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Alesis PALMTRACK

Alesis PalmTrack Handheld Portable Digital Recorder User Manual

Model: PALMTRACK

1. Introduction

The Alesis PalmTrack is a compact, portable digital recorder designed for capturing high-quality audio directly to an SD card. Its versatile design allows for stereo or four-capsule omnidirectional recording, making it suitable for a wide range of applications from musical performances and rehearsals to lectures, interviews, and field recordings. The device supports various audio formats, including MP3 and WAV, and features a bright OLED display for clear monitoring. This manual provides detailed instructions on the setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your PalmTrack recorder to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

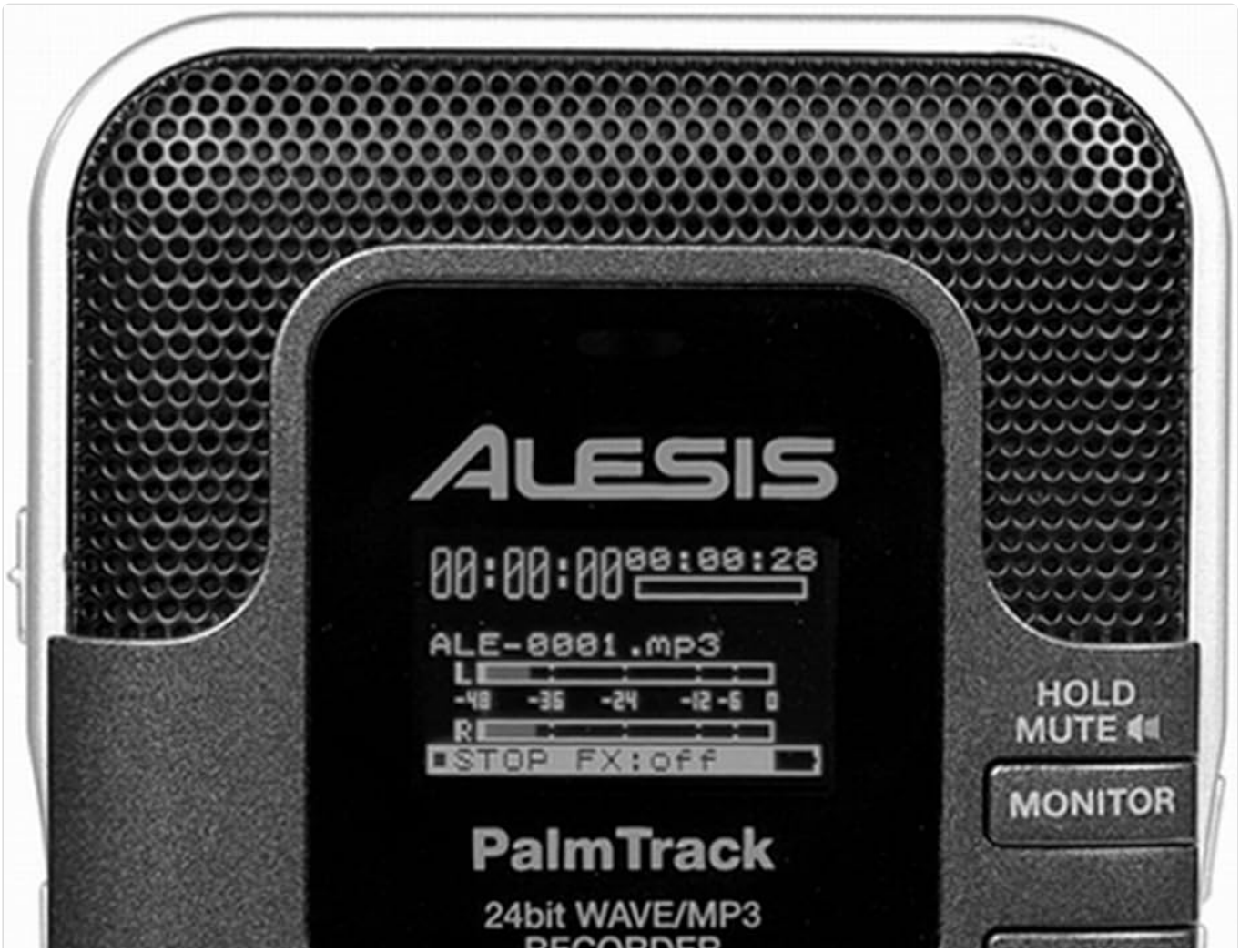




Figure 1: Front view of the Alesis PalmTrack, showing the display, control buttons, and integrated microphones.

