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Tascam Portacapture X8

Tascam Portacapture X8 32-bit 8-Channel Multitrack Field Recorder

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

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1. Introduction

The Tascam Portacapture X8 is a high-resolution 32-bit 8-channel multitrack field recorder designed for professional audio capture in various environments. It features an intuitive Launcher system with a 3.5-inch color touch panel display, making it suitable for applications such as multi-track recording, podcasting, music production, voice recording, field recording, and ASMR. The device supports up to 192kHz/32-bit float point recording, ensuring high-fidelity audio quality.

2. Key Features

- **Intuitive Launcher System:** Navigate and control the device effortlessly using the 3.5-inch color touch panel display. The system offers dedicated applications for various recording scenarios.
- **High-Resolution 32-bit Float Recording:** Supports recording up to 192kHz/32-bit float, providing an extended dynamic range and preventing clipping, even with unexpected volume spikes.
- **Multiple Input Channels:** Equipped with 4 XLR/TRS locking combo jack MIC/LINE inputs, each with individual phantom power supply (24V/48V), utilizing Tascam's HDDA (High Definition Discrete Architecture) mic preamps for clean audio.
- **Detachable Condenser Microphones:** Features two 14.6mm large-diaphragm condenser mics that can be configured for both A-B (wide stereo) and X-Y (focused stereo) positions.
- **Versatile Recording Applications:** Includes pre-set recording modes optimized for multi-track recording, podcasting, music, voice (interviews, vlogs), field recording, and ASMR.
- **Remote Control Capability:** Control the Portacapture X8 wirelessly from a smartphone or tablet using the optional AK-BT1 Bluetooth adapter.

3. Setup

1. **Power Supply:** Insert 4 AA batteries (Lithium Metal batteries included) or connect the device via USB

bus power. An optional PS-P520U AC adapter can also be used.

2. **SD Card Insertion:** Open the SD card slot cover and insert a microSDXC card (up to 512GB, not included) for recording. Ensure the card is properly formatted before use.
3. **Microphone Attachment:** The device comes with detachable 14.6mm large-diaphragm condenser mics. Attach them securely to the top of the unit. You can adjust their position for A-B or X-Y stereo configurations.
4. **External Microphone/Line Input:** For external microphones or line-level sources, connect XLR or TRS cables to the 4 combo jacks on the sides of the unit. Activate phantom power (24V/48V) if required by your microphones.
5. **Bluetooth Adapter (Optional):** If using remote control, insert the optional AK-BT1 Bluetooth adapter into its dedicated slot.

4. Operation

4.1. Launcher System and Recording Modes

The Portacapture X8 features an intuitive Launcher system accessible via its 3.5-inch color touch panel. This system provides quick access to various recording applications:

- **Manual:** For multi-track recording of up to six audio sources and a stereo mix (2-mix).
- **Voice:** Ideal for capturing interviews, dictation, and meetings.
- **Podcast:** Use this for podcast creation with up to four people.
- **Music:** Choose this app for capturing instrumental and vocal performances.
- **Field:** Ideal for recording nature sounds outdoors.
- **Pocketstudio:** Designed for musicians, it puts a Portastudio in your pocket. Record and mix down tracks—anywhere, anytime, with a set of features that made TASCAM Portastudios so legendary.
- **ASMR:** The screen visual effect changes in response to the input sound.

4.2. 32-bit Float Recording

The Portacapture X8 supports 32-bit float recording, which captures a wider dynamic range than standard 16/24-bit recording. This technology allows for significant post-production gain adjustments without introducing clipping or distortion, even if initial recording levels were too low or too high. This ensures that your audio remains usable and high-quality.

4.3. Remote Control

With the optional AK-BT1 Bluetooth adapter, you can remotely control the Portacapture X8 using a dedicated smartphone or tablet application. This is particularly useful for situations where the recorder needs to be placed in an optimal position for audio capture, but out of direct reach for manual operation.

4.4. Wireless Timecode Sync

The Portacapture X8 can wirelessly sync timecode with supported Atomos products (with optional AK-BT1). This feature is crucial for videographers using multi-camera setups, ensuring precise audio-video alignment and streamlining post-production workflows.

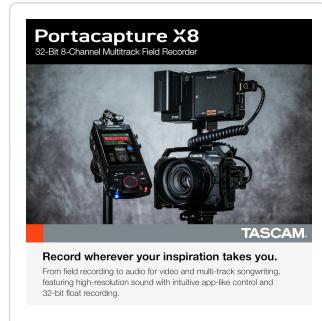
5. Connections

- **XLR/TRS Combo Inputs:** Four inputs for connecting professional microphones or line-level devices. Each input supports phantom power.

- **MIC/EXT IN:** A 3.5mm stereo mini-jack input for connecting external microphones or line-level sources.
- **LINE OUT:** A 3.5mm stereo mini-jack output for connecting to cameras, mixers, or other audio devices.
- **Headphones Jack:** A 3.5mm stereo mini-jack for monitoring audio with headphones.
- **USB-C Port:** For connecting to a computer for data transfer, USB bus power, or using the Portacapture X8 as a 6-in/2-out USB audio interface.

