

GDOME

XL + SURF

HOUSING

USER GUIDE

COMPATIBLE WITH

Sony, Nikon, Canon, Fujifilm,
Pentax, Samsung & More

**If your camera body is the same size
or smaller than a Canon 5D MK4 then
it will fit the the GDome XL!**



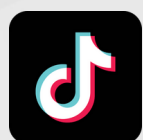
GDomeGlobal



GDome Professional
Camera Accessories



GDome



GDome

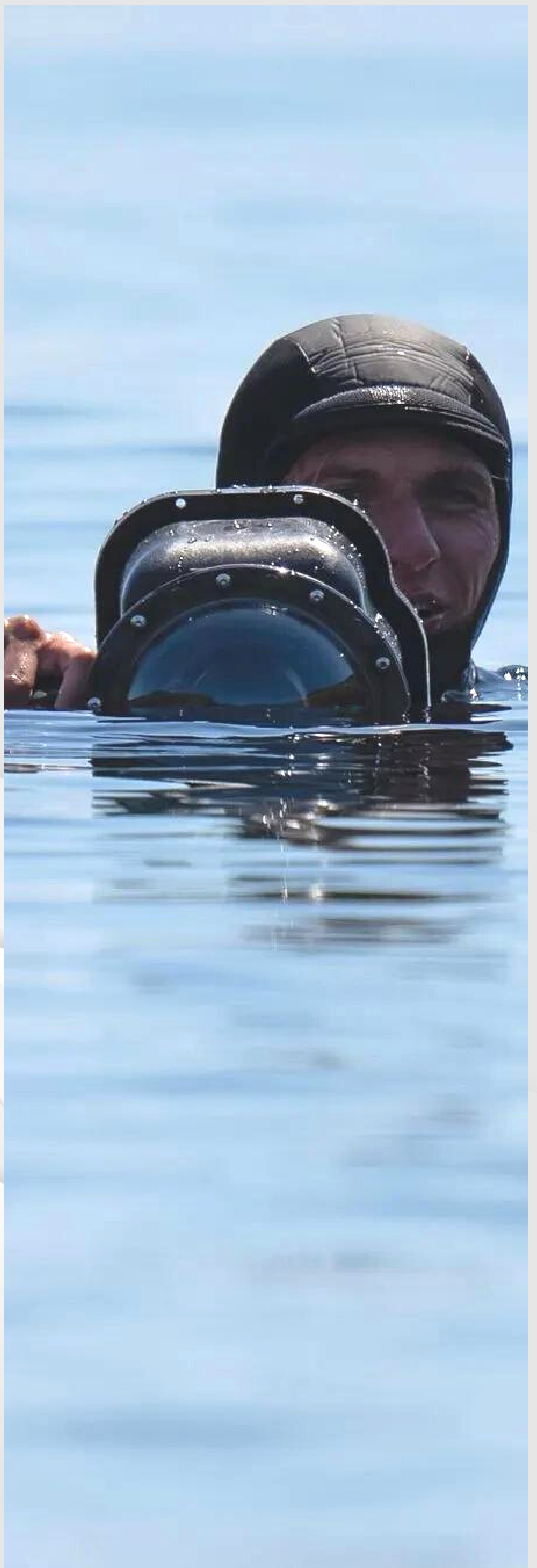


Feel free to pop us a message for
any assistance with your housing!
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more about our variety of
awesome products!

+27 84 559 0801 | 6 HELY STREET, NDABENI, CAPE TOWN.
GETGDOME.COM



Congrats!

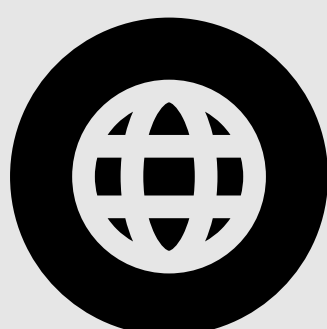
Congratulations and thank you for purchasing your GDome XL / Surf water housing.

The GDome XL is the perfect housing for any beginner looking to get their DSLR | Mirrorless camera into the water for the first time without breaking the bank and yet getting a comprehensive underwater housing kit that can be used for a number of different camera brands and lenses. As our housing is universal, you will not have to buy a new housing or ports as you upgrade your cameras and lenses (as long as they will fit in our housing).

Advanced underwater photographers/videographers that already have professional kits could use the GDome XL for unique specialised camera bodies or lenses that are not compatible with their current housings or port configurations.

Please read the following instructions before using your GDome XL water housing for the first time.

For more tips and tricks please visit our Website or Youtube channel.





THE WORLD'S FIRST UNIVERSAL SEMI-RIGID MODULAR UNDERWATER HOUSING



Yes, this is a loaded description so we will need to break it down for you so that you can really see the value of this universal underwater housing.

When we say that the GDome XL is a universal water housing, we really do mean it! The GDome XL will work with almost any mirrorless or DSLR camera right out of the box (check the internal sizing chart to confirm this as cameras like Canon 1D could be too tall for our housing).

You might think this is not unique as there are a number of housings that can do this. These housings are either completely 'soft' (made from a rubberised or PVC material) meaning that you can not add dome ports/lens extensions or even lights and GoPros to the housing. Whereas the 'hard' housings have extremely limited functionality (no ability to change settings or functions).

Our housing is considered semi-rigid as the housing and ports are injection moulded and only the rear screen is made from a flexible membrane, we do also include a solid backdoor that is individually pressure tested to 18m before leaving our office.

Having a flexible rear screen, allows us to give the user full access to the camera's rear functionality. When it comes to modularity the GDome XL is fully customisable to your camera and lenses needs. Included in the box is a 55mm port adapter with a flat lens element as well as a 40mm dome port extension adapter and dome lens element. Our 80mm extension port (optional extra) is fully compatible with the dome port adapter if you need a further extension to your GDome XL.

HOW IT WORKS

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Intro

Intro



UNIVERSAL

We have designed our housing to work with a number of different camera bodies and lenses.

As long as your camera has a wired shutter input and fits within the dimensions of our housing, it will work!

SOLID BACKDOOR

Looking to shoot in heavy conditions? Our solid backdoor can take a beating with a metal hammer! So we know it will handle your local shorebreak!

Furthermore, we individually pressure test each housing with the solid backdoor to 18m.



FLEXIBLE MEMBRANE

Need to adjust settings, preview shots or change the shooting mode?

No problem at all, we also include the "flexible backdoor" with full access to the back of your camera through our ultra flexible rear membrane.





NEW V2 PISTOL TRIGGER GRIP

- Our standard pistol trigger is fitted with a button that triggers the camera's shutter via a cable connected to the camera's 'remote' port.
- A pistol grip allows you to hold (and trigger) the camera with only one hand, which makes it easier to swim with your housing especially in heavy surf conditions.
- The XL Surf V1 comes standard with single stage pistol trigger grip.
- The New V2 Two Stage Trigger is a fully adjustable wireless 2 stage pistol trigger grip.

ADJUSTABLE BASEPLATE

- Our mounting plate has multiple holes that allow you to position the camera backwards and forwards.
- As these are holes and not slots, the camera can not slide backwards or forwards in heavy surf conditions (like it would if it was a slot hole design).
- This allows the users to get the camera the adjust distance from the back of the dome or flat port.