2. Setup

2.1 Battery Installation

The PalmTrack operates on two AA batteries (included). To install:

1. Locate the battery compartment on the rear of the device.
2. Slide the battery compartment cover open.
3. Insert two AA batteries, ensuring correct polarity (+/-) as indicated inside the compartment.
4. Close the battery compartment cover securely.

Alternatively, the PalmTrack can be powered by an optional AC adapter (3V DC, center positive).

2.2 SD Card Insertion

The PalmTrack records directly to an SD card (up to 16GB, one included). To insert:

1. Locate the SD card slot on the side of the device.
2. Insert the SD card with the metal contacts facing down, until it clicks into place.
3. To remove, gently push the SD card inward until it springs out.



Figure 2: Inserting an SD card into the PalmTrack's dedicated slot.

2.3 Powering On/Off

To power on the device, slide the **POWER** switch located on the side to the **ON** position. To power off, slide it to the **OFF** position.

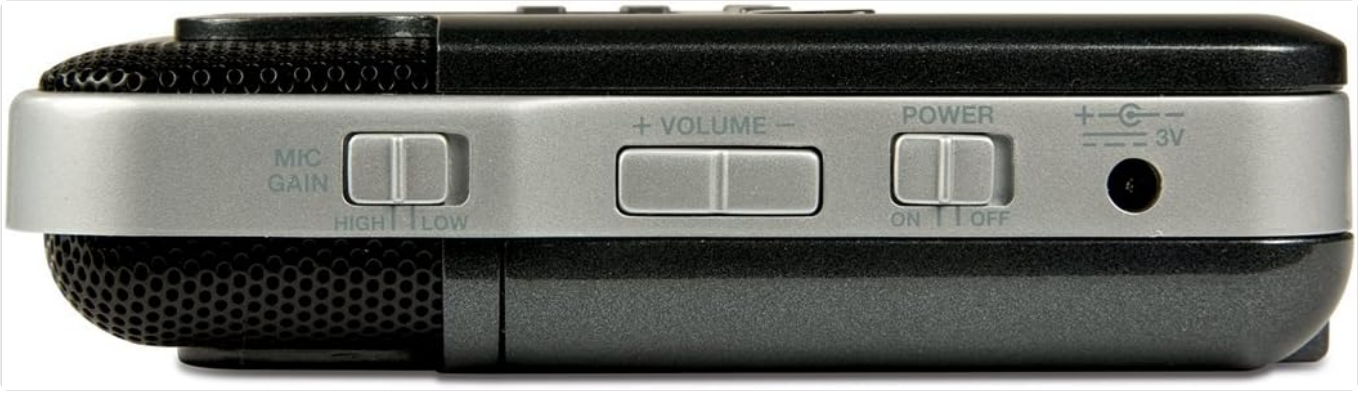


Figure 3: Side view illustrating the power switch and other controls.

3. Operating Instructions

3.1 Recording Audio

The PalmTrack offers flexible recording options:

- **Internal Microphones:** The device features four integrated microphones. You can select between a stereo pickup pattern (using two mics) or an omnidirectional pickup pattern (using all four mics) via the device's menu settings.
- **External Mic Input:** Connect an external microphone to the 1/8-inch (3.5mm) **EXT MIC** input.
- **Line-Level Input:** Connect a line-level audio source (e.g., mixer, instrument) to the 1/8-inch (3.5mm) **LINE IN** input.



Figure 4: Side view detailing the input and output ports.

To begin recording:

1. Ensure an SD card is inserted and the device is powered on.
2. Select your desired input source (internal mics, external mic, or line-in) and microphone pickup pattern through the menu.
3. Adjust the input level using the **REC VOL +/-** buttons on the side, or enable **Auto Mic Gain** for automatic level adjustment. The **MIC GAIN** switch (High/Low) can be used for initial sensitivity setting.
4. Press the large **REC** button to start recording. The red Record light will illuminate.
5. Press **REC** again to stop recording.

