

## Dummy's guide to the Zoom Handy Recorder H2n

The Zoom H2n is a portable audio recorder. It has inbuilt microphones with a number of different options, and digitally records onto a SD Card.

### **1, Power On**

- Connect external headphones via the PHONES/LINE OUT jack.
- Turn the power on. (Right hand side of recorder – note the 'hold' switch which prevents any adjustments during operation except to mic gain level)

### **2, Operation Mode**

- The screen displayed should have 00:00:00 on the top. This is the 'top screen'. The MENU button will access other screens.
- We will mostly work in **XY stereo mode** (and not 4 channel surround)

### **3, Select the Mic Pattern**

We set this to determine whether the H2n picks up sound from the front microphone (XY stereo mode -90 degrees) OR the back microphone (MS Mid-side stereo mode - 180 degrees) OR both (front and back simultaneously in 2 channel mode).

- Use the MIC PATTERN dial on the top of the recorder to select
- If you chose to use an external mic, plug it into EXT MIC IN jack.

### **4, Setting Input Sensitivity**

This ensures you make a clean undistorted recording. Input sensitivity is set using the MIC GAIN dial switch on the right hand side of the H2n. You need to set this position so that the CLIPPING indicator (the red LED light which also indicates the microphone selection) does not flash when recording the sound – *if it flashes, the sound is too loud for the gain setting and the recording will be distorted.*

### **5, Setting Recording Level**

- The H2n is automatically in recording standby position when you turn it on.
- The input signal level is indicated by the level meters on the display.

***The volume of the sound that you hear in your headphones is not related to this level at all.*** This is your monitor system. The monitor system has a separate VOLUME button, which is located above the PHONES/LINE OUT jack on the left hand side of the recorder.

- Set your recording level using the MICROPHONE GAIN dial control. As you change the setting the REC LEVEL will be shown on the display. You need the level meters to be as high as possible – remember the concept of a high 'signal to noise ratio' - but not to exceed 0 (db) during the loudest parts of the recording. It is best to have your levels at between **-6 and -12 DB.**

- At '0' dB the sound will **distort**. The sound can never be fixed or recovered in post-production – it is forever ruined! You need to leave enough '**head room**' to allow for unexpected loud noises and editing.

## 6, Recording

- To begin recording press the **REC button** (red dot button below screen). The REC indicator – just above the screen and below 'Zoom' - will now be constantly lit in red. The counter on the front display will turn over, indicating the length of your recording.
- To **finish recording press the REC key**. The REC indicator goes out. The counter will return to the beginning of this recording and you can play back from here.
- If you begin recording again, a new track, or file, will automatically begin. This will always happen, the recorder does not overwrite existing recordings.
- **DO NOT edit in machine** (except for normalizing) - there is plenty of room on the disk. This will only lead to disaster ... believe us!!! You can dump and get rid of files once you have transferred them onto the computer.

## 7, Playback

- To check your recording, press the PLAY key (right hand side). Press the PLAY/PAUSE key again to stop playback. Each track will have it's own number eg. ZOOM001.wav, ZOOM002.wav, etc.

## 8, Finding your files

- When the playback screen is open press MENU button (left hand side)
- Use the PLAY/FWD/REV button to select FILE LIST
- Press the MENU key repeatedly when you wish to return to the top screen.

## 9, Normalizing WAV files

- If the volume of a recording is lower than desired, you can raise the level of the recording as a whole. Use the play button to select and play the file ... then press play again to bring up the option to normalize (see p.48-49 of the manual).

## 10, Connecting the H2 to a computer

- A USB cable is used to connect the H2 to your computer.
- Press the MENU button to bring up the main menu. Move the cursor to USB and press the PLAY button.

- Then move the cursor to SD CARD READER and press the PLAY button. The computer and H2 will then go into online condition and the display will change to show this connection.

The recorder will show up as an accessible external drive on your desktop from which you can drag files, delete files etc. You will find your files in the STEREO folder (by default in FOLDER01)

- To terminate the connection, **always click “safely remove hardware”** icon (Windows) or **drag and drop the H2 icon to the trash** (Macintosh)

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### Things to check:

- a) You must keep **always monitor your recording** both by **listening** and **watching** the VU meter.
- b) The number one Mistake is that you can ‘hear’ it but it doesn’t mean it has recorded well. **You must check both your head phone levels and the recording levels.**
- c) The **headphones** have a left and right channel – make sure to wear them correctly.
- d) Make sure when you loan the equipment that the first thing you do is to **‘re-format’** the disk (i.e. get rid of anyone else’s files that may have been accidentally left on the machine).
- e) **DO NOT edit in machine** - there is plenty of room on the disk. This will only lead to disaster ... believe us!!! You can dump and get rid of files once you have transferred them onto the computer.