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## Zoom F8

# Zoom F8 MultiTrack Field Recorder Instruction Manual

Model: F8

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Zoom F8 MultiTrack Field Recorder is a professional audio recording device designed for filmmakers, sound designers, and production sound recordists. It offers 8-channel/10-track recording capabilities, high-quality preamps, and support for high-resolution audio. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your F8 recorder.

## 2. SETUP

### 2.1 Unpacking and Overview

Carefully unpack your Zoom F8 and ensure all components are present. Familiarize yourself with the device's layout.



Figure 1: Front view of the Zoom F8, displaying the user interface and input controls.

### 2.2 Power Options

The F8 offers flexible power options to suit various recording environments:

- **AA Batteries:** Insert 8 AA batteries into the battery pack located on the underside of the unit.



Figure 2: Battery compartment for 8 AA batteries.

- **External 4-pin Hirose Connector:** For extended operation, connect an external DC power source (12V) via the 4-pin Hirose connector.
- **AC Adapter:** Use the provided AC adapter for continuous power from a wall outlet.



Figure 3: Rear panel with DC IN and Hirose connector.

### 2.3 SD Card Installation

The F8 features dual SD card slots, supporting up to 512GB each. This allows for simultaneous recording to two cards, providing a backup or enabling different recording formats on each card.

1. Open the SD card slot covers.
2. Insert SD/SDHC/SDXC cards into the slots until they click into place.
3. Close the covers securely.



Figure 4: SD card slots and input connectors.

## 2.4 Connecting Microphones and Inputs

The F8 is equipped with 8 high-quality, super low-noise mic preamps, offering up to 75 dB gain. Each input supports both XLR and 1/4-inch TRS plugs.

1. Connect your microphones or line-level sources to the XLR/TRS combo jacks.
2. If using condenser microphones requiring phantom power, enable 24V or 48V phantom power for the specific input channels via the menu.



Figure 5: XLR cables connected to the F8 inputs.

## 3. OPERATING THE ZOOM F8

### 3.1 Basic Controls and Display

The F8 features a 2.4-inch color LCD display for monitoring levels, timecode, and menu navigation. The display can be switched to a monochrome outdoor mode for better visibility in direct sunlight.

Each input channel has dedicated gain knobs and PFL/SOLO buttons. The gain knobs adjust the input level, while the PFL (Pre-Fader Listen) or SOLO (Post-Fader Listen) buttons allow you to isolate and monitor individual tracks through headphones.

### 3.2 Recording Functions

- **Track Recording:** The F8 can record up to 8 individual tracks plus a stereo mixdown, or a polywav file containing all tracks.

- **Dual Channel Recording:** This feature allows you to record a safety track at a lower gain setting (e.g., -12dB) for each input, providing a backup in case the main track clips due to unexpected loud sounds.
- **Pre-Record:** When enabled, the F8 continuously buffers audio, capturing a few seconds of audio before you press the record button. This helps prevent missing the beginning of a take.
- **File Management:** Recordings are saved to SD cards. You can configure settings for each SD card independently, including recording format (WAV, MP3) and file size limits.

### 3.3 Audio Settings

- **High-Pass Filter (HPF):** Apply an HPF to individual input channels to reduce low-frequency noise such as rumble from air conditioners or wind.
- **Input Limiter:** The F8 includes digital limiters to prevent clipping. While effective, it is recommended to set gain levels appropriately to avoid relying solely on limiters.
- **Phase Invert:** Use this feature when recording with multiple microphones that are close together to prevent phase cancellation issues.
- **Input Delay:** Compensate for slight delays between wired and wireless microphones by applying a small delay to wired inputs.
- **Stereo Link/Trim Link:** Link two input channels for stereo recording or to control the gain of multiple microphones with a single knob.

### 3.4 Output and Routing

The F8 offers comprehensive routing options for its main outputs, sub-outputs, and headphone output. You can select whether to send pre-fader or post-fader audio, or a stereo mixdown to each output destination.

- **Output Level:** Adjust output levels to match the input sensitivity of connected devices (e.g., cameras, external recorders).
- **Output Limiter:** Apply limiting to outputs to prevent clipping at the destination device.

### 3.5 Timecode Synchronization

The F8 features rock-solid timecode with 0.2ppm accuracy, essential for synchronizing audio with video. It supports drop frame and non-drop formats and includes Jam Sync capabilities via standard BNC connectors.

### 3.6 Remote Control and Connectivity

- **iOS App:** Control the F8 wirelessly via a dedicated iOS app. This allows for remote adjustment of levels, monitoring timecode, and transport controls.
- **USB Functionality:** The F8 can operate in two USB modes:
  - **SD Card Mode:** Mounts the SD cards as external drives on your computer for file transfer.
  - **Audio Interface Mode:** Functions as a multi-channel audio interface for live recording to a computer. Note: Simultaneous recording to SD cards and acting as an audio interface is not supported.
- **FRC-8 Mixer Board:** An optional external mixer board (FRC-8) can be connected for enhanced tactile control over faders and other functions.

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Video 1: An overview of the Zoom F8's features and capabilities, including power options, input/output, timecode, and remote control via iOS device.

## 4. MAINTENANCE

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- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** Store the F8 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Remove batteries if storing for extended periods.
- **Firmware Updates:** Periodically check the Zoom website for firmware updates to ensure optimal performance and access to new features.

## 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Power:** Check battery installation, external power connections, and AC adapter. Ensure the correct battery type is selected in the system settings.
- **No Audio Input:** Verify microphone connections, phantom power settings (if applicable), and input gain levels. Check that the correct input channels are armed for recording.
- **Distorted Audio:** Reduce input gain levels. Check for enabled limiters and adjust if necessary. Ensure microphones are not overloaded.
- **Timecode Drift:** Ensure all devices are properly jammed and synchronized. Check timecode settings on the F8.
- **SD Card Errors:** Format SD cards regularly using the F8's menu. Ensure cards are compatible and not corrupted.

For more detailed troubleshooting, refer to the full user manual available on the Zoom website.

## 6. SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Brand</b>	Zoom
<b>Model Number</b>	F8
<b>Hardware Interface</b>	USB
<b>Microphone Form Factor</b>	Built-In
<b>Format</b>	Memory Stick
<b>Headphones Jack</b>	3.5 millimeters
<b>Number of Batteries</b>	8 AA batteries required
<b>Memory Storage Capacity</b>	32 GB (supports up to 512GB SDXC cards)
<b>Item Weight</b>	2.1 Pounds
<b>Screen Size</b>	2.4 inches
<b>Digital Recording Time</b>	2 hours (dependent on settings and storage)
<b>Microphone Operation Mode</b>	Stereo

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Zoom F8 MultiTrack Field Recorder comes with a **1-year replacement warranty**. For warranty claims, technical support, or additional product information, please visit the official Zoom website or contact their customer service department.

**Online Resources:**

- Official Zoom Website: [www.zoom.co.jp](http://www.zoom.co.jp)
- Product Support Page: Refer to the specific product page for the F8 on the Zoom website for downloads, FAQs, and contact information.