

## Amphibico DVD camcorder special rental unit



Amphibico introduces the all new QuickView DVD Marine Housing, with its innovative design and functionality it will produce instant digital video and still images that are recorded directly on to a DVD which are playable on most current home DVD players. First-time videographers will be able to capture great images, aided by an internal colour-correction flip filter and a Super Wide Angle (140°), which smoothes out the video and captures the most subject available. The housing provides full electronic controls on newly designed marine grip. The construction is of Marine grade aluminium and is depth rated for

330ft (100m).

It has been modified especially for rental with a lockable rear door [to avoid flooding and salty/sticky fingers] yellow paintwork and "Rental" written on the housing. For a hire operation you just need to load a battery/DVD and lock the rear door. On return you just need to finalise the

DVD and give it to the customer.

The units should be available in April 2004 and we are taking advanced orders to guarantee an early delivery. A full inventory of spares will be held in UK for immediate despatch should they be needed.

Contact:  
Amphibico  
PO Box 108  
Romsey,  
Hants. SO51 6XD  
UK

e-mail –  
serviceamphibico@aol.com  
Tel: [44] 01794 322500  
Fax: [44] 01794 323601

# ULTRALIGHT

CONTROL SYSTEMS



**MANUFACTURERS OF THE MOST VERSATILE,  
LIGHTEST WEIGHT & MOST FLEXIBLE ARMS AVAILABLE**

Now you have your Olympus, Canon, or Sony digital housing, how do you hold onto it underwater? Ultralight makes a tray and handle to accomplish this.



Would you like to use a strobe or spotting light adapter with your new digital housing? Now you can, Ultralight makes arms and spotting light adapters to attach to the handle.



Maybe you would like to have two strobes, their tray makes into a double tray with the quick addition of two pieces.

Do you have Ikelite strobes and manual controllers and need to be able to attach those items to your housing. Ultralight makes adapters for the manual controllers that have a ball on the end so you can then add arms.



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.ULCS.COM](http://WWW.ULCS.COM)**

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## FinePix F700 & WP-FX700 housing

by Charles Hood

About 12 months ago Fujifilm announced it's 4<sup>th</sup> generation CCD (charge coupled device) known as the Super CCD SR. Why is this significant for underwater photographers?

Fuji claim that this new array of image sensors has four times the dynamic range (the camera's ability to distinguish between light and dark) than conventional CCDs. Underwater this dynamic range is frequently particularly large, especially in sunlight, due to the high absorption of light in water compared with that of air. Thus any technology that can help the camera capture highlights, shadows and the low light of the depths simultaneously is welcome.

So how does it work? In simple terms the Super CCD SR is designed to copy the sensitivity of negative film. Standard negative film has both low-sensitivity and high sensitivity layers for each primary colour (Red, Green, Blue). The Super CCD SR mimics this by using a combination of low-sensitivity R-pixels and high sensitivity S-pixels. In effect it has two CCDs doing two different jobs.

To make an analogy this can be compared to a base driver (for



*All controls are accessible via either a push button or rotating knob. These are quite chunky and could still be used by me while wearing 5mm neoprene gloves.*

medium to low frequencies) and tweeter (for medium to high frequencies) in a HiFi speaker. This two CCD system explains why the camera is marketed (somewhat confusingly) as a 6.2 million pixel camera. In fact it has two 3.1 million pixel sensors capturing different aspects of the same image.

All this wizardry certainly proved difficult for Fuji to implement, as it wasn't until the autumn that the first camera appeared. It then took a few months for Fuji to manufacture a housing.

Similar in style to its predecessor



*There is more than enough quality for a home print up to A4 size.*

casing for the FinePix F410 it is built from high impact polycarbonate and rated to a depth of 40 metres. All controls are accessible via either a push button or rotating knob. These are quite chunky and could still be used by me while wearing 5mm neoprene gloves.

Using the system underwater was quite intuitive. The two knobs on the top turn the camera on or off and select the camera mode. There is a choice of manual, shutter priority, aperture priority, automatic, or programmed. The programmed mode is a little confusing. You have to select

it with the top dial then use the buttons to choose which subset you require even though this subset is marked on the dial.

In practice for the majority of occasions underwater I would stick to using the auto mode. I used it in auto and it generally got the exposure spot on. The only time I preferred to change to manual was when the light was low (eg. in a swimming pool) so I could get some background light into the shot.

The 'shutter' release is on the front of the housing and has a strong spring preventing accidental release.