

SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE  
1990

*New Product  
Series*  
U/W VIDEOS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL

# IKELITE'S JVC GR-A1U HOUSING

Leave it to Ikelite to keep us current on all the latest advances in underwater video. An innovator in camera housing designs since the mid-1960s, Ikelite has kept pace with the constant challenges camera manufacturers have presented. Now, however, Ikelite has teamed up with another innovator—JVC. This close working relationship helps Ikelite personnel keep abreast of new developments in video cameras so they can continue to provide high quality housings.

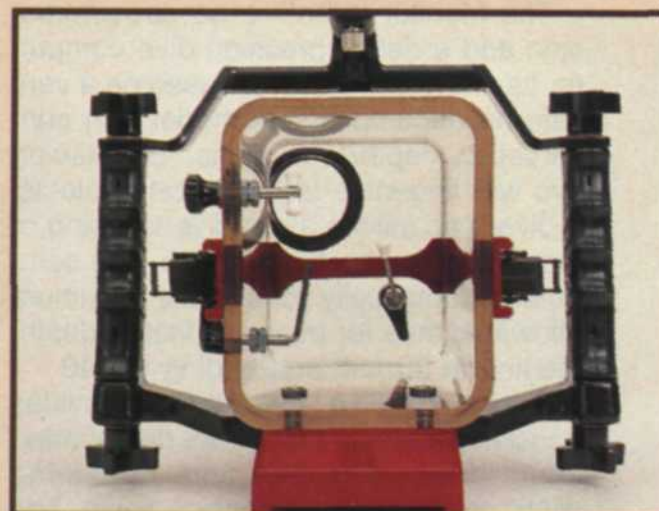
It is one of JVC's most recent developments that helped bring Ikelite and JVC together—Full Range Autofocus. The GR-A1U is one of the most sophisticated

camcorders ever offered by JVC. Its unique autofocus capability allows macro autofocus, even underwater! This camera and Ikelite's Model 6005.31 housing allow the underwater videographer to shoot wide angle one moment then move in close for some intricate macro scenes—automatically.

