

# AQUATICA™

## Digital



# OPERATING MANUAL

**FOR THE AQUATICA DIGITAL  
HOUSING FOR THE CANON T2i**

**PRODUCT # 20066**

# FOREWORD

Thank you for having selected the AQUATICA Digital Camera Housing System for your underwater photography.

The AQUATICA Digital Housing is the result of a long and continuing relationship with the most demanding underwater photographers in the world. Each housing is handcrafted, quality checked and pressure tested to a 300 feet equivalent by a small group of specially trained individuals, each of whom takes the utmost pride and satisfaction in offering the best underwater camera housing in the world.

The Aquatica Digital Housing was designed for optimum technical and optical performance and to provide easy and efficient underwater access to essential functions and controls of the Canon T2i / 550D DSLR.

This manual assumes that the user is already familiar with the Canon T2i / 550D camera. If not, please read the Canon instruction manual before attempting to use the housing.

With basic care and maintenance, your AQUATICA housing will give you a lifetime of enjoyment and satisfaction in producing underwater images.

Please read this manual carefully before using your housing for the first time and note that: whenever cited the right hand is your right when using the housing.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

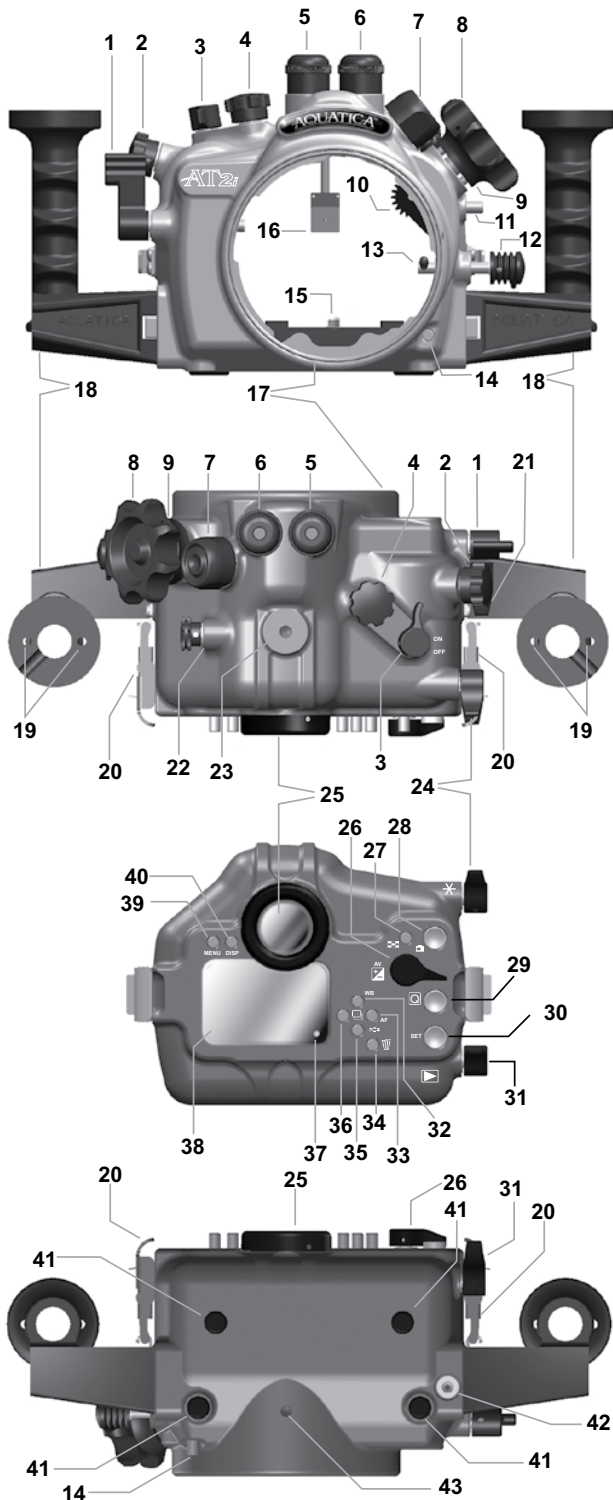
While operation of the Aquatica T2i is fairly straightforward, as with anything going underwater certain precautionary measures should be addressed in order to protect your investment, high above them is providing proper transportation and handling of this housing to protect it from potential damage which might cause a flood or operational malfunction. So please read and follow the following precautions:

- Store and transport the housing in a sturdy, shock proof container and avoid travelling with the camera mounted inside the housing as impact forces especially on the external push buttons will be transferred to the camera.
- When travelling by air, either remove the port or open the housing to prevent pressure built up inside the housing that could force ports window to pop out or unseat O-ring seal.
- Never change a port or open the housing in a location where sand or similar foreign material might come in contact with an O-ring.
- Use of accessories or modifications and alterations unauthorized by the manufacturer may result in flooding or poor functioning of the controls.
- Be careful when opening the housing as the pressure buildup inside the housing will exaggerate the force of the latch spring. Keep fingers away from the path of the latches.
- Whenever changing ports or O-rings, perform a simple seal test with out the camera inside.
- Avoid scratching the acrylic or glass ports and windows.
- Make sure that all ports remain properly attached before rinsing the housing, especially when rinsing without a wired strobe make sure the Bulkhead connector is sealed with its plug.
- Never attempt to operate the camera in autofocus mode if a focus gear is engaged on a non USM lens to the housing pinion gear.
- The main O-ring seals should be maintained and cleaned on a regular basis. Read and follow the *Care and Maintenance* section on this manual.
- Ensure that the spring loaded secondary lock is properly engaged on the latches to prevent their accidental opening underwater.

