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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 Panasonic GS-400 Underwater Video Housing with Optional Professional Controls Instruction Manual & Maintenance Guide

Installing your camera in the Dolphin Panasonic GS-400 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 should prepare your camcorder for loading. Install a good quality tape, a photo card and a freshly charged battery in the camcorder. Remove the lens cap, lens protector and any other obstruction from the front of the camcorder to insure that there is enough space for the camera to be installed and the internal color correction flip filter to operate properly. Release the tray lock thumb screw and slide the tray from the housing. Attach your camcorder to the tray using the appropriate hole that lines up with the tripod mount hole of the camcorder and tighten the mounting screw just enough to hold the camcorder to the base but do not over tighten.
- Now you are ready to insert the camcorder into the housing. Pull out on all the manual controls to provide clearance to load the camcorder into the housing. Note: While installing the camcorder into the housing the camcorder screen needs to be in the open position and slightly tilted and the Auto/Manual selector located on the left front of the housing must be pulled and held out (spring loaded) while sliding the camcorder into position. Once the camcorder is started into the housing the Magic Wire control wire must be plugged into the Remote/Mic jack on the right side of the camcorder. After the camcorder is loaded into the housing the Auto/Manual control should be rotated so that it aligns with the Auto/Manual switch of the camcorder and then released so that it properly engages with this switch. The remaining mechanical controls should be pushed back into position where they align with the camcorder controls, the camcorder screen should be straightened up to viewing position and the camera mount tray secured inside the housing by tightening down the thumb screw. **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN** this screw.
- Before fastening the rear faceplate, be sure the quad seal ring is seated in it's groove and the quad ring and mating surfaces are clean. **Be sure that the quad ring is not rolled in the groove.** 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 housing and align dowel pins of the housing with the holes in the face plate. Put all the catches in the hooks then draw down the opposite catches together.



Your Dolphin Panasonic GS-400
Video System is now ready for use



Panasonic GS-400 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 Magic Wire signals for the camcorder.

The mechanical **Mode Control** knob on the clear rear door rotates to 2 positions--"**Tape Recording**" or "**Photo Card Recording**". The mechanical **Power** knob on the clear door rotates for **Power—On/Off**.

Photo Card--To store photos on the photo card, turn the Mode switch to **Photo Card** and press the **Photo** button. Slight vignetting may occur with your camcorder in **Photo Card** 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.

Professional Mechanical Control Operation:

AE Lock/Manual/Auto Control—located on the left front of the housing, switches camcorder from Auto Mode to Manual Mode. (*Refer to Panasonic owners manual for operation*).

MF/MZ/Exposure/White Balance—located on the left front of the housing, rotates to 3 positions to operate Manual Focus/Manual Zoom, Exposure and White Balance. (*Refer to Panasonic owners manual for operation*).

Multi Manual Ring Control—located on the right side, rotates the front ring to adjust multiple items depending on what mode has been selected. (*Refer to Panasonic owners manual for operation*).

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

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 its 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.

*Check for accessories & information on the Ocean Images website at www.oceanimagesinc.com
Need extra copies of these instructions? Print them from our on-line Maintenance Guide.*