

# training bulletin update

For PADI Europe Members

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**A Training and Education  
Update from PADI International  
and PADI Europe  
by Pascal Dietrich,  
Manager Training &  
Instructor Development**

PADI EUROPE AG  
Oberwilerstrasse 3  
CH-8442 Hettlingen  
Switzerland  
Tel. +41 52 304 14 14  
Fax +41 52 304 14 99  
Internet:  
padi.com  
E-Mail:  
training@padi.ch

## overview

**PADI Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty Course**

**Required Materials Update And Clarification**

**PADI Enriched Air Diver Course Dives No Longer Required**

### IMPORTANT

## training bulletin required reading!

This update is the main communication from PADI to you. It announces important training standards and procedures changes and clarifies those that are established. It is a requirement of your membership commitment that you keep abreast of standards by reviewing the information contained in these quarterly updates. Implementation and standards mailing dates vary for members served by different PADI Offices, based, in part, on translation schedules. Check with your PADI Office for more specific information.

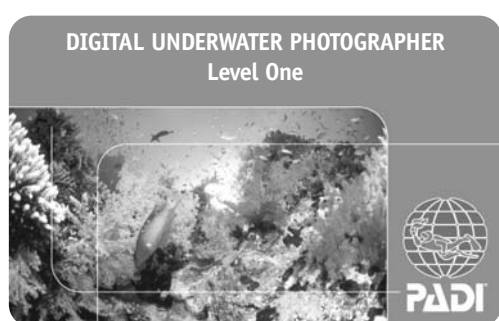


## PADI Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty Course

Sharing personal adventures through photographs is a popular post-dive activity. With a digital camera, both new and experienced divers can easily and immediately share their excitement via in-camera viewing, email, personal websites, etc.

The new PADI Digital Underwater Photographer course gives you options for bringing digital photography and its related benefits into several of your PADI programs – as a specialty certification course for divers and snorkelers, or as a complementary experience to other PADI programs.

The course consists of two sections – Level One and Two – that can be combined in a single course or conducted separately, giving you flexibility to meet the needs of a wide range of customers. You'll find additional details, including course standards and conduct, in the PADI Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty Instructor Outline that is required to teach the course. For a limited time, you can download the outline from the PADI Pros' area of [padi.com](http://padi.com) free of charge.



### Level One

The first section, Level One, familiarizes course participants with the equipment they need to take great underwater photographs, how to prepare their underwater photo system, and basic underwater photo techniques while diving or snorkeling in an environmentally friendly manner. Level One skill development can take place in open water or in a pool/confined water when the local diving environment or weather is not conducive to getting good results.

Course participants who complete Level One qualify for the Digital Underwater Photographer Level One certification card. Snorkelers receive a certification card that clearly states that it is a nondiving certification.

You may also conduct Level One training for Open Water Diver course students following the procedures outlined in the Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty Course Instructor Outline. These student divers may only earn Level One certification after gaining Open Water Diver certification.



### Level Two

After course participants successfully complete Level One, they may move on to Level Two to learn how to make their photographs even better. Level Two expands what they need to know about file formats, resolution settings, composing their photo, downloading photographs into a computer, and adjusting them to look their best. You conduct Level Two skill development in open water.

All participants who successfully complete Level Two qualify for the PADI Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty certification. Snorkelers receive a certification card that clearly states that it is a nondiving certification.

### Credit toward other PADI courses

Level Two Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty divers may credit Dive Two as an Adventure Dive toward the PADI Adventure Diver and Advanced Open Water Diver certifications. Why is Adventure Dive credit given on Dive Two instead of Dive One?

One of the goals of the two-dive Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty course was to allow first dive location flexibility – either in confined water or open water, depending on the need (especially taking into account visibility and making it simple for first time underwater camera users). Because credit toward the Adventures in Diving program is limited to dives in open water, the Digital Underwater Photographer “credit” dive is Dive Two. So by the time a diver finishes the specialty course they achieve the specialty rating, and likewise receive Adventure credit. This specialty course may also be credited toward the Master Scuba Diver rating.

## Who may conduct the course?

To qualify to teach the PADI Digital Underwater Photographer course, you must be a Teaching status PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor or PADI Assistant Instructor, or an Active status PADI Divemaster.

### PADI Assistant Instructors and Divemasters may:

- apply only after completing a PADI Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty Instructor Training course with a PADI Course Director. Applicants must have logged at least 10 digital underwater photography dives.

In some regions, PADI Offices are conducting Business of Digital Underwater Photography seminars. These programs provide marketing and operational suggestions for integrating digital underwater photography into your dive business. Some seminars include, or are conducted in conjunction with, specialty instructor training through which you can qualify for the instructor or trainer level specialty ratings. Contact your PADI Office to find out more, and to obtain the course materials.

