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U/W VIDEOS



HYPERTECH'S Pro-9A Housing TOUGH AS A TANK IN BATTLE

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When we were asked to do a review on an underwater tank, we thought we were going to Truk Lagoon. But wait, SKIN DIVER was referring to a new underwater video housing manufactured by Hypertech, Incorporated. The new Pro-Series is the company's most innovative, indestructible lineup of underwater video systems to date.

For the past four years, Hypertech has been building custom underwater housings using large PVC pipe. As the demand for video housings began to increase, Hypertech decided to shift to aluminum to allow greater design flexibility while increasing overall strength. From this changeover came the first of many underwater "tanks" by Hypertech—the Pro-9A. Either the Sony CCD-V9 camcorder or the Ricoh R600S camera can easily fit into this heavy duty housing.

The basic housing is solid cast, type 356 anodized aluminum with one-half inch walls. It comes coated with either bright yellow or blue industrial grade paint that has been baked on to ensure its longevity. The housing has one large round opening in the front for the dome

port and one rectangular opening in the back for access to the inside chamber through a three-quarter inch plexiglass backplate. Its heavy duty construction makes this housing virtually indestructible, which is necessary when it carries expensive and delicate video equipment.

On each side of the housing are high grade plastic handles secured with several stainless steel screws. The housing is designed to be neutrally buoyant in the water, even though it weighs 20 pounds in air. Three small holes have been drilled into the top and one side to accommodate the camera's basic controls. Each control is secured from both the outside and the inside to ensure as little movement as possible. Each control is sealed with one O-ring near the top and one X-ring near the bottom.

The first control on the top of the housing allows the diver to turn the power on or off. The camera's zoom is activated by using the second control. Moving this lever forward will zoom in on the subject and moving it backward will zoom back to a wider angle. The third and final control is on the side of the housing and activates



The interior of the Pro-9A housing is accessed through a rectangular, three-quarter inch thick, plexiglass back plate.

the start/stop button. This control is comfortably placed next to the right handle so it can be activated as you swim. Just a light touch is all that's necessary.

An additional three-quarter inch hole on the top of the camera is sealed with a plexiglass hemisphere and silicon glue. This small, super wide angle port allows light to filter into the white balance control on the top of the camera.

The large lens hood is cast as part of the main housing and is painted black to avoid reflections. This hood extends an inch beyond the dome port, allowing the housing to be set on its hood. This en-

ables easy access to the back panel for battery or tape changing. The dome port has a slightly different shape than those used previously. Although the other domes were excellent, the new one virtually eliminates edge distortion when using the wide angle adapter supplied with the housing. Silicon glue is used to secure the dome to the housing, eliminating another O-ring and possible leak.

The back plate of the housing is made of one piece of three-quarter inch plexiglass. A large O-ring groove has been cut

completely around the back for a 3/16 inch O-ring. Three stainless steel military catch and carry clips hold the back plate in place. To ensure full frame viewing underwater, a small magnifying viewfinder is attached to the back plate. It aligns with the camera eyepiece when the housing is buttoned up.

The final part of the housing is a very thin and lightweight mounting tray that attaches to the base of the camera using a 1/4-20 bolt. The eye of the camera's shoulder strap hook fits securely over a small

metal hook on the back of the mounting tray for accurate alignment.

To assemble the camera and housing for a dive takes just a minute. Simply attach the camera to the mounting tray, pull all controls out, glide the camera and tray forward into the slots on each side of the housing, replace the back plate, check the O-ring seal and push the controls back into their operating positions.

Hypertech has produced the Pro-9A as the sport diver's answer to underwater video. Every unit comes with the usual features a diver needs to get good underwater video—a wide angle lens, color correction filters and a viewfinder magnifier. The company offers complete systems, including the camera, so you can save time shopping around. The only option the diver might want is lights, everything else is provided.

If you need additional information on the Pro-Series underwater video housings contact Hypertech, Inc., 750 East Sample Road, Pompano Beach, FL 33064 or call (305) 782-4448.



KEY FEATURES

- Indestructible
- Easy to load
- Simple to use
- Minimum controls
- Easy maintenance
- Room for lenses/filters
- Full frame viewing
- Pressure rated to 250 feet

Above: The Pro-9A underwater video housing accommodates the compact CCD-V9 camcorder.



The Pro-9A back plate is secured with military stainless steel catch and carry clips and is sealed with a 3/16 inch O-ring.



Left: The Pro-9A comes with a wide angle lens and color correction filters. Above: Wide angle light gathering port.

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