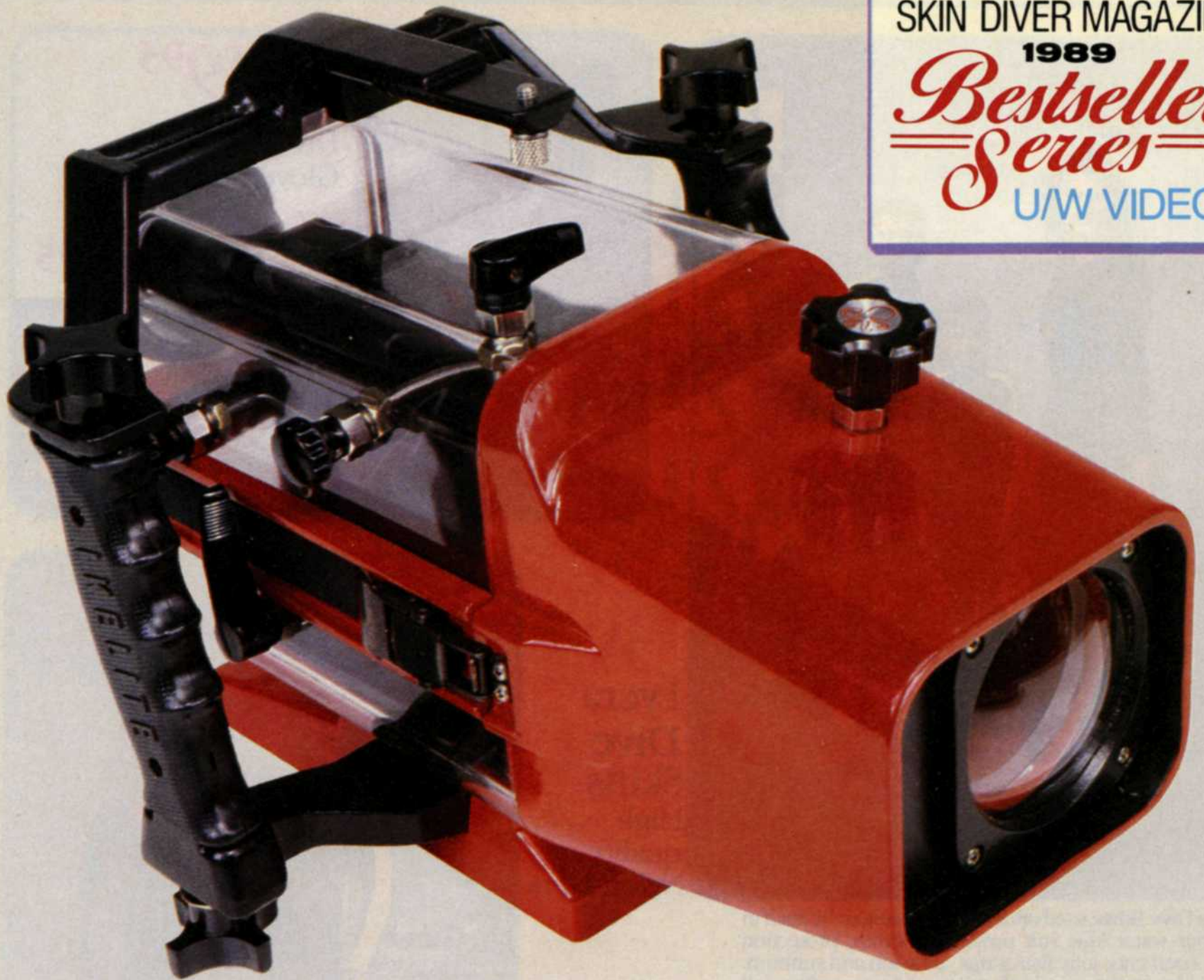


SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

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Bestseller
Series
U/W VIDEOS



Over the past 25 years, the changes in photography have been overwhelming, but Ikelite Underwater Systems has been keeping pace, making underwater housings to accommodate each change. Armed with an idea of housing Kodak's Instamatic, Ikelite ventured into creating underwater camera housings in 1964. Then there was no stopping. Eventually, lightmeters, electronic flashes, lights, SLR cameras and even Polaroid cameras were housed by Ikelite. Then, in 1984, the company took another plunge by producing a new line of housings for video camera systems.

One such housing for the Sony CCD-V9 camera (Model #6033.9) is a unique hybrid housing, half clear polycarbonate, half aluminum. Also unique is the method for attaching the two halves. A metal band surrounds the polycarbonate part of the housing and is compressed against the metal half using catch and carry clips. A metal bar with two plastic handles is attached to the polycarbonate half, allowing a variety of accessories to be attached to the camera housing. A special optical dome port corrects for refraction and color saturation, while maintaining the same angle of coverage above and below water.

Ikelite Video Housing for the Sony CCD-V9

DIVING'S FIRST HYBRID VIDEO CASE

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL

THE CONTROLS

The Sony CCD-V9 camera housing has six control knobs, which use both O-rings and internal X-rings.

The first control—on the top, polycarbonate part of the housing—provides power to the camera. Just pushing down on the control and pulling it up will turn the camera on. Two controls near the right handle allow the videographer go from standby to record or to lock or unlock the record button in order to prevent accidental use. A fourth control above the right handle gently rocks back and forth

allowing a smooth zooming of the camera lens.

The white balance on the Sony CCD-V9 is operated by a fifth control on the lower right side of the housing. The only control on the metal part of the housing is used for manual focusing.

