

## Flood warning

**Vivid Housings Leak Sentinel, RRP €200**

**AS MOST UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS** do, I long ago resigned myself to the probability that at some stage I would have to face up to a flooded camera system. In spite of the due care and attention I normally lavish on my kit, one such experience left me so traumatised that for a while I carried two identical set-ups in anticipation of a repeat event. I then resolved to take steps to avoid any further inconvenient and, more importantly, costly floods by fitting a leak detector. Relatively inexpensive, a leak detector can't physically prevent a flood from occurring, but its audible or visual warning should hopefully offer sufficient time to safely return to the surface – dive profile permitting – and pre-empt any major disaster.

On my last diving trip, this very safeguard allowed me to continue shooting when a miniscule, but undetectable, leak threatened to curtail my picture taking. Although it saved the day it still left me suffering from the usual pre-dive camera anxiety until I came across an interesting solution.

Back in 2011 *DIVE* reviewed a new product from Vivid Housings called the Leak Sentinel. Taking a lead from

other such products on the market, Vivid came up with a pressure-reducing pre-dive check system that could also be continually monitored throughout the dive.

Originally a two-component fitting of separate interior circuit board and outer valve, Vivid's new Sentinel Mk2 version is a revised, improved and completely self-contained unit, with the battery, processor and pressure valve all housed within a single anodised aluminium and acrylic body.

Measuring only 31mm x 28mm, the Sentinel can be fitted in a couple of minutes either to the spare bulkhead of your camera housing via a manufacturer-specific adapter or custom-made version by request. Once installed it's simply a case of unscrewing the cap, activating the sensor via a push-button, connecting the supplied hand pump and evacuating the air.

A flashing red LED is activated initially, but once the correct under pressure is achieved this swiftly changes to green to indicate all is well. After replacing the cap and a short wait of between 15-30 minutes, if it's still flashing green then the vacuum is working effectively and you're good to go. Once in this state

even loosening the spring clips and attempting to prise open the housing is quite impossible so it really does offer the peace of mind that a dip in a rinse tank just can't.

The user-replaceable CR1632 battery will provide in the region of 150 hours of continual use, while another major benefit is the Sentinel's portability – should you wish to change or upgrade your system, simply unscrew the valve, replace the bulkhead blanking plate and fit to your new housing.

### **DIVE** says

It's always nice to see the evolution of a good product. Fitted to the spare bulkhead atop my Aquatica housing, the Sentinel certainly doesn't look like an after-market addition and does its job equally as well as its competitors – at a fraction of the cost.

**Value 9**  
**Performance 9**  
**Contact: [www.vividhousings.com](http://www.vividhousings.com)**