# AQUATICA™

## AT2i

## Digital



- 01- Shutter Release lever
- 02- Main Dial access knob
- 03- Power switch lever
- 04- Mode Dial control knob
- 05- Bulkhead Connector
- 06- Bulkhead Connector
- 07- Accessory bulkhead (shown with optional hydrophone)
- 08- Focus/Zoom Control knob
- 09- Focus/Zoom Control knob retractor
- 10- Focus/Zoom Control pinion gear
- 11- Camera Integrated flash button
- 12- Lens Release knob
- 13- Lens Release knob lever
- 14- Port Release mechanism button
- 15- Removable Camera Tray
- 16- Hot shoe connector (with wired connectors only)
- 17- Bayonet Flange
- 18- Grips (x2)
- 19- Grip's Accessories mounting holes (1/4"-20)
- 20- Latches (x2)
- 21- ISO Setting Lever
- 22- Internal flash shutdown knob
- 23- Accessory mounting hole (1/4"-20)
- 24- AF-L / AF-L & Star access lever
- 25- Viewfinder Eyepiece
- 26- Aperture / Exposure Compensation lever
- 27- AF Point / Magnifier button
- 28- Start/Stop Live View / Movie button
- 29- Quick Control button
- 30- Set button
- 31- Playback button
- 32- WB selector button
- 33- AF mode selector button
- 34- Erase button
- 35- Picture Style button
- 36- Drive Mode button
- 37- Optional Moisture Alarm LED hole
- 38- Rear LCD window
- 39- Menu button
- 40- DISP activation button
- 41- Rubber Anti Skid pad
- 42- Sacrificial Anode
- 43- Accessories mounting holes (x3)

01. **SHUTTER RELEASE LEVER:** Pulling the shutter release lever back part way activates the camera meter and auto focus. Pulling the lever back all the way fires the camera.
02. **MAIN DIAL ACCESS KNOB:** Rotates clockwise and counterclockwise. Use alone or in combination with other controls to select or set various camera functions or modes. In "Manual" this control is used either alone for shutter speed or with the AV mode lever in the back to change aperture values (see camera manual).
03. **ON/OFF SWITCH LEVER:** Rotate to turn the camera power on.
04. **MODE DIAL ACCESS KNOB:** Rotate to select the proper shooting mode.
05. **BULKHEAD CONNECTOR:** This bulkhead connector may vary according to the owner preferences, (see page 9)
06. **BULKHEAD CONNECTOR:** This bulkhead connector may vary according to the owner preferences, (see page 9)
07. **HYDROPHONE:** This optional hydrophone is shown mounted on the accessory bulkhead provided on the Aquatica T2i/550D housing, it will capture ambient sound while video recording underwater, it's design is made to be effective underwater and will not function properly if not immersed.
08. **FOCUS/ZOOM KNOB:** Turning allows manual focus of a single focus lens or rotation of the zoom mechanism of a lens.
09. **FOCUS/ZOOM KNOB RETRACTOR:** Turning allows manual focus of a single focus lens or rotation of the zoom mechanism of a lens.
10. **FOCUS/ZOOM PINION GEAR:** Engages and operates the focus or zoom gear attached to the lens.
11. **CAMERA INTEGRATED FLASH BUTTON:** Pushing this button will pop open the integrated flash of the camera, only use when shooting optically triggered strobes.
12. **LENS RELEASE KNOB:** activates the lens release button on the camera allowing easy removal of the lens.
13. **LENS RELEASE KNOB LEVER:** Applies pressure on the camera lens lock button
14. **PORT RELEASE MECHANISM BUTTON:** Press down to release the locking mechanism when installing or removing a port or extension.
15. **REMOVABLE CAMERA TRAY:** Used to attach camera and slide in housing.
16. **HOT SHOE CONNECTOR:** connects the camera to the Flash Bulkhead. Slide this Connector into the camera Hot Shoe. When detaching do not pull the cord as this might damage the electrical connections.
17. **BAYONNET MOUNTING FLANGE:** allows the mounting of different ports and extension rings on the housing.
18. **HAND GRIPS (X2):** Left and right grip allowing the mounting of strobe arms and accessories.
19. **GRIP'S ACCESSORIES MOUNTING HOLES:** Two 1/4"-20 TPI holes on each grip are ready to accept TLC Base Brackets or TLC Base Ball for strobe arms or accessories.
20. **LATCHES:** Two heavy duty latches with safety locks to protect against accidental opening.
21. **ISO SETTING LEVER:** Push to engage the ISO sensitivity.
22. **INTERNAL FLASH SHUT DOWN KNOB:** Rotate to lower the internal built in flash of the camera
23. **MOUNTING HOLE FOR ACCESSORY:** a 1/4"-20 TPI hole is supplied to accept a TLC accessory or TLC base ball for mounting a strobe arm or a modeling light.
24. **(\*) STAR ACCESS LEVER:** This lever access both the AF-E & AF-L features as well as the Star which is a highly customizable button, these are important controls for video shooting and care should be taken to fully understand their working and subtleties.
25. **REMOVABLE VIEWFINDER:** A full view of the illuminated camera viewfinder displays all necessary information. This viewfinder be removed and replaced with optional Aqua View Finder for a larger displayed image.
26. **APERTURE / EXPOSURE COMPENSATION LEVER :** This lever when engaged will give the user access to aperture value in manual mode, in automatic ones, it will give access to exposure compensation.
27. **AF POINT SELECTOR / MAGNIFY BUTTON:** Press this button to select the focus point or to magnify the image in playback mode
28. **LIVE VIEW / MOVIE MODE START-STOP BUTTON:** Push to start or stop Live View or Movies mode.

