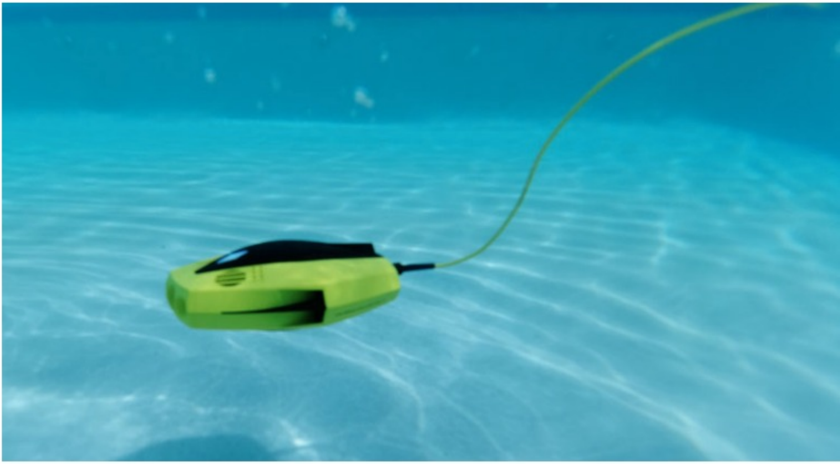


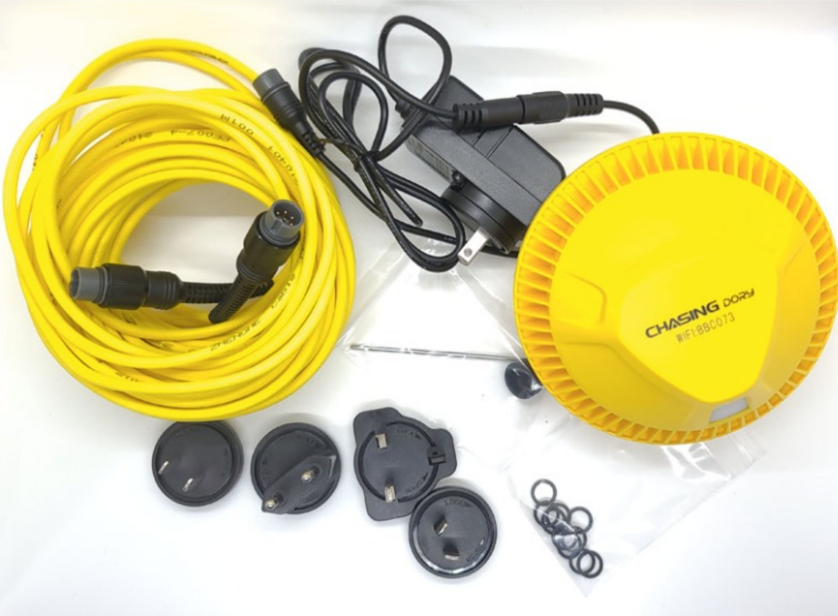
REVIEW – Drones are in the news a lot these days. From new models to new rules and regulations, flying a drone is getting more complicated even as the devices get easier to use. But drones aren't limited to the air. Chasing, a leading manufacturer of underwater drones for research and exploratio has released the Chasing Dory underwater drone – a consumer-grade drone. Let's jump in and see the idea holds water.

What is it?

The Chasing Dory underwater drone is a consumer-grade drone capable of diving to depths of up to 49 feet. It can take photos and full HD video and is controlled with your Android or iOS device.

What's in the box?

- Chasing Dory underwater drone



- Power adapter plus multiple international plug adapters

- Tether
- WiFi buoy
- Extra power socket cover
- Replacement o-rings
- Metal hook for removing worn o-rings

CHASING DORY
Can I help you?
CHASING DORY
Quick Start Guide V1.0
CHASING DORY
快速入门指南 V1.0
潜行多睿物品清单
CHASING DORY Packing List
CHASING DORY
Everyday Underwater Exploration
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Join us, you can get:
Certificate

- Help card
- Instruction manual (English plus Chinese copy)
- Quick start guide (English plus Chinese copy)
- Packing list
- Stickers
- Inspection certification card

