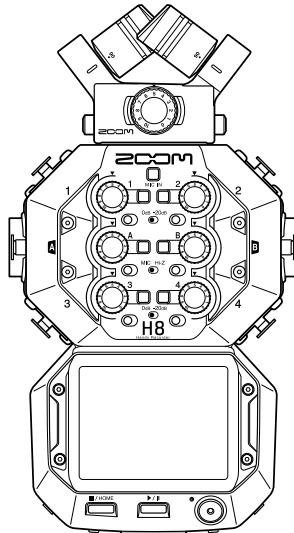# ZOOM®

H8

Handy Recorder

Quick Guide

You must read the Usage and Safety Precautions before use.

The Operation Manual can be downloaded from the ZOOM website (www.zoom.jp/docs/h8).
This page has files in PDF and ePub formats.
The PDF file format is suitable for printing on paper and reading on a computer.
The ePub format can be read with electronic document readers and is designed for reading on smartphones and tablets.

Names of parts

■Top

Mic input volume L/R

Mic track button

PAD switch 1

Input volume 1/3/A

Hi-Z switch A

PAD switches 3/4

Touchscreen

XY mic

Track buttons/ indicators 1/2/3/4/A/B

PAD switch 2

Input volume 2/4/B

Hi-Z switch B

STOP/HOME button
PLAY/PAUSE button
REC button

■ Bottom

Mic connector cap attachment points

Tripod mounting threads

Battery compartment cover

■ Left side

Input 1

Input A

Input 3

SD card slot

Lock release buttons

■ Right side

MIC/LINE IN jack (supports plug-in power)

Input 2

Input B

Input 4

■ Front

Power/Hold switch

REMOTE jack

USB (Micro-B) port

LINE OUT jack

PHONE OUT jack

Strap attachment holes
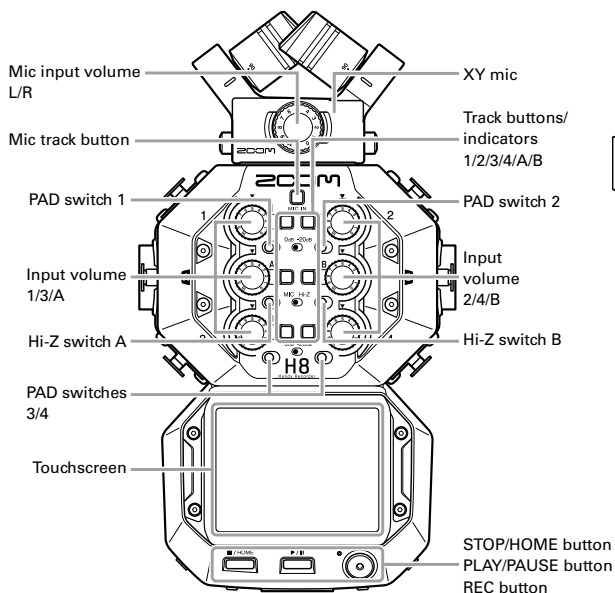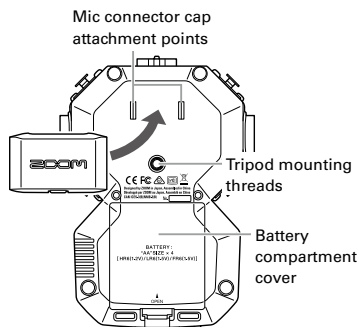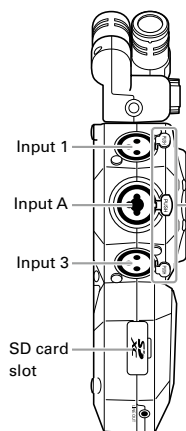
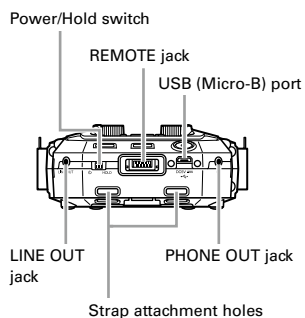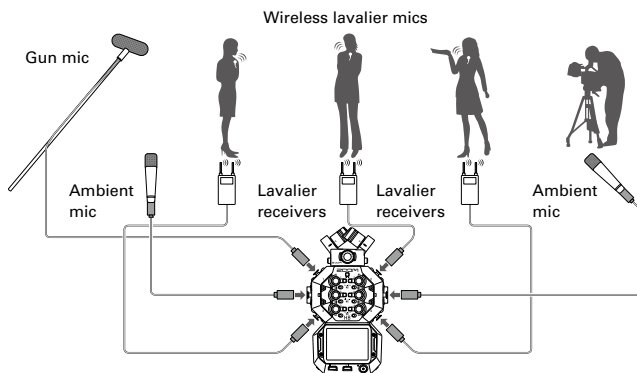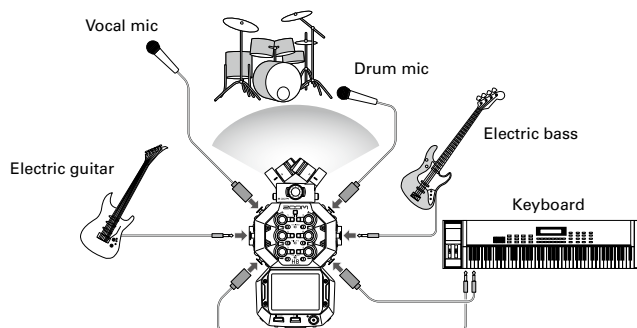By connecting a ZOOM BTA-1 or other dedicated wireless adapter to the REMOTE jack and using the dedicated controller app, the **H8** can be operated from an iOS/iPadOS device.

