

# 

# **OPERATION MANUAL**

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# H4n Pro features

Thank you very much for purchasing our ZOOM H4n Pro Handy Recorder. The H4n Pro has the following special features.

#### An all-in-one handy recorder.

The H4n Pro is lightweight (294 g) with a very compact design and is equipped with high quality stereo condenser microphones arranged in an XY pickup pattern, a built-in speaker, SD card recording, a mixer and internal effects.

You can enjoy recording and creating your own music anytime, anywhere with the H4n Pro.

#### Versatile field recorder with multi-track capability.

The H4n Pro is capable of recording in several different operation modes. STEREO mode enables high-quality stereo recording. 4CH mode can record 2 sound sources simultaneously in stereo. MTR mode allows playback of 4 tracks and recording of 2 tracks simultaneously. You can use it as a field recorder to record melodies and band performances on-the-fly and to capture sound effects. You can also use it as a multitrack recorder to make songs by overdubbing instruments and vocals. Furthermore, in STAMINA mode you can record in stereo for up to 11 hours using batteries only.

#### New 90/120°-variable XY stereo mic

The H4n Pro allows you to adjust the angle of the onboard microphones to address a wider range of recording scenarios. Set the microphones to  $120^{\circ}$  for a wider area of sound, or set them to  $90^{\circ}$  for a more focused sound source. Either way, the mics retain their XY configuration, so you can record natural stereo sound with no phase cancellation.

### Connect mics and guitars directly using combined XLR/ standard phone jacks

The H4n Pro includes input jacks for connections that can accommodate a variety of recording styles. Microphones, including stereo mics and condensers, electric guitars, basses and keyboards can all be connected directly.

### $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Use as an audio interface and SD card with a computer

An onboard USB 2.0 Hi-Speed port allows direct connection to a computer. You can use it as an audio interface with built-in effects (sampling rate limited to 44.1 kHz when using the effects). You can also use the H4n Pro as an SD card reader for your computer. You can transfer recorded files to your computer and use them to create audio CDs or work with them in DAW software.

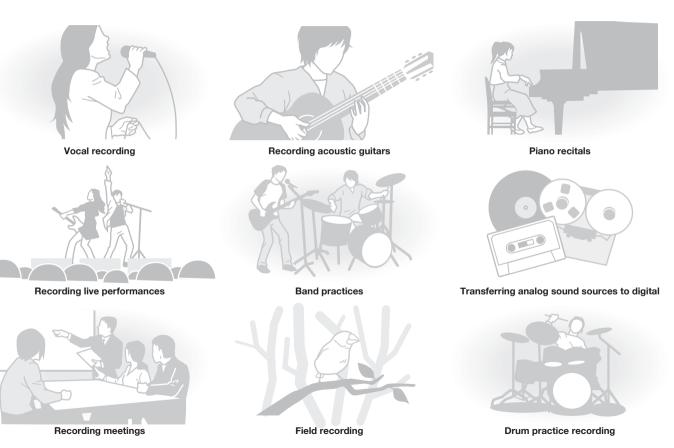
#### Tuner, metronome, karaoke and various other functions

The tuner functions include not only a standard chromatic tuner, but also support less common tunings, such as for 7-string guitars and 5-string basses. The metronome function is convenient for practice and multitrack recording. You can also use the H4n Pro as a practice device.

Use the SPEED function to adjust the playback speed from 50–150%. The KARAOKE functions include center canceling for stereo files and variable key control, making it valuable for language learning and voice training.

Please read this manual carefully to fully understand the functions of the H4n Pro so that you can make the most of it for many years. After reading this manual, please keep it with the warranty in a safe place.

# The H4n Pro is ideal for these applications



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# Safety precautions for users

#### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

In this manual, warning and caution symbols are used to highlight dangers of accidents and troubles. Users should read them to prevent accidents. The meanings of these symbols are as follows:

Warning If the uvice the result.

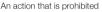
If the users ignore this symbol and handle the device the wrong way, serious injury or death could result.



If the users ignore this symbol and handle the device the wrong way, bodily injury and damage to the equipment could result.



An action that is mandatory



Please read through the following safety tips and precautions to ensure hazard-free use of the H4n Pro.

#### Power requirements



#### AC adapter operation

Make sure to use only a DC5 center plus 1A (ZOOM AD 14) AC adapter. The use of other

than the specified type could damage the unit and pose a safety hazard.

Connect the AC adapter only to an AC outlet that supplies the rated voltage required by the adapter.

- When disconnecting the AC adapter from the AC outlet, make sure to grasp the adapter itself. Never pull on the cable.
- During lightning or when not using for an extended period, disconnect the AC adapter from the AC outlet.

#### Battery operation

Use 2 commercially-available 1.5V AA batteries (alkaline dry cell batteries or nickel metal hydride batteries).

- When not using for an extended period, remove the batteries from the unit.
- If battery leakage has occurred, wipe the battery compartment and battery terminals carefully to remove all remnant of battery fluid.
- When using the unit, the battery compartment cover should be closed.
- Install batteries with the correct +/- orientations.
- Š Do not use new and old batteries together. Do not use batteries of different brands or types together.

#### Environment



Caution

S To prevent unexpected troubles and malfunctions, avoid using the H4n Pro in environments where it will be exposed to:

- Extreme temperatures
- Heat sources such as radiators or stoves
- High humidity or moisture
- Excessive dust or sand
- Excessive vibration or shock

#### Handling



S The H4n Pro is a precision instrument. Do not exert undue pressure on the keys and other controls. Take care not to drop or bump it, and do not subject it to shock or excessive pressure, which can cause serious trouble.

- Solution Not the second se
- O not place the H4n Pro speaker close to other precision instruments (watches and computers), electronic medical instruments or magnetic cards.

#### Connecting cables and input and output jacks



You should always turn off the power to the H4n Pro and all other equipment before connecting or disconnecting any cables. Make sure to disconnect all connection cables and the power cord before moving the H4n Pro.

#### Alterations



Solver open the case of the H4n Pro or attempt to modify the product in any way since this could result in damage to the unit.

#### Volume



Do not use the H4n Pro at a loud volume for a long time since this could cause hearing impairment.

#### USAGE PRECAUTIONS Electrical interference

For safety considerations, the H4n Pro has been designed to provide maximum protection against the emission of electromagnetic radiation from inside the device, and protection from external interference. However, equipment that is very susceptible to interference or that emits powerful electromagnetic waves should not be placed near the H4n Pro, as the possibility of interference cannot be ruled out entirely. With any type of digital control device, the H4n Pro included, electromagnetic interference could cause malfunction and could corrupt or destroy data. Care should be taken to minimize the risk of damage.

