

SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

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*Bestseller*  
*Series*  
U/W VIDEOS

# Sony CCD-V11

## AQUAVIDEO HOUSING



Right: The Model 6/CCD-V11 housing, Kyocera KD-5010 camera, SuperNova light, dessicant, filters and wide angle lens adapter.



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
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As we continue to explore the world of underwater video housings, we find two important words are necessary for making a proper video housing selection: adaptability and reliability. AquaVideo specializes in both and has done so since 1981. The company designs and manufactures housings for more than 100 completely different video cameras and camcorders. AquaVideo's newest housing is the Model 6/CCD-V11 for the Sony CCD-V11, Kyocera KD-5010, Nikon VN 9000 and Ricoh cameras.

The Sony CCD-V11 comfortably fits into AquaVideo's six inch diameter housing, allowing enough room for an internal battery pack. This makes a very compact underwater video camcorder/housing/lighting system for the sport diver.

The housing is made of high grade PVC plastic tubing. PVC housings do not have the condensation and electrolytic

corrosion problems sometimes associated with aluminum housings.

The AquaVideo housing is cylindrical because this shape is the most pressure resistant, plus provides stability in the water.

The front and back plates are one inch thick, clear, high grade acrylic. Each is held in place with three catch and strike stainless steel clamps. These look like many other clamps but feature a spring loaded security lock that prevents them from popping open accidentally.

The back plate has a loupe that magnifies image size for easier viewing. This is handy as the viewers on most camcorders are small. The clear cover plates allow easy viewing of the viewfinder and controls as well as the entire inside of the housing. If a leak should develop, it would be seen immediately.

corrosion problems sometimes associated with

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A dome port comes standard on all AquaVideo housings. It can be easily changed and is compatible with the port system used on Ikelite 35mm housings. Dome ports are used because AquaVideo believes they provide sharper pictures and offer the widest possible lens angle. Included in the package price is a high resolution wide angle lens converter. A heavy duty black lens hood attaches to the dome port with three stainless screws. The housing can be set on this hood without damaging the dome.

Each end plate is sealed against the housing using special X-rings that are recessed in a fully captured groove. When the end plates are closed, the X-ring is completely surrounded within the groove and mated against the coverplate. Since the end plates are completely clear, it is easy to check the X-ring seal. Because of its circular design and thick end plates,

### COMPARISON OF AQUAVIDEO HOUSINGS

Model	Cameras	Price	Depth Rating	Format	Length	Dia-meter	Weight	Controls	Viewfinder	Materials	Lens Adapters
6 CCD-V11	Sony CCD-V11 Kyocera KD-5010 Nikon VN 9000 Ricoh	\$999 \$2,450 w/KD-5010	300 feet	8mm	16 inches	6 inches	10.5 lbs. w/o lead handles 15.5 lbs. with handles	Power, start/stop, macro/zoom	Magnifier*	High grade PVC, acrylic, stainless steel	High resolution, low distortion wide angle lens
6 CCDF30/40	Sony CCD-F30/F40 Kyocera KD-1700 Sony CCD-V9	\$949 \$1,900 w/F30/KD1700 \$2,250 w/F40 \$2,300 w/CCD-V9	300 feet	8mm	16 1/2 inches	6 inches	12 lbs. w/o lead handles 17 lbs. with lead handles	Power, start/stop, macro/zoom	Magnifier*	High grade PVC, acrylic, stainless steel	High resolution, low distortion wide angle lens
6 PV-S150	Panasonic PV-S150 Quasar VM-52AC	\$999 \$2,499 w/camera	300 feet	Super VHS-C	16 1/2 inches	6 inches	12 lbs. w/o lead handles 18 lbs. with lead handles	Power, start/stop, macro/zoom	Magnifier*	High grade PVC, acrylic, stainless steel	High resolution, low distortion wide angle lens

\*Color monitor available as option

the AquaVideo housing is pressure rated down to 300 feet.

Two small wings on each side of the housing are attached using a PVC welding process that essentially makes them part of the housing. These wings increase stability by dampening the rolling and pitching. They also provide an excellent mounting surface for underwater lights or even a Nikonos camera. Lead handles can be mounted on the top or bottom of the wings, whichever the diver prefers. If an additional negative buoyancy item, such as a Nikonos camera, is added to the wings, plastic or aluminum handles can be substituted for the lead handles.