DOMES, FLAT LENS & PORTS

- Looking to shoot the perfect split shot? Then you need our dome port.
- Want a capable all rounder for the surf and underwater? Our 55mm port and flat lens are for you.
- Unlike our competitors, we give you both ports and lens elements with your housing*.



REAR ANTI-MOVEMENT BAR

- Ever taken a hit with a huge wave and your camera moves slightly off to the left or right?
- Not with our rear anti-movement bar, it locks your camera in a horizontal plane.
- You don't have to over tighten the bottom baseplate screw or worry about your camera moving off plane while in the water.

TOOL-FREE BACKPLATE THUMBSCREWS

- Close your housing quickly with our included tool-free thumbscrews for the XL's backplate.
- We know how difficult it is to loosen thumbscrews with wet, cold hands.
- We have included thumbscrew loosening tool for your convenience.



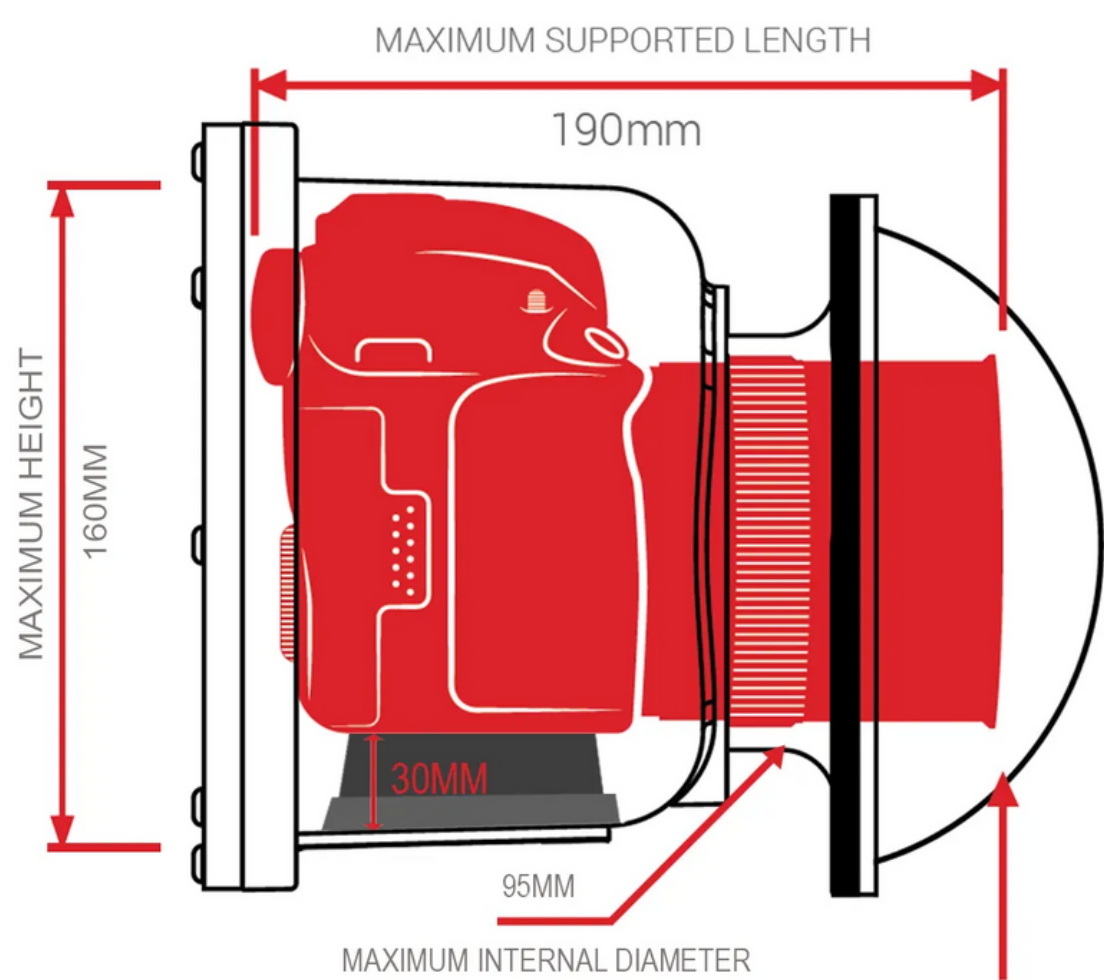
OFF THE SHELF CABLES

- We supply our housings with the cables that you need for your camera.
- Ever want to change cameras?
- No need to import expensive proprietary cables that could take weeks to ship.
- Our trigger adapters take off the shelf 2 pin 2.5mm male jacks.
- NB you can only use TRS / STEREO / 2 Pin cables with our trigger system.
- 3 pin cables do not work!

