

Nauticam iPhone housing

by Phil Rudin

For those of you lusting after the latest shiny black Nauticam housing you may be surprised to learn you can now have your housing in yellow or blue. You may already own the camera as well!

Nauticam has recently released its first polycarbonate housing for the iPhone 4/4s/5/5s. This is an all purpose housing built for the abuse of extreme watersports. This housing allows you to optimize the capabilities of your smart phone for your underwater photo and video needs.

The housing is available with a bright yellow or blue front case. The rear half of the clam shell style housing is clear polycarbonate and the housing is secured with the same rotary cam locking system used on all of the Nauticam Mini housings. Just push in the red button and rotate counter-clockwise to open and clockwise until the locking system snaps shut.

The housing has a flat glass front port which is shaded by a 32mm filter thread for accessories like closeup and wide lens adapters, colored filters for your video needs and more. The housing is packaged with a handy black wrist strap, spare O-ring for the rear main door, O-ring grease, O-ring remover, warranty card, instruction manual and has maximum depth rating of sixty meters.

The bottom of the housing has a metal universal tripod mount with three (1/4") mounting threads. This allows the housing to be mounted to a tripod, camera tray with video lights and much



more. The housing comes setup for the I-phone 5 and comes complete with a set of rubber plugs that can be easily exchanged to fit the iPhone 4's. Once in the housing the iPhone is protected from water damage plus wear and tear. Not only is the housing water tight but the iPhone rides on the rubber plugs which prevent shock.

To control the camera you must first go to the Apple iTunes store and download the free Nauticam App to your phone. Just do a search in the App store for Nauticam and the App will pop right up. Once the App is downloaded to your phone just open the App and a very intuitive pulldown menu will appear which allows access to all of the Nauticam App functions.

The App includes a dive log with space for all of your dives to be recorded. This function is well worth the download even if you never use the housing. Once in the main menu you can open all of the camera's controls. The controls allow you to use everything from basic stills to rapid fire, front and back camera modes, GPS overlays, video, social



media sharing and more while the phone is secure and bone dry inside the housing.

The housing has a large shutter release triggered by the right forefinger and an ergonomic grip for the right hand. The functions are controlled by a four way controller wheel on the rear of the housing operated by the right thumb. Starting from



the top you have an icon for playback of images and zoom-in while shooting stills. The second icon is the basic mode control which allows you to shift from still to multi shot and video, it also controls video play back. The third icon controls sleep mode and zooms-out for the widest lens angle of view. The fourth icon controls the shutter release in still mode and the record and stop record in video mode. These are the basic control settings and they can be customized for your shooting needs in the main menu.

I first went to settings, then general, then Auto-lock and set the phone to shut off after five minutes or

not at all depending on my shooting needs. I found that without doing this the phone shuts off and defaults to the main screen which can be turned on by a right press to the rear wheel but does not get you into the Nauticam App. My test housing did not come with instructions so I am sure this issue will be addressed but I am not savvy enough to find the workaround.

Shooting in the water is a breeze; just point and press the shutter release. Shooting at or near the surface in bright sunlight is a challenge when trying to review the images just as it is above water.

This is clearly not an underwater



photography system for the advanced U/W shooter but it is still quite a valuable tool for any serious photographer. The possibilities are endless. Much like the Go Pro this is a go anywhere system designed around an excellent photography tool. More images are shot on a daily basis with smart phones than any other camera and of those images and videos more are shot with an iPhone than any another smart phone. I have included

some images of just a fraction of the many ways this system might be used.

The Nauticam housing for the iPhone 4/5 is available at your local Nauticam retailer for around \$190.00, €149.95, £144.95.

Phil Rudin

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