CHASINGDORY

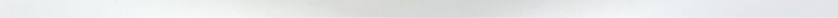
- Rigid carry case

Hardware specs

- Dimensions: 9.7″ x 7.4″ x 3.6″
- Weight: 2.4 lbs
- Connectivity: WiFi
- Battery: 4800 mAh
- Battery life: about 1 hour
- Camera aperture: f1.6
- Resolution: photo – 2M (1920×1080); video – FHD 1920×1080 30 fps
- Field of view: 100 degrees
- ISO range: 100-300
- Focus distance: 4mm
- Format: photo – jpg; video – mp4
- Lights: twin 250 lm
- View angle: +/- 45-degree full range
- Max depth: 49 feet
- Max speed: 1.5 knots / 1.73 mph
- Buoy
  - Dimensions: 5.1″ x 5.1″ x 3.5″
  - Weight: 5.6 oz\
  - Onboard storage: 16GB
  - Max WiFi distance: 15 m / 49 ft

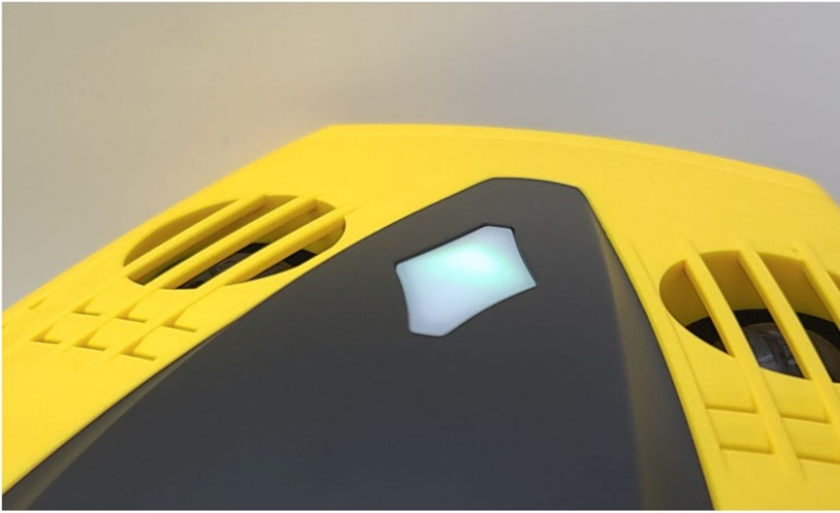
Design and features

The Chasing Dory underwater drone itself is relatively small, and therefore portable.



On top, we see the two front and one rear vertical thruster vents as well as the diamond-shaped pow

light.



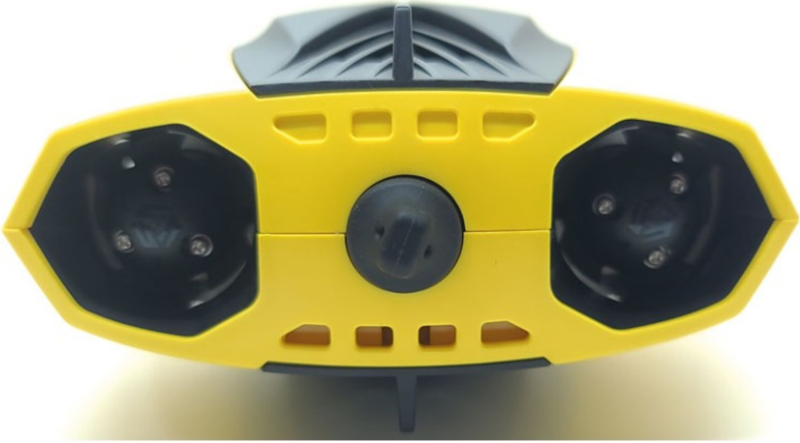
When Dory is powered up, the green LED under the lens pulses.

Underneath, we see the complementary vertical thruster vents and the requisite labeling.

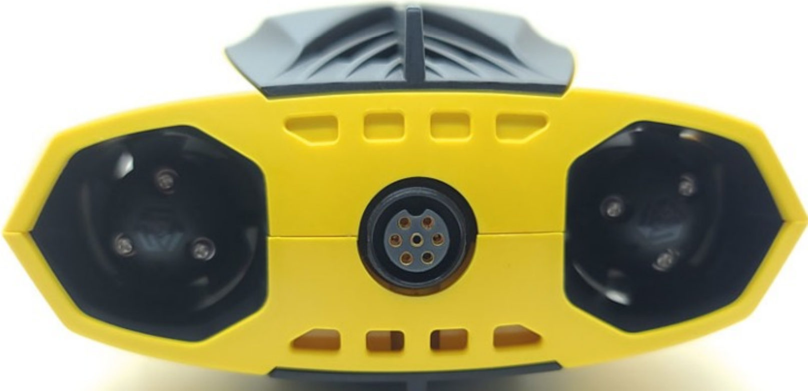
Upfront, we see the twin 250 lm headlights and the centered fast f1.6 lens.

