

DiveVolk SeaTouch 3 Pro with Apple iPhone 11 Pro Max

By Christian Baki

Having recently upgraded my mobile device to the latest iPhone offering, I entered the 42nd 2019 (DEMA) Diving Equipment and Marketing Association show with a special goal in mind which was to deep dive all the various mobile housing options.

The annual DEMA Show which started in 1977, is the largest trade-only event in the world for hundreds of companies doing business in the scuba diving, ocean water sports, underwater photography and adventure/dive travel industries. It is also my impression that DEMA brings out the hard-core dive professionals as compared to the consumer shows.

DiveVolk, formed in 2016, is a dedicated housing manufacturer and their dive housing weighs approximately 310 g / 11 Oz and the material of the housing body is constructed with a PC + ABS plastic material, the metal component is 316 stainless steel.

By using an insulating liquid in between the membranes (screen), this allows for touch feedback to your mobile device while underwater. The

SeaGrip handle uses their patented pressure supply system which is embedded in the handle. The inside and outside pressure are balanced up to 40m / 131 ft ensuring operational sensitivity within recreational depths. Having big hands or gloves on this makes one handed operation much more comfortable.

In addition to the amazing underwater touch focus, wireless charging makes it even easier to charge without having to open the housing on the way to your dive site, surface interval, or post if your smartphone supports this type of charging.

With a depth rating of 80 m / 262 ft and touch rating of 40m / 131ft, the housing is secured by a small opening with a triple o-ring design with locking thumbscrews.

The assembly was very simple and straight forward and having a bright white o-ring makes it simple to identify and remove sand, salt, hairs, etc. to prevent flooding. Also, with the lack of buttons, you reduce the potential areas for flooding your housing. I am also testing



the housing with the optional Housing Clamp for tools expansion with the DiveVolk Color Correction Filter.

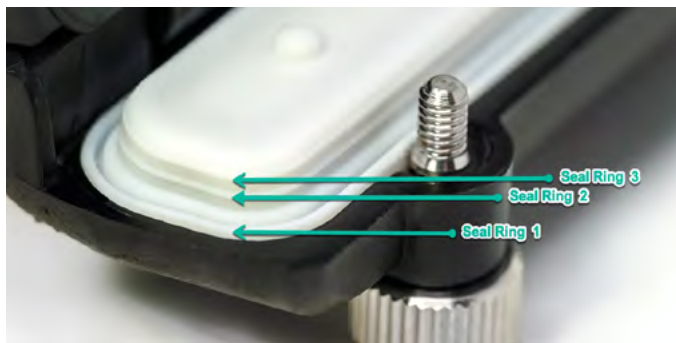
It is worth noting that this clamp has a cold shoe mount and two screw mounts for another add-on such as an underwater macro light.

The bottom of the clamp has 3 screw points to allow for a tripod or camera tray system. There is a place to attach a bolt snap with cave line or the included hand strap.

The following DiveVolk accessories are currently available for this housing are:
Underwater Wide-angle Lens
Underwater Macro-Lens



Color Correction Filter
Expansion Clamp
Wireless Charger
Underwater Flexible Macro-Light
Underwater Tripod



Triple O ring seals



The iPhone 11 Pro Max has a bright 6.5" screen

The product manual advises that the end user should remove the protective phone screen cover to perform underwater and I found this to be true. On my surface interval, I removed the cover from my phone, and I was able to use the housing with my mobile phone as expected.

I really liked the sturdy feeling of the housing in my hands while diving and was taking shots right away while not being worried I had that I might damage it.

It takes a little to get used to using the touch, but after a while it became second nature.

I was really impressed at how bright and vivid the display was easy to see what you were framing in your shot or video. The size is perfect to hold



Pano mode – iPhone 11 pro max back camera 4.25mm f/1.8 ISO 125 @ 26mm

out in front of you with both hands for stability. One handed action is possible and requires a little practice to line your finger with the shutter button on the screen. Having pockets on my wetsuit, made it easy to stow the housing while traveling to another section of the reef.

In the water I was able to select JPEG or RAW image formats by using the different IOS applications. This really makes it easy to post directly from your device to your social media platform of choice or your photo gallery.

While testing the housing, I was challenged when diving in a dry suit, and there is a necessity to operate the Sea Touch 3 underwater while using dry gloves with cotton finger cots. It took a little more effort to engage the shutter button, but once you find the correct finger position you are good to go. I would like to thank the customer obsessed DiveVolk tech support team for troubleshooting this problem with me over a couple of days.