## CONTROLS IN DETAIL, CONTINUED

29. **QUICK CONTROL BUTTON:** Push to access the quick control screen and its functions use the cross key to navigate the screen.
30. **SET BUTTON:** Press to approve selection of menu or chosen mode features.
31. **PLAYBACK BUTTON:** push down to activate the monitor and review images.
32. **WB FUNCTION BUTTON:** press to select the white balance selection, this button is part of the cross keys array
33. **AF MODE BUTTON:** press to select the AF mode selection, this button is part of the cross keys array
34. **ERASE BUTTON:** Press to delete images.
35. **PICTURE STYLE BUTTON:** Press to select the desired feature. (note: It is somewhat recommended to shoot in RAW format and concentrate on these options in post production). This button is part of the cross keys array.
36. **DRIVE MODE BUTTON:** Press to select the desired drive feature. This button is part of the cross keys array.
37. **MOISTURE ALARM LED MOUNTING HOLE :** A mounting hole is provided for the optional moisture alarm.
38. **REAR WINDOW LCD:** This port window allows viewing of the recorder images and is used in the Live View as well as the Video mode for framing, a cutaway in the upper right corner allows the users to see the recording pilot light. Allow viewing of menus as well.
39. **MENU BUTTON:** Press to activate menu display, scroll using main or quick dial control knob and select using SET function button
40. **DISP BUTTON:** pushing this button will display the shooting information on the rear display.
41. **RUBBER ANTI SKID PADS:** Four rubber pads are provided to protect the housing and preventing it from sliding on wet decks.
42. **SACRIFICIAL ANODE:** A zinc anodes is installed to protect your housing against salt water corrosion; it is designed to deteriorate easier than the other strategic parts of your housing, hence the name sacrificial anodes. This anodes will eventually need to be replaced by the user as needed.
43. **MOUNTING HOLE:** a 1/4" X 20 tripod hole is provided for mounting the TLC underwater tripod, strobes trays, or accessories.

AQUATICA™  
Digital

AT2i

The *Aquatica Digital* housing serie is issued from the world's most technologically advanced underwater housing lineage, ergonomically designed to place all the essential camera controls under your finger tips and features the following:

- A. A port locking mechanism to prevent accidental rotation of the port or extension mounted on the housing
- B. A Lens Lock Release control that will activate the lens release button of camera from the outside of the housing, this lever can be pull out to allow the camera/lens/gear to be removed together for easy battery replacement.
- C. A quick release tray, allowing fast and easy removal of camera.
- D. Large ergonomic and easy to operate controls for most of the manual and computerized camera functions.
- E. A flexible strobes connector circuitry that allows evolution according to ones needs (see page 9).
- F. The following controls can be easily manipulated or accessed underwater:
  - Mechanical shutter release.
  - Shutter speed and aperture through the Main Dial
  - ISO sensitivity
  - Live view & Video recording access
  - Focus / Zoom access
  - AE-L/AF-L & AF-ON and \* (star) button access
  - Exposure mode (Mode)
  - Exposure Compensation
  - Focus Area Selector
  - Info & Playback
  - Menu, Picture Styles, quick controls & RAW/JPEG one touch button
  - Delete button access
- G. A complete selection of bayonet mounted ports including anthe 4", 6", 8" and 9.25 diameter dome, three flat ports and various extension rings to preserve the image quality of your EF mount lenses.
- H. A comprehensive selection of focus and zoom gears to access all popular lenses useful to underwater photography plus a wide range of related accessories.

## PREPARATION OF THE HOUSING

### **1. Attach Grip Bracket to the housing:**

The housing comes with two Grips for both right and left hand grips which should be installed on the sides of the housing with the supplied screws and Allen key. Occasionally remove the grips and lubricate the screws (see Care and Maintenance: of the housing.)

Depending on which strobe system you are using, you can mount the necessary shoes or brackets onto the 1/4"-20 threaded holes on the top of the hand grips. The AQUATICA® line of Technical Lighting Control® strobe arm is recommended.

There is a 1/4"-20 threaded hole on the bottom of the housing that can be used for various mounting application trays or tripod. As well there is another hole on top front half of the housing for mounting accessories such as a video or focusing light.

Mount your strobe and connect the sync cord to the housing's strobe bulkhead. Be sure to read the section titled "Care and Maintenance: of the O-rings."

### **2. Lubricate the Main O-ring Seal:**

Before use, carefully inspect the Main O-ring seal in its groove on the front half of the housing to confirm that it is free from scratches or foreign material. When needed lubricate the O-ring with a light coat of Aquatica O-ring Lubricant.

When replacing the O-ring place the entire O-ring over the O-ring groove and start by pushing the O-ring in the corners. Work your way around the O-ring making sure it is snugly sitting in the groove.

