

SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

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*Bestseller
Series*

U/W VIDEOS

AN U/W VIDEO HOUSING THAT IS TOUGH AS NAILS

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HYPERTECH PRO 40

As video systems become more and more sophisticated, their underwater housings have to be adaptable as well as protective. Hypertech strives to make durable housings that allow the user flexibility. In the last four years Hypertech has grown from a small company making custom PVC housings to one that offers a new line of sturdy aluminum underwater video housings.

One of these housings is the Pro 40, designed for the Sony CCD-F40 camcorder. The Pro 40 is very similar to the

Pro 9A we reviewed in the April issue of SKIN DIVER but, because it houses a different camera, it has subtle differences in design and operation. The housing itself is cast out of type 356 anodized aluminum with one-half inch thick walls. One large opening in the back of the housing accommodates different types of back plates depending on the type of viewer used with the camera.

The front of the housing has one large circular opening where an optical dome is fitted, allowing full optical correction

KEY FEATURES

- Indestructible
- Easy to load
- Simple to use
- Minimum controls
- Easy maintenance
- Full frame viewing
- Rated to 250 feet
- Room for lenses and filters

COMPARISON OF HYPERTECH'S PRO SERIES VIDEO HOUSINGS

Model	Camera	Price	Depth Rating	Length	Height	Width	Weight	Controls	Viewfinder	Materials	Lens Adapters
Pro 9A	Sony CCD-V9 Ricoh R600S	\$995 \$2,335 w/Sony	250 feet	16.5 inches	7 inches	6.75 inches	19 lbs., neutral in water	Power Zoom Start/stop	Magnifier*	356 aluminum, Plexiglas	Wide angle
Pro 40	Sony CCD-F40 Camcorder	\$995 \$2,275 w/camera	250 feet	16.5 inches	7 inches	6.75 inches	19 lbs., neutral in water	Power Zoom Start/stop	Magnifier	356 aluminum, Plexiglas	Wide angle
Pro 30	Sony CCD-F30 Camcorder	\$895 \$2,070 w/camera	250 feet	16.5 inches	7 inches	6.75 inches	19 lbs., neutral in water	Power Start/stop	Magnifier	356 aluminum, Plexiglas	Wide angle

* Color monitor available as an option

both underwater and above. Extending in front of the optical dome is a rectangular lens hood that is cast as part of the housing. This enables the videographer to rest the housing on end without damaging the dome, allowing easy access to the back.

On the base of the housing there are two large rubber skids that prevent it from moving once set on any boat deck, no matter how slippery or how rough the seas. The Pro 40 is so tough it is virtually indestructible, a very necessary, yet sometimes overlooked requirement that should be considered when housing very expensive video cameras.

On the top of the Pro 40 there are camera controls for power on/off and zoom. Each control is made of stainless steel and uses both O-ring and X-ring construction. To operate the power on control, gently press it down and move it back to the power on position. The zoom control can be moved forward and backward, allowing zoom in and zoom out functions. A special rubber sleeve can be inserted under the control so it won't accidentally zoom when a certain focal length is desired held. The small plexiglass hemisphere on the top of the housing has an unpolished surface to improve its ability to dissipate light correctly to the white balance on the camera.

On each side of the Pro 40 there are high grade plastic handles placed to

allow comfort when using this neutrally balanced housing underwater. Next to the right handle is a third control used to start and stop the record function on the Sony CCD-F40. This control uses the same construction as the top two and is positioned so the camera can be stopped and started with one hand.

The standard backplate is made of 3/4 inch plexiglass and is held in place by three standard military type catch and carry clips. A special magnifier attached to the backplate allows a larger black and white image for viewing while wearing a dive mask.

But, we live in a visual world full of color, so Hypertech has devised another option for this flexible system: A color monitor (one of two models) and an extended backplate that accommodates the large color viewing screen. The extended backplate attaches in the same manner as a normal backplate.

To load the Sony CCD-F40 camera in the housing, remove the backplate. Slide the camera plate out and mount the camera using the 1/4-20 bolt supplied. Next remove the camera eyepiece by twisting it 90 degrees and then sliding it out. Finally, pull out all camera housing controls and slide the camera and plate in. Align all controls and close the housing back.

The batteries can be changed without removing the camera from the housing

by simply removing the backplate. Tapes can be changed by sliding the camera a few inches out of the housing and pressing the eject button.

Included with the Pro 40 housing is a special wide angle adapter that allows up to twice the viewing angle available with the standard lens. This adapter attaches directly to the front of the CCD-F40 and requires no special modification to the housing as it is molded to fit the camera. Filter sets for cold and warm water photography, plus O-ring grease and O-rings are included as standard equipment.

If you desire lights for the Pro 40 housing, Hypertech offers the high intensity Hyper-Light 7. It can be mounted to the top of the housing using a special metal band and bracket. This light can be tilted up and down. The on/off switch is under the head of the light. A locking mechanism can be used so that the light cannot be accidentally turned on during transport. The Hyper-Light 7 will operate with either 50 or 100 watt bulbs. The 100 watt is recommended for daylight shooting and the 50 watt for night photography. The battery for the Hyper-Light 7 can be completely charged in 10-12 hours.

If you need additional information on the Pro Series underwater housings contact Hypertech, Inc., 750 East Sample Road, Pompano Beach, FL 33064 or call (800) 782-4448.

Tape change. Bottom: Lens adapter/filters



ACCESSORIES

- XVM-3 color monitor with extended backplate.....\$759
- FDL-330S color monitor with extended backplate.....\$789
- Extended backplate only.....\$239
- Hyper-Light 7 with brackets, battery, charger, bulbs.....\$465

Opening page: The Pro 40 housing with Hyper-Light 7 attached. Above left: To change videotape, slide the camera a few inches out of the housing and press the eject button. Upper right: The color monitor. Left: Color filters and wide angle lens.

Color monitor