The Apple iPhone 11 Pro Max has three very capable cameras, and I was curious to see if

could also perform underwater as well as it's done on the land. Having side conversations with my colleagues, we all came to a similar conclusion which was that we desired to use our mobile devices natively with any app as we do on land.

The DiveVolk SeaTouch 3 Pro appeared to be just the device which boasts a real underwater touchscreen, and a button free design to name just a few features. It is also worth noting that the housing supports both IOS and Android based mobile devices by utilizing a custom insert for your device.

Starting with the native Apple Camera application, I snapped a few still images, followed by a video. Moving to time-lapse mode I framed the scene and left the SeaTouch 3 Pro running while I joined the other divers in the angle of view and could think of endless possibilities for adding clips to your dive video. Finally, I selected panorama mode and set the device into a portrait orientation and selected a diver as my focal point.

After a wide pass the iPhone flawlessly



4K Video Screen grab. H.264 codec. External video light

stitched the moving divers into an underwater panorama! Boosting the display to full brightness before starting your dive makes viewing and reviewing underwater like using the device on land.

Camera+ and ProCamera bring more advanced control to your images and offer manual mode adjustments to achieve your desired results. In addition, these programs allow the end user to save the image in a hires TIF file compared to just JPEG format.

Camera+ brings a grid, level, zoom, focus peaking, and clipping to aid, and I found these to be extremely useful when composing the image.

ProCamera brings more shooting modes and a feature to allow the camera to take an image once the

movement of the camera is more stable for instance.

Taking videos are a breeze, but at a deeper depth you get the usual bluish haze without using white balancing red filters. I enabled the video light on my iPhone and was greeted with backscatter bliss thanks to the location of the light in relation to the camera diving in Salt water VIS around 4.5 m. Next, I used my dive torch as off camera lighting and once I found the proper angle, the quality had improved dramatically. Another configuration, I added a cold shoe ball mount along with an off-camera video light.

This yielded the best look and I was able to position the video light to reduce the backscatter in silty areas.

I employed Dive+ to edit some of



the images and videos I captured with the iPhone and I was really impressed at how easy it was to adjust the white balance with on click. The free version will add a Dive+ watermark along with the name you signed in with on your images or you can pay to have their watermark removed. This application is great for all levels of users and makes it quick and easy to send on to family, friends or even social media.

I also tried the following IOS applications:

Camera+ 2

The level was really helpful
Focus peaking
TIFF (RAW) image files
Full manual mode



ProCamera

More Modes e.g. Portrait, Video, Photo, HDR, Lowlight, and more
A secondary shutter button which waits for the camera to become stable before taking the shot
TIFF (RAW)
Image editor built in



Lightroom Mobile

The familiar Lr mobile interface with advanced editing features



Hyperlapse

Functionality for adjusting the time-lapse speed prior to saving
Easy to use underwater



Dive+

One touch photo or video white balance adjustment



The DiveVolk SeaTouch 3 Pro is an extremely capable underwater still, video, time-lapse, panorama, etc camera solution. I could imagine using this camera in several ways, and even in addition to my full frame camera set up as it fits easily into the dive pockets on my wetsuit.

Thinking back to diving in Bali earlier this year, my full frame camera was configured for super

*If you're online,
click this link to
watch a short video
shot on the iPhone
11 in the DiveVolk
housing in waters
off Seattle and
Florida*



macro, and ended the dive with a giant fish bait ball at the end of my dive. I could have easily pulled out the SeaTouch and taken stills and/ or video. I also found it easier to create a folder in the center on the screen, which has the best touch sensitivity, to allow for easier switching between applications.

Another feature is the ability to type a message to your dive buddy, which is much easier to read than using a slate or wet notes for instance. I do have lousy penmanship, so I am sure my dive buddies appreciate this. I was able to receive a text message near the surface of the water, but no need to worry about your boss using this feature with you.

If you have a cell signal, you could also contact emergency services or let your love ones know you are on the surface again. I would even consider using this housing while kayaking or poolside to protect your

mobile device even further.

Lastly, if you have a long Deco stop, you can entertain yourself with games, books, music, or videos, so please be mindful of other divers who may not be interested in rocking out with you on their dive.

To learn more about the DiveVolk SeaTouch 3 Pro please head over to their website, and you can find the DiveVolk the current housings for sale on here and www.amazon.com in the next month.

DiveVolk SeaTouch 3 can also house HUAWEI P10 Plus, P20, P20 PRO, P30, P30 PRO, MATE 10, MATE 10 PRO, MATE 20, MATE 20 PRO, SAMSUNG support frame:, , S10, S10+, S10E, S9, S9+, S8, S8+, iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, iPhone 11 Pro Max.

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