DIMENSIONS

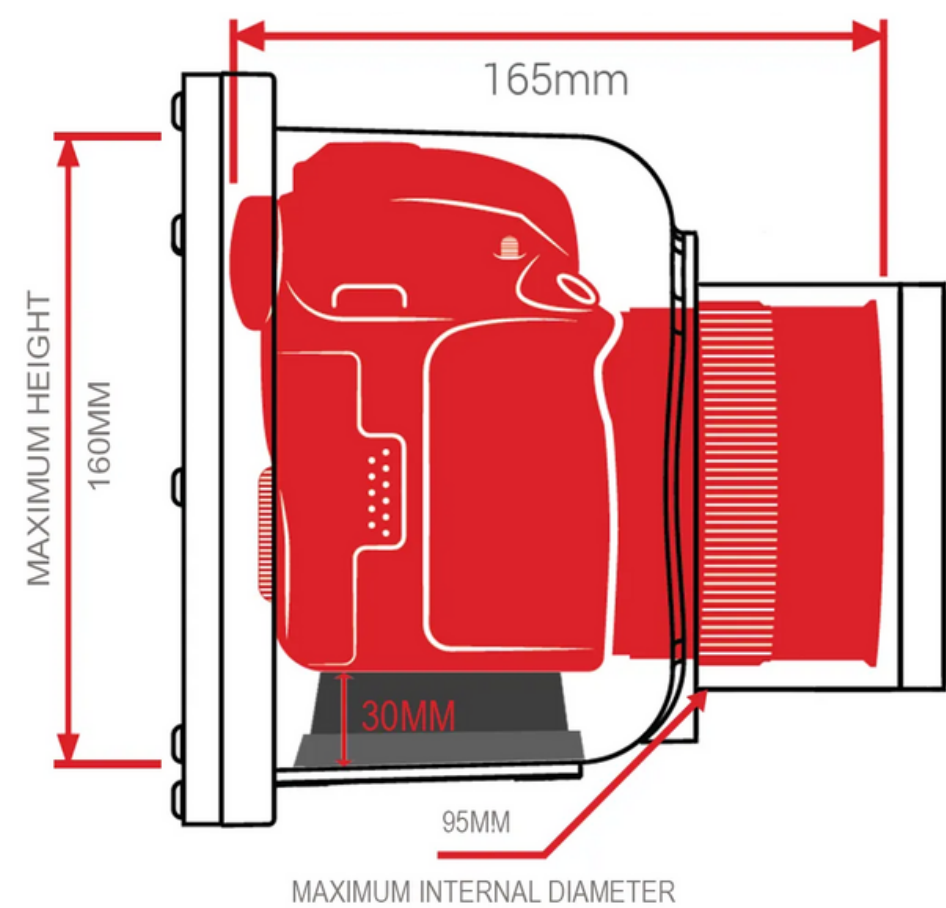


GDOM XL DIMENSIONS

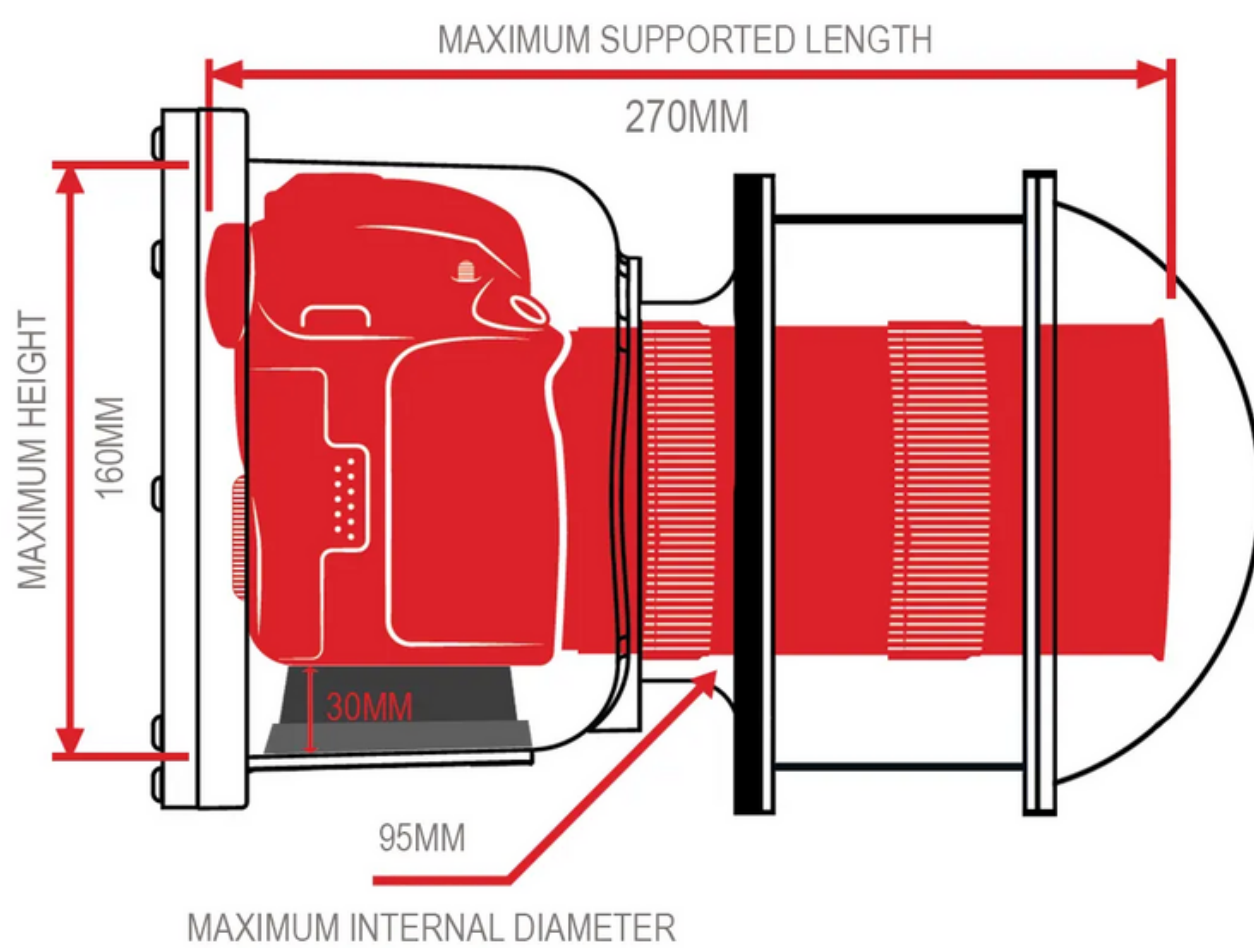
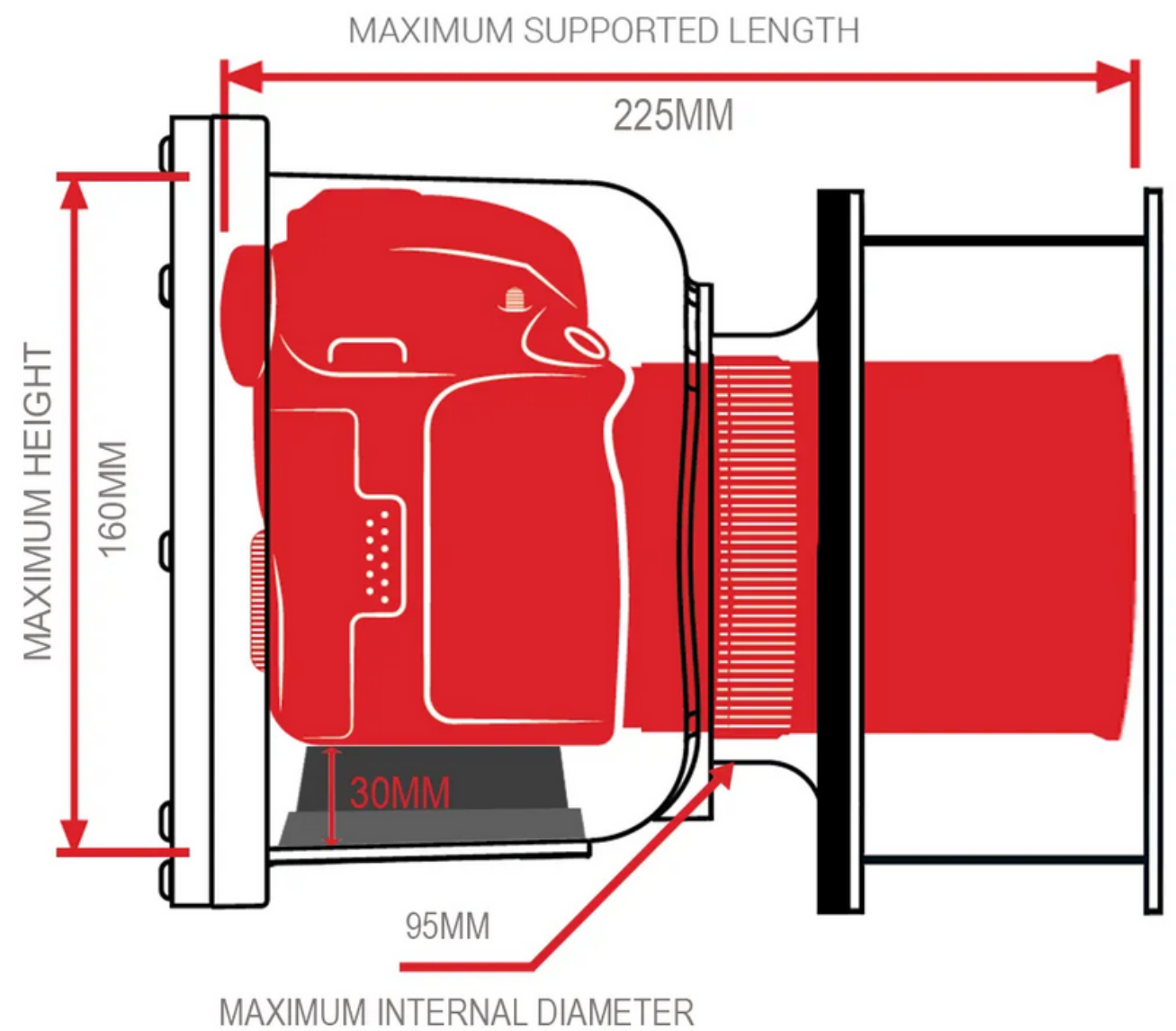