## Conducting the course

The course philosophy embraces informal, hands-on teaching. Your interaction with participants involves handling, setting up and using cameras, strobes, housings, computers etc. as appropriate to the topic you're covering.

For this reason, the course does not have a presentation outline like you find with most PADI courses. You center your interaction with participants around the *PADI Digital Underwater Photographer Manual*. Briefings and class meetings are guided by going through the manual and referencing the techniques and concepts shown in the illustrations and photos. Participants respond by practicing what you're describing with their cameras and other equipment in hand.

Course participants are required to have, in their possession, a personal set of PADI materials for study and use during the course and for reference afterward; unless the materials are not available in a language understood by the student.

## Certification

When it comes time to submit PICs for your Digital Underwater Photographers, make certain the right card is requested by remembering to be specific in the write in. In the "other" space on the PIC, write in:

Digital Underwater Photographer Diver (Level One certification)\*

Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty Diver (Level Two certification)\*

Digital Underwater Photographer Snorkeler (Level One certification)

Digital Underwater Photographer Specialty Snorkeler (Level Two certification)

\*Note: add "Jr." to these cards for divers ages 10-14.

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## Required Materials – Update And Clarification

**Digital Underwater Photographer** – In the new Digital Underwater Photographer Instructor Outline, a digital camera with underwater housing and related support hardware are listed as required materials. During course dives, participants do need to use these items, however, they are not required to have and retain a personal set of these two items. Course participants do need to have the *Digital Underwater Photographer Manual* and the Digital Underwater Photographer White Balance Slate for study and use during the course and for reference afterward.

**Enriched Air Diver** – The required student diver materials for the Enriched Air Diver course include the PADI *Enriched Air Diver Manual*, DSAT Equivalent Air Depth Table, DSAT Oxygen Exposure Table, and Recreational Dive Planners for air, EANx32 and EANx36. Student divers are required to watch the PADI Enriched Air Diving video, however they are not required to have it to retain after the course.

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## Enriched Air Diver Course Dives – No Longer Required

Since the PADI Enriched Air Diver course was first introduced, enriched air diving has become more popular with more widespread reputable enriched air providers. Some who teach the course have requested a reevaluation of whether or not dives should be mandatory for course certification. As a result, effective immediately, the PADI Enriched Air Diver course no longer requires dives, though they are still recommended. Instead, a pre-dive simulation is required.

The critical objectives of the Enriched Air Diver course are both learned and applied out of the water, and center around the physical procedures of gas analysis (and related use of logs and contents stickers). The performance requirements for the dive can effectively be addressed in a pre-dive simulation, which can be presented in conjunction with practical application 1 and 2. The performance requirements for this simulation are listed below:

By the end of the Pre-dive Simulation, with little or no assistance from the instructor, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate pre-dive equipment setup, blend analysis label confirmation for two enriched air dives with two different scuba cylinders filled with enriched air.
2. Plan two enriched air dives including maximum depths, oxygen limits and no stop limits using the RDP, the DSAT Equivalent Air Depth and Oxygen Exposure Tables and the Enriched Air RDPs, based on: depths, times, gas supply and surface intervals provided by the instructor and the analyzed content of the two scuba cylinders filled with enriched air.

### **Adventure Dive Credit**

Since the PADI Enriched Air Diver course links to the PADI Adventures in Diving program, and because the PADI Adventures in Diving program centers on open water diving, divers must have logged at least one enriched air-dedicated dive to be eligible to earn Enriched Air Adventure Dive credit. This dive may be one of the dives from the PADI Enriched Air Diver course, or any enriched air dive. The dive must be verified by the instructor via a log book or training record, however, the dive does not have to be completed in a training scenario. To determine if you can credit the diver for an Enriched Air Adventure Dive, ask to see the diver's PADI Enriched Air Diver certification card and check the log for an enriched air dive.

As with the diver-level program, the PADI Enriched Air Diver Specialty Instructor training course dive is also no longer required. At their discretion, Course Directors may still conduct a dedicated enriched air dive; or, when conducting multiple specialty instructor courses (such as Master Scuba Diver Trainer programs), enriched air use can be combined with one of the other specialty instructor course dives.

### **Supervision and Depth Requirements**

Because recommended Enriched Air Diver course training dives may be combined with other course dives, you should follow the most conservative depth and supervision limitations of the two courses.

For example, if you are combining an Enriched Air Diver course dive with Dive 4 of the Open Water Diver course, you have an 18 metre/60 foot maximum depth based on Open Water Diver course standards.

As with any PADI course, be mindful of local dive industry practices that supersede PADI standards when teaching the PADI Enriched Air Diver course. For example, in Australia, local regulations require that PADI Enriched Air Divers complete at least two open water dives for certification. (In addition, they must be certified divers with at least 20 logged dives before they can enroll in the course.)

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