For proper handling and maintenance of O-rings be sure to read the section titled "*Care and Maintenance: of the O-rings.*"

## PREPARATION OF THE PORTS

### **1. Select the correct port:**

Depending on whether you've decided to shoot macro or wide angle photography, you will be installing either a flat Macro Port (product # 18426, 18428 or 18429), or a Dome Port (Product # 18405, 18407, 18409 or 18410). See *lens chart for the suggested port and accessories*.

**Macro Port Extension Rings:** If you intend to use a longer Macro lens than the Canon EF-S 60mm you will require an additional extension ring. This extension rings fit between the Macro Port and the housing to provide the extra space necessary for the longer lens. See *lens chart for the suggested port and accessories*.

**Dome Port Extension Rings:** When using a wide angle or zoom lens, the Dome Port may require the uses of an extension ring to closely match the optical center of both the dome and the lens. See *lens chart for the suggested port and accessories*.

In order to reduce glare, maximize contrast and offer physical protection to the dome, the use of a dome shade is highly recommended. See *lens chart for the suggested dome shade*.

A comprehensive list of the lenses supported and their required extensions and/or accessories is supplied at the end of this manual. For the latest updated version of this lens chart, you can refer to the Lens Chart for the Aquatica 7D housing on [www.aquatica.ca](http://www.aquatica.ca)

### **2. Clean the port:**

Dirt, grease or fingerprints on the port especially on the inside, can adversely affect the quality of the image. Acrylic ports should be cleaned with plastic cleaner and the glass ports should be cleaned with lens cleaner. For more details be sure to read the section titled "*Care and Maintenance: of the Ports.*"

### **3. Lubricate the port O-ring seal:**

Before using the port, remove the O-ring on the rear of the port and lightly coat it with silicone grease. For more details be sure to read the section titled "*Care and Maintenance: of the O-rings.*"

## **PREPARATION OF THE LENS**

There are a number of gear options possible. Using the right gear (s) for your lens and correctly mounting them on the lens is a very important step for a smooth housing operation. Follow the installation directions included with each gears carefully. The use of EF mount lenses is mandatory.

A comprehensive list of the lenses supported and their required gears is available for download from our website. this housings lens chart is the Type 2 for 1:6 type sensor cameras. For the latest updated version of this lens chart, you can refer to the Lens Chart on [www.aquatica.ca](http://www.aquatica.ca)

**Notes:** If the camera is set in manual focus a focus gear must be mounted on the lens. If you are using a zoom lens with a zoom ring the camera must be on auto focus, also note that if using a dome port you may need to install a closeup diopter on the lens to correct the minimum focusing distance of the lens so that it will be able to focus on the virtually projected image created by the dome. See *lens chart for the suggested diopter, if required for your lens/port combination*.

### **Gear installation:**

Mounting the gear over the focus or zoom ring of the lens.

(a) For Slip-on gears (gears without mounting screws): just carefully slide the gear over the lens, if the fit is too tight, some O-ring material can be removed, make sure to not over do it

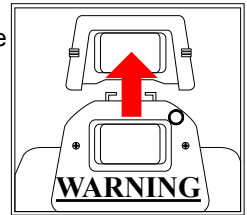
(b) For gears with mounting screws: slightly tighten the three set screws evenly. Tighten each screw approximately 1/2 a turn working around the gear until all the three (3) screws are tightened, and the gear is concentric with the lens body. Be cautious to not over tighten these screws, as this might bind the lens, thus restricting the rotation of the focus ring and/or damaging the lens. Conversely under-tightening these screws might cause the gear to slip or loose alignment. Rotate the focus ring several times to make sure it moves smoothly and the gear does not slip before closing the housing

**WARNING:** If the lens is a not of the USM type, never attempt to operate it with the camera in autofocus mode and with a mounted focus gear engaged. This might cause serious damage to your lens focusing motor.

**Zoom lenses:** When using a zoom lens, the gear should be mounted on the zoom lens control. The housing focus control then becomes the zoom control. Focusing of lens is achieved by using the camera's autofocus system.

## CAMERA PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION

1. **Important Note:** prior to installing the camera in the housing: Please remove the rubber protective guard from the viewfinder on your camera, remove the camera strap and/or any object that might obstruct installation or get in the way of that attach the strap should be removed or tucked away
2. Pull the lens lock lever (key # 12) on the front of the housing outward and the mode dial knob up (key # 04)
3. If installing the camera with a lens attached, pull out the Focus/Zoom control knob ( key # 08) and rotate its collar disk (key # 09) into the upper position, this will move the pinion gear (Key # 10) out of the way.
3. Remove the saddle from the housing and carefully place the camera on it and ensure the camera is properly installed and aligned as follows:
  - a) Align the Tripod Socket of the camera with the mounting screw. Tighten the mounting screw securely while ensuring that the camera position is not altered as per drawing at right.
  - c) position the ON / OFF (key # 03) in the OFF position and do the same to the camera.
  - d) **Important:** if using optical fiber type cords, remember to eventually pop the flash up and test it.
  - e) Slide the quick release tray back into place and lock as per drawing at right.



### **CLOSING OF THE HOUSING**

Once the camera is secure on the saddle inside the front half of the housing, simply:

1. (if using wired strobes on the bulkhead connectors on the housing, you will require the hot shoe to be mounted on the hot shoe base of the camera, as seen in photo at right.

