

O-Ring Care and Maintenance

Lax or improper O-Ring care can result in failure of the watertight seal leading to catastrophic flooding of your equipment. Even a small amount of water ingress can write-off delicate, expensive photographic equipment and user error is not covered by any warranty!!

Underwater photographic equipment makes use of nitrile rubber or silicone O-Rings to create a watertight seal and protect the mechanical and electronic components housed within. Housings, Strobes and synch cords all use O-Rings which can be found on “back doors”, battery compartments, lens ports and synch cord sockets. Your equipment will have at least one seal depending on its design.

READ YOUR INSTRUCTION MANUAL TO FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE SEALS YOU WILL NEED TO MAINTAIN

These procedures should be followed every time you use your equipment:

Step 1:

Remove the O-Ring from its groove carefully. This can be done with a removal tool if supplied or with the corner of a credit/qualification card. ***Never use sharp or metal implements to do this as these can damage the O-Ring or scratch the sealing face, both of which will cause leaking.***

Step 2:

With the O-Ring removed clean the groove and corresponding seal face with soft, lint free material; Kitchen paper works well for this. Inspect both surfaces for any damage and ensure that there are no objects such as salt crystals, sand, dirt or hair present that could prevent the O-Ring from creating a seal.

Step 3:

Clean your O-Ring by wiping away any old grease and dirt, again using a soft lint free cloth or kitchen paper. Slowly pass the O-Ring through your thumb and forefinger whilst observing it to check for any damage. If you find any damage (i.e cuts or cracks) ***do not use!*** Replace with a new O-Ring.

Step 4:

Lubricate your O-Ring by squeezing a small ‘teardrop’ sized drop of grease onto the end of your forefinger and then rubbing your thumb. Now pass the O-Ring through your thumb and forefinger (As if making the OK Signal). If correctly lubricated the O-Ring should be just ‘Shiny’. ***Any excess grease should be removed as this will attract dirt and hairs which will cause the seal to fail.***

*****Check your instruction manual for manufacturers recommendations on which type of grease to use. Never use silicone grease on Silicone O-Rings*****

Silicone O-Rings are usually coloured, black ones are usually nitrile.

Step 5:

Refit the O-Ring to its groove and make a final check to ensure that it is seated properly and that there are no foreign objects present. Firmly close and secure your equipment as detailed in your instruction manual.

This guide was re-produced by www.camera-shop.co.uk
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