

SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE

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Bestseller
Series

U/W VIDEOS



Housing, camcorder, wide angle lens, filters.

AquaVideo

HOUSING FOR THE SONY CCD-V99

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL

The video camera marketplace is most confusing; you need a score card to keep track of which model does what. To complicate matters, each manufacturer uses different codes to indicate different formats. And, they release new models at random times, driving U/W video housing manufacturers crazy!

Fortunately, there is a manufacturer who specializes in matching U/W housings to the cameras that video manufacturers produce. Ever since 1981 AquaVideo has prided itself on its ability to house the newest and best of video cameras, yet still service the older models that have become longtime favorites.

One recent addition to the underwater video housing market is AquaVideo's

Model 6 CCD-V99 housing for the Sony CCD-V99 camera. This Hi-band 8mm camera improves the resolution of the recording, but requires a specific tape that costs about twice as much as normal tapes. The Hi-8 camera can also record standard 8mm if you insert a regular 8mm tape.

AquaVideo's Model 6 is made of extremely tough PVC. It comfortably holds the camera, battery pack, wide angle lens and viewing system—all within a six inch diameter housing.

A one inch thick plexiglass endplate is attached to the back of the housing using three stainless steel catch and strike clips—and forms a tight seal against the X-ring trapped in the channel wall groove

AquaVideo's compact Model 6 CCD-V99 underwater video housing holds the camcorder (one of several types), battery pack, wide angle lens and viewing system.

KEY FEATURES

- Easy to load
- Simple to use
- Full frame viewing
- Rugged construction
- Both camera and optional color viewfinder are visible simultaneously
- X-ring seals
- Super high resolution wide angle converter
- Minimal maintenance
- Rugged construction
- Corrosion proof PVC
- Depth rated to 300 feet

COMPARISON OF AQUAVIDEO HOUSINGS

Model	Cameras	Price	Depth Rating	Format	Length	Dia-meter	Weight	Controls	Viewfinder	Materials	Lens Adapters
6 PV-S160	Panasonic PV-S160 Quasar VM-54AC	\$949 \$2,299 w/camera	300 feet	Super VHS-C	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 CCD-V99	Sony CCD-V99 Kyocera KDH-130 Nikon VN 950 Ricoh R800H	\$899 \$2,549 w/KDH-130	300 feet	Hi8/ 8mm	18 inches	6 inches	13 lbs. w/o lead handles 20 lbs. with lead handles	Power, start/stop, macro/zoom	Magnifier*	High grade PVC, acrylic, stainless steel	Super high resolution, low distortion wide angle lens
6 CCD-V11	Sony CCD-V11 Kyocera KD-5010 Nikon VN 9000 Ricoh	\$899 \$2,249 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
SCCD-TR5	Sony CCD-TR5 Kyocera KDS-530	\$749 \$1,849 w/KDS-530	300 feet	8mm	11 inches	5 inches	7 lbs. with 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

in the end of the housing. A small flat magnifier is attached to the inside of the endplate, allowing full frame viewing while wearing a facemask.

An Ikelite dome port attaches to the one inch thick front plate and allows distortion free images to be transmitted to the camera. This front port is held in place the same way as the back plate and serves as the entry point for putting the camera into the housing. The front port is interchangeable (there is one for macro, too), making the housing extremely versatile.

Design improvements in the video camera itself made it possible for AquaVideo to put one control on the top, dead center of the housing for operating the camera's power, macro and zoom functions. Turning the lever toward the power position moves a switch on the camera from "Off" to "Camera." Moving the control to the right activates a tilt control that either zooms to telephoto or to the wide angle position. If the macro lock on the camera is deactivated before loading the camera, the zoom control will continue past wide angle to macro.

There is a second control on the right side of the housing near the handle that controls the power on/off function. Each of the two controls uses both O-ring and

internal X-ring seals as well as a double attachment system (a nut on the base of the control threads into the walls of the video housing).