After talking with the manufacturer, we found that a seventh control is planned, one that will allow access to the forward and reverse controls on the top of the camera. This will allow the videographer to rewind or view the tape or record the scene over. This could be a very handy

feature. A good example would be if you had taken 10 minutes of not so exciting reefs and then found yourself face to face with a whale shark. Simply rewind the tape and re-record.

CAMERA INSTALLATION

To load the camera in the housing simply unfasten the two catch and carry clips and remove the polycarbonate back. Next attach the CCD-V9 camera to a special Delrin baseplate using a 1/4-20 bolt, supplied with the housing. Pull out all the controls on both halves of the housing. Re-join the two housing halves, align the controls and you are ready to go.

The clear polycarbonate half of the housing not only ensures that you can see to align all the controls, but also allows the videographer to monitor for any human error, in the form of water leaks, so major disasters can be prevented.

In order to see a full image through the back of the housing Ikelite has developed the Video Eye, a replacement eyepiece for most video cameras including that of the Sony CCD-V9 camera. The original eyepiece is removed from its bayonet mount and replaced with this larger eyepiece, which provides an image that is four times larger. The Video Eye makes focusing and viewing easier for those wearing a facemask.

There is a special handle attached to the top of the housing so it may be picked up from the top instead of the sides. This

handle has a small extension with a bolt for attaching a Nikonos V, allowing both still and video to be used on one dive.

CAMERA ACCESSORIES

If wide angle images are desired, a special wide angle adapter (#6430) can be attached to the camera lens to double its angle of coverage. Color correction filters can be added between the wide angle adapter and the lens.

HOUSING ACCESSORIES

If the videographer wants to dampen pitching motion while swimming through the water, V-Wings can also be attached at the same point the top handle was attached. These V-Wings can be folded into a storage position while topside and unfolded underwater. The top handle and the V-Wing can be mounted together or separately, depending on the needs of the user.

IKELITE PRO VIDEO-LITE

An additional lighting system can be

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

Housing	
V-Wings.....	\$69.95
Pro Video-Lite	
(lead acid battery).....	\$695.00
(nickel-cadmium battery).....	\$895.00
Camera	
Wide Angle Adapter (#6430)....	\$119.95
Color filters.....	\$50.00 each

added to the housing by removing two large bolts from the base, which allows the quick connect or disconnect of the Ikelite Pro Video-Lite system. The battery pack inside the base unit uses either lead acid or nickel-cadmium battery packs. Each side of the unit has its own power control and electrical connection to operate a single 100 watt Lite Head. Each Lite Head features ultra-wide 100 degree coverage and a built-in 20 watt modeling light, which is most helpful during night dives. One Lite Head with a nickel-cadmium battery pack can last 70 minutes, while a system using two Pro-Lites with 200 watts will last about 40 minutes.

CONCLUSION

The Ikelite housing for the Sony CCD-V9 is extremely well built, easy to use and, most importantly, offers the videographer versatility. Each videographer can add just the right accessories and adapters to fit his/her specific needs.

When the housing and camera were assembled, we found the controls to be light to the touch and gentle to the Sony camera. We also liked being able to see everything that is going on through the Lexan part of the housing. Jack and Sue give it two thumbs up. Score another winner for Ikelite.

For more information and/or an Ikelite catalogue write the company at 50 West 33rd, P.O. Box 88100, Indianapolis, IN 46208.

COMPARISON OF IKELITE VIDEO HOUSINGS FOR *SONY CAMERAS

Housing Model	Cameras Accepted	Suggested Retail	Housing Material	Controls Provided	Weight w/Camera	Wide Angle Lens	Optional Color Filter	Format	Minimum Illumination	Auto-focus	Maximum Record Time
# 6034.11	CCD-V11 Ricoh R-630	\$695	Clear polycarbonate/ aluminum	Power Start/stop Power zoom Focus	21 lbs.	Optional # 6430	# 6440.46	8mm	5 lux	Above water	120 min.
# 6304.4	CCD-F40 Ricoh R-620	\$795	Clear polycarbonate/ aluminum	Power Start/stop Power zoom Focus Title 2/color	21 lbs.	(Included) .5x lens	# 6440.46	8mm	4 lux	Above water	120 min.
# 6034.3	CCD-F30	\$795	Clear polycarbonate/ aluminum	Power Start/stop Power zoom Focus Sup. impose	21 lbs.	(Included) .5x lens	# 6440.46	8mm	9 lux	Above water	120 min.
# 6033.9	CCD-V9 Ricoh R-600	\$695	Clear polycarbonate/ aluminum	Power Start/stop Power zoom Focus White balance	22 lbs.	Optional # 6430	# 6440.46	8mm	5 lux	Above water	120 min.
# 6033.5	CCD-V5	\$695	Cylindrical PVC	Power Start/stop Power zoom Focus Filter/wh. bal.	23 lbs.	Optional # 6430	# 6440.46	8mm	9 lux	Above water	120 min.
# 6033	CCD-V3	\$695	Cylindrical PVC	Power Start/stop Power zoom Focus Filter/wh. bal.	23 lbs.	Optional # 6430	# 6440.46	8mm	16 lux	Above water	120 min.
# 6029	CCD-M7	\$595	Clear polycarbonate/ aluminum	Start/stop	15 lbs.	(Included) .5x lens	# 6440.29	8mm	9 lux	No	120 min.
# 6030.3	CCD-M8	\$595	Clear polycarbonate/ aluminum	Start/stop Filter	18 lbs.	(Included) .42x lens	# 6440.30	8mm	25 lux	No	120 min.

*Ikelite also offers a full line of housings for other video cameras, including JVC. Write for a catalogue.