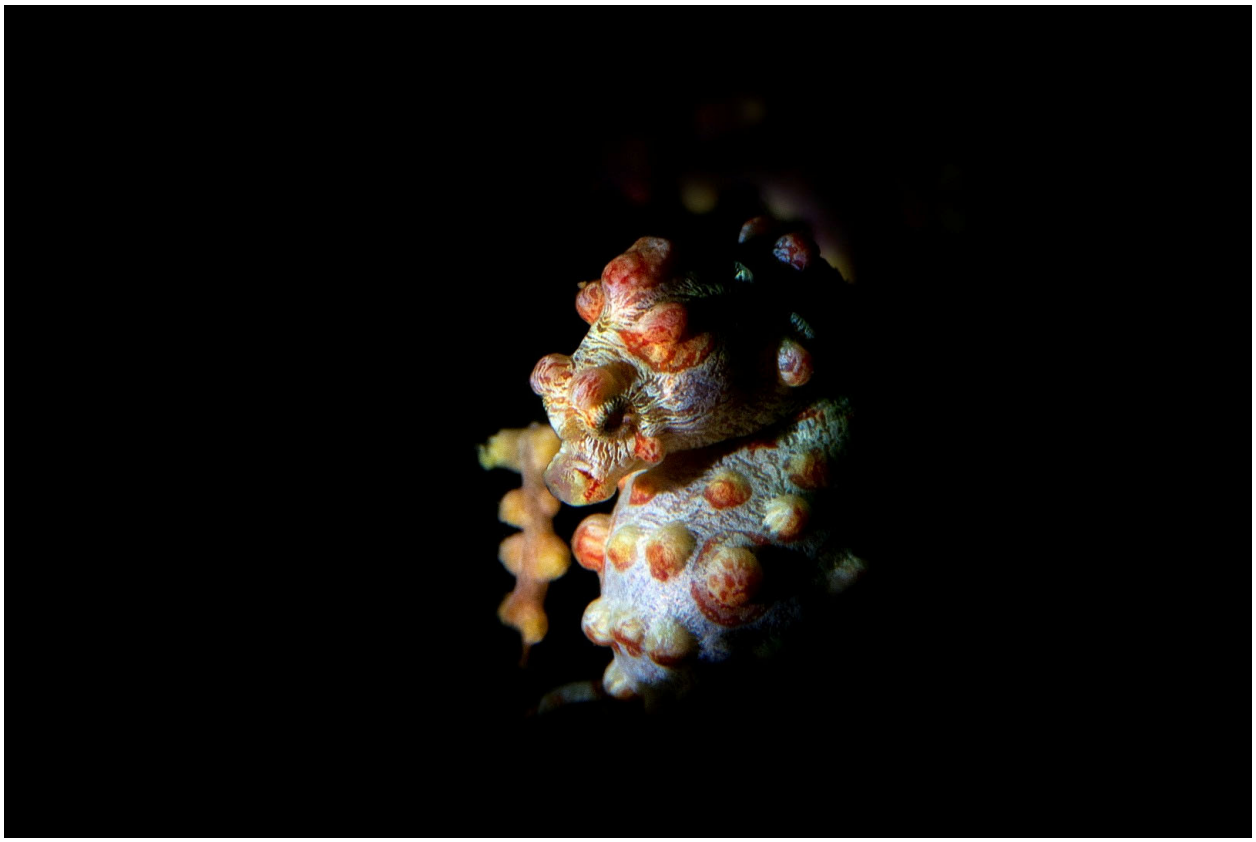
JAUNT MP10 Optical Lens Snoot Light 1380 Lumens Review

By Paul Macdonald of downunderpix

It was my pleasure to take a pair of Jaunt MP-10 snoot lights to Amed, Indonesia for 2 weeks diving. I used the MP-10's on all 32 dives which were all macro photography mostly on black sand. Over the 2 weeks I got to know these awesome snoot lights pretty well.

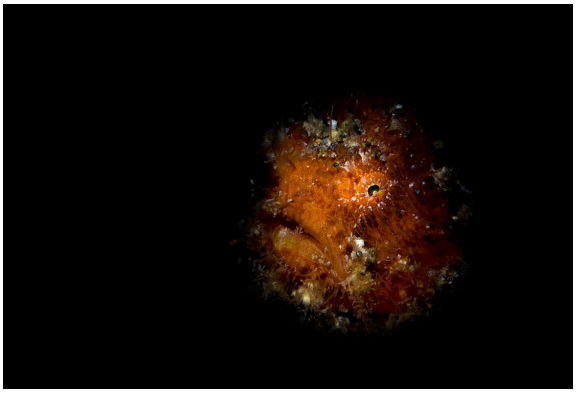


The Jaunt MP-10 lights were very impressive and I achieved some great results. The option to use either the 23.9 degree beam or the 2.7 degree beam added considerable flexibility to my photography as did having 2 of them available.