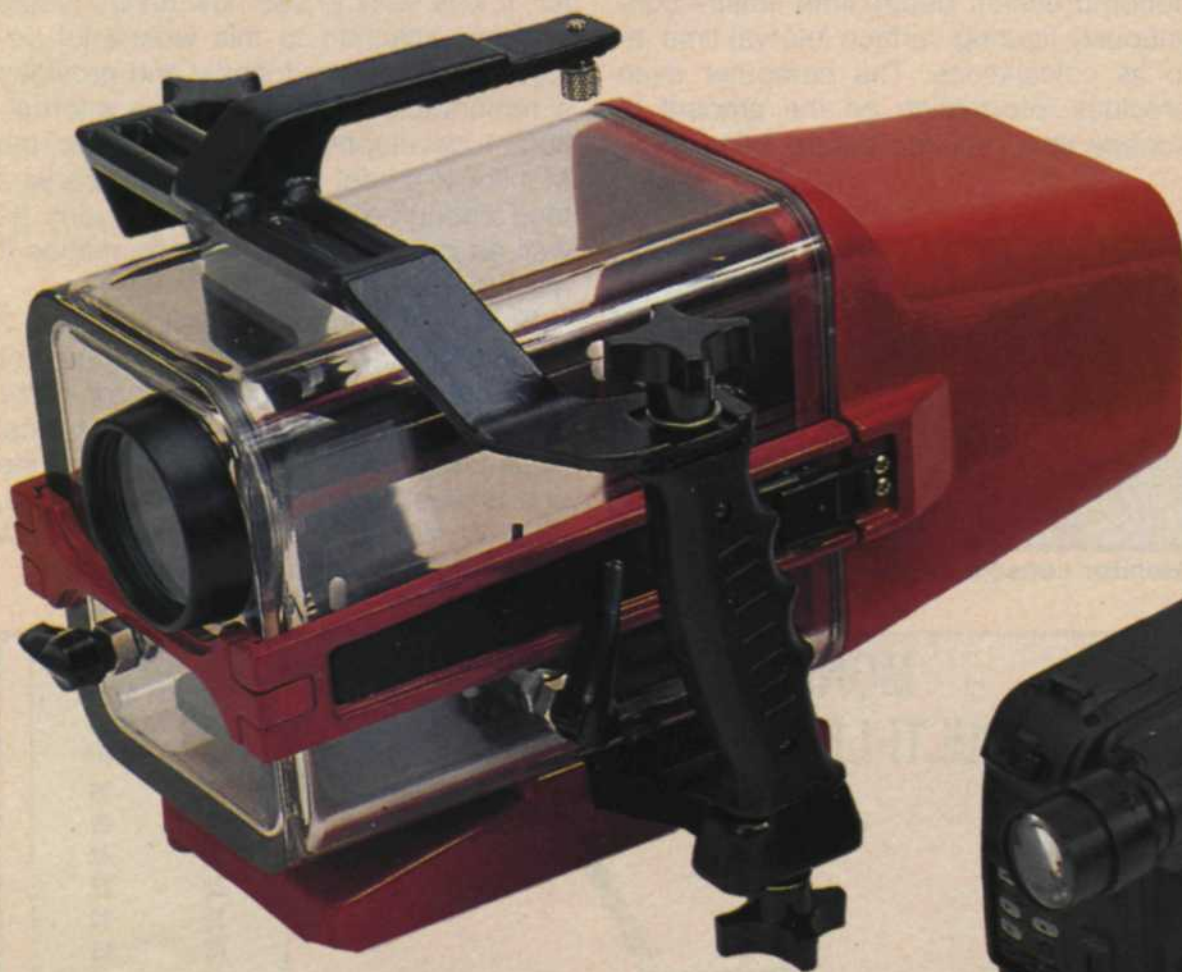
## THE SYSTEM

Ikelite's 6005.31 housing for the JVC GR-A1U is a clear polycarbonate with an aluminum front and built-in dome port. The package includes a 0.5x wide angle lens, UR Pro color correcting filter, Ikelite Top Handle and Video Eye Magnifier. The

## Full Range Auto Focus Video From Macro to Infinity



The housing weighs just 18 pounds and is neutral in saltwater. Its Video Eye Magnifier allows the photographer to see a full image through the back of the housing.



The JVC GR-A1U camcorder combined with the Ikelite Model 6005.31 housing (shot above from the back) can autofocus from wide angle shots to macro photography automatically—above and below the surface. With this unique feature you can shoot an entire coral reef, then autofocus down to one-half inch to show a macro creature!



## OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

Pro Video Lite  
With lead-acid battery .....\$695.00  
With nickel-cadmium battery \$895.00  
Additional head.....\$249.95

## COMPARISON OF IKELITE VIDEO HOUSINGS FOR JVC 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
# 6005.30	GR-A30	\$895	Black cylindrical PVC	Power Start/stop Power zoom Playback	20 lbs.	Included (.5x)	# 6440.46	VHS-C	8 lux	Above and under water	90 minutes
# 6005.31	GR-A1U	\$895	Clear polycarbonate/aluminum	Power Start/stop Power zoom	18 lbs.	Included (.5x)	# 6440.46	VHS-C	8 lux	Above and under water	90 minutes
# 6005.77	GR-60 GR-S70 GR-S77	\$895	Clear cylindrical/aluminum	Power Start/stop Power zoom Focus White balance Superimpose	23 lbs.	Included (.5x)	# 6440.46	VHS-C*	8 lux	Above water	90 minutes
# 6005	GR-25 GR-35 GR-45 GR-S55	\$795	Clear polycarbonate/aluminum	Power Start/stop Power zoom Focus White balance	17 lbs.	Optional # 6430	# 6440.46	VHS-C*	10 lux	Above water	90 minutes
# 6005.40	GR-40	\$795	Clear polycarbonate/aluminum	Power Start/stop Power zoom Focus White balance Superimpose	17 lbs.	Optional # 6430	# 6440.48	VHS-C	8 lux	Above water	90 minutes
# 6017	GR-C7	\$795	Clear polycarbonate/aluminum	Power Start/stop Power zoom Filter Playback	17 lbs.	Optional # 6420	# 6440.49	VHS-C	15 lux	Above water	60 minutes

\*GR-S55, GR-S70 and GR-S77 feature SVHS-C

only thing you need add is the JVC camera and, since teaming up with JVC, Ikelite can even provide that for you.