### ***Before closing the housing always ensure that:***

1. The main O-ring on the front half of the housing is clean, lubricated and properly seated for a positive seal.
2. The sealing surface on the rear half of the housing is clean and free from any scratches or physical damage.
3. All cords or wires are tucked in so that they do not interfere with the closing of the housing.
4. The levers are in the proper position on both the camera and the housing .

### ***To close the housing simply:***

- i. Join the front and rear halves of the housing using the two dowel pins at the bottom of the housing as a guide.
- ii. Hold the housing with both hands and look around the sealing surface to ensure that the O-ring remained properly seated and that no cords, wires are caught between the edges.
- iii. Close the two sides latches simultaneously. Simply reverse the process to open housing

**CAUTION:** if you feel any resistance as you attempt to close the latches, do not force the closure. open the housing and check for any obstruction and try again.

- iv. Verify that the secondary safety locking mechanisms of the latches are properly engaged to avoid any accidental opening.



## LENS INSTALLATION

With the camera inside the housing, push the lens release lever (key # 12) into the proper position, install the lens prepared with the gears through the port opening in the front of the housing. Ensure that the lens mounted gears are properly installed and aligned. Rotate the focus / zoom control knob to ensure that the gears are properly meshed, do not grind and that their rotation is smooth.

**Note:** To avoid damaging the auto-focus mechanism of the camera when using standard EF type lenses, you should always set the Focus Control to "M" Manual for testing the proper meshing of a focusing gears. this procedure is not required with USM type lenses.

### **CHANGING A LENS (REMOVING A LENS)**

Two different methods can be used for removing/replacing a lens.

The lens mounted gears may restrict the view and ease of access to the lens release button on the camera body. The AQUATICA T2i / 550D Digital Housing features a lens release lever (key # 12) that is designed to access the lens release button of camera to allow easy removal of lens.

To remove a lens, remove the port, simply rotate Lens Release Lever (key # 12) to press the camera body lens release, hold and turn the lens to remove.

Or pull out the lens release lever (key # 12) and Focus / Zoom knob assembly (key # 08) out of the way by rotating the disk (key # 09), open the back cover, if using wired connectors then remove the hot shoe from the camera and pull out the complete camera with its lens, replace the lens and reinstall.

### **MOUNTING THE PORT**

Before mounting the Port on the Housing always ensure that the port O-ring is clean, lubricated and properly seated in its groove and that the sealing surface on the Housing is clean and free of physical damage.

The AQUATICA T2i / 550D Digital Housing features a locking bayonet mount (#14). To mount the port or extension ring simply:

1. Place the housing on its back on a soft steady surface. inspect the sealing surface of the housing to ensure it is clean and free of debris
2. Place the port or extension ring with a clean and freshly lubricated O-ring inside the main port of the housing. Align one of the four alignment notches with the opening of the housing.
3. Place your hands on opposite sides of the port or extension ring.
4. Push with even force on both sides of the port or extension ring until you feel it snap into place. Make sure the bayonet is completely inside the housing.
5. Finally press the port lock button down, turn the Port clockwise until it stops and then release the port lock button. Do not force it. If there is too much resistance take the port off, check the O-ring and retry.
6. Check to ensure for the proper seating and sealing of the port or extension and that it is safely locked on the housing.

**Note :** It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with this mount by trying it without the camera, this will allow you to see the inside view of the bayonet mount and of the ports or extension rings in the housing.



## MOUNTING AND ATTACHING FLASHES

The **Aquatica** housing for the Canon T2i / 550D offer a large choice of connectors to take full advantages of all the various strobes available on the market today. Standard choice available are:

- 20066-NK: Two Nikonos type manual connectors.
- 20066-OPT: Two optical fiber connectors to accept two Sea & Sea elbow type cords or two straight type cord (INON).
- 20066-HYB One Nikonos Manual connector and one Optical connector to accept either one Sea & Sea elbow type cord or two straight standard optical cords.
- 20066-KM One Ikelite manual type connector

Optional also are: S6 type connectors and available in the summer 2010, the Nikonos type 6 pins connectors

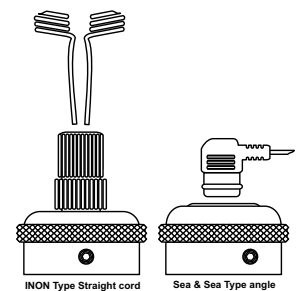
Depending on which strobe system you are using, you can mount the necessary shoes or brackets or Base Ball onto the threaded holes on the top of the hand grips. Use of the Aquatica Technical Lighting Control Strobe Arm System is recommended.

There is also a 1/4"-20 threaded holes provided on the bottom of the housing that can be used for various mounting applications. For example, A mounting tray could be fitted on the bottom of the housing. As well a 1/4"-20 threaded hole on top of the front half of the housing will accept an Aquatica bracket or Base Ball that can hold a small focus light or a strobe arm.

### FOR OPTICAL CONNECTORS

The housing with optical connectors are supplied with adapter for typical straight cord used by INON and other strobe manufacturers, and angled Sea & Sea type cords, select the desired connection and install on the optical port base, tighten the set screw into place with the supplied hexagonal wrench.

In order to use Optical triggering, the built-in flash of the camera need to be in the up position, this is done at time of installation or by using the pop up button on the housing (key #11). at this stage it would be the right time to select the proper sync mode that you want to use(rear, slow, etc.).



