

AMPHIBICO'S SPORTS CAPSULE



The SC 10 is the smallest, lightest video housing on the market. From left to right: The wide angle lens port screws on; a color correction filter is stored in a holder atop the housing; Sony's wide angle adapter sits in front of the TR-200.

A TINY HOUSING FOR TINY SONY HI-8 CAMERAS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL

One morning we received a special delivery package from the editors of SKIN DIVER. It was supposed to contain Amphibico's Sports Capsule, a special underwater housing. As we carried the package to the photo studio, we were worried—the package was so light it felt as if there was nothing inside. We unpacked the box and looked in disbelief at an entire underwater video system that is not much larger than the tiny video camera itself. What a relief to find an underwater video housing so compact it easily fits in your carry-on luggage!

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The Amphibico Sport Capsule SC-10 is designed to hold the Sony TR-200 and TR-300 Hi-8 video camera systems. The housing is only nine and one-half inches long by six inches high. Its strong polymer plastic halves are joined at the base with a large molded hinge. A heavy duty rubber cradle, molded to the shape of the camera, allows it to be placed inside without any attachment devices. Two cords plug directly into the camera, so all controls are electronic. One wire controls



A shock absorbing rubber cradle securely holds the camera in place.



Four buttons on a handle panel control telephoto, wide angle, focus and off.

camera operations, while the other wire adds sound from an amphibious microphone. This eliminates the need for any mechanical controls or gears and, most importantly, reduces the number of O-ring seals.

The housing is sealed to the backplate via a double O-ring system that takes advantage of both wall and surface O-ring technology. The backplate is locked in place using a new kind of swivel latch that pulls the backplate tightly against the main housing. The first of these unique latches is on top of the housing, the second latch is on the left side. Each of these latches is easy to turn but can be securely locked to prevent accidental opening underwater.

The viewing port is on the backplate and is designed to fit snugly around the eyepiece of the camera. This allows you to see the full viewing system of the camera. An accessory shoe on top of the housing is used to store the color correction filter and doubles as a large sports finder.

The high quality glass lens port on the front of the housing is screwed in using
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Robert L. Straight
• HOUSTON •



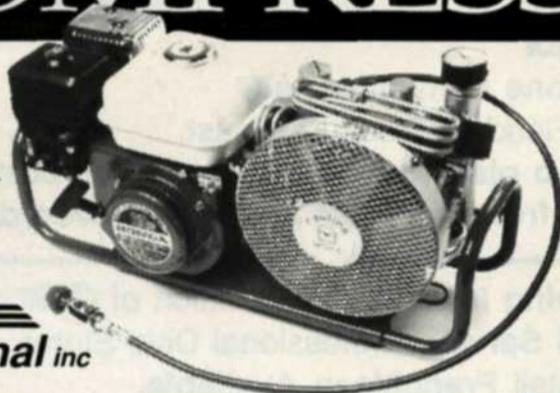
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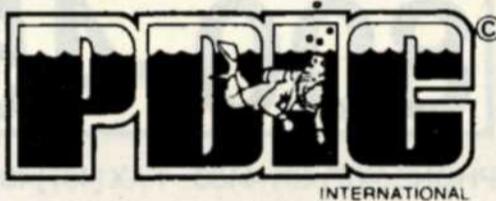
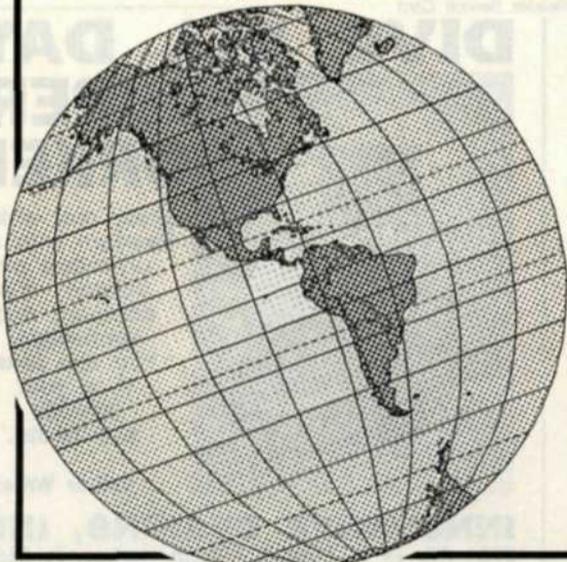
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(Continued from Page 20)

finger strength and is sealed with the same two O-ring system utilized by the backplate. An amphibious microphone is just below the front port and is electronically connected to the camera inside. This eliminates the camera noise a traditional microphone would record.

FEATURES

- Rated to 330 feet
- Shock absorbing camera cradle
- Great for all types of wet sports
- Compact, lightweight design
- Electronic moisture sensor
- Double latch system
- Pushbutton fingertip operation
- Double O-ring system
- External microphone

The key to the housing's operation is a high tech pushbutton panel on the right side of the housing. The panel has four controls for the thumb; telephoto, wide angle, focus and off. A single button on the underside of the panel operates the record/standby functions. Two indicator lights, just above the four control buttons, tell you when the camera is recording (green) and if there is any moisture in the housing (red). If the red light does come on, the camera automatically shuts down.