For all the dives I used a Nikon D800 camera with a Sigma 150mm lens in a Sea & Sea housing. No dioptres were used.

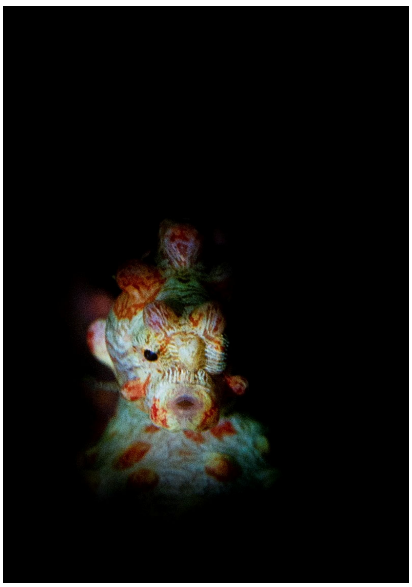
On the first dive I had 1 MP-10 mounted to the camera housing. Whilst it was possible to aim the light where I wanted to off the housing mount, I soon realized it was much easier to pass the lights to my guide and have him hold them in the position(s)

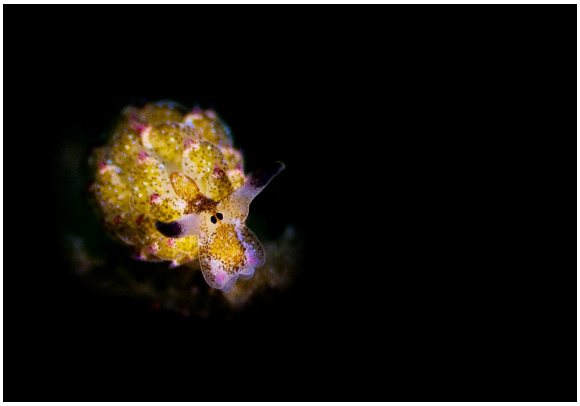
directed by me. This way the light was always in the right position and I was free to maneuver myself for the best photographic position.



I found that using 1 MP-10 snoot light worked well with lighter coloured subjects, but I found it difficult to get acceptable exposure and results with darker subjects (such as a dark brown frogfish). However 2 lights together worked exceptionally well and provided significant flexibility and for a greater range of exposure in all subjects.

The ability to change the intensity of the lights, both the High – Medium – Low function and the stepless dimming function are a great features and I used them occasionally. However, I generally found it easier to use full power of the MP-10's and adjust the exposure in the camera. That said, it was clear that some subjects would appear to become distressed by the constant bright light being on them. This is when it is good to turn down the intensity of the MP-10, turn it off for a while to let the subject have a break or just go find another subject. As underwater photographers we should always be considerate of the amazing marine creatures we get to see and photograph and not subject them to any undue stress.





The 2.7 degree beam is fantastic for snoot lighting small subjects such as Shawn the Sheep nudibranchs which are around 3mm long. For larger subjects such as a 30mm nudibranch or an ornate ghost pipefish I used the 23.9 degree beam. Obviously how much of the subject is lit can be varied by how close the MP-10 snoot is to the subject. I also found that using a combination of beam angles also worked very well. For example on a nudibranch where the narrow beam

might be used to light the rhinopores from the front and the wider beam used from behind to provide a nice glow to the gills.

The MP-10 offers all the benefits of strobe based snoot photography in isolating the subject with a black background and reducing backscatter in dirty water with the added advantage of being able to see where the light is positioned prior to triggering the shutter. This makes them significantly easier to use than flash based snoots.

Most of my dives were 75 to 90 minutes and I found the 3400mah high capacity 18650 batteries supplied with the MP-10 had sufficient power to last 2 dives if the light was turned off when not in use. The battery level indicator on the switch is a great feature letting me know when it was time to change batteries between dives.

In summary the Jaunt MP-10 snoot light performed exceptionally well and 2 of them are now permanently part of my macro photography kit.

The Jaunt MP-10 specs:

LED	CREE XPL LED		
Color Temperature	5000K		
Output	1380LM	650LM	15LM
Runtime	110 mins	220 mins	1000 mins
Lens	4mm PC		
Beam Angle	80° in Air / 2.7° Underwater		
Battery	1*18650 Power Battery (3400mAh)		
Surface	Type III Hard Anodizing		
Settings	Three Levels (High – Mid – Low)+ Quick Flash + SOS + Stepless Dimming		
Switch	Waterproof Push Button		
Waterproof	IPX8 & 100 Meters Underwater		
Size	29*24*140mm		
Applications	Professional Underwater Photography		
Warranty	2 years for the flashlight, 6 months for the battery and charger		