#### Cleaning

Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the H4n Pro. If necessary, slightly moisten the cloth. Do not use abrasive cleanser, wax, or solvents (such as paint thinner or cleaning alcohol), since these may dull the finish or damage the surface.

#### Breakdown and malfunction

If the unit becomes broken or malfunctions, immediately disconnect the AC adapter, turn the power off and disconnect other cables. Contact the store where you bought the unit or ZOOM service with the following information: product model, serial number and specific symptoms of breakdown or malfunction, along with your name, address and telephone number.

# Please keep this manual in a convenient place for future reference.

# **Copyright warnings**

#### Recording of live performances

Many artists and most live venues do not allow recording and photography and will check for cameras and recorders at the entrance. Even if recording is allowed, it is prohibited to sell, distribute, or upload to the Internet without the organizers authorization. Copyright violation is a crime.

#### Music CDs and downloaded sound sources

Using music recorded on CDs and other media as well as downloaded sound sources for purposes other than personal enjoyment (including, for example, playing them in a concert hall or other location and altering songs) could be a violation of copyright laws.

Zoom Corporation will not assume any responsibility related to infringements of copyrights.

Trademarks:

• The SD and SDHC logos are trademarks.

#### 52 <u>5</u>2

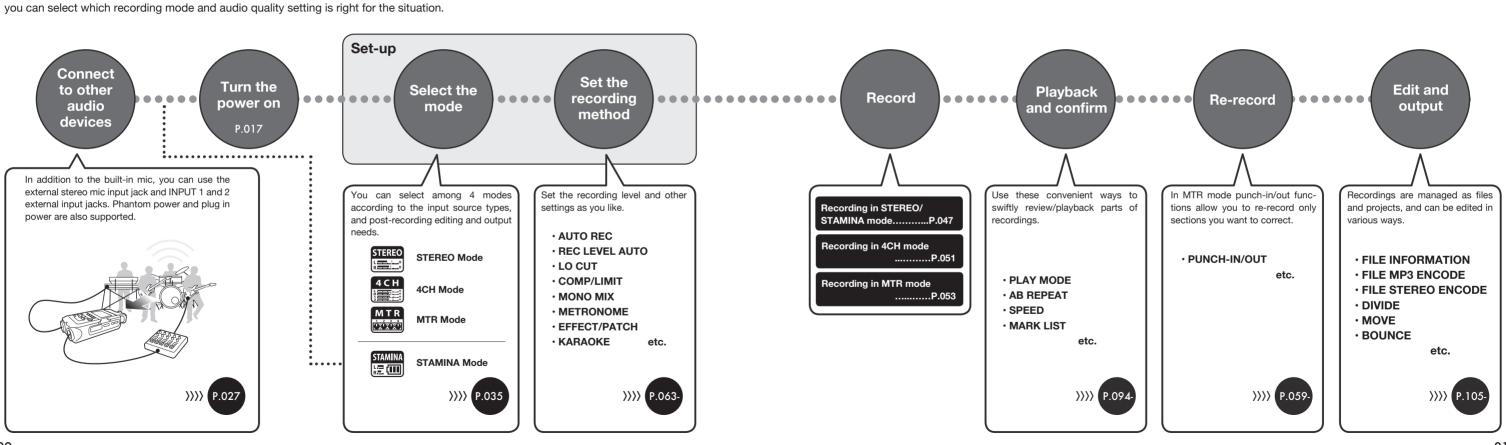
- MPEG Layer-3 audio compression technology is licensed from Fraunhofer IIS and Sisvel S.p.A.
- Windows<sup>®</sup>, Windows<sup>®</sup> 10, Windows<sup>®</sup> 8, Windows<sup>®</sup> 7 and Windows Vista<sup>®</sup> are trademarks or registered trademarks of Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Corporation.
- Macintosh and Mac OS are trademarks of Apple Inc.
- Other product names, registered trademarks and company names in this document are the property of their respective companies.

For the purpose of improvement, product specifications and appearance are subject to change without notice.

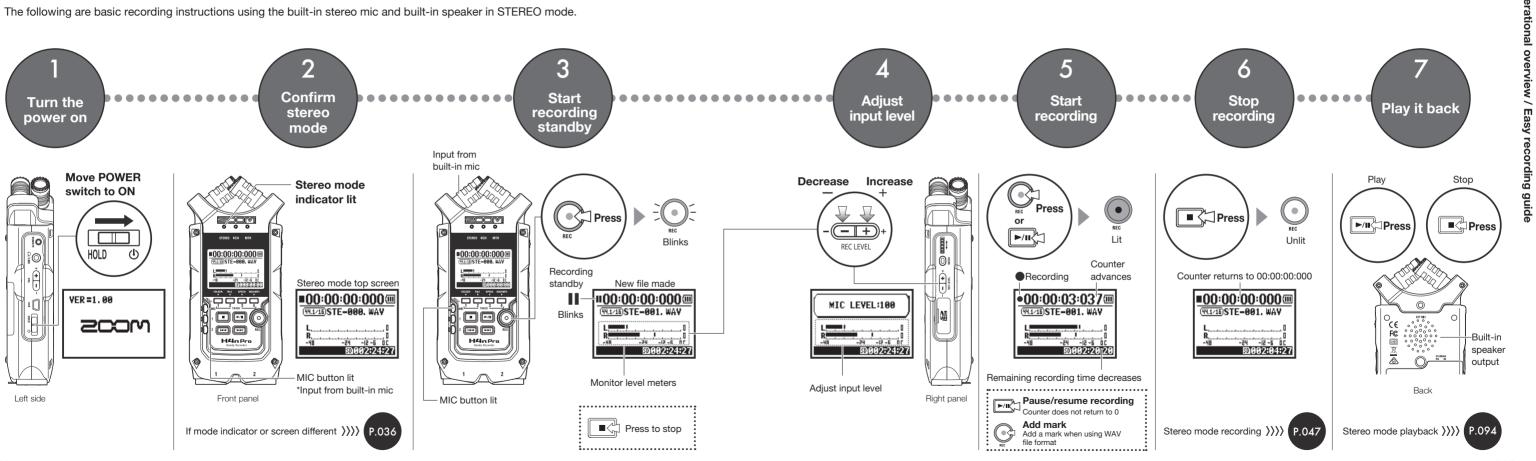
# **Getting started**

#### **Recording flow using the H4n Pro** 1-1

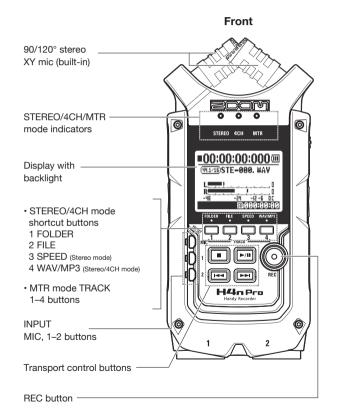
The following is the basic flow of recording operations for the H4n Pro. Depending on the recording application.

