

# Configuring the Zoom H4n Audio Recorder

## **Powering the Device**

The *Zoom H4n* audio recorder can be powered using any of the following methods:

- 2 AA Alkali batteries
- 2 (rechargeable) NiMH (nickel metal hydride) batteries
- DC Power supply (supplied)

## **SD Card**

It is recommended that you use 4GB, 8GB, 16GB, or 32GB SD Cards in the *Zoom H4n* audio recorder. Before use, you should format any SD cards that have not been previously formatted in a *Zoom H4n* audio recorder. **Remember that formatting erases all existing SD Card data, so backup any SD card data first!**

- Choose **MENU > SD CARD > FORMAT**
- Choose **MENU > SD CARD > REMAIN** (To check remaining free space)

## **System Settings**

Before starting to use the *Zoom H4n* audio recorder, you should set the basic system settings listed below.

- Choose **MENU > SYSTEM > DATE/TIME** (Set correct date/time)
- Choose **MENU > SYSTEM > BATTERY > Alkali or Ni-mH** (Choose battery type)

## **Mode**

Before recording, verify the following Mode menu settings:

- Choose **MENU > MODE > STEREO** (When using 1 or 2 external microphones)
- Choose **MENU > MODE > 4CH** (When using 1 or 2 external microphones plus the built-in stereo microphones)

## **Input**

Before recording, verify the following Input menu settings:

- Choose **MENU > Input > Monitor > ON** (to enable headphone monitoring)
- Choose **MENU > Input > 1-2 LINK > ON**

(Can be unlinked for independent mic levels when using 2 separate mics.)

- Choose **MENU > Input > LEVEL AUTO > OFF**
  - Choose **MENU > Input > MONO MIX > ON** (dual channel Mono recording)
- (Can be disabled for monitoring stereo mics in true stereo in the headphones)

- Choose **MENU > Input > PHANTOM > OFF**  
(+24v or +48v Phantom power is needed ONLY for condenser microphones.)
- Choose **INPUT 1** and **2** (located below the front panel **MIC** input button)

## **Set Record File Folder Directory**

After formatting, the *Zoom H4n* audio recorder creates 10 separate folders on your SD card that can be used for storing your audio record takes.

- Below the display, press [**1**], and then choose a record folder directory (1-10).

### **Choose an Audio File Format/Bit Rate/Sample Rate**

Before recording, choose your desired audio file format, sample rate, and bit rate.

- Below the display, press [4], and then choose one of the following audio file formats:
  - WAV44.1kHz/16bit
  - WAV44.1kHz/24bit
  - WAV48kHz/16bit
  - **WAV48kHz/24bit** (CSUN standard for Film and TV Options)

(Note: Do **NOT** choose any of the MP3 file options, since this will result in a lower quality audio recording.)

After configuring and verifying all of the above settings, you are now ready to record.

### **Recording Audio**

- After plugging in your microphone(s), press the **REC** button, check your sound levels, and adjust audio levels as necessary.

(Note: A good sound level would be a recording where the loudest peak level does not exceed **-12dB** to **-10dB** on the *Zoom H4n* audio level meter.)

- After you have verified and set your audio record levels, with the **REC** button still enabled, press the **PLAY** button. (Recording will begin.)
- When you are finished recording press the **STOP** button.

**Note:** The *Zoom H4n* audio recorder auto-names files sequentially, starting with the name, *STE-000.wav*, *STE-001.wav*, *STE-002.wav*, etc., so someone should keep a log of the audio files recorded, so that they can be easily identified. Audio slating before each record take is also a great idea! (Slate **Name & Take #**)

### **Reviewing Your Record Takes**

After recording any file, you can play the last recorded file by simply pressing the **PLAY** button.

To select any previously recorded audio file:

- Below the display, press [2], scroll through the list of recorded audio files, and then press the scroll wheel to select the desired file. You can then **PLAY**, **RENAME**, or **DELETE** the selected audio file.

### **Transferring Files to a Computer**

After you finish recording all of your production audio files, you can transfer them to a computer (Mac or Windows) for further editing using the supplied USB cable or using the card in an SD Card Reader connected to a computer.