Standard Dome Port

Standard Flat Port



80mm Extension Port
(optional extra) with flat
lens & Dome Port
Extension



80mm Extension Port
(optional extra) with
Dome Lens & Dome Port
Extension

PARTS LIST

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Parts



Housing Body

Side Handle

Dome Port Adapter

Dome Lens

Port Adapter

Flat Lens

Dome Nuts

Trigger Button

Back Plate

Thumbscrews

Baseplate

Trigger Cable

Trigger Grip

What's in the box?

Accessories

- 40mm GDome XL Dome Port Adapter
- 6.1 Inch Dome Lens Element
- Translucent Snap-On Suction Dome Lens Cover
- 55mm GDome XL Flat Lens Port Adapter
- 135mm Flat Lens Element
- Camera Base Station With Adjustable Mounting Positions
- Rear Side to Side Movement Elimination Plate
- Removable Side Handle/s (depending on the model ordered)
- Wrist Strap (optional heavy duty upgrade available)
- QR Code For Online Instructions & Camera Setup Guide
- Tool Kit
- Seal lubricant
- 2 x Screen Membranes (if you want to use the hard backdoor you can cut the internal membrane out for better clarity).
- 1/4 Camera Mounting Screw
- 10 x Stainless Steel moulded easy turn finger thumb screws for the rear plate
- 2 x Universal Trigger Baseplate Mount.

What Is NOT Included

**80mm
Extension Tube
and Flat Port
(optional extra)**



*Just remember that the XL and XL Surf come with different parts and accessories, this is a basic guide as to what you can expect. Please check out the product pages on our site if you want a full break down of what is in the box.

ASSEMBLE

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Assembly



- The XL handles are ambidextrous they work on both the left and right sides.
- Simply align the holes on the handles with the holes on the front side of the housing body.
- ONLY use the 2 included screws indicated as the handle screws (M5 X 30mm) as seen on the picture.
- The 2 handle screws comes with lock nuts as seen on the picture.
- Insert the lock nut base (thick side) down into the handle hole before inserting the screw.
- Insert the handle screw from the front.
- Hold the nut down while doing so.
- Please note that not having a bolt or screw in the hex hole will not affect the waterproofing or seal in any way as the seal sits on the inside of these holes



- While holding down the lock nut with your finger, tighten the handle screw using the allen key provided.
- Do not torque ANY bolts to more than 15 in-lb.
- Repeat this process with all 2 / 4 (for dual handle) screws for both handles.
- Before attaching your port to the housing, ensure that your port seal is fitted and intact.
- You can add a touch of seal lubricant to the seal at this stage.
- Ports go a specific way (thick seal to the housing body)!
- Do not try fit them the wrong way around!
- ONLY use the M5X8 screws to attach the different ports to the housing body.
- You will attach the port from the inside of the housing.
- Align your screws and tighten using the allen key.
- Do not torque ANY bolts to more than 15 in-lb.

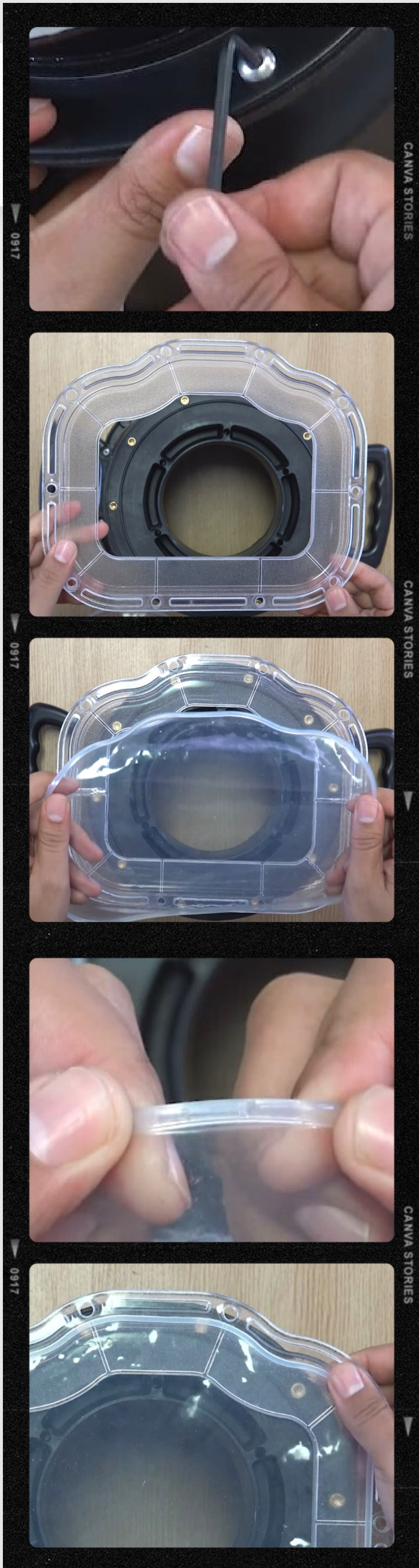


- When attaching the dome port **ALWAYS** ensure that your dome lens cover is on!
- Please note that our new dome covers are translucent!
- They can be hard to see, if the dome looks milky the cover is still on!
- The XL is compatible with the 80mm extension tube.
- You will need to use the dome port extension to mount the 80mm extension port to the XL.
- To mount the 80mm extension port to the XL, you will need to remove the dome lens from the dome port to attach the 80mm extension tube.
- The dome adapter is pre-fitted with a seal.
- There is a second (outer) groove for a seal, this was a bit of over engineering and no seal is supplied or required in here.
- Now you can simply align the holes on the extension port with the holes on the dome port adapter.

- **ONLY** use the M5X8 screws to attach the extension port to the port adapter.
- Tighten loosely first by doing opposites sides.
- Ensure the seal does not come out of the groove.
- Do not torque ANY bolts to more than 15 in-lb.