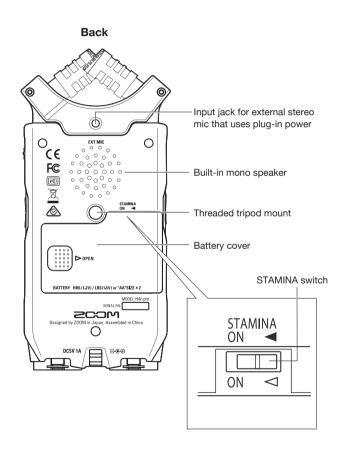


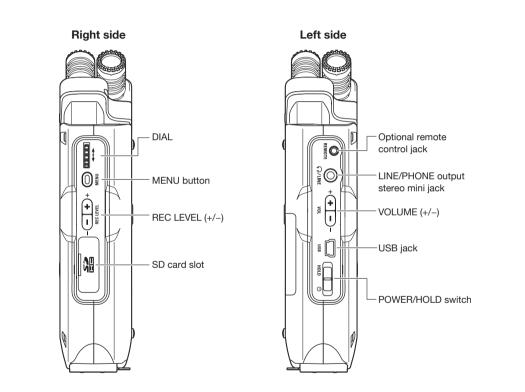
#### Easy recording guide (STEREO mode) 1-2



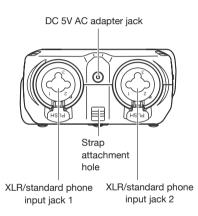
# 2-1 Names and functions of parts











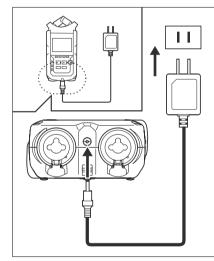
3

# **Battery/Power setting**

The H4n Pro can be powered by a standard power outlet or batteries.

### Using a standard power outlet

Always use the specified AC adapter.

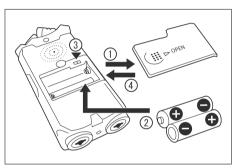


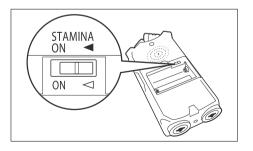
Specified AC adapter: ZOOM AD-14A/D

Use of an AC adapter other than the specified model could cause malfunction.

### Using batteries

Install two AA batteries.





### Open the battery compartment cover.

### NOTE:

### Make sure the power is off!

Confirm that the power is off whenever you open the battery compartment cover or connect/disconnect the AC adapter. Failure to do so could damage recording data.



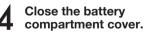
## Insert the batteries.

(Follow the +/- orientation.)

# Set the STAMINA switch.

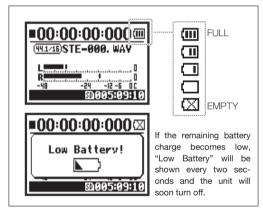
 Ordinary use (using AC adapter or batteries)

ON: STAMINA mode on (conserves power when using batteries)



### Remaining battery charge

When a "Low Battery!" warning appears, immediately turn the unit off and replace the batteries, or switch to an AC adapter.



### NOTE:

#### **Usable batteries**

You can use conventional alkaline and nickel metal hydride rechargeable batteries.

#### Power supply from USB

Connect a USB cable that is already connected to the computer to the unit while it is off. Power will be supplied by USB bus power and the unit will turn on automatically. This function is only available when the H4n Pro is used as an SD card reader or an audio interface.

### HINT:

#### To measure the battery charge accurately

The remaining battery charge can be measured more precisely by using the H4n Pro battery type setting.

### Date and time setting retention

If the batteries die or the power supply is interrupted, the H4n Pro will retain the date and time setting for about three minutes. After this, these settings will be reset to their default values.

### Power supply indicator

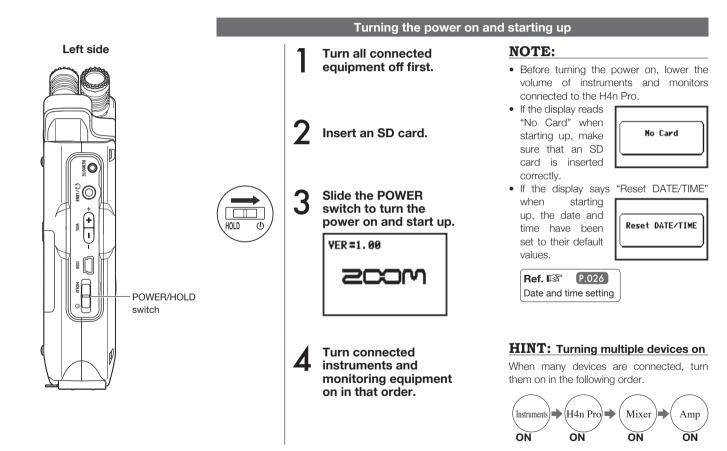
:00:00:000000 ISSTE-001. WAY	: <b>0(</b> @ST
	······
Using batteries	Usin