You can monitor your recording in real-time using headphones connected to the 1/8-inch (3.5mm) headphone output.

3.2 Playback

To play back recorded audio:

- Use the navigation buttons (**<<** and **>>**) to select a file.
- Press the **PLAY**/**PAUSE** button (center button with play/pause icon) to start playback.
- Adjust playback volume using the **VOLUME +/-** buttons on the side.
- Audio can be monitored through the built-in speaker or via headphones.

3.3 File Management and Transfer

Recorded files are stored on the SD card. You can transfer files to a computer in several ways:

- **USB Connection:** Connect the PalmTrack to your Mac or PC using a mini USB cable. The device will appear as a mass storage device, allowing you to drag and drop files.
- **Direct SD Card Access:** Remove the SD card from the PalmTrack and insert it into your computer's SD card slot or an external SD card reader.

3.4 Audio Effects and Features

The PalmTrack includes several onboard processing features accessible via the **EFFECT** button and menu:

- **Bass Compensation:** Reduces proximity effect in close-miked situations.
- **Chorus:** Adds a rich, swirling effect.

- **Pitch Shift:** Alters the pitch of the audio.
- **Delay:** Creates echoes.
- **Reverb:** Simulates acoustic spaces.
- **MP3 Voice Cancel:** Attempts to remove vocals from MP3 files.
- **Tuner:** A built-in chromatic tuner for musical instruments.

Navigate through these options using the menu buttons and apply as desired.

3.5 Mounting Options

The PalmTrack features a 1/4"-20 threaded mounting point on its base, allowing for versatile placement:

- Mount on a mic stand using an optional ProTrack Adapter.
- Place on a table with an optional ProTrack Tripod table stand.
- Attach to a camera tripod for hands-free recording.

4. Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the PalmTrack. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents, as they may damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, remove the batteries to prevent leakage. Store the device in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **SD Card Care:** Handle SD cards carefully. Avoid bending or scratching them. Format SD cards periodically (this will erase all data) to maintain optimal performance.
- **Firmware Updates:** Check the Alesis website periodically for any available firmware updates for your PalmTrack. Follow the instructions provided by Alesis for any update procedures.

5. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Device does not power on.	• Batteries are dead or incorrectly inserted. • Power switch is in OFF position.	• Replace batteries or ensure correct polarity. • Slide power switch to ON. • If using AC adapter, ensure it is properly connected and functional.
Cannot record audio.	• No SD card inserted or card is full/corrupt. • Input level is too low or muted. • Hold function is active.	• Insert a valid SD card or format/replace current card. • Increase input level using REC VOL +/-. • Deactivate the HOLD function (slide HOLD MUTE switch).
No sound during playback.	• Volume is too low or muted. • Headphones not connected properly. • File is corrupt or not supported.	• Increase playback volume using VOLUME +/-. • Ensure headphones are fully plugged in. • Try playing another file.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Poor audio quality.	• Input level too high (clipping) or too low (noise). • Incorrect microphone placement. • Environmental noise.	• Adjust input level using REC VOL +/- and MIC GAIN switch. Monitor levels on display. • Position the PalmTrack closer to the sound source or away from unwanted noise. • Record in a quieter environment.

6. Specifications

Model Number	PALMTRACK
Recording Formats	44.1/48kHz WAV (16/24-bit), MP3 (64-320kbps)
Microphones	Four onboard microphones (stereo and omni pickup patterns)
Inputs	1/8-inch (3.5mm) Mic Input, 1/8-inch (3.5mm) Line Input
Outputs	1/8-inch (3.5mm) Headphone Output, Built-in Monitoring Speaker
Storage	SD card (up to 16GB)
Connectivity	Mini USB (for mass storage connection to Mac/PC)
Power	2 x AA batteries (included) or optional AC adapter (3V DC)
Dimensions (H x W x D)	4 x 2.5 x 1 inches (approx.)
Weight	4.8 ounces (approx.)
Mounting Point	1/4"-20 threaded insert

7. Warranty and Support

For detailed warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Alesis website or contact Alesis customer service directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.
Alesis Official Website: www.alesis.com
For product registration, software downloads, and frequently asked questions, visit the support section of the Alesis website.

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