

TIPS AND TRICKS NO 11.

Carry Adequate Spares

As you start to get serious about underwater photography it is important to make sure that you carry with you an adequate supply of spare parts and tools for your camera system. Most of you will already carry some basic dive spare parts like mouth pieces, zip ties and tank o-rings. It's important to have what you may need for your camera system as well.

And its not only spare batteries or o-rings. On one recent trip to Amed I took 3 new AA battery chargers capable of charging 8 batteries each. I tested them once at home before the trip. Now Elizabeth and I will use 36 AA batteries per day in our strobes when doing multiple dives per day. So, the new chargers would allow us to sleep through the night without the need to change batteries in chargers. But after few days into the trip these chargers all failed. I had taken 2 spare chargers that charge 4 batteries each. These got well used and I didn't get to sleep through the night again.



So, especially if you are travelling, take a spare of everything that you reasonably may need. Spare sync cords, spare optic fibre cables, spare battery chargers (including camera battery charge), spare batteries for everything (including housing vacuum system and moisture detection system), spare o-rings for strobe(s), light(s), and housing(s), silicone grease for o-rings, o-ring picks, strobe arms and all the tools you may need to repair or adjust your camera system.

If you are boat diving, put together a small list of spares that you may need in an emergency on the boat, this would usually include batteries, o-rings, silicon grease, optic fiber cables and a small selection of relevant tools. And use a dry bag or box to store it in so it won't get wet.

Below is a spares checklist I have put together that you can adapt to your own particular needs. But if you are unsure what spares you may need to carry, feel free to contact me and we can discuss what you may need.



Underwater Photography Spares List

Sync cord(s)
Optic fibre cable(s)
Strobe batteries
Camera batteries
Vacuum system batteries
Moisture detection batteries
Housing o-rings
Strobe o-rings
Video light o-rings
Silicone Grease
Memory card(s)
USB cable(s)
Backup media storage

Toolkit List

Lens cleaner
Lint free cloths
Camera manual
Housing manual
O-ring pick
Flat screwdriver
Phillips head screwdriver
Precision screwdriver set
Allen keys
Pliers
Pointy nose pliers
Side cutters
Exacto knife
Socket/spanner kit
Cable ties