Flexible Backdoor

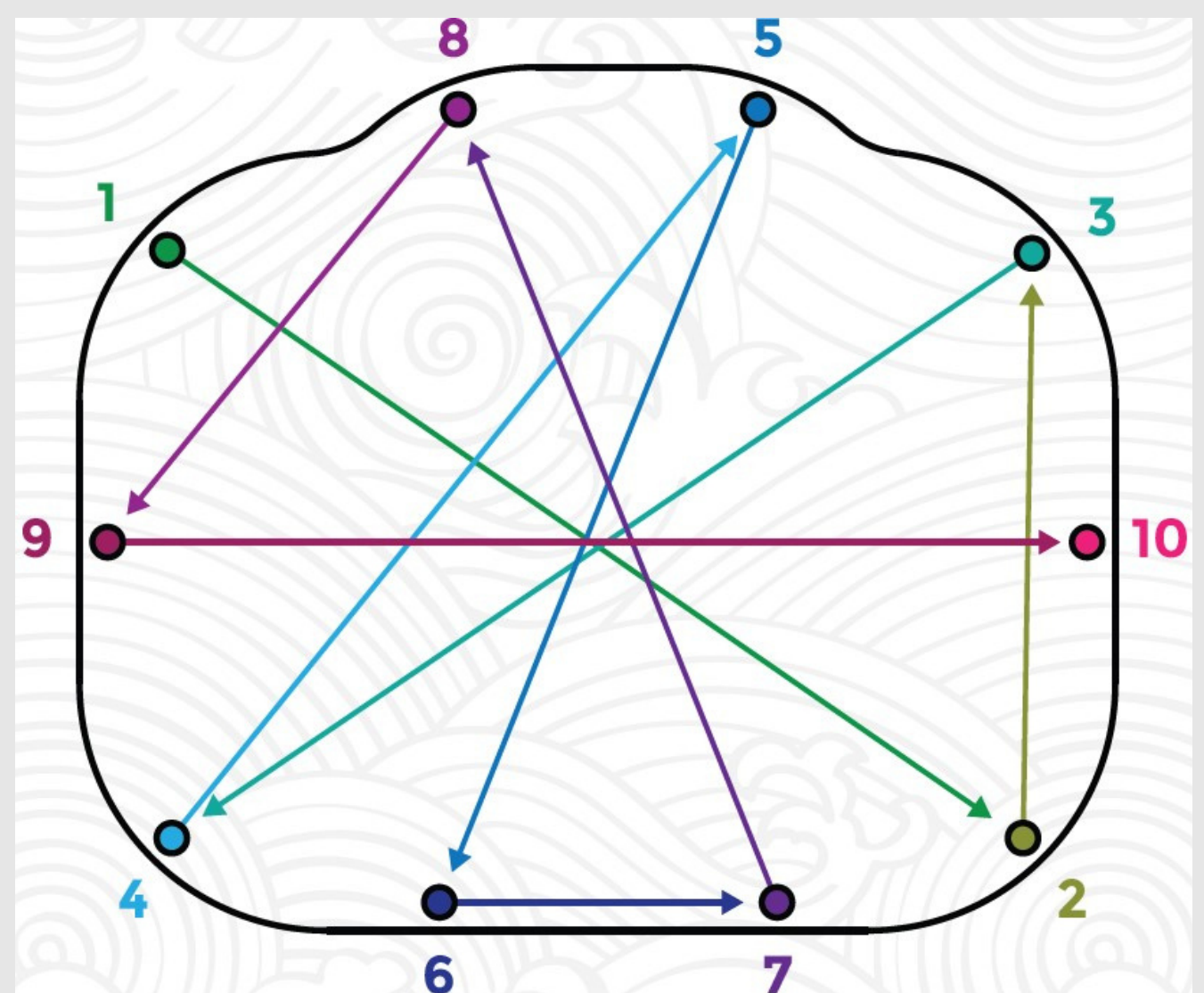
- Note the opening in the center of this back door.
- This is the backdoor for the flexible screen membrane.
- Keep all sharp objects away from the flexible membrane at all times.
- You can store the flexible membrane in a separate ziplock bag with a touch of silicone spray to keep it lubricated and away from sharp objects.
- The screen membrane has a thick side (stepped) seal as a border.
- The thick (stepped) side fits into the groove of the soft back door as well as the solid backdoor for the XL.
- if you want to use the hard backdoor you can cut the internal membrane out for better clarity
- Carefully place the thick side of the membrane step into the groove and work it into place.





- Turn the back door around and ensure that the screen membrane is facing down as seen on the picture .
- Use these easy turn finger thumb screws to close up the back door.
- Ensure that the thumb screws are finger tightened (do not use the tool to tighten, you will over tighten!)
- You only need to finger tighten in an opposite to opposite pattern as illustrated below.
- Use the thumb screw loosener to easily loosen the back door screws when opening the back door up again.
- Do not use it to tighten the screws ever!

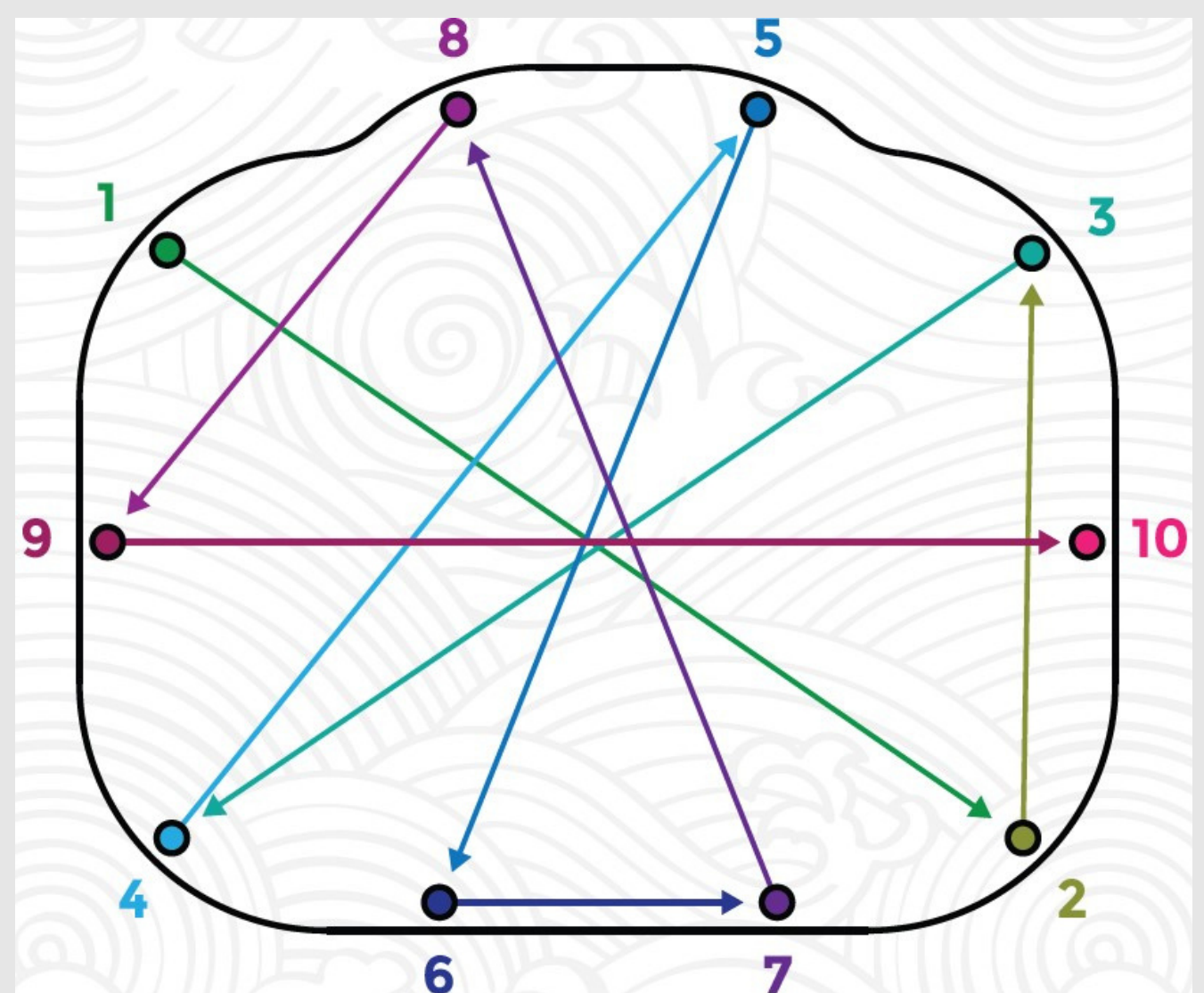
- Always tighten opposite sides, as per the image on the right.
- When tightening the rear screws, do not attempt to over tighten the rear O-Ring seal.
- Finger tight is enough for a perfect seal





