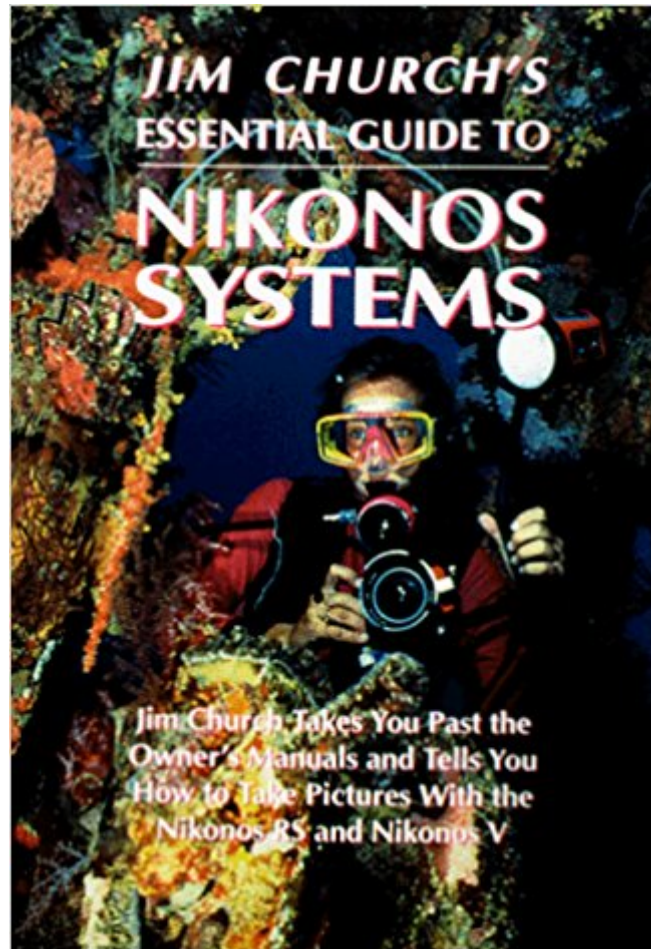




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Jim Church's Essential Guide To Nikonos Systems



Synopsis

Jim Church, noted pioneer takes you beyond Nikonos V, RS owner's manuals for great underwater photos.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Aqua Quest Publications (December 29, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1881652041

ISBN-13: 978-1881652045

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,864,237 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nature & Wildlife > Underwater](#) #441 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Lighting](#) #465 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Scuba](#)

Customer Reviews

The guru ...has done it again! No Nikonos user should be without this book--it's the underwater photographer's bible! --Skin Diver

Jim Church is one of the pioneers of modern underwater photography. Many of today's professionals got started with a camera in one hand, and Jim's articles and books in the other. Jim's articles and photographs have appeared hundreds of times during the past 40 years in photography, travel and dive magazines, newspapers and books. He is the author of eight previous books on underwater photography. Jim is a co-recipient of the NOGI Award for the Arts for his contribution to underwater photography. He resides in Miami Lakes, Florida.

Church helped many with this book and his tips on use of the Nikonos system. Though the technology of that dated 35mm icon is perhaps now surpassed, this book would still be valuable to any understanding of underwater photography. It would be a five star rating, if modernized for a wider non Nikonos audience. I would still recommend this book for that wider audience now however. It is only dated in choice of equipment, not art of photography.

can't have enough books

Great book! This is the bible for Nikonos underwater systems. Very good reading and really covers the Nikonos systems. I know the old Nikonos is outdated, this is still a great book

Learning to use my Nikonos 5 with this

great!!

A very interesting testimony to an already gone era. However, many of the principles still valid today ! Definitely worth reading .

My first reaction when opening this book was that it was light on text. Not necessarily bad if it says what it needs to succinctly. Unfortunately, this book didn't do that. Procedures could be explained more clearly, and could be illustrated with more and better figures and photographs. This semi-pro photographer often found himself reading a procedure and saying, "huh?" "Change the f-stop which way?" The advanced photographer will gloss over reading the description of f-stops and shutter speeds while the novice will be left befuddled. The book leans toward giving recipes for a situation rather than trying to teach an understanding of photography. More explanation and pictures could be given of the equipment and configuration. A new underwater photographer with a camera is overwhelmed by the array of arms and attachments, but there is one paragraph on arms and brackets that basically says, "Get the best," without as much as figure to show how one looks or attaches to the camera. Then you get descriptions such as "attach the strobe arm so it tilts toward the camera body." Tilt in what plane? What does a strobe arm look like? There are statements and procedures that seem odd to an experienced photographer. It is suggested that manual strobe exposure, which is typically only dependent of distance and f-stop, is also a function of subject brightness. The procedure for using TTL flash starts with looking up the flash distance for a full-power manual flash to set the f-stop. If you're going to do that, you might as well not use TTL (although this method does maximize depth of field, but, of course, this is not explained.) The TTL electronics are then used as little more than a proper exposure indication, and if you don't get a proper exposure with your camera set to the edge of the exposure range, you're to burn more film at another f-stop until it works. This book focuses on the Nikonos V and the now-discontinued RS.

Even though the author considers the IVA to be "a dud," the III and IVA are still viable cameras that a beginner, the audience for this book, is likely to have because of the lower procurement cost. (Currently on eBay, a V with 35mm lens runs about \$475 while a IVA with the same lens is about \$250.) An appendix on the features, and how operating and maintenance differ for these models, would be very useful. Church has written on these models in previous editions, so it shouldn't be difficult. So, what is good about this book? The color photographs are very good, but are more of result examples than actually showing the equipment, but are inspirational. The guidelines on positioning strobes and estimating distances is invaluable, as are the maintenance sections. If you bought a used Nikonos without a manual, note that Craig Camera sells the manuals for a IVA for \$20 while the book currently retails on-line for less than that. If you're trying to decide between the two, I'd get this book. This book also seems to be considered by many to be the definitive guide to Nikonos photography, and my search shows few, if any, other underwater photography books dedicated to this one line of cameras. So, like the title says, even though I feel that there is a LOT of room for improvement, this book may be, indeed, essential for the Nikonos beginner.

Jim Church is the true professor of underwater photography. His book is comprehensive and fairly clear. His approach is almost too analytical at times. I would have liked more photos and text explaining what he did and why and how it worked out, although he did offer quite a number of photo examples. His tips on strobe useage and his "secret guide to strobe exposures" alone are worth the price of the book. For a looser and more intuitive approach, read [...]this is an addition to, not a replacement for Church's book. Overall, I would give the book an A- with about half of it worthy of an A+ and the remainder a solid B to B+.eyesguy@aol.com

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