Connection examples

■ Field recording

Wireless lavalier mics
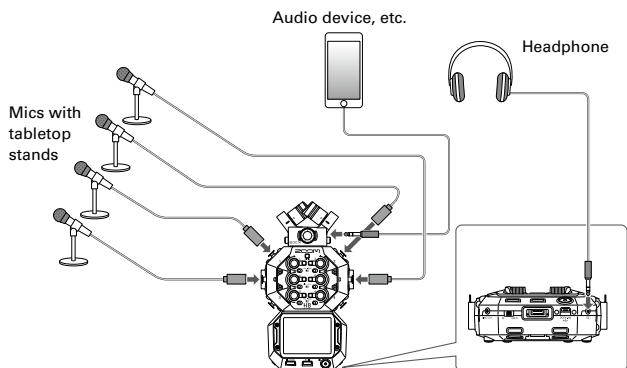
Gun mic

Ambient mic · Lavalier receivers · Lavalier receivers · Ambient mic

■ Music creation

Vocal mic

Drum mic

Electric bass

Electric guitar

Keyboard

■ Podcasting

Audio device, etc.
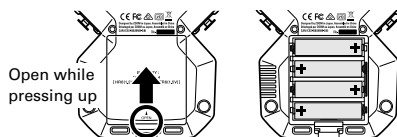
Headphone

Mics with tabletop stands

Preparations

Installing batteries and an SD card

■ Installing batteries

1. After turning the power off, open the battery compartment cover and install batteries.

Open while pressing up

■ Installing an SD card

1. After turning the power off, open the SD card slot cover and insert an SD card.

   To remove an SD card, push it further into the slot and then pull it out.

Left side of bottom section
SD card slot
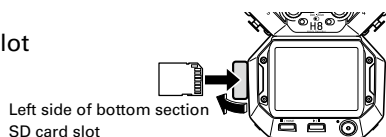
> **NOTE**
> - Use alkaline batteries, rechargeable NiMH batteries or lithium batteries.
> - To enable accurate display of remaining battery charge, set the battery type using Home Screen > SYSTEM > Battery.
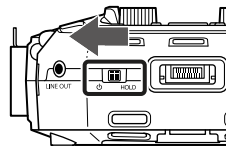> - SD cards must be formatted by **H8** before use. To format, use Home Screen > SD CARD > Format.

> **HINT**
> AC power can be used by connecting a dedicated AC adapter (ZOOM AD-17) to the USB port.

Turning the power on/off

1. Slide ⏻ HOLD toward ⏻ to turn the power on.

   When the power is off, keep sliding ⏻ HOLD toward ⏻ until the ZOOM logo appears.

> **NOTE**
> - If "No Card !" appears on the display, confirm that an SD card is inserted properly.
> - If "Card Protected !" appears on the display, the SD card write-protection is enabled. Slide the lock switch on the SD card to disable write-protection.
> - If "Invalid Card !" appears on the display, the card is not formatted correctly. Format the card or use a different card.

Setting the language (first time starting up)

The first time you turn the power on after purchase, set the touchscreen display language when the language setting screen opens.

1. Tap the language you want to set.
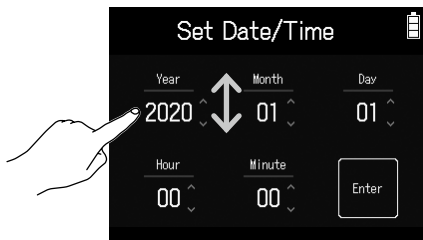
Setting the date and time (first time starting up)

When the date and time setting screen opens after the language settings screen, set the date and time.

1. Swipe the date and time items to set them.

2. Tap Enter.

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Screen appearance

On the **H8**, tap, swipe and slide on the screen to make settings and select functions to adjust.

■ Home Screen

The Home Screen appears when the **H8** starts up.
From the Home Screen, three recording applications, various setting screens and other functions can be launched.
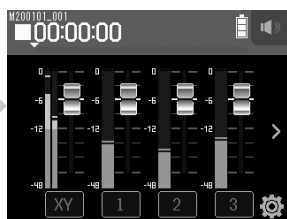
Swipe to change

- •Tap an icon to launch that app.
- • Press ⬛ / HOME to return to the Home Screen.