There are three controls on this housing. The power control is at the top center. Pushing this control forward slightly turns the camera on. To the right and ahead of the power control is the macro/zoom control, which allows the photographer to

change from long distance shots to close-ups.

The third control is under the right wing. When this is pressed forward, the camera begins to record. Each control has X-rings around the shaft and O-rings under the securing surface.

To place the camera in the housing, set the housing on its back plate or on the handles and remove the front plate. Pull all the controls out so the camera may pass by them as it enters the housing. Once it is in place the controls can be pushed back. Finally, reattach the front plate and inspect the X-rings on both ends of the housings.

We also mentioned adaptability. AquaVideo has made custom housings since Day One, so if you want something different, simply ask and "Have it your way." Let's say you want sound, but you don't want to listen to the camera operating. AquaVideo offers an optional underwater microphone that attaches to the outside of the housing and picks up underwater sounds without camera noise. If you're into state of the art color monitors, AquaVideo can extend the length of the housing so

the Sony LCD monitors can be attached to the inside backplate. If surface monitoring is required, there is a special connection that allows camera to surface communication and possible hookup to a higher quality recorder. There is even an aluminum version of the housing.

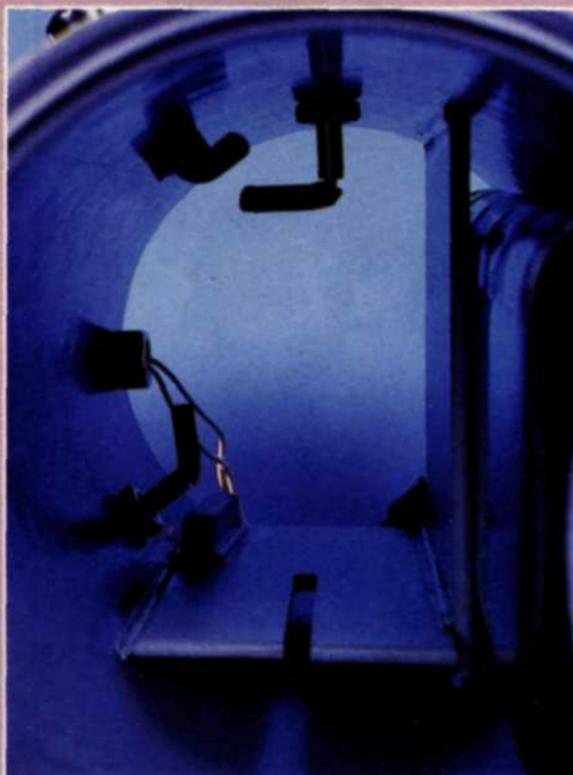
Because the newer cameras are smaller, an optional, larger 24 volt battery pack can be inserted alongside the camera and used to power the external lighting system. There is a special cable port near the right rear of the housing that connects to a 24 volt battery used to power AquaVideo's SuperNova light. This optional light attaches to the wings via a special bracket. The small, but powerful SuperNova uses a variety of lamps from 80 to 250 watts and a variety of battery packs. These allow burn times from 12 to 126 minutes, depending on the bulbs and battery packs.

The AquaVideo Model 6 for the CCD-V11 is designed to be durable, easy to use and reliable. The AquaVideo system offers adaptability with its accessories and custom options. The folks at this company put a lot of thought into their housings, so you won't have to think twice before buying one. For further information on the AquaVideo line of underwater video housings contact 5057 Northwest 159th Street, Miami, Florida 33014 or call (305) 621-0222.

6/CCD-V11 housing and SuperNova light



Controls inside the housing



#### KEY FEATURES

- Easy to load
- Simple to use
- Full frame viewing
- X-ring seals
- High resolution wide angle converter
- Minimal maintenance
- Rugged construction
- Corrosion proof PVC
- Depth rated to 300 feet

Three control arms penetrate the housing and each has X-rings around the shaft and O-rings under the securing surface for a watertight seal. The SuperNova light uses a variety of lamps and battery packs.

#### SUPERNOVA SYSTEM

- SN 250-48/Mini .....\$999  
(only for Model 6/CCD-V11)
- SN 250-96.....\$1,299
- SN 350-176.....\$1,699