### THE CONTROLS

There are only three controls on the housing: power, zoom and start/stop. This is virtually the point and shoot video camera of the underwater world. The power control is on the back of the camera and easily activated. The zoom control is just above and forward of the right handle and provides smooth zooming of the 0.5x lens.

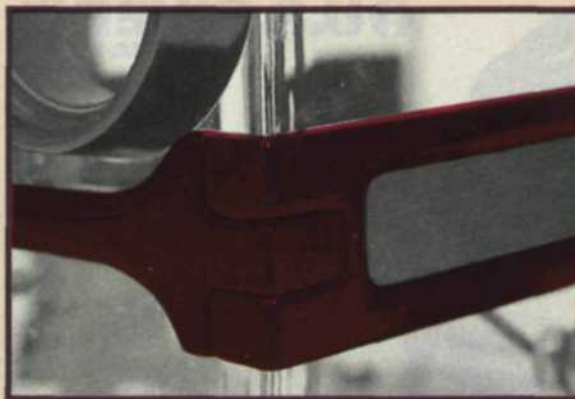
The start/stop control is just behind the right handle and allows the videographer to start/stop recording at any time. An audible record device built into the GR-A1U can be heard through the housing. One beep means you are recording, two beeps mean you have just stopped.

### CAMERA INSTALLATION

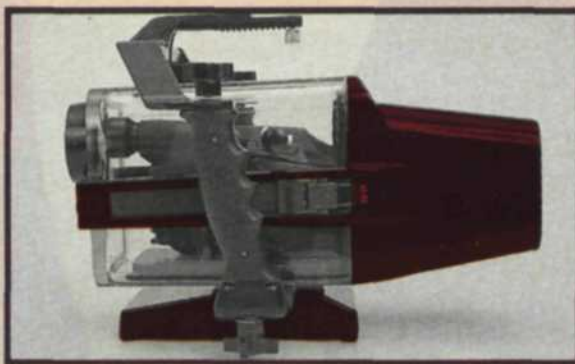
To load the camera into the housing, simply unfasten the two stainless lid snaps and separate the aluminum front from the polycarbonate back. The camera can then be attached to the Delrin plate using the mounting bolt. Pull out the three control shafts in order to align the two halves of the housing.

The Video Eye Magnifier allows the videographer to see a full image through the back of the housing. The original eyepiece is removed from its bayonet mount and replaced with this magnifier, which enlarges the viewing size four times.

The clear polycarbonate housing allows quick and easy camera control alignment. It also enables the videographer to inspect for any installation errors or leaks.



**These dove-tailed security brackets act as reinforcement, holding the polycarbonate back to the aluminum front. With the clear housing it is easy to check for leaks.**



**With the Ikelite/JVC combination, photography possibilities are endless. The camera does all the work, allowing the videographer to concentrate on the subject.**

### KEY FEATURES

- Autofocus underwater and on land
- Full frame viewing
- Simple to use
- Easy to load
- High quality optics
- Rugged construction
- Minimal maintenance

The Ikelite housing comes complete with a Top Handle, which makes it easy to carry on land and is especially handy when getting in or out of the water. The handle is equipped with a mounting bolt to enable a Nikonos V to be secured, thus allowing both still and video photography on one dive.

### ACCESSORIES

The Ikelite/JVC package requires little in the way of accessories since the wide angle lens, UR Pro filter, Video Eye Magnifier and Top Handle are all included. If you wish, you can add the Ikelite Pro Video Lite System. Each Lite Head features ultra wide 100 degree coverage with a built-in 20 watt modeling light and is available in both sealed lead-acid or nickel-cadmium battery pack versions.

### CONCLUSIONS

The Ikelite Model 6005.31 for the JVC GR-A1U weighs just 18 pounds and is neutral in saltwater. The unique feature of this camera/housing combination is that it can autofocus from wide angle to macro both on land and U/W. This feature is a first of its kind and yet, surprisingly, the camcorder is still considered an entry level unit. The possibilities are limitless. You can give your viewers the pleasure of an entire coral reef and then autofocus down to one-half inch to show a macro creature. The camera does all the work, allowing you the freedom to carefully pick and choose the cast in your presentation. The Ikelite/JVC team has just made U/W videography much easier.

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