**Note:** it is advisable to turn the camera off when travelling to your dive site in order to avoid useless drain of the camera and strobes the batteries. Field testing as shown that mixing different brands of strobes give unreliable result and should be avoided. Also noteworthy is the fact that many strobe offer Optical triggering, but TTL is only available with thoses that offer S-TTL type of signal, please check carefully with your dealer prior to purchasing your strobes to make sure that they are indeed able to provide true TTL exposure.

When using Optically triggered strobes do not to install the hot shoe on the camera (HYB version) as this hot shoe disengages the internal built-in flash of the camera and prevent this later from triggering. Always do a few test exposures once you finished setting up the strobes to confirm that they are functioning as expected

### Internal switch board circuit:

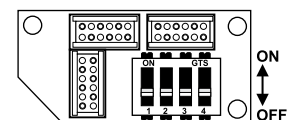
Your Aquatica T2i / 550D Pro Digital housing might be supplied with two Nikonos type connectors which are in turn connected to a switch board circuit. Optional Ikelite bulkheads connectors are also available.

When preparing the sync cord be sure to lubricate the O-ring on the sync cord's connector with a light coat of Aquatica O-ring lubricant, Also advisable is to put a light coat of O-ring lubricant on the threads of this connector.

Your Canon Digital camera design does not allow flashes to be connected directly to the camera and be used in eTTL unless they are original Canon flashes in third party housing with the required connector and cords.

On your housing you will find two bulkhead connectors, the main and secondary connectors are wired through a switch board that will allow you to eventually evolves as underwater strobes technology does in the future. By default your housing is delivered with the switch board set to full manual, if eTTL exposure is desired then it can be made in either of two methods:

- 1) By using a single flash from Canon or other brand (that is eTTL compatible with your camera) in a underwater housing connected with a proper 6 pins TTL cord to a compatible 6 pins connectors on your Aquatica housing.
- 2) By using an external eTTL converter connected to a 6 pins connector on your Aquatica housing to which one or two underwater strobes with compatible TTL cords are then connected to this converter, (check strobe and converter manufacturer for compatibility).



**Set up instruction for eTTL operation:** Using the tip of a pen push the switches 1, 2, 3 & 4 to the ON (up) position, this will activate the connections on your main 6 pins bulkhead connector allowing eTTL communication between the camera and the housed flash or eTTL converter.

**Set up instruction for manual operation:** All switches must be in the OFF (lower) position, in this case all eTTL connections are disabled and only the ground and sync are left active, this will allow two underwater strobes or housed flashes to be connected directly via the main and secondary bulkhead.

## TAKING A PICTURE

Following are the basic techniques. For more information and advanced photography please study the Canon T2i / 550D instruction manual.

**NOTE** \*The main dial control can access a wide range of modification to the current functions allowing the users to conveniently position vital controls at their fingertip.

1. Rotate the Mode dial knob (key # 04) and select the desired exposure mode. Usefull options in sequence are: Programmed AE (P), Shutter Priority AE (Tv), Aperture Priority AE (Av) or Manual Exposure (M) and at the end of the dial, the video mode. preprogrammed mode are not really designed for underwater use and should be avoided if possible.

**Note:** When using a flash, it is reccomended that the camera be used only in Single Frame Motor Drive or there is the possibillity that the camera will fire before the flash can recycle.

2. Pull the Shutter Release Lever partially back. This will activate the camera's meter and autofocus system.
3. If using manual focus use the Focus Knob (key # 8) on the housing or on the flat port to focus.
4. If using the Manual adjust the main dial knob (key # 2) and AV lever (key # 26) to set the exposure by selecting shutter speed and/or aperture.
5. Pull the Shutter Release Lever (key # 1) gently the rest of the way until the camera fires.

### Shooting tip:

The lever in the rear right portion of the housing (key #27) can be used to access the \* (star) buttons, this button can be modified to conform to your personal style of image making, careful reading of the Canon T2i / 550 manual is recommended to pull the maximum out of theses features

## USING THE HOUSING

Whenever changing ports or O-rings, it is highly advisable to perform a simple seal test without the camera inside. Strapping a weight to the housing and lowering the unit to a depth of 30 to 50 feet of water for at least 10 minutes will assure you that the seating of the new port or o-ring is proper. This test, though time consuming and often considered unnecessary, may save your camera equipment from irreparable water damage. Once this test is completed successfully, the housing will be ready for the dive.

**CAUTION:** Never jump into the water with the housing. It is best to have the system handed to you after you have made your entry, or have it lowered to you on a rope. Make certain that ropes of other equipment stay clear of the system. Never handle the housing by grabbing the port or if using one, the Aqua View Finder, make sure that boat crews are familiar with this procedure and advise them to manipulate only by using the grips provided with the housing. before putting the housing underwater always confirm that your dome or extension have not rotated accidentally and that it is secured in place as it should be.

When photographing, be sure to respect the environment. Avoid damaging marine life or manipulating sea creatures to obtain a pleasing photo. The housing is slightly negatively buoyant so that you can lay it down on the bottom, but avoid laying it on living coral or other delicate marine life.

### Changing the memory card

Always take care to thoroughly dry the housing before opening it to change memory card. Wipe the housing off with a dry towel. If possible it is suggested that the housing be dried by directing an pressurized air nozzle around the main o-ring before opening.

