

6 TIPS FOR GREAT GOPRO DOME PHOTOGRAPHY

HOW TO TAKE AMAZING OVER UNDER PHOTOS

By splitgadgets.com





YOU WILL NEED: A SPLIT DOME PORT FOR GOPRO

If you want to capture half half images and improve your GoPro underwater shots you will need a dome port. Dome port moves the waterline away from the GoPro lens which dramatically improves camera's underwater functionality and image quality AND it allows you to make those sick split photo shots that are half underwater, half above it. Domes used to be really expensive but not anymore! You can get your SPLIT dome port at splitgadgets.com

Here are a few tips and tricks for better SPLIT dome photography (they of course “work” for every dome out there).

DON'T WORRY, IT IS REALLY SIMPLE

Using the dome port together with a GoPro camera is really simple as GoPro with its wide-angle lens and almost infinite depth of field is a perfect match for the dome port. So basically using the dome is just point and shoot. But there are a few tricks and tips to make your photos better and bring out the most out of your SPLIT dome port.



TIP 1: CHOOSE A BRIGHT DAY

If you are making half-half photos where half the photo is above and half under the water then sun and lots of light will greatly improve your shots. The underwater half of the photo will always be darker as the light is quickly lost under the water so lots of light from the sky will help you make better photos. Some pro photographers even use underwater flash to add some light to the bottom half of the photo.



TIP 2: AVOIDING REFLECTION: DO NOT POINT THE DOME INTO THE SUN

Sun (or any other light source) can together with the right background turn all domes into mirrors. The dome on Split dome port is designed to minimize reflection but still there are a few rules you should follow to avoid this from happening.

So what to do to avoid reflection?

The mirror effect usually happens when you are pointing the dome towards the sun, even more if the underwater part of the photo is dark. Try to keep the sun behind your back and do a few test shots to find the right angle. Keeping the sun behind you is also a general rule for good photography because it improves the colors in the photo.

Taking photos directly into the sun is possible. But you will need to play around to find the right angle. Also try to put your Split dome deeper (or higher) in the water. Play around to get the perfect shot!

TIP 3: AVOIDING THE FOG

Domes and regular GoPro housings can fog on the inside ruining your shots. Fogging occurs when you have moisture inside the housing and/or large differences in temperatures (warm air/cold water). If you are somewhere in the tropics or anywhere where you suspect that the fogging might occur it is best to assemble the dome somewhere dry (inside the car, in your hotel room). If there is air conditioning available turn it on as the AC takes the moisture out of the air.

But there are times and places when you can not get to a dry place. In this case you can use GoPro Anti-Fog camera lens inserts and they will suck the moisture out of the dome and the housing. To put the Anti-Fog insert into the dome you need to tape it to the backplate, you can do this without removing the dome through the hole for the GoPro housing. The insert will not be visible in the photo, if you are not using something really oversized. There are also alternatives to these inserts – people use chamois leather pieces, silica gel bags from shoe boxes, or even tissue paper.

TIP 4: CHOOSE CLEAR WATER

Clear water will be lighter and you will have better, more natural colors. Mountain lakes and rivers, tropical seas, swimming pools... are usual places with really clear transparent water. Bottom also has an effect on the brightness and amount of light in the water. Bright sand, pool tiles, pebbles are better than dark algae, mud, and volcanic rocks.



TIP 5: BEST GOPRO CAMERA MODE FOR DOME PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

PHOTOS

For quick movement, action sports like surfing... when there is only a small time difference between making a half dome photo and dunking your dome completely or losing the person you are shooting out of the frame we suggest you use the burst mode. 30 photos in 3 seconds works well, if the action is really fast try 30 photos in 2 or in 1 second, but in this case it is harder to catch the right moment to press the shutter button.



For slower action, for fooling around in water, snorkeling, etc... we also like to use the timelapse mode, either one photo every 0.5 second or 1 photo every second. Timelapse mode is also cool because once you start it you don't have to press the shutter button anymore, your hands are free so you can swim and you won't miss anything because your camera is always shooting. But it does give you lots of photos to delete afterwards.

The resolution setting should always be max which is 12MP / Wide.

VIDEOS

When it comes to video the rules are similar – for high-speed activities set your camera to at least 50 FPS (frames per second), even if this reduces the available resolution. When the action is slower than you can boost the resolution and cut the frame rates. So for high-speed action choose something like 1080p/50 FPS or 1080 SuperView/50 FPS and



for slower activities something like 2.7K/25FPS (of course if you need higher resolution, if you don't you can just stick to 1080/50). If you want to make slow motion video go even higher with the frame rates (720p/120FPS).

AUTO ROTATION

If you are dunking the dome into the water while you are on dry land like from a pier or something similar your photos will be upside down as the grip will be pointing up. Go through your GoPro camera settings and set your camera orientation to down or even better auto – so you don't have to worry about this.

TIP 6: HOW TO GET RID OF WATER DROPS

Dome is like a huge lens and the half that is not in the water can gather some water droplets that will show in the shot. Since the dome surface is large the drops cover only a small part of the photo so this problem is not as big as with the regular GoPro housing where one droplet can ruin the entire photo. But still, we prefer no drops:). There are several ways to avoid them:

First being the most obvious – if possible, keep the top half of the dome dry. This works in a pool or in fact anywhere where you have calm water and/or a dry cloth nearby. But if you are in the water yourself, like when shooting surfing, this won't work.



If you dunk your dome completely and then take the shot right away there will be a film of water over the dome and no water drops.

There are special solutions (RainX, Aquapel...), that make the treated surfaces hydrophobic and force water to form beads and run off. But most of them can NOT be used with acrylic domes as they can damage the plastic. So make sure you use one that is plastic friendly.

A very nature friendly and popular way to get rid of the water drops is also licking the dome. If you let the spit dry for a while (1-2 minutes) it works even better. And it really works, we have tested it.

Another homemade solution is to rub potato over the dome. The starch mixes with water and creates a sheet that prevents droplets from forming.

A longer lasting method is using a wax. There are special waxes for this or people even use car waxes.

Following these simple instructions will improve your dome shots x10! So to start with half half photography all you need is a Split dome port☺



WHERE TO GET THE DOME FOR YOU GOPRO?

GO TO [SPLITGADGETS.COM](https://www.splitgadgets.com)



If our tips helped you make a great looking photo, tag us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/splitgadgets) or send us your photo to hello@splitgadgets.com and we will feature your photo on our account.

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