- When installing the solid back door, the same principle as the flexible rear door applies.
- Carefully place the membrane or seal if you choose to cut out the centre for better clarity seal into the groove of the solid back door and massage it into place.
- Ensure that the seal is in the groove all the way around.
- Turn the rear door around and align it with the housing holes.
- Once in place begin the tightening sequence.

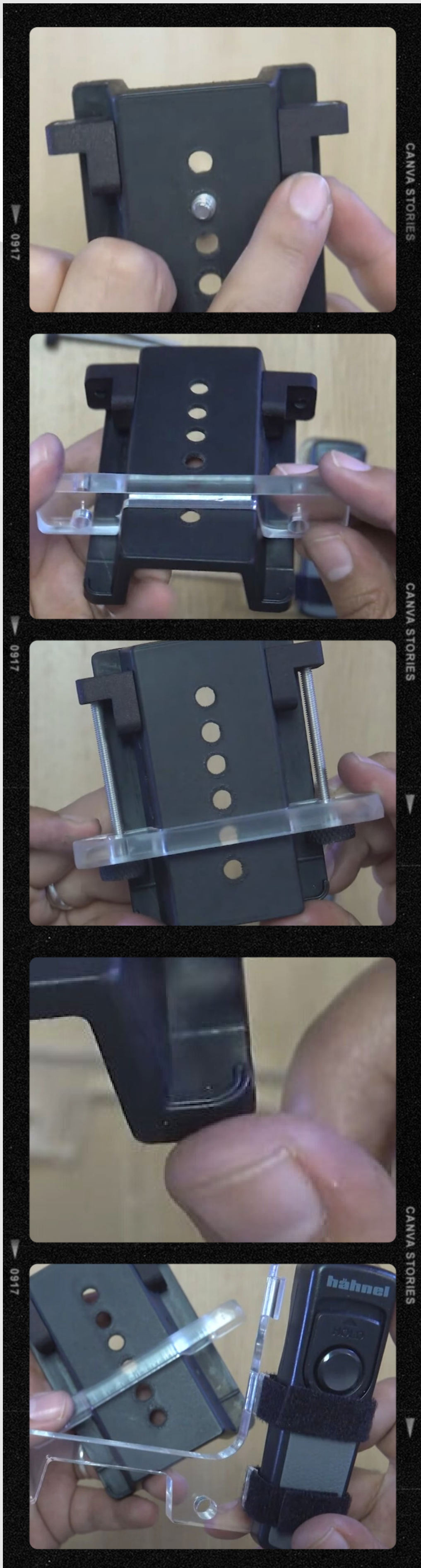
- When tightening the screws, do not attempt to fully compress the Rear O-Ring seal.
- An adequate seal is achieved when an even 2mm seal line is visible. Always tighten opposite sides, as per the image on the right.
- When tightening the rear screws, do not attempt to over tighten the rear O-Ring seal.
- Finger tight is enough for a perfect seal