Rest the housing on its front with the lens facing down, be carefull to protect the port surface, release the two side latches simultaneously. Lift the rear part of the housing and place it in a secure location. This minimizes the possibility of any residual water falling into the housing and on to the camera when the housing is opened or damage to the sealing surface. Be careful of potential water dripping on the camera from wet hair, wet suits cuffs or hands..

### TRANSPORTING THE AQUATICA Pro Digital housing

Store the *AQUATICA Digital* housing in a sturdy, shock proof container. When travelling by air, remove or loosen the port. This allows for equalization of the air pressure inside the housing to the external air pressure. Failure to do so may cause serious damage to the acrylic ports. Avoid travelling with the camera mounted in the housing. The housing is an excellent protection against water pressure but direct impact on controls of the housing will be transmitted to the camera with the likelihood of potential damage.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

### **Of the housing:**

After each and every salt water dive, your housing system should be soaked or rinsed in fresh water. The housing system should soak in fresh water for at least 30 minutes. During this soaking period, reach into the water and operate all the controls several times.

Be sure to inspect the housing's main o-ring and clean it after every use. Refer to Maintenance: Of the O-rings. To ensure that the hand grips won't fuse on to the housing due to the exposure to salt water, it is also a good practice to occasionally remove the hand grips. Clean and lubricate the bolts with a small amount of WD-40.

**WARNING:** Use WD-40 carefully, sparingly and only on metal to metal surfaces. WD-40 can damage the acrylic on the ports, the optical surfaces on lens as well as the O-rings.

### **Of the Ports:**

Care should be taken with the Dome Port and Macro Port to avoid scratches on the lens surface. The acrylic port is softer than glass so minor exterior scratches are often unavoidable. However, since the indices of refraction for acrylic and water are almost equal the scratches will not seriously impair image quality. Internal scratches(air side) must be avoided as they do not fill in with water and will affect the quality of the image.

Clean acrylic dome using only products recommended for cleaning acrylic and a soft lint free cloth. same for glass port which should be cleaned with lens cleaning material only, Dust on the interior surfaces of the port can be removed with a soft camel hair brush or a blower brush. Caution must be taken when using aerosol devices as not to spray the lens material with the liquid propellant, this may seriously affect the optical properties of the port. Use of pressurize air from a dive tank is not recommended, the force of the air stream may easily dislodge a port or O-ring, It is advisable that ports should be removed and serviced after avery dive.

### **Of the Latches:**

The two latches of the *AQUATICA Pro Digital* are designed to have a locking action to prevent accidental opening. Always ensure that the locking mechanism is secure. Watch for the build-up of corrosion or salt residue around the latches. This will appear as a white material. Lubricate the latches with a small amount of WD-40 to remove the corrosion or salt residue build-up.

### **Of the O-Rings:**

The O-rings that need to be maintained on a regular basis are the main housing O-ring and the port and extension O-rings. These O-rings should be cleaned and inspected on a daily basis and each time the port is changed.

### **Of the sacrificial anodes:**

The anode attached to the bottom part of the housing is there to prevent corrosion due to electrolysis, as time goes it will deteriorates and need to be replaced, contact your dealer for replacement kit. (parts # 19220).

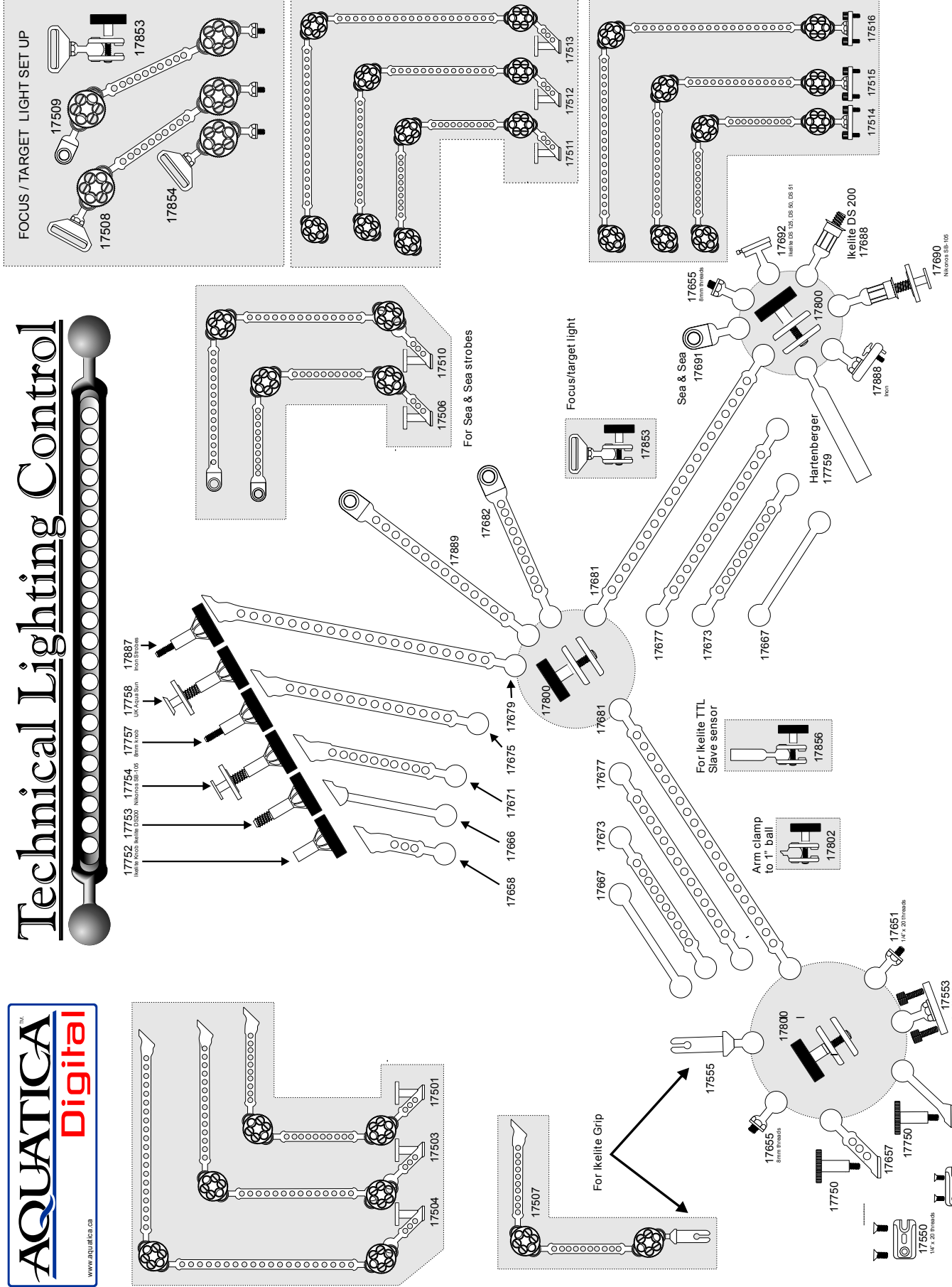
### **TO SERVICE O-RINGS ON THE HOUSING MAIN O-RING, PORTS AND EXTENSION RINGS**