Two PVC wings are welded to the side of the housing using a special process that makes them part of it. The wings provide stability, keeping the housing from rolling from side to side. These wings also have holes for attaching down lines, cameras and a variety of light sources. Lead handles that attach to the outside two holes on the wings, in the up or down position, control buoyancy.

A special super high resolution wide angle lens converter comes with the AquaVideo housing as a standard accessory and allows the diver to get closer to the subject, making the resulting videos clearer and more colorful. Because of the loss of warm colors underwater, AquaVideo includes a color correction filter to compensate for the loss of reds, oranges and yellows.

For those who want more than the standard housing package, AquaVideo offers a variety of optional features. Additional camera controls can be placed on just about any part of the housing. If for instance, you wanted to rewind and re-view previously shot tape, you could add a control that would operate the edit/search button on the camera.

For commercial diving purposes, or for recording on a topside recorder (VHS, Beta Cam, 3/4 inch, etc.), you may want a surface monitor and recording kit. This 250 foot cord will send video signals to the surface for monitoring or recording on another VCR.

With the advent of the new LCD monitors, color viewing inside the housing is now available. One important feature of

the AquaVideo System is that both the camera viewfinder and the optional color viewfinder are visible simultaneously. The housing comes with an LCD monitor mount; you can order the monitor when you buy the housing/camera or buy it elsewhere later.

When recording sound underwater, the diver must compete with the camera motor sounds inside the housing, so AquaVideo offers an underwater microphone that attaches to the outside of the housing, thereby eliminating the internal camera noises.

For auxiliary lighting underwater, AquaVideo offers the SuperNova. It is compact yet pumps out light with lamps ranging from 80 to 250 watts. The SuperNova attaches to the housing wings with special brackets.

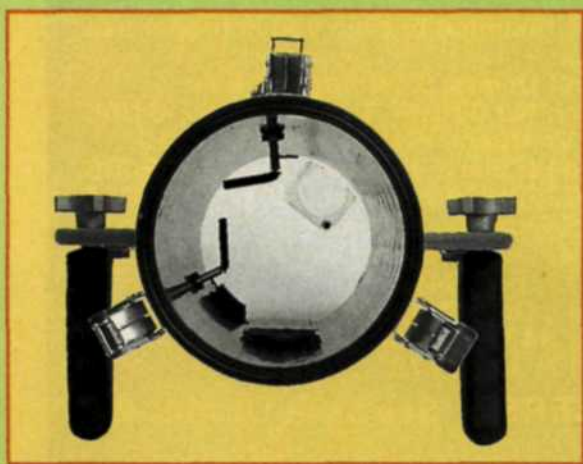
For even more exotic options AquaVideo states, "We have no set rules about customizing and we do not want to discourage customers from requesting custom features to meet real needs."

When you receive your AquaVideo housing you will find it very easy to assemble and use. First, remove the viewfinder/eyepiece from the back of the camera and install the wide angle lens and necessary filters. Next, insert the guide screw into the tripod mounting hole. Set camera focus to 10 feet, zoom to the widest angle and set all other functions to normal.

To install the camera in the housing, open the latches on the front plate and slide the camera into the housing. Replace the frontplate and close the latches. Check all X-rings and control shafts and go diving!

The AquaVideo Model 6 CCD-V99 underwater housing for the Sony CCD-V99 is a rugged, easy to use system. AquaVideo's commitment to keeping up with technology has allowed the company to work out all the problems so your only concern is to have fun!

For further information on the AquaVideo line of underwater video housings contact the company at 5057 Northwest 159th Street, Miami, Florida 33014 or call (305) 621-0200.



You can attach down lines, other cameras or lights to the PVC wings welded to the housing. Both controls have X-ring and O-ring seals and a double attachment.

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

- Underwater microphone\$27
- 250 foot surface monitor cable\$175
- Sony VXM-3 color LCD monitor...\$450
- SuperNova 250-96\$1,299
- SuperNova 350-176\$1,699