FIELD app
Use this when field recording with the XY mic.
This app is also good for capturing sound for movies and videos as well as recording live concerts, for example, using external mics.

MUSIC app
Use this when making music.
In addition to punch-in/out functions for vocals and instruments, this app can also mix down multiple tracks with volume and panning settings.

PODCAST app
This app is good for preparing audio materials for podcasts as well as live streaming. Sound pads can be used to play jingles and special effects, for example, with a single touch.
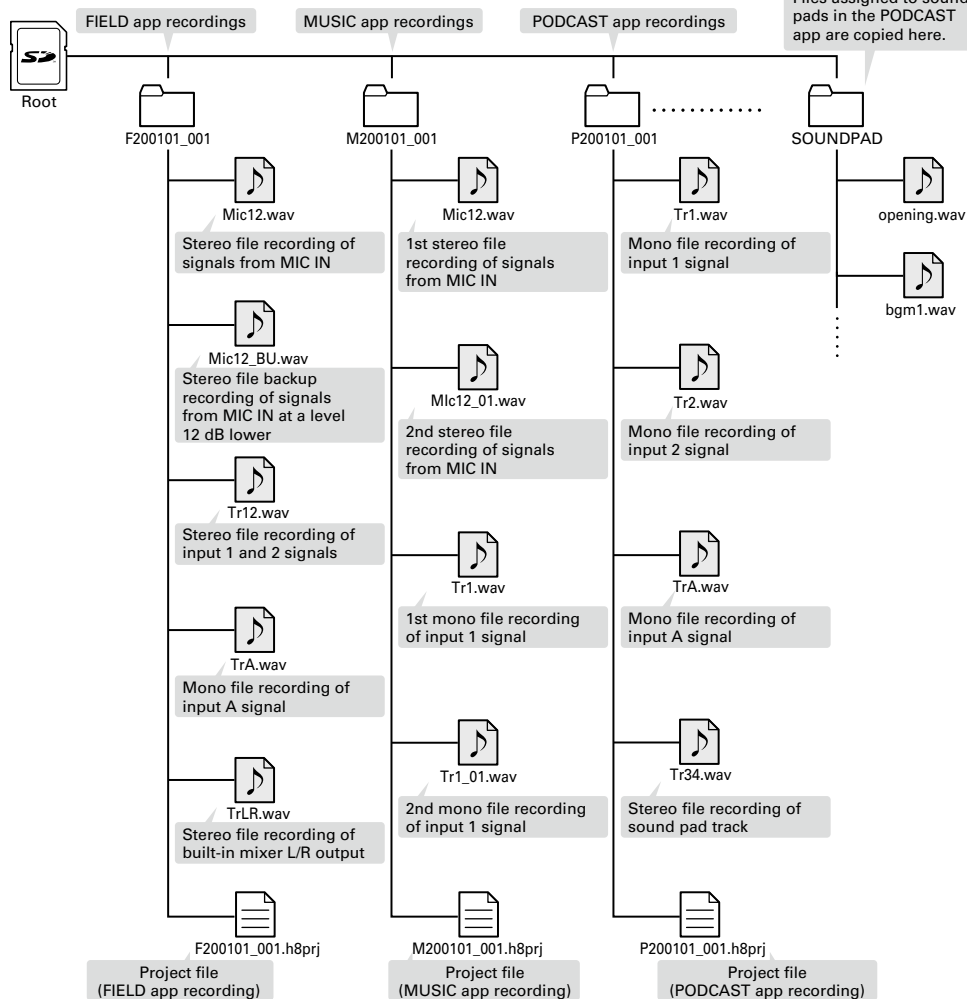
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H8 folder and file structure

When recording with the H8, folders and files are created on SD cards in the following manner. All three apps (FIELD, MUSIC and PODCASTS) can be used with projects that have been made. (Recording and playback of 96 kHz/16-bit and 96 kHz/24-bit WAV files is only supported by the FIELD app.)
The H8 manages recording and playback data in units called projects.

Project folders are created with names like "[date]_001" and "[date]_002". (The date format is YYYYMMDD.)

Files assigned to sound pads in the PODCAST app are copied here.

Root

FIELD app recordings — F200101_001

- Mic12.wav — Stereo file recording of signals from MIC IN
- Mic12_BU.wav — Stereo file backup recording of signals from MIC IN at a level 12 dB lower
- Tr12.wav — Stereo file recording of input 1 and 2 signals
- TrA.wav — Mono file recording of input A signal
- TrLR.wav — Stereo file recording of built-in mixer L/R output
- F200101_001.h8prj — Project file (FIELD app recording)

MUSIC app recordings — M200101_001

- Mic12.wav — 1st stereo file recording of signals from MIC IN
- MIc12_01.wav — 2nd stereo file recording of signals from MIC IN
- Tr1.wav — 1st mono file recording of input 1 signal
- Tr1_01.wav — 2nd mono file recording of input 1 signal
- M200101_001.h8prj — Project file (MUSIC app recording)

PODCAST app recordings — P200101_001

- Tr1.