The Baseplate

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Assembly

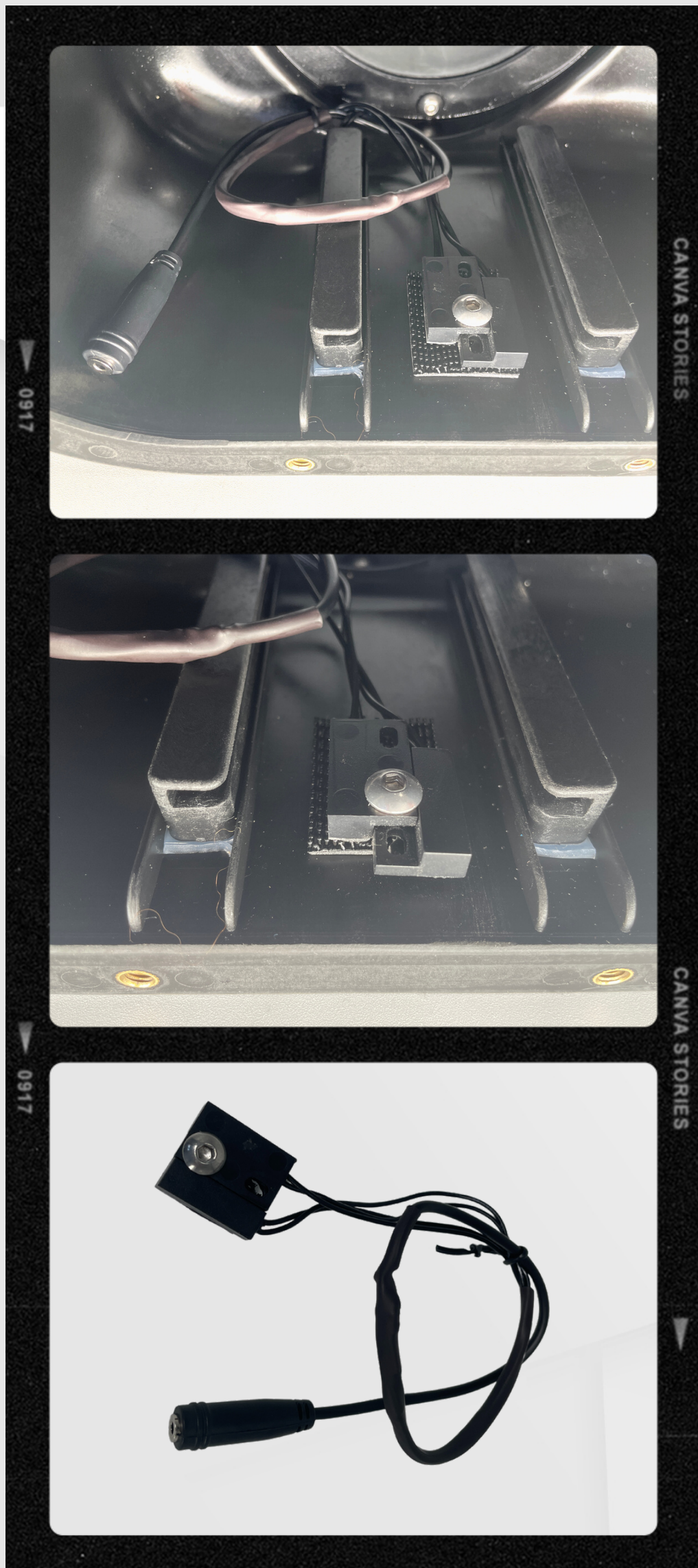


- These side block can be moved according to how far back or forward you want your camera to sit on the backplate.
- Their function is to secure / lock in the side movement elimination plate.
- Once set to your ideal position you can attach the Rear Side Movement Elimination Plate to the base plate.
- This should be loose enough for your camera to fit on to the baseplate
- Add the thumb screws to the side blocks through the Movement Elimination Plate.
- Attach the elimination plate by using the Universal Trigger Baseplate Mounts.
- Ensure that the stepped side of the base plate is closest to you when doing this setup.
- If you have the universal trigger strap, follow the same steps when adding the trigger button plate for use when using the flexible back door.



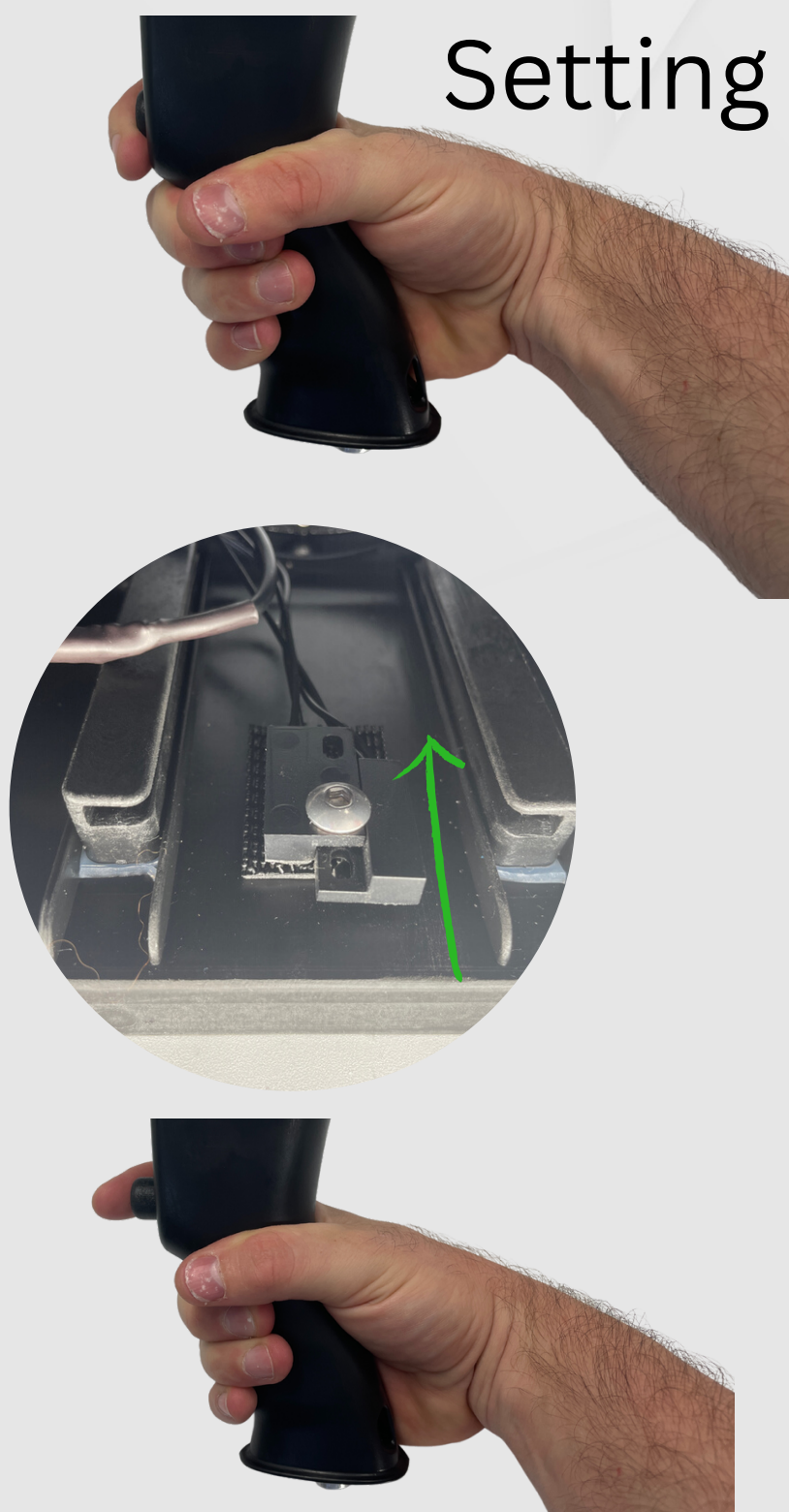
- Position the base plate at the exact point you wish to secure it to your camera.
- Secure the base plate with the Camera Mounting Screw.
- Tighten it firmly.
- Do not over tighten as this could damage your camera
- If you are using the Trigger Shutter, connect your camera specific cable at the point as seen on the picture.
- Locate the trigger input on your camera and connect the cable.

If you have the V1 XL Surf housing, locate the connection box / 2.5mm female adapter inside the housing body to connect your camera specific shutter cable.



- For the XL Surf with 2 Stage Trigger comes pre installed with the factory focus and trigger position.
- The wireless trigger base can be moved backwards and forwards to adjust the focus and shutter position according to the users needs.
- The cables must always face towards the front of the housing
- An example of moving the wireless trigger box a few mm backwards from the first image, this will make a longer trigger pull before the camera will focus and a few mm more to the shutter point.
- You can adjust the wireless trigger box to change the focus to trigger pull (essentially turn the trigger into single stage as per this image on the left as the focus and shutter are parallel).
- You can lengthen the distance between the focus and shutter hubs by loosening the bolt and pushing the two hubs further apart.

Setting the NEW V2 Wireless Two Stage Trigger



- Remove the trigger box from the locking velcro.
- To set your ideal shutter position, begin with the trigger box as far back as possible (Towards the rear Door).
- Have your camera ready to shoot and plugged to the trigger box.
- Pull the trigger in to your ideal trigger position and move the trigger box slowly forwards over the velcro area until it starts to focus, then shutter.
- Place the trigger box lightly in the velcro at that point and release the trigger, the camera should stop shuttering.
- Pull the trigger back and forward to test the focus and shutter position.
- If it holds focus when you release, you need to move it a tiny amount back until it does not focus.
- Play around with this until you find your sweet spot.