6. Media Integration

6.1. Product Images



Record wherever your inspiration takes you.
From field recording to audio for video and multi-track songwriting,
featuring high-resolution sound with intuitive app-like control and
32-bit float recording.

The Tascam Portacapture X8 mounted on a camera rig, showcasing its compact design and integration capabilities for video production.



Front view of the Portacapture X8 highlighting its 4 XLR inputs, detachable microphones, intuitive app-like operation, and audio interface function.



A close-up of the Portacapture X8's Launcher screen, displaying various recording app icons like Manual, ASMR, Voice, Music, Field, and Podcast.



App-like operation.

Control high-resolution audio apps with intuitive app-like operation and a large touchscreen. Use the Launcher to select from podcast, music, interviews, field recording and real 8-track recording. Supports 512GB microSDXC cards for ample recording capacity. *SD card not included.

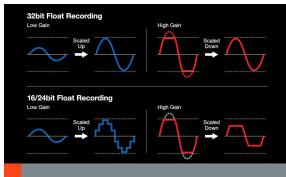
The Portacapture X8 demonstrating its app-like operation with various recording modes visible on the touchscreen, including Pocket Studio, ASMR, Music, Field, and Podcast.



Audio for video.

96 kHz/32-bit float recording allows you to focus on your video production without worrying about your audio. The workflow, presets and user settings save you countless steps. Sync timecode via Bluetooth (with optional AK-BT1). Powered by 4 AA batteries, USB bus power, or optional PS-P320U AC adapter.

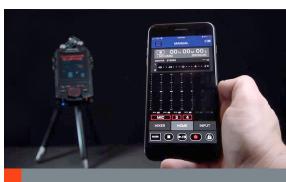
The Portacapture X8 being used in a video production setting, emphasizing its 96 kHz/32-bit float recording capabilities for high-quality audio for video.



Dual ADC and 32-bit float.

By using dual analog-to-digital converter technology, recordings are captured with greater dynamic range and clarity — you can increase the level of dialog without creating a distracting change in tone or dynamics.

A diagram illustrating the concept of Dual ADC and 32-bit float recording, showing how low and high gain signals are scaled without clipping, unlike 16/24-bit recording.



Control the X8 from your phone.

In those cases where you want to put your audio recorder in one place and operate it from another, it's easy to remote control your X8 wirelessly from your smartphone or tablet (with optional AK-BT1).

A user controlling the Portacapture X8 remotely via a smartphone application, demonstrating the convenience of wireless operation with the optional AK-BT1.



Wireless timecode sync.

Wirelessly sync timecode with supported Atomos products to align audio recordings with video (with optional AK-BT1). Crucial when videographers are dealing with multi-camera video shoots and saves time in post-production.

A diagram showing the wireless timecode sync setup, with the Portacapture X8, a video camera, and an Atomos UltraSync Blue Master TC, all connected via the AK-BT1.



The Portacapture X8 in an active recording session, connected to external microphones via its XLR/TRS inputs,

demonstrating its multi-channel recording capability.

6.2. Official Product Videos

Introducing the TASCAM Portacapture X8 32-bit Float Recorder: This video provides an overview of the Tascam Portacapture X8, highlighting its key features, 32-bit float recording, and versatile applications for various content creators. It showcases the device's design, interface, and professional audio capabilities.

Wireless 32 Bit Audio!: A brief video demonstrating the wireless capabilities and 32-bit audio recording of the Tascam Portacapture X8. It offers a quick look at its use in a mobile recording scenario.

7. Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents. For the touchscreen, use a microfiber cloth specifically designed for electronics.
- **Battery Care:** When not in use for extended periods, remove the Lithium Metal batteries to prevent leakage and damage. Ensure batteries are inserted correctly according to polarity markings.
- **Storage:** Store the Portacapture X8 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity.
- **Microphone Care:** Handle the detachable microphones with care. Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting the microphones to impact.

8. Troubleshooting

- **Device Not Powering On:** Check battery installation and charge level. If using USB power, ensure the cable and power source are functioning correctly.
- **No Audio Recording:** Verify that an SD card is inserted and properly formatted. Check input levels and ensure microphones are connected securely and phantom power is enabled if needed.
- **Distorted Audio:** While 32-bit float recording minimizes clipping, ensure input gain levels are set appropriately. Check for faulty cables or microphone issues.
- **Touchscreen Unresponsive:** Restart the device. If the issue persists, ensure the screen is clean and free from moisture.
- **Bluetooth Connection Issues:** Ensure the optional AK-BT1 adapter is correctly inserted. Check Bluetooth settings on both the Portacapture X8 and your smart device, and attempt re-pairing.

9. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Product Dimensions	9 x 7 x 3 inches
Item Weight	1.61 pounds

Item Model Number	Portacapture X8
Batteries	1 Lithium Metal battery required (included)
Brand	Tascam
Hardware Interface	USB
Microphone Form Factor	Built-In
Format	WAV
Headphones Jack	XLR
Memory Storage Capacity	512 GB
Screen Size	3.5 Inches
Manufacturer	Tascam
Compatible Devices	Smartphone

10. Warranty and Support

The Tascam Portacapture X8 comes with a standard manufacturer's warranty. For detailed warranty information, product registration, and technical support, please refer to the official Tascam website or contact their customer service. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

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