An additional tray can be mounted to

ACCESSORIES

- Screw on glass flat lens port system and sunshade
- Pushbutton electronic controls
- External microphone
- External recording tally and alarm light
- Extra O-ring kit
- Accessory shoe mount
- Diver's Kit includes:
 - External filter and holder
 - .47X wide angle adapter
 - Additional handle and keel
 - Two light mount brackets
- Marine video lights 100S

the housing to hold underwater lights and counter balance buoyancy. Two rubber feet are attached to the tray so the housing will not slide on slick surfaces. The housing and camera weigh four pounds; the tray brings the total weight to seven and a half pounds.

CAMERA INSTALLATION

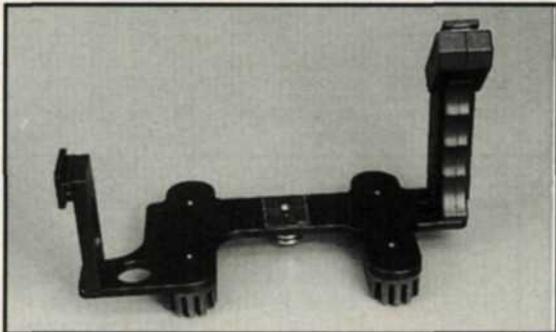
Installing the Sony Hi-8 camera in the Amphibico Sports Capsule is a very easy process. Open the housing by turning the top swivel latch counterclockwise until there is a slight resistance (one-third turn). Turn the second swivel latch counterclockwise until the housing opens. To

record sound, attach the sound cord to the jack at the front of the camera. The camera is then gently pushed into the rubber cradle until it touches the front of the housing. The control cord is attached to the back of the camera and the backplate is closed by rotating the first and second swivel latches to the closed positions. There are no gears or alignment screws, no control knobs and there is no physical abuse to the camera itself. The shock absorbing cradle is so protective you can even ship the housing with the camera installed.

THE SPORTS CAPSULE IN OPERATION

We always recommend that when making your first dive with a video housing, you enter the water slowly, carefully checking the housing's integrity before racing to capture the underwater world. When you reach your photo area, simply press the trigger once, which turns the camera on and puts it into the standby position. The green light on the handle will remain a steady green. When you are ready to record, press the trigger a second time. The green light will blink, indicating the camera is in the record mode. To stop recording, press the trigger again and you are back to standby.

To capture a wide angle scene, press the button marked W and the lens will zoom to a wide angle position. As you hold the button down, a bar indicator in



Two marine video light mount brackets are included in the optional Diver's Kit.

the viewfinder will tell you how much zoom you have left before you reach the widest angle. If you spot a fish, you press the button marked T and the lens will zoom in until it reaches the maximum.

To turn the autofocus off, press the focus control. This feature is handy in situations where you want to stop the focus from changing as you pan from one subject to the next. If you are finished shooting and want to conserve battery power, press the off button to shut the camera down completely. Pressing the trigger button will turn the camera back on and place it in standby.

CONCLUSIONS

The Sports Capsule received a Design and Engineering Award at the Consumer Electronics Show in June and we have to

agree, of all the underwater video housings we have seen in the last few years, it is one of the best. It not only meets all of our needs for underwater videography but offers a dry camera for whitewater rafting, skiing or playing in the surf. The compact size is a definite plus, making it simple to find room in your luggage. But, don't just take our word for it—give Amphibico a call and get your Sports Capsule wet! The Capsule alone is \$725; the Diver's Kit (handle and keel, color correction filter and holder, wide angle adapter, two video light brackets) is \$405. Marine video lights are available for \$369 each, not including battery.

For more information contact Amphibico Inc. at (514) 636-9910 or fax to (514) 636-8704. 🐟

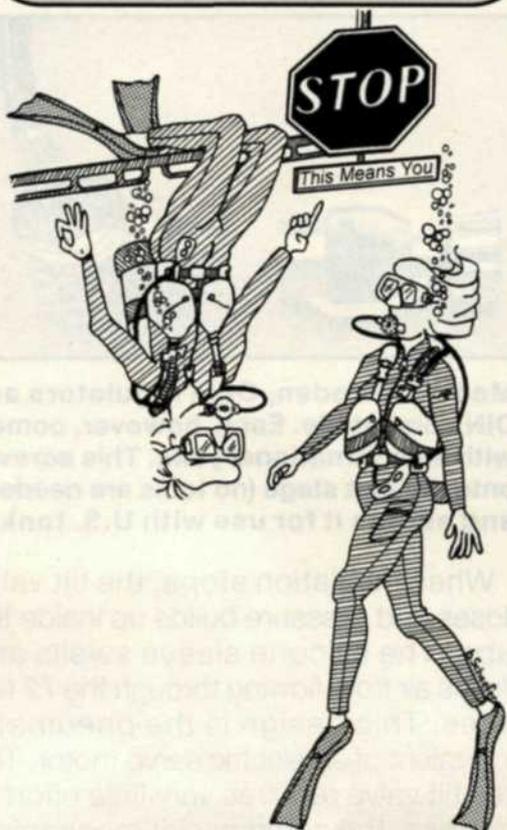
GUAM TROPICAL/HENDERSON AQUATICS UPDATES

June's SKIN DIVER listed an incorrect P.O. Box and telephone number for the Guam Tropical Dive Station. The correct information is: P.O. Box 1649, Agana, Guam 96910; (671) 477-2774; (671) 477-2775 (fax).

Additionally, our July issue listed an incorrect telephone number for Henderson Aquatics' all brand wetsuit repair department. The correct phone number is (609) 825-4771.

We regret any inconvenience this misinformation may have caused. 🐟

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