

Sanyo Xacti VPC-HD2000

with Epoque/Patima housings

By Sim Chee Ghee

Sanyo's latest addition to its handheld upright camcorder series goes full HD! Offering smooth, true progressive full HD (1920x1080) 60fps recording, 12 interpolated megapixels of digital still with flash and full manual controls, this dual camera (as Sanyo calls it) appears to be an interesting option for the "travelling light" diver.

Barely larger than my palm size (Pic:Xacti4) and weighing only 311g including the battery, this puny lil' gadget will surprise many in terms of performance and handling. Low light capability and strong colors are its forte, coupled with 2.7inch LCD screen, 10x optical zoom lens, headphone jack, microphone jack, accessory shoe, a simple, intuitive menu control via joystick. The camera also accepts 40.5mm filters

Camcorderinfo.com just published a comprehensive review and considers the Sanyo Xacti VPC-HD2000 worthy amongst the top dogs in high definition camcorders.

My recent dive trip got cancelled before this review, so I wasn't able to

test it underwater. However watching some land footage via HDMI cable on our LG TV, which is only HD (720p) confirms the unbiased review to be truthful and honest. The colours and sharpness are indeed jaw dropping. I imagine it'd look even better on a full HD TV!

The camera is expected to retail at around USD \$600.00

Available housings currently are the Epoque EHS-1000HD and Patima Xacti housing.

Epoque EHS-1000HD

This housing has been around since the Sanyo Xacti VPC-HD1000, followed by VPC-HD1010 and now it can still be used with the latest VPC-HD2000.

A purely mechanical housing made of ABS resin in the front part and high intensity polycarbonate on the back cover, it offers control to all camera function, including the flip up the flash. Although scrolling through the menu takes some getting used to, however considering the attractive price it's well worth spending some



extra time learning the controls.

Basically the jog dial controls the menu and scrolls 4 ways ie up,down,left,right. The housing controls has only 3 ways - left,right,down. To go up, simply scroll all the way down, which is not a long way to go.

There's also a fiber optic connector on the top right side of the housing, thus enabling strobes in slave mode to be used. A standard M67 thread is available in the front port for filters, wide angle and macro lens.

Epoque recommends their popular DCL-20 wide angle lens with CY color correction filter for blue water. The latter is the rubberized type which simply snaps onto the lens. Manual white balance is recommended with the filter to achieve proper colours. Once One-Touch WB is pre-selected, this is



easily done in 4 steps ie

1. Menu
2. One-Touch, Set
3. Press Set again (aim at neutral background ie sand, palm, off-white slate)
4. Press Menu to exit.

The housing weighs only 660g on land, -60g underwater and opens /locks with a total of 7 small latches. These are small and could be a bit



issues, which upon checking was due to user misalignment of the camera in the housing. The camera inserts into the housing with opened LCD directly as it is, without any trays or adapters. Epoque attended to the problem and improved the housing by installing a nicely, chromed semi circle bracket on the top and 2 plastic brackets in the middle and bottom part and part to align the camera. (see pic: Epoque7)) Misalignment is therefore passé , however a caution note is still included in the housing packaging, warning users to be careful.

Specs:
 Model: EHS-1000 HD
 Depth: 45m (150 ft)
 Camera model: Sanyo Xacti VPC-HD1000, HD1010, HD2000
 Function: Almost all camera function
 Size: 176 x 124 x 143mm
 Weight: 660g (land) , -60g underwater
 RRP: ¥40,000

fiddly for users with large hands to open , however a tool is provided to help.

Worthy to mention are the accessories as well ie spare O-ring, silicon grease, 2 pieces silica gel (button type), hand strap, tripod mount and a comprehensive manual in English.

The top of the housing has a cold shoe aka hotshoe slot, although nothing is hot wired there , Epoque calls it Clog adapter. However judging from the 5 tiny screws holding it together I wouldn't attach an Ikelite DS-160 or Sea&Sea's YS-250Pro strobe on it! Lightweight strobes and/or video/focus light can be used here. It's not connected to the internal of the housing, so no worries about flooding there, it's just a pity if it breaks.

Apropo flooding, a few samples earlier versions of this housing reportedly have had some flooding

Patima Xacti Housing



This is a quite serious piece of machined aluminium housing with very fine workmanship. Very interesting and neat is the integrated remote control in the housing, thus enabling all functions of the camera.

Rated up to 120m, this beautifully crafted housing is machined from solid aluminium, anodized in silver and the port has the standard M67 thread for wet lens and filter attachment.



Almost all functions of the camera can be accessed except for the built in flash. There is a cold shoe for accessories on top of the housing and standard tripod mount is available.

The camera screws onto a fixing plate in the housing with the LCD wide open. Holding the housing with one hand feels very comfortable and secure with the neoprene strap. The housing weighs 1400g on land and



is slightly negative underwater. The weight does contribute positively to better handling underwater.

A very nice housing indeed and the higher RRP of USD \$1100 is fully justified by its quality, handling and Patima's great backup service.

Specs:

Model: Patima Xacti

Useable camera: Sanyo VPC-HD1000, HD1010, HD2000

Housing components: high quality aluminium, acetal, stainless steel
Manufacturing: CNC cutting out of aluminium

Coating: anodized coating after barrel sanding

Color: Silver

Camera attachment: Saddle type

Port: 67mm flat port, wide-conversion/close-up lens underwater exchange

Depth rating: 120m

Weight on land: 1400g

Control: ON/OFF, slow zoom IN, slow zoom OUT, quick zoom IN, quick zoom OUT, Photo/Rec/Standby/Play/Cross Buttons/Menu

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