

## PENTAX OPTIO WPi: THE (almost) PERFECT WATERPROOF CAMERA

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Stop struggling with waterproof camera boxes, fumbling around and missing that Orca off your bow, or worrying about losing your camera in the drink. The nice folks at Pentax have produced a kayaker-friendly camera that you can hang around your neck or stuff into your PFD. This little gem is as close to the perfect waterproof camera as you can find.

### *QUICK FACTS*

**Pros:** (all major)

- Fully submersible
- Compact size
- 6 megapixels
- Easy to use

**Cons:** (all minor)

- No lens cap
- No viewfinder

**Price:** \$350 MSRP

Exactly how waterproof is it? It's rated to 5' for 30 minutes and you can actually take pictures underwater. At 4" x 2" x 7/8" it's about the size of a candy bar or cell phone. And of course it's fully automatic and has all the usual bells & whistles, including 3X optical zoom, video mode, and even sound recording. The rechargeable lithium-ion battery is the size of a matchbook (I recommend getting an extra battery for about \$30).



An optional plastic "skin" makes the camera easier to hold when wet and protects it from damage and dirt.

One of the few things it lacks is a cap to keep water spots off the lens. Also no viewfinder, which can be handy when, as with most digitals, the 2" LED monitor gets washed out in bright sunlight. But these are *very* minor deficiencies.

You can carry the WPi inside your PFD with the lens against your clothing to keep it clean. With the 15' long cord around your neck, just give it a tug and it's ready to shoot in about 3 seconds.

Although the suggested retail price is \$350, internet bargains are as low as \$200. But check to be sure this includes all necessary accessories (battery, charger, cables, and software).

Remember...you can't take photos if you don't bring your camera or if you're too worried about water damage to take it out of its box. So go get this camera and then go get wet...and submit your great photos for an ACK cover.