While they’re certainly not going to light up the night, the twin 250-lumen lights will help illuminate objects in darker areas.

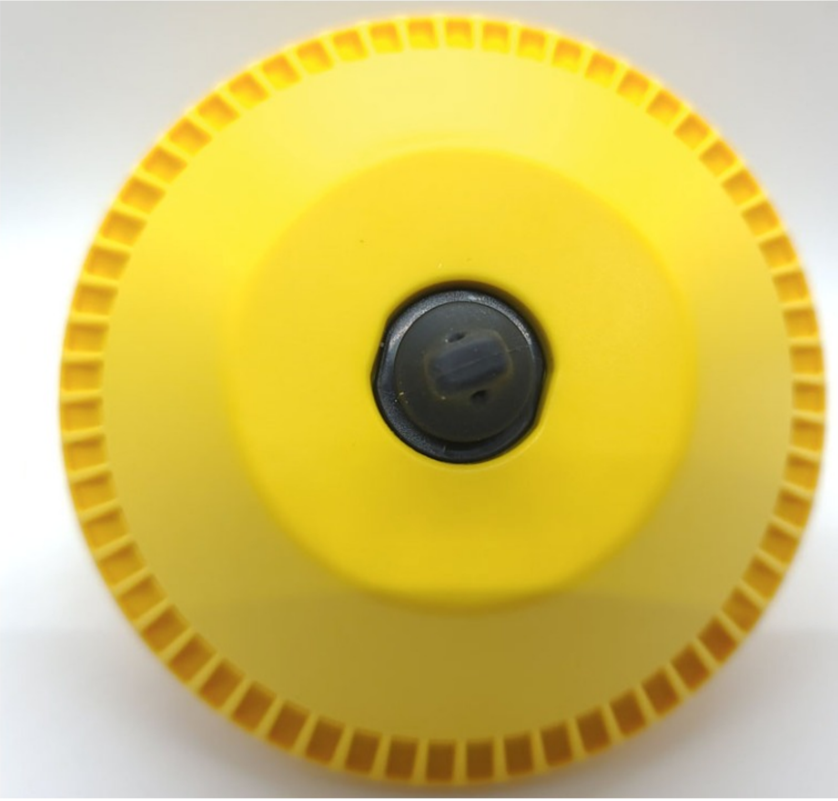
From the side, you can see the side stabilizers as well in the forward/reverse side thrusters.



At the rear of the craft, we see the twin forward/reverse thrusters and the power connector covered with a protective cover.



Removing the cover, we see the seven-pin connector for the buoy and charging.



We see a similar cover on the bottom of the WiFI buoy.

Removing the cover, we find the same seven-pin connector.

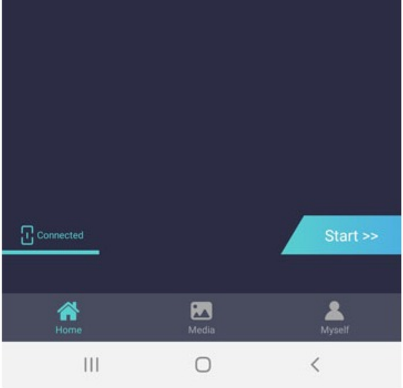
CHASING DORY
WIFI:BBC073

The top of the buoy holds the WiFi name. When powered up, the buoy presents a WiFi network with the SSID: DORY_XXXXXX where “XXXXXX” is the name printed on the buoy. At the bottom of the photo, you can see the lens for the power indicator LED. Like the Dory, this LED pulses green when powered up.

Setup

To get started, install the Chasing Dory app on your Android or iOS device and set up an account.

5:23
66%
CHASING DORY



You charge the Chasing Dory underwater drone by plugging the power adapter's cord into the socket on the Dory. There is a small LED on the wall-wart that flips from red while charging to green when the Dory is charged. You don't need to charge the buoy as it is powered by the Dory.

The only way to charge the Dory is with the included wall-wart power adapter and its power cable. That means you need a wall socket to charge. So, if you're in the field, and run through its one-hour battery life, you're done for the day, unless you're carrying something like a Zendure SuperBase 500 power station with you.

Connecting the tether to both the Dory and the buoy powers up the system. There is no power switch I'd like to see a switch as it is a little awkward plugging in the cord and screwing it down onto the dron and buoy as the electrical connection is made.

CHASING DORY