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Your Ocean Images housing is designed to provide years of trouble-free service with a minimum of care. It is constructed of durable, corrosion resistant materials that are well suited for the marine environment. These instructions outline the procedures needed to operate and maintain your underwater video housing.

Dolphin Sony HC-1 Underwater Video Housing with Optional Professional Controls Instruction Manual & Maintenance Guide

Installing your camera in the Dolphin Sony HC-1 Housing

- Release the spring catches and remove the rear faceplate. Inspect the inside of the housing for dirt, especially the port. If any dirt is found, remove it, as it will certainly end up on the port lens. Clean the port lens if fingerprints or foreign matter is found. A common lens cleaner and soft cloth will work fine.
- Once you are satisfied that the inside is clean, you may prepare your camcorder for loading. Install a good quality tape, a memory stick and a freshly charged battery in the camcorder. Remove the lens cap and lens protector to insure enough space for the internal flip filter. Release the tray lock thumbscrew and slide the tray from the housing. Attach your camcorder to the tray using the appropriate hole that lines up with the camcorder tripod mounting hole. Pull the 4 manual control shafts out of the way to provide clearance for the camcorder. The Manual/Auto Focus is spring loaded and must be held out while installing the camcorder.
- Now you are ready to insert the camcorder into the housing. Plug the microprocessor cord into the LANC jack on the rear of the camcorder. Carefully slide the camcorder into the housing by engaging the tray into the track of the housing, keeping the hand strap pulled back out of the way. Slide the camcorder all the way in and tighten the tray thumb screw just enough to keep tray from moving. Once the camcorder is in place, fully tilt the viewfinder in a straight up position. Now the manual control shafts can be pushed back into place where they are aligned with the camera controls.
- Before fastening the rear faceplate, be sure the o-ring seal is seated in it's groove and the o-ring and mating surfaces are clean. It is very important to inspect the condition of this seal and housing surface to be sure it is clean and in place. Failure to do so may result in a flooded housing and a damaged camcorder. Ocean Images & Co., Inc. does not warrant your camcorder in the event of damage due to flooding.
- A thin seal of silicone grease should be applied to lubricate the O-ring seal. Now, position the faceplate over the rear of the housing, put all the catches in the hooks then draw down the opposite catches together.

Your Dolphin Sony HC-1 Video System is now ready for use

After the Dive

A thorough rinse in fresh water will help keep your equipment in good condition. Use clean fresh water. Most rinse tanks aboard charters are loaded with a percentage of seawater so make the final rinse in your own tank. Before removing the rear faceplate, wipe the housing dry with a towel. Do not let water droplets dry on the port; wipe them dry. The object is to avoid any water droplets from falling on the camcorder.

It is recommended when storing your housing, to install a spare O-ring and keep the O-ring that you use underwater in a zip-lock bag. Doing so will keep the O-ring from deforming and losing it's resiliency.

Like all photographic equipment, it is recommended that the housing and video light be shaded and not exposed to direct sunlight for any length of time. On a hot day, in direct sunlight, above water, it is possible for the temperature within the housing to become very hot -- damage to your equipment may result. Shade the housing or keep it covered in the case until ready to use.

REMEMBER -- release the draw catches when you store the housing.



HC-1 Push Button Control



The right side handle contains the push button control console. The push buttons turn on and off the various camcorder functions through the electronic control module. The electronic control module, located inside the housing, translates the signals from the push buttons to LANC protocol for the camcorder.

The mechanical **Mode Control** knob on the clear rear door rotates to 3 positions--"**Tape Recording**" or "**Photo Memory Stick**", and **Power—On/Off**.

Photo Memory--To store photos on the memory stick, turn the Mode switch to **Camera/Memory** and press the **Photo** button. Slight vignetting may occur with your camcorder in **Camera/Memory** mode at the fullest wide-angle setting. This may be corrected by using ZT to zoom in a small amount from full wide-angle.

Tape Recording--To record onto tape, turn the Mode switch to **Tape Recording** and press the **REC** button to start and stop recording.

ZOOM is controlled with the buttons labeled **ZT (Zoom Telephoto)** and **ZW (Zoom Wide)**. Press and hold either button until the desired amount of zoom is achieved.

The **ALT** button toggles between **normal** and **alternate** mode. In **ALT** mode functions shown on the labels above the buttons are active (**FOCUS, B/L, FAR, NEAR**). The red light on the control pack indicates the status -- "on" in the **ALT** mode, "off" in the normal mode. **Note:** The **ALT** mode changes settings -- go back to normal mode to operate (shoot video or stills). Manual focus and backlight will stay activated until turned off (in **ALT** mode).

When in Manual Focus mode, the **FAR** and **NEAR** buttons control the focus. This function is very useful when shooting under conditions of low contrast. With the camcorder in **Auto Focus**, switch to **Manual** and the subject will stay in focus, providing the camera-to-subject distance does not change. A mechanical control is required to switch from **Auto Focus** to **Manual Focus** during the dive, or you can select **Manual Focus** on the camcorder before placing it in the housing.

The **B/L** button controls Backlight on and off. This is a useful function when video taping a scene that aims into blue water or toward the surface.

The **PHOTO** button serves a dual purpose; it also restores power to the camera after it goes into sleep mode or shuts off after 5 minutes of idle use.

Important: *Opening the oil-filled push button control console will damage the console and void your warranty.*

Professional Mechanical Controls for HC-1 housing:

Focus—Mechanical control on left side of housing that switches the camcorder focus from **Auto focus** to **Manual focus**. Once switched into **Manual focus** mode, **Far** and **Near** can be operated by the pushbuttons on the right handle.

MENU/White Balance—Two manual controls on the top of the housing allow access to different functions of the camcorder through the "touch screen" panel. One of the most useful functions is manual white balance.

NOTE: *Please refer to the operating manual of the HC-1 camcorder for further information and instructions on how to access control of the above functions.*