- These two tracks on the inside of the housing body is where you will slide in your base plate.
- Before inserting your camera into the housing, ensure that your lens cap is removed.
- If using the solid back door, be sure to set your camera settings before inserting your camera into the housing.
- Line your base plate up with the tracks and easily slide your camera into the housing.
- Be sure to check your camera battery and settings before closing up your housing back door.

Cleaning and storage

- Please perform all these cleaning tips without your camera and lens installed.
- With your XL fully assembled wash the outside off with fresh water very important!! **Do not get the inside wet!**
- **Always wash away any sand or debris.**
- Add a touch of Q20 or rust inhibitor to the metal bolts and brass inserts
- Dry off your housing with a clean towel and unscrew the backdoor.
- If you are using a pistol trigger, clean away any debris or salt water from the button area.
- You should clean the outside of your XL with fresh water after each use in salt water or chlorine water.
- Wipe away any debris that may have gathered on the bolt threads, trigger or seal grooves.
- Regularly take your ports off and clean them with fresh water to help keep corrosion from occurring.
- Carefully wipe down the inside of the GDome XL Housing with a clean damp cloth. Make sure not to get any of the cables or hubs wet.
- Do not store your housing fully screwed down for long periods of time.
- Do not leave your GDome gear in temperatures greater than 45C (120 F).
- Do not use alcohol-based products to clean any parts on the GDome, this may damage the product.

- Make sure the housing is fully assembled with all seals in place.
- Ensure that all screws / bolts are properly torqued and not over tightened!
- You should check the screw tension of bolts before every use, this is essential for the ports.
- The backplate thumbscrews should be finger tight.
- All seals should be evenly compressed.
- For a basic quick pressure test (with the flexible membrane) you can pinch the rear membrane with your fingers and pull back.
- The unit should not suck in air.
- If it does take in air, you will see the membrane will have a bulged convex shape when you release for a few seconds, it should not suck in air if it is sealed. If it does suck in air you need to check the seals are properly installed and that the bolts / thumbscrews are properly torqued and not over or under tightened.
- You can also use the palm of your hand to push on the membrane, it should not allow any air to escape and the membrane should not be concave when you release.
- You can now do your first water test by submerging your housing in water for 15 - 20 seconds. Check for any leaks or bubbles that may indicate a problem with the seals. Lift your housing out of the water and inspect it for any water inside the housing. Water could enter the housing either through the ports, the lens, the handle mounting platform or the back door. If water gets in your housing you need to check the seals are properly installed and that the bolts / thumbscrews are properly torqued and not over or under tightened.
- Now it is time for the FINAL DEEP PRESSURE TEST For this test DO NOT USE YOUR CAMERA in the housing! We want you to take the unit to the maximum depth you plan on using it to (up to 5m - for the flexible rear membrane, 18m for the hard backdoor) the goal is to take your housing to the max use depth for as long as possible.
- The housing must take in absolutely no water!
- If the housing passes this test you should be comfortable in knowing that it will not leak as it has gone to its maximum rated depth in your own hands.
- Do a dry run: take the camera housing out for a dry run before getting it wet. This will give you an opportunity to practice using it, test the functions and features and to ensure that it is functioning properly and that you know what to expect when you have it in the water. This is a great time to play with your camera setting to see what works best for you.

Going forward

A visual inspection should be done before each use to ensure:

- The XL housing and parts have no physical damage.
- All seals should be lubricated show no signs of wear & tear or damage.
- The flexible rear membrane is installed the correct orientation and does not have any signs of damage.
- All seals are in place and that thumbscrews and bolts are correctly tightened every single time before taking the GDome XL in or around water.

By following these steps, you can ensure that your camera housing is waterproof and will provide reliable protection for your camera when you are using it in the water.

- Your GDome XL water housing product is designed to keep your camera dry when photographing in water based conditions.
- It is manufactured from a strong material, but it should not be taken that this is a piece of equipment designed to protect your camera from harsh bashes.
- After using the product in salt water, rinse well with fresh water.
- Ensure that the port covers are always used when the housing is being stored.
- Our warranty covers any manufacturing defects within the first 12 months from date of purchase, of which will be replaced or repaired free of charge (excluding shipping costs).
- If negligence is deemed to be the cause of the damage, the owner will be liable for the cost of the repair.
- The owner will be notified before any repairs are made to the housing.



**Limit of liability**

- In the event of a product warranty claim, GDOME is only liable up to the value originally paid for the product.
- Losses of associated equipment, income or any other financial costs are not covered under this warranty, under any circumstances.

Warranty - 1 year product warranty

- We make every effort to ensure that our products are made from the highest quality materials and workmanship. Should you not be completely satisfied with one of our products, we encourage you to contact us so that we can promptly resolve any problem you may be experiencing. Our company representatives will deal with your issue quickly and decisively.
- As many GDOME products are often used in extreme and volatile environments, we are unable to cover for loss or damage of equipment, personal injury or financial loss.
- To reduce the risk of these losses occurring, we strongly recommend you read the relevant product instructions carefully and test the product before use.

What does the warranty cover?

- This warranty covers any defects in materials or workmanship, with exceptions stated below

What is not covered?

- The warranty does not cover damage as the result of normal wear and tear. Determination of what constitutes normal wear and tear will be at the discretion of GDOME. The warranty guarantee only applies to the original purchaser of the product when purchased from GDOME direct or through one of our authorised dealers. Therefore, we may ask for proof of purchase. This warranty does not cover for any loss of associated equipment such as cameras, lenses or other associated equipment not sold by GDOME.
- Loss of income, reputation or other financial expenses, such as personal injury are also not covered by this warranty. Shipping costs for returned products are the responsibility of the customer.

How long does the coverage last?

- This warranty runs for 1 year from the date your product is received.

What will GDOME do?

- GDOME will repair any defect that proves defective in materials and workmanship. If repairing is not possible, GDOME will replace the product, or, offer a store credit for the original purchase price, whichever is agreed to by the customer and GDOME / Retailer store.

How to get service?

- Email **sales@getgdome.com** and we will advise where to send your product.
- Alternatively, you may **call South Africa: +27 845590801**

Returns policy - GDOME online customers only:

- **GDome offers a 14 day return policy for new items** purchased directly through our online store or at our physical store.
- **GDome will only provide exchanges or store credit for change of mind or incorrectly ordered products.**
- GDome will **not refund any shipping and credit card costs.**
- Please see our full return policy on our website.
- The customer is responsible for shipping cost of the returned items.
- A restocking charge may be applied in some countries.
- If the reason for your return is not because of a GDome error, any shipping costs and handling fees, incurred by GDome may be deducted from your refund.

Please note: if you return an item and did not originally pay shipping costs, the shipping cost incurred by GDome will be deducted from your refund.

How state law applies:

- This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights which vary according to the state or country in which you are located.

Legals

- Please practice extreme caution when diving into deep water. Only use this product in settings that are within yours or other's capabilities.
- Serious injuries or drowning could occur if you or others are not competent for the prevailing conditions.