1. Removing the O-ring. It is important never to use a sharp instrument when removing an O-ring as this may damage the O-ring groove or the O-ring itself. A bobby pin or edge of a credit card works well. the main body O-ring groove has a starting point in the lower left corner in which a dulled point can be inserted to remove it.
2. Once the O-ring is removed, it should be examined for damage. Check to make sure that the O-ring is free of nicks and cuts and that it retains its original round profile. O-rings that appear to be damaged should be discarded immediately and replaced with new O-rings.
3. Rinse the O-ring with fresh water and dry it with a clean lint free cloth.
4. Clean the O-ring groove (where the O-ring sits) with a Q-tip. Be sure to remove any lint the Q-tip may leave behind. Inspect the groove for damage.
5. Wipe the part of the housing that the O-ring seals against with a clean lint-free cloth.
6. Re-grease the O-ring with a thin layer of O-ring grease until it appears to be smooth and shiny. Do not over grease it. Use just enough grease so the O-ring will pull smoothly through your fingers. Excessive amounts of grease will only serve to attract dirt to the o-ring.
7. Make sure that the O-ring is properly (evenly) installed in the O-ring groove.
8. To reinstall the clean and lubricated O-ring, place the entire O-ring over the groove and start by pushing the O-ring in at each corner then, push the O-ring at each side and finally, work in the rest of the O-ring. Never start at one end and work your way around the O-ring. This places uneven tension on the O-ring which may cause the O-ring to stretch resulting in excess O-ring, which will have no place to go.

There are internal O-rings on the housing controls as well. These O-rings are not as susceptible to damage as they are not exposed but they do require yearly maintenance and are not user serviceable. The housing should be returned to an authorized AQUATICA service facility for this annual maintenance. Check for the closest service center on our website [www.aquatica.ca](http://www.aquatica.ca).

An internal moisture alarm can be installed in your AQUATICA AT2i Digital housing (Product # 20023). This moisture alarm is powered by an easily replaceable **CR 2032** battery. Please read the instruction sheet provided for your moisture alarm prior to installing the battery.

# Technical Lighting Control



No pins, no O-rings just tough, reliable performance from TLC

# AQUATICA<sup>TM.</sup>

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## Digital

# WARRANTY

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

**One year Limited Warranty.**

Thank you for purchasing an AQUATICA manufactured product! Your AQUATICA housing is handcrafted by a small group of specially trained individuals - each of whom takes the most pride and satisfaction in offering you the best underwater camera housings in the world. All AQUATICA products are guaranteed against defects in material or workmanship for (1) one full year from the date of purchase for consumer use. these same products when used commercially will carry a 90-day warranty. No statutory warranty applies. Camera housed in AQUATICA housings are not covered under this warranty and ANY WATER DAMAGE SUSTAINED DUE TO INSTALLATION ERROR OR ANY OTHER REASON IS NOT THE RESPONSABILITY OF AQUATICA. Therefore the appropriate insurance should be maintained by the user.

Warranty does not apply to replaceable seals or damages to impacts or abrasive surfaces. Warranty applies only to products purchased from authorized AQUATICA dealers and does not extend beyond the original retail purchaser. Unauthorized modifications or repairs will automatically void this warranty. this applies to removal of serial numbers and AQUATICA identification labels.

To obtain service during or after the warranty period you must notify AQUATICA at 514-737-9481 and ship BY REGISTERED MAIL (INSURED) **ONLY**, enclosing your proof of purchase to:

AQUATICA  
3025 De Baene  
Montreal (Quebec)  
H4S 1K8

Mark clearly on your package "Canadian goods returned for repair"

Do not ship by any other means.  
Unauthorized packages will be refused.

YOUR SERIAL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_