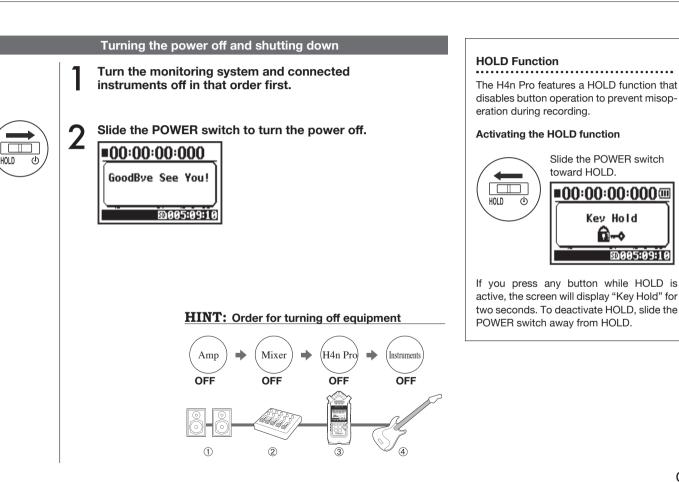


Using AC adapter

**Ref.** I USB bus power P.033 **Ref.** I Battery type P.130

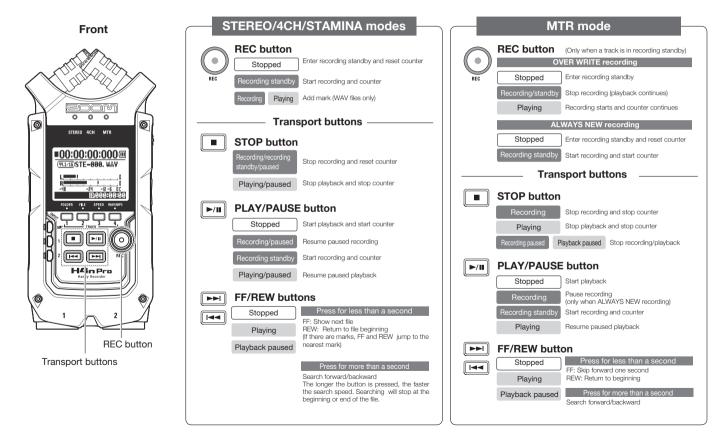
# 4-1 Using the POWER/HOLD switch and turning the power on/off





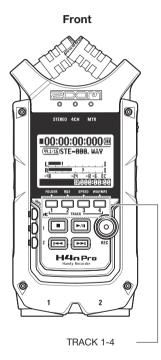
# 4-2 Using recording and transport buttons

The functions of the REC, STOP, PLAY/PAUSE, FF and REW buttons depend on the mode.



# 4-3 Using TRACK 1–4 buttons

The of TRACK 1-4 buttons have different functions depending on the MODE.



### MTR MODE

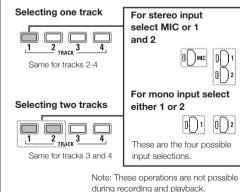
Switch between track recording and playback.

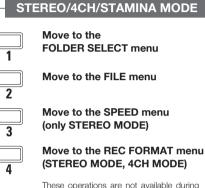


When you start recording, press the track number you want to record and the track becomes Recording Standby status. That track button will then become illuminated.

#### Make track and the input source settings

After selecting the track, use the input source buttons to select the input for that track. Using the INPUT button you can record in mono, stereo or a combination of both.





These operations are not available during recording and playback.

### HINT:

#### When stereo link active

When tracks are stereo-linked, pressing the button for one track will have the same effect on the linked track.

Ref. Ref Stereo link P.058

# 4-4 Using INPUT MIC, 1 and 2 buttons

These buttons have different functions depending on the various modes.

FRONT



INPUT 1 & 2 buttons

# STEREO/STAMINA MODE



#### Select INPUT MIC, 1 or 2 and the corresponding button lights.

If you select INPUT 1 or 2, buttons will light after the selection. (Once lit, the buttons do not respond.) Any other input source settings, such as REC LEVEL, will be made for the lit source.

Note: If the selected input clips, its button will blink.

### 4CH MODE



#### Use all input sources. MIC, 1 and 2 all light.

When you switch to 4CH, the H4n Pro will receive two stereo inputs: one from MIC and one from 1 and 2 together. When you press a lit button, the channel input level is shown and you can adjust its recording level (REC LEVEL).

Note: When an input clips the corresponding button blinks.

### MTR MODE



# Set MIC, 1 and 2 individually for stereo and mono input. The corresponding button lights.

You can select INPUT MIC, 1 and 2 individually.

- When you use the built-in or an external stereo microphone, select INPUT MIC.
- For stereo input using the external input jacks, use both INPUT 1 and 2. Press either INPUT 1 or 2 button and then press another button.

Note: If the selected input clips, its button will blink.

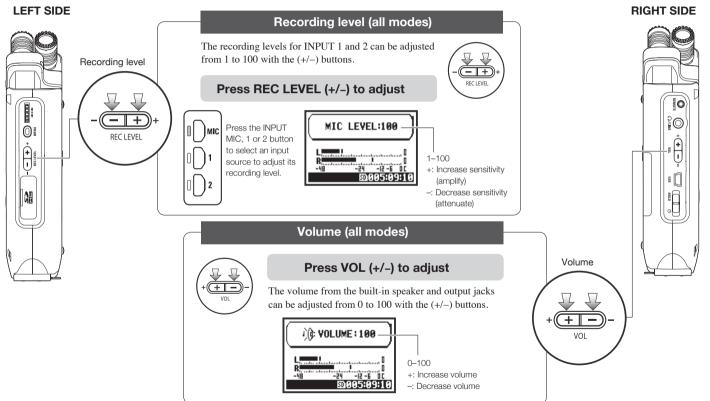
# HINT:

What is clipping?

**1g?** If the input level reaches the maximum that the H4n Pro can record (0 dB), the recorded sound could be distorted. The recording level should be adjusted.

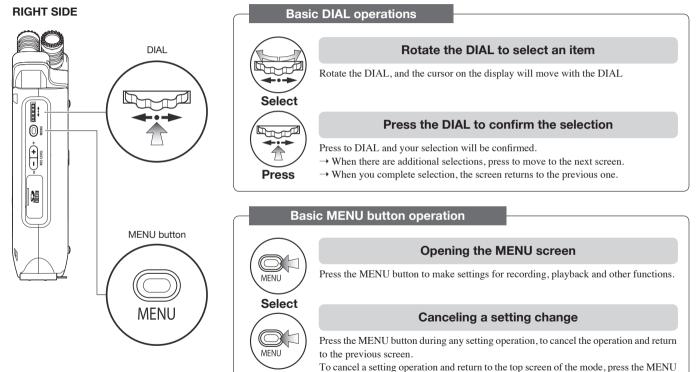
# 4-5 Using REC LEVEL and VOLUME buttons

These keys allow you to adjust the levels of recording input and output volume. (All the modes are the same.)

