

La photo numerique sous-marine - Guide expert

By Isabelle et Amar Guillen



A few months ago, in UWP25, I shared my experience of Isabelle & Amar Guillen's practical guide to underwater photography. I had liked the book a lot, as a 'get to grips with your underwater camera' guide, but thought it might have been lacking a bit of in-depth knowledge.

And guess what, the 'Guide Expert' has now arrived! This book

is full of very valuable information for both experienced underwater photographers and novices who have read the 'Guide Pratique'.

A lot of technical data has been compiled and you will find good advice on how to choose your equipment. Although most readers will probably own their cameras and housings already, it could come-in handy when you consider upgrading your set-up and buying more toys. I particularly liked the chapter dedicated to strobe lighting, where concepts such as Guide Number and strobe angular coverage are explained in detail, although I probably won't remember all the maths.

Other subjects covered include white-balance, the use of filters, dome ports, flat ports, teleconverters, dioptres, etc. Some concepts are not immediately useful, but will add to your general photography knowledge.

But 'La photo numerique sous-marine - Guide Expert' isn't just a mine of technical data. It also describes various shooting techniques that can be used in situations such as wreck diving, tropical environments, low visibility green water, or even moving subjects. The authors go further than just describing how to position your camera to compose a good picture. They also talk about the diver's attitude and explain how the photographer should approach the

subject.

The section dedicated to post-processing is smaller than in the previous manual. In the expert guide, it only covers RAW processing and DNG the new Adobe file format.

All this information was probably available in the myriad of books that have sprung on the anglo-saxon market, but France was somewhat lagging behind when it came to digital underwater photography manuals. This situation has now been rectified with examples of photos taken in Brittany! Like its predecessor, the book is only available in French, which might limit the number of people who could benefit from reading its pages. I am informed that the Guillens might be on the lookout for a publisher for an English version.

JP Trenque

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