Zoom P4

Zoom PodTrak P4 Podcast Recorder User Manual

Model: P4 | Brand: Zoom

1. INTRODUCTION

The Zoom PodTrak P4 is a compact and portable podcast recorder designed for creators who need high-quality audio capture on the go. It features multiple microphone inputs, individual headphone outputs, and integrated sound pads, making it an ideal solution for recording interviews, field audio, and complete podcast episodes with ease.

Light & Compact

For Mobile Podcasts

Image: The Zoom PodTrak P4 is designed to be light and compact, fitting easily in hand for mobile podcasting scenarios.

2. SETUP

2.1. Powering the Device

The PodTrak P4 can be powered by two AA batteries (alkaline recommended) or via a USB-C power adapter (DC 5V). For extended recording sessions, using a USB-C power source is recommended.

2.2. Inserting an SD Card

Locate the SD card slot on the side of the device. The PodTrak P4 supports full-size SDXC cards up to 1 TB. Insert the card until it clicks into place.

2.3. Connecting Microphones

The PodTrak P4 features four XLR microphone inputs. Each input has an individual gain knob and a switch to enable phantom power (+48V) for condenser microphones. Ensure phantom power is only enabled for microphones that require it.

Image: The PodTrak P4 offers high-quality microphone inputs capable of handling demanding microphones, with clear gain controls.

Image: A detailed view of the four XLR microphone input ports on the Zoom PodTrak P4.

2.4. Connecting Headphones

Four 3.5mm headphone outputs are located at the bottom of the device. Each output has its own volume control knob, allowing individual monitoring for up to four participants.

2.5. Connecting to Phone or Computer

The PodTrak P4 supports connection to a smartphone via a TRRS cable for call-in interviews, and to a computer via USB-C for use as an audio interface. Ensure the correct input mode is selected for the connected device.

Image: The PodTrak P4 facilitates easy remote interviews by connecting to a smartphone for call-in guests.

USB Audio Interface

2-In 2-Out

Image: The PodTrak P4 functions as a 2-in 2-out USB Audio Interface when connected to a computer.

3. OPERATION

3.1. Recording

To begin recording, ensure an SD card is inserted and formatted. Press the red 'Record' button. The LCD screen will display recording time and individual channel levels. Press 'Record' again to stop.

3.2. Sound Pads

The four 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' buttons are programmable sound pads. You can load custom audio clips (e.g., intro music, sound effects) onto these pads. Adjust the sound pad volume using the dedicated knob.

3.3. Mix-Minus Function

The PodTrak P4 features a mix-minus function, which is crucial for phone interviews. This prevents the caller from hearing an echo of their own voice. When using the phone input, the mix-minus is automatically engaged.

4. Maintenance

4.1. Battery Life

Battery life varies depending on usage, especially with phantom power enabled. For critical recordings, always use a USB-C power source or have spare AA batteries readily available.

4.2. SD Card Management

Regularly back up your recordings from the SD card to a computer. Format the SD card periodically to maintain optimal performance and prevent data corruption.

4.3. Cleaning

Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the device. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents. Keep the ports free of dust and debris.
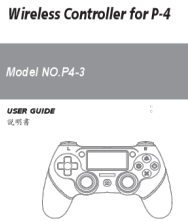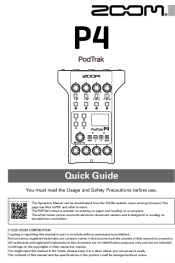
5. Troubleshooting

5.1. Backlight Turns Off

When running on AA batteries, the LCD backlight may turn off after a short period to conserve power. This is normal behavior. When powered via USB, the backlight remains on continuously.

5.2. Loopback/Echo Issues with USB

If you experience audio loopback or echo when using the PodTrak P4 as a USB audio interface, ensure that the

Related Documents - P4

	P4-3 Wireless Controller User Guide User guide for the P4-3 Wireless Controller, detailing product description, parameters, key composition, connection, LED indicators, turbo function, reset function, and safety precautions.
	ZOOM P4 Portable Recorder: Quick Start Guide A concise guide to the ZOOM P4 portable recorder, covering its features, connections, recording, playback, and essential settings for podcasting and audio production.
	ZOOM H4next Handy Recorder Operation Manual Comprehensive operation manual for the ZOOM H4next Handy Recorder, detailing its features, setup, recording modes, playback, editing, and utility functions for professional and amateur audio recording.

	[ZOOM H5 Handy Recorder Operation Manual](#) This operation manual details the features, setup, and usage of the ZOOM H5 Handy Recorder, a versatile portable audio device for professional recording applications.
	[ZOOM H8 Handy Recorder Operation Manual](#) Comprehensive operation manual for the ZOOM H8 Handy Recorder, detailing its features, apps (FIELD, MUSIC, PODCAST), connectivity, recording functions, effects, and specifications for professional and amateur audio recording.
	[ZOOM H4n Handy Recorder Operation Manual](#) Comprehensive operation manual for the ZOOM H4n Handy Recorder, detailing its features, setup, recording modes (STEREO, 4CH, MTR, STAMINA), playback functions, editing capabilities, effects, and technical specifications. Learn how to use this portable audio recorder for music production, field recording, and more.