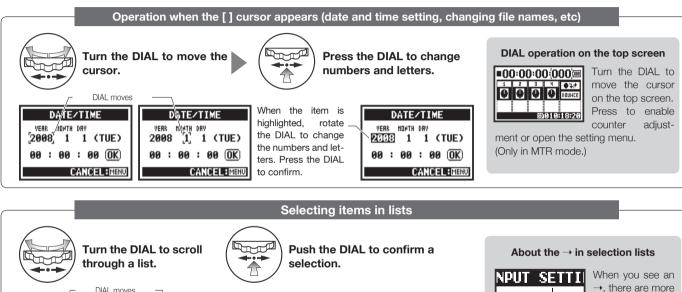


# 4-6 Using the DIAL and the MENU button

The DIAL and the MENU button are used for various settings while recording and during playback. Here are explanations about their basic operations.



**Long Press** button for more than 2 seconds.



MONITOR

CANCEL:MENU

OFF

STOP

ŌN

The screen returns to

INPUT SETTING

FOLDER:01

the previous one.

LO CUT → COMP/LIMIT→ MONITOR ON LEVEL AUTOOFF

ШТ

screen.

)∕LIMIT|Э

DIAL moves

INPUT SETTING

FOLDER:01

LO CUT

STOP

COMP/LIMIT>

MONITOR OFF

LEVEL AUTOOFF

INPUT SETTING

OFF

FOLDER:01

LO CUT

MONITOR

STOP

COMP/LIMIT>

LEVEL AUTOOFF

selections on the

Select the arrow

next screen.

and press the DIAL to move to the next

# 5-1 Loading an SD card

The SD card is required to record. Make sure to turn off power before inserting or removing the SD card.

Make sure power is off.

Push the SD card in to

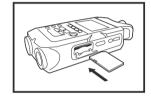
remove it from the slot.

How to install an SD card

How to remove an SD card

Make sure power is off.

Insert the SD card into the slot.



#### SD card recording capacity (approximate)

4GB SDHC card	Recording time (approximate)
44.1 kHz/16-bit WAV (stereo track)	380 minutes
44.1kHz/128kbps MP3 (stereo track)	68 hours

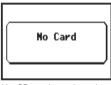
#### NOTE:

#### **TURN THE POWER OFF!**

Never insert or remove an SD card while the power is on. This could destroy data.

# CAUTIONS WHEN INSERTING SD CARDS

- You can use 16MB to 32GB SD cards. For a list of operation-certified SD cards please refer to the ZOOM website: http://www.zoom.co.jp/
- If you use an SD card that was used by a computer, digital camera or other machine, formatting in the H4n Pro is required.
- If "No Card" appears on the display at startup, check if the SD card is correctly inserted.
- When "Format Card" appears on the display at startup, this means the SD card has not been formatted in the H4n Pro. To format it, press the DIAL and select YES.
- When the startup screen says "Card Protect", the card is write-protected. To disable this, slide the lock switch on the SD card.



No SD card warning when starting up.

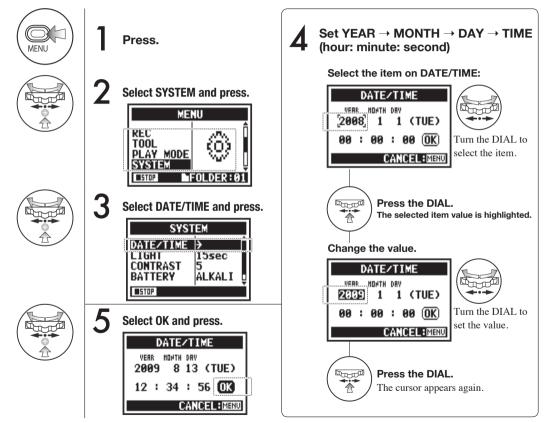


This warning will appear if an SD card is not in a recognized format. Select YES to format the card. This will delete all of its data.

# 5-2 Setting the date and time (DATE/TIME)

Each file will automatically record the date/time.

To facilitate searching for files by date, be sure to set the date/time after every battery change.



NOTE:

If "Reset DATE/TIME" appears during startup, the date/time needs to be set.

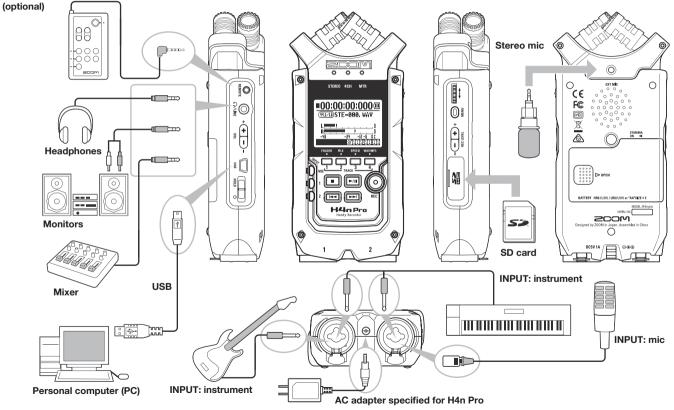


- If no power source is connected for more than three minutes, the DATE/TIME setting will reset to the default value.
- You cannot set this during recording and playback.

# 6-1 Setup: Connecting external devices

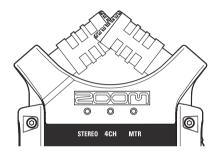
The H4n Pro offers versatile connectivity with options for any recording application.

Remote control



# 6-2 Setup: Built-in microphones

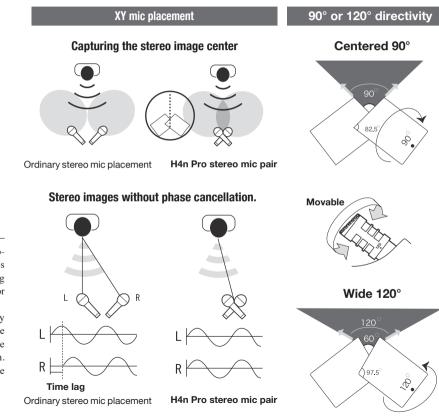
These are the special features of the H4n Pros built-in microphones.



High quality microphones in an XY pattern ensure a natural stereo image when recording sounds.

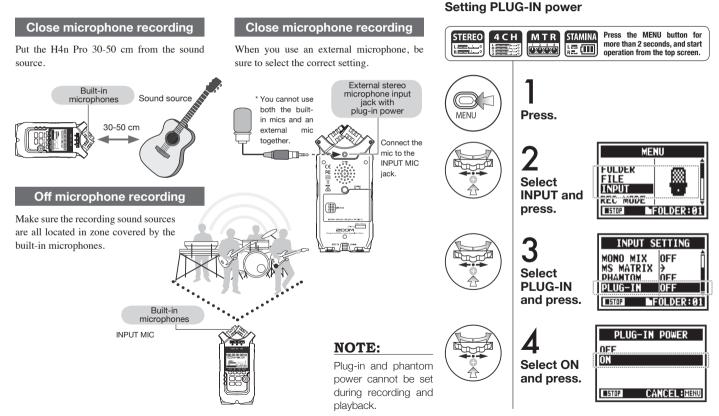
Stereo recording is often done by placing two microphones in a V-shaped configuration. Pointing microphones outward will result in stereo separation, but the recording will lack definition around the center, resulting in a poor stereo image.

The H4n Pro utilizes an XY stereo mic configuration. By placing two microphones in a crossed pattern (opposite angles), the H4n Pro can cover a wide area and capture sound sources in the center with clarity and definition. Sounds reach both mics simultaneously, so no phase cancellation occurs between right and left channels.



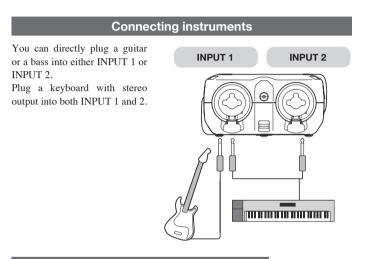
# 6-3 Setup: Built-in microphones/external mic with plug-in power

The input jack for the external microphone is suitable for microphones that require plug-in power.



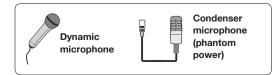
# 6-4 Setup: INPUT 1/2 connections and phantom power

Use INPUT 1 and 2 to connect to a guitar, bass or keyboard, for example.



### **Connecting microphones**

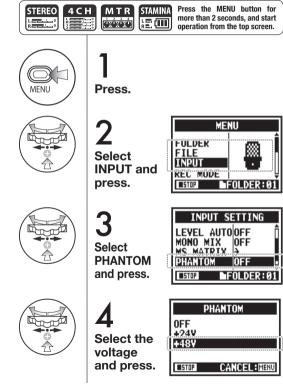
Connect microphones with XLR plugs to INPUT 1 and INPUT 2. If you need phantom power, such as when using a condenser microphone, make the following setting.



### NOTE:

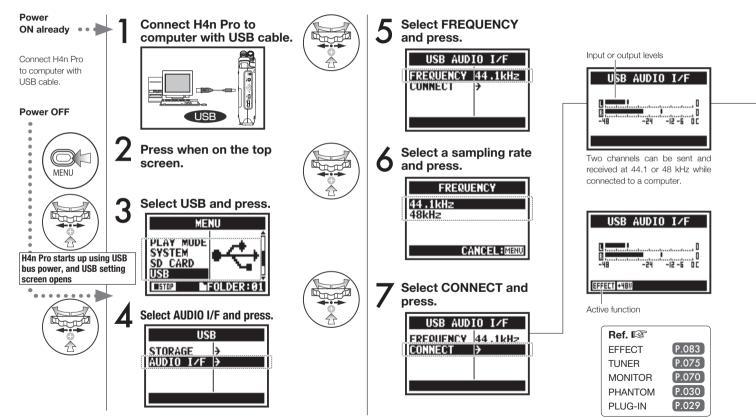
Some condenser microphones cannot operate with +24V phantom power, but compared to the +48V setting this reduces power consumption during battery operation.

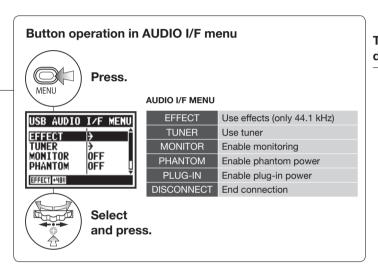
### Setting PHANTOM power



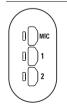
# 6-5 Using as a USB audio interface

The H4n Pro can be used as a two-in/two-out USB interface at 44.1 or 48 kHz.





### Selection of input source



When you select an input the corresponding button lights, confirming the selection. To turn off the input, press the corresponding button so the light turns off. To monitor input signals, you must turn MONITOR on.

Note: If no input is selected and no input buttons are lit, no signal is being sent to the computer.

# These buttons are usable during setting



Open MENU and make settings



Adjust input and output levels

### NOTE:

- You cannot change the sampling rate while the computer identifies the H4n Pro as an audio interface.
- When connecting as an interface, make sure the sampling rate (step 6) matches the recording software and playback file.
- You cannot changed this setting during recording and playback.

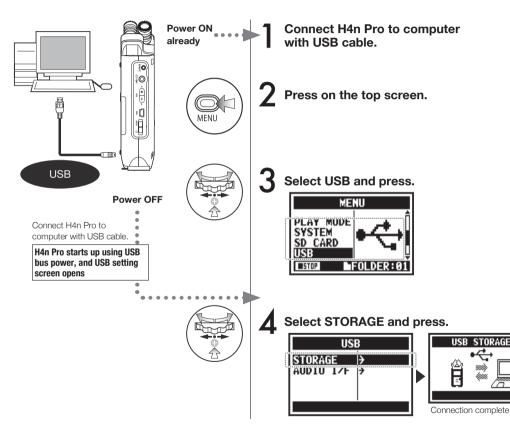
## HINT:

### Audio interface use

- You can record and playback signals directly to and from your DAW software using the H4n Pro.
- In this mode, you can use the H4n Pros built-in effects on input signals if the sampling rate is set to 44.1kHz.
- No specific driver is needed to use the H4n Pro as a USB audio interface.
- When using a DAW or other software, refer to its manual.

# 6-6 Setup: Using as a USB SD card reader

When you use the H4n Pro as an SD card reader, make the following settings.



### NOTE:

- Before physically unplugging the USB cable (and H4n Pro) from the computer, be sure to use the "Safely Remove Hardware" function on the computer first. Unplugging the USB cable (and H4n Pro) without doing this could damage files.
- Compatible operating systems: Windows Vista and newer Mac OS X (10.6 and newer)

## HINT:

### USB bus power

USB bus power is a way to supply power from a computer through the USB cable.

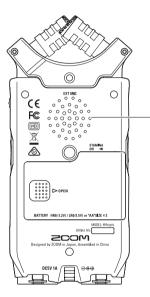
Connecting the H4n Pro by USB when its power is off causes it to automatically start up and show the USB menu.

### SD card reader use

- Use files recorded by the H4n Pro on your computer.
- Use audio files created on a computer on the H4n Pro.

# 6-7 Setup: Built-in speaker

The H4n Pro is equipped with a built-in mono speaker.



#### H4n Pro built-in speaker

This is a mono speaker for playback. Use it to easily play and listen to recorded data without connecting headphones to the LINE/PHONE jack.

NOTE:

#### Speaker output is disabled:

- When the LINE/PHONE jack is connected
- When MONITOR setting is ON
- When in recording standby in MTR mode

#### Speaker can be used:

- During file playback
- When used as an audio interface
- When nothing is connected to the LINE/PHONE jack

#### Mode overview 7-1

The H4n Pro has four operation modes: STEREO, STAMINA, 4CH (4-channel) and MTR (multitrack). Choose the mode according to your need.

This mode enables longer battery life.

STAMINA mode is similar to STEREO

The continuous usage time with alkaline

batteries is approximately 11 hours (but

When in STAMINA mode, the H4n

Pro can only record/playback in WAV

enable STAMINA

could be less depending on usage).

44.1kHz/16-bit and MP3 formats.

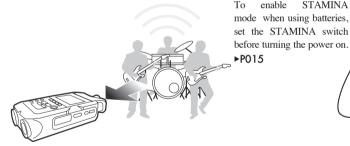
#### STEREO mode

#### STAMINA mode

mode, but has less functions.

You can easily create a stereo recording using the built-in microphones or an external microphone.

The STEREO mode is convenient for recording live band performances, acoustic instruments, voices, lectures, and subtle soundscapes. You can then use it to play stereo WAV and MP3 files.



- · One-pass stereo recording of live performances and rehearsals
- · Direct recording of a single instrument
- Field recording
- Voice memos
- Recording meetings

Field recording

- Live outdoor recording
- · At conferences and in other situations when changing batteries is difficult

#### 4CH mode

In 4CH mode, you can record two stereo signals simultaneously. You can capture live sounds via the builtin mics and direct instruments via external inputs at the same time.

#### MTR mode

You can record using effects in this mode. You can also overdub recordings and use sound files previously recorded using the other modes.

When creating a demo, you can record backing tracks at home and record instrumental tracks in the studio while listening to the backing tracks.

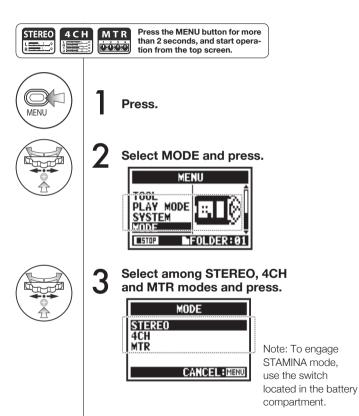
- · Simultaneous recording with both line input and mics
  - · Surround recording via front and rear microphone placement
  - · Simultaneous recording of both ambient and direct sound sources
  - · Recording both ambient and direct sounds to add a live feel to recorded performances



- · Recording parts one track at a time
- Overdubbing
- · Recording using effects
- · Mixing track levels after recording
- Indoor and outdoor rehearsals

# 7-2 Switching and confirming modes

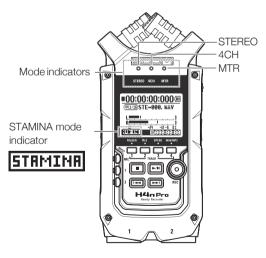
Be sure to select the appropriate mode for your application.



### HINT:

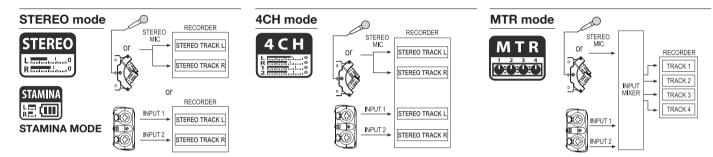
### Mode confirmation

- The current mode is indicated by a mode indicator LED on the front panel.
- The H4n Pro will power up in the same mode it was in when turned off.
- When starting up for the first time, the default mode is STEREO.



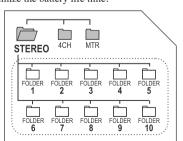
# 7-3 Mode details

Input and output levels as well as saving and file formats are different in each mode.



In STEREO mode, you can select 2 different inputs either INPUT MIC or INPUT 1 and 2, and record and play one stereo file at a time.

Files are saved in one of the ten sub-folders in the STEREO folder.



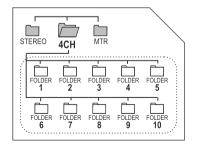
In STAMINA mode, the functions are limited to maximize the battery life time.

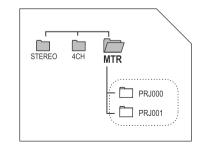
In 4CH MODE, the H4n Pro records two stereo WAV files: one stereo WAV file for the built-in mic or stereo mic input and one stereo WAV file for INPUT 1 and 2.

These FILES are saved in one of the ten 4CH sub-folders.

You can record tracks in MONO or STEREO from INPUT 1, INPUT 2 and a stereo microphone. You can combine them with tracks recorded in other modes and overdub existing tracks.

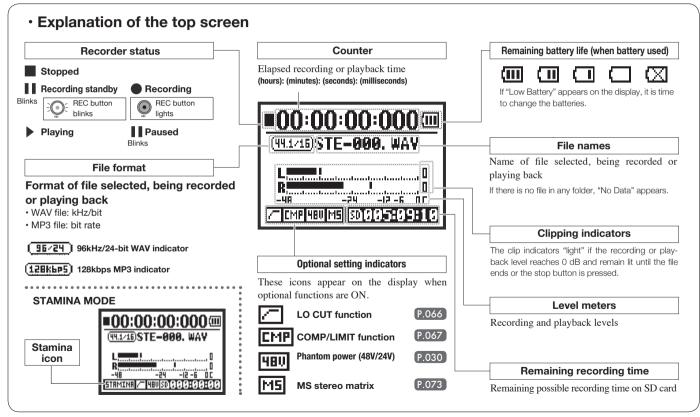
In MTR mode, project data and settings are saved as a project in the MTR folder.





# 8-1 Mode screens: STEREO and STAMINA modes

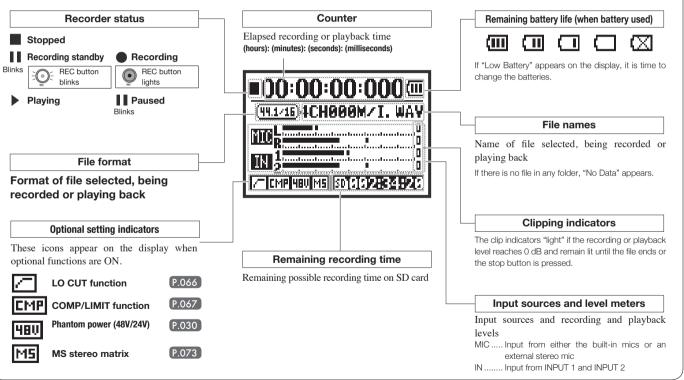




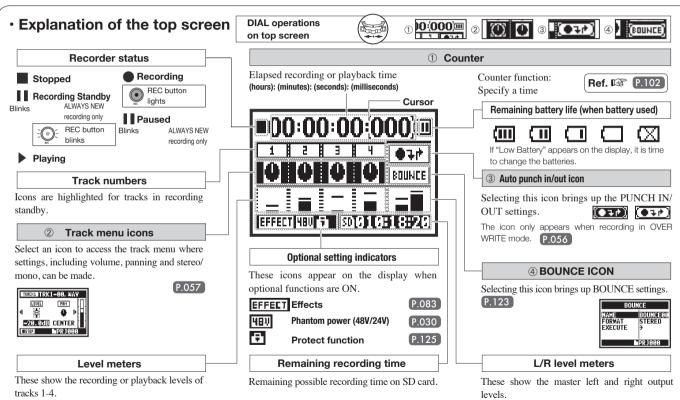
# 8-2 Mode screens: 4CH mode



### Explanation of the top screen

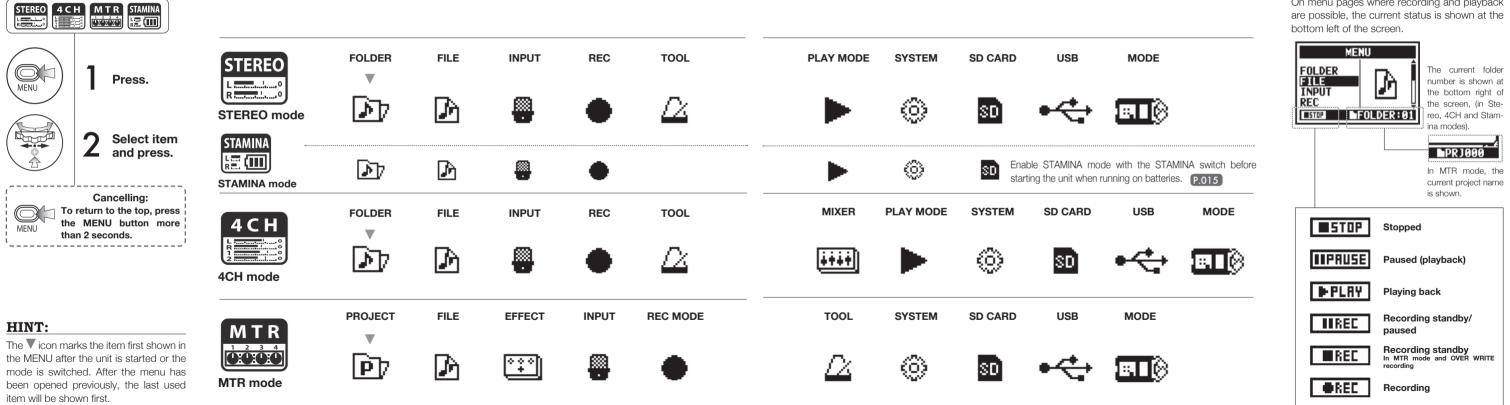






#### Mode screens: MAIN MENU 8-4

This is a list of the menu items that appear for each mode when the MENU button is pressed.



### Information at MENU screen bottom

On menu pages where recording and playback

# 9 Optional remote control operation

You can operate the H4n Pro from a distance with the optional remote control. Recording and placing marks. Remote control button operation Enter recording standby and reset counter STEREO Stopped to 0. Start recording and counter. 4CH • VOLUME +/-Recordina Plaving Add mark (WAV files only) Indicator (red) • STAMINA Ţ 0-100 Ţ VOLUME REC LEVEL RFC 12 M +: increase (raise) +` + button **REC LEVEL +/-**-: decrease (lower) This can be used only when a track is in recording standby. --1-100 MTR **OVER WRITE recording INPUT MIC. 1 and 2** 0:0:0:0 +: increase sensitivity Enter recording standby buttons and indicators Stopped INPUT (amplify) =(MIC (F/II) (green, yellow, red) -: decrease sensitivity Stop recording (playback continues) (144) 1 ( == ` (attenuate) Select the input source Plaving Recording starts and counter continues The indicator corresponding to the () ) MIC 2 ALWAYS NEW recording button shows the input status. 2COM nl ) Green: selected input source Stop recording and counter Stopped Yellow: input level is over -6 dB [] ] 2 Start recording and start counter Red: input is clipping Transport buttons [I] FF and REW buttons STEREO Press for less than one second Stopped STOP button **PLAY/PAUSE** button ►/■ FF: Show next file REW: Return to file beginning Playing 4CH Start playback and start counter STEREO (If there are marks, FF and REW jump to STEREO Stopped I BE the nearest mark) Laterative Playback paused Stop recording and reset counter to 0 Start recording and counter STAMINA Recording standby 4CH 4CH 雷 **H** Playing/paused Resume paused recording Stop playback and stop counter Search forward/backward STAMINA STAMINA The longer the button is pressed, the )문 (IIII (a) (a) Plaving/paused Resume paused plavback faster the search speed. Searching will stop at the beginning or end of the file. M T R MTR Recording Stop recording and stop counter Stopped Start playback MTR Press for less than one second Stopped While overwrite setting: Stops recording FF: Skip forward one second Recordina Plaving Stop playback and stop counter While always new setting: Pauses recording REW: Return to beginning Playing Start recording and the counter begins Recording paused Recording standby to move Press for more than one second Playback paused Stop recording/playback Search forward/backward Playback paused Playing Pause playback