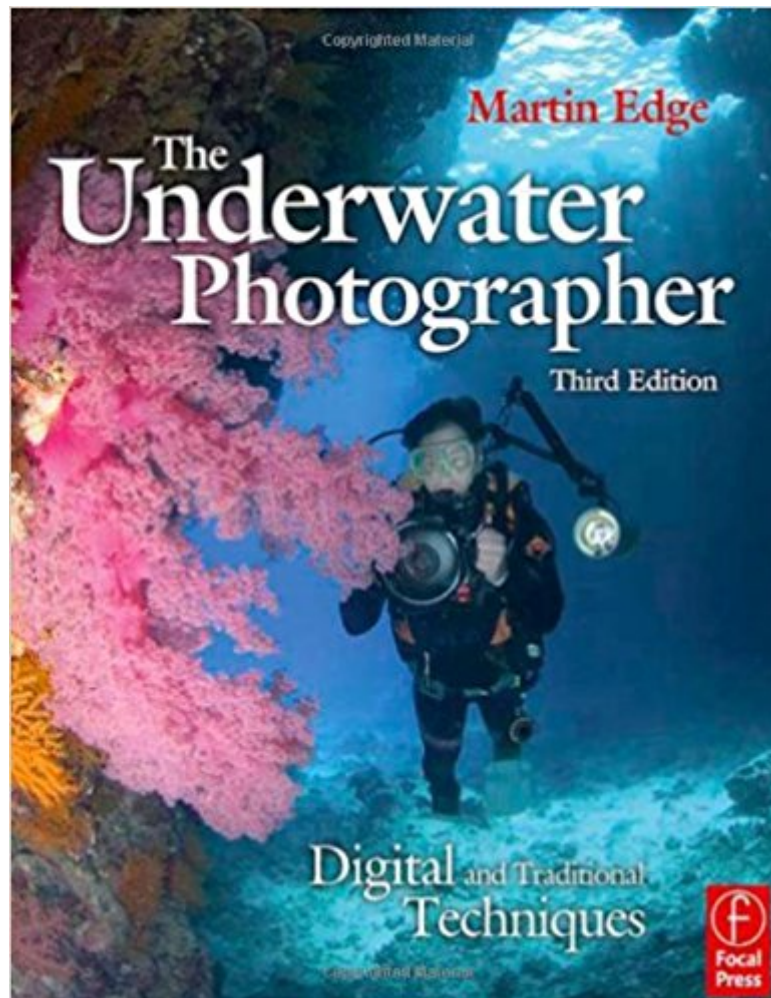




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# The Underwater Photographer: Digital And Traditional Techniques



## Synopsis

A superb hand-on manual containing a wealth of underwater tips, hints and advice - all beautifully illustrated with brand new, full colour images. Martin Edge, a leading authority on underwater photography, will help you capture stunning effects using his popular 'think and consider' system - offering a heightened awareness and understanding of the subject matter, lighting and environment to take the perfect picture. Practical examples take you step-by-step through the basic techniques from photographing shipwrecks, divers, marine life and abstract images to taking photographs at night and 'dual lighting'. In 1999 the late Jim Church, guru of underwater photography, said: 'As a member of the new generation of underwater photography writers, [Martin has] set a standard that will only be surpassed when [he writes] a third edition.' Here it is, we hope you enjoy it.

## Book Information

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Reference

## Customer Reviews

"The Underwater Photographer is a third edition, but it has been so thoroughly revised to include digital techniques that it could have easily justified a new title...The Underwater Photographer is seriously comprehensive and will clearly serve as a faithful reference manual. But the author's enthusiastic, personal and accessible style make it easy reading. Technical issues are dealt with thoroughly but reassuringly free from jargon, and even if it gets a bit technical, you can always skim through the heavy stuff and skip to Martin's personal recommendations, to instantly improve your shots...In conclusion, this book is very impressive and as up to date as a work of this magnitude

could hope to be. In short, if you are an underwater photographer and want to improve your images then I recommend buying this book" - Alex Mustard, [www.wetpixel.com](http://www.wetpixel.com) DIVE MAGAZINE PUBLICATION OF THE YEAR! This year we reckon you had more top-quality publications than usual from which to choose, and the three finalists were each the sort of volume you might treasure as a work of reference. In its third edition, The Underwater Photographer has evolved to become almost a standard work of reference. Martin Edge has developed his writing skills over the years, and we recommend this volume for anyone pursuing the now-less-than black art of underwater photography, especially with digital image-gathering in mind.' Martin gives valuable practical advice... in this compelling, valuable reference.' Stephen Frink, Rodale's Scuba Diving "The book underwater photographers have been dying to get their hands on... anyone interested in taking up underwater photography would benefit from reading this book." Professional Photographer Magazine "Martin assumes the reader has a basic knowledge of underwater photography, and so pitches at the intermediate skilled, but still allows the book to be accessible to the novice and makes a point of highlighting the many stumbling blocks and errors to taking decent snaps that beginners encounter... As well as the basics, Martin includes all the technical know-how to keep the experienced underwater photographer interested. And for anyone not yet seduced by the underwater photography bug, this book is enough to get you hooked - and coming back for more." - Media Sport Diver, June 2006 "The third edition is a hands-on manual containing underwater tips, hints and advice. It provides information to help readers obtain professional results, and has been rewritten (with new, full-color images throughout) to provide in-depth coverage of the latest digital techniques and equipment." - Dive Training, June 2006 "...let us just say that this is THE best underwater photo technique book on the market... PERIOD!" - DIVER magazine "What he (Martin Edge) does not explain in this truly outstanding book is how you put it down (to go diving) once you start to read! Truly a top pick for any underwater photographer" - Asian Diver Magazine

Digital underwater tips, hints and advice - the hottest emerging topic - from a recognised authority on the teaching of underwater photography

I'm a long time photographer, but I've only been on about 20 dives with a camera. I encountered quite a few problems on my first few dives, not with camera control, but with lighting. I learned some things the hard way, and others from various resources on the web, but I wanted a more thorough, systematic tutorial on how to improve my underwater photography. I purchased this book because I wanted something that focused on housed DSLRs, and because it was recommended on the

Wetpixel forums. The first half of the book was of no value to me. Mr. Edge uses a great deal of space to say very little. What little practical advice he gives, I'd seen elsewhere in just a few sentences: \* Get close to your subject, because water absorbs light. \* Shoot up. \* Don't disturb the reef (which every diver should know anyway). Some of what he said was even wrong. As you can read on any underwater photography site, and as I discovered first hand, you don't want to use aperture priority or shutter priority, as he suggests. You want manual, because you want to underexpose according to available light. Even if your subject is fairly well lit, you want additional light from your strobes. Your available light is deficient in red, and your strobes can provide that. Interestingly enough, despite what he says in the exposure chapter, he fairly consistently talks in terms of manual exposure in the rest of the book, as I would expect. One of Mr. Edge's issues seems to be that while he has extensive experience, he conveys what he knows poorly, or perhaps does not even understand his own skills that well. The text is easy enough to read, but it's often unfocused. He scatters basic flash exposure guidelines in half a dozen places, rather than in one coherent section. Later in the book he has a decent section on exposing the background water the way you'd like, and letting the strobes take care of lighting your subject. It's unfortunate that he doesn't mention that until 160 pages after the chapter on exposure. Another fifty pages beyond that, he covers common aperture / distance / flash relationships, which also should have been covered much, much earlier. The book starts to get valuable about halfway through, when it turns to composition. It's not what I would call very systematic, beyond well-known aphorisms such as the rule of thirds. However, simply reading Mr. Edge's descriptions of how he approached a particular shot, both in technique and preparation, often yielded valuable insights for me. It's largely a matter of mining the text for these nuggets of information. After composition, he returns once again to technique, and this section is more valuable than the earlier technique sections in the first half of the book. He has a good deal to say about strobe positioning, for example, that I really wanted to know. Including some practical advice on not spooking fish that I hadn't considered. I do wish he'd spent more a few pages on night photography, and said more in those pages. He doesn't even mention how vital a focusing light can be on a night dive, or even when shooting subjects in crevices or under overhangs. He shows a pair of lights mounted on his housing, but doesn't say why they are there. Overall, I'd say that I'd learned a fair amount by the time I had finished reading, and I will no doubt re-read some sections. But I can't help but wonder how much better the book might be if Mr. Edge had a better grasp on the theory behind his skills, and was better at conveying what he knew in a coherent fashion. - Gus

A pretty basic explanation of underwater photography. For someone fairly new to photography this may be a good buy. For those who are more familiar with photography, although there are still some good pieces of info about strobe placement and lighting, it did not hold a ton of great info.

I'm really glad I found this book. Pitched to the serious amateur, it covers almost every aspect of taking pictures underwater, from equipment selection to composition, exposure and flash, offering thorough text explanations and excellent photographic examples. The author is careful to point out all of the places where he's offering his opinion, and notes where there are differing points of view. Whether or not you adopt his system, this is a great guide to improving your photos, and you'll refer back to it years after you've first read it.

Edge's third edition covers many important topics and is well written and illustrated with photos. It seems to me to include far too much material on film considerations. I know no one still shooting film underwater. More emphasis could have been placed on Photoshop considerations as most shooters are oriented to making better photographs for display in their homes or to support their UW web sites. For those interested in photo competitions the book is an excellent foray into achieving results less dependent on PS manipulation.

This book assumes some knowledge of photography so if you're looking for an introduction to photography style of book this isn't it. However, if you have been photographing on dry land for some time and are comfortable with shutter speed, aperture, white balance, exposure compensation etc etc and want to start thinking about adopting these skills underwater - look no further. A great guide to "skilling up" to underwater photography.

Author has great techniques and really gives you a great foundation to build some great shots.

It is the many photographs I have seen taken by this man which make me realise I still have a long way to go as far as mastering the art of underwater photography is concerned. Time was when every newly trained scuba diver would talk about the diving facility they are going to open now that they have learned to dive. Not so any more. Today, they are more conscious of the underwater environment and are keen to progress on to underwater photography. Well this is where that journey towards taking successful pictures begins. Martin Edge has mastered the art of underwater photography and has that indefinable knack of being able to teach others what he knows - and very

successfully indeed. So, if you are contemplating buying your first underwater camera - or if you have already done so, then get a copy of this book and do 2 things. Firstly, read it. Then wait a week and read it again! My own photographs were first published in 1974 and my first underwater pictures in 1979. Right now, my work has appeared every single month for the past 7 years. Yet I have still learned a lot from this book. NM

The couple of poor reviews notwithstanding, this is the best focused reference on digital underwater photography I have seen so far. It is composed of bite-sized chunks of information that covers different aspects of the problem. I like the references to different techniques, lighting, burn-out, and all the other little tips that take a long time to figure out on your own. It also has great advice like how to set your camera if you are swimming around with nothing particular in mind to photograph. About the only thing I think is missing is better coverage of shooting with the ubiquitous compact cameras. That's the only reason I gave it a four. The compact photographer still has a lot to get from this book, but an awful lot is designed for the SLR shooter. Still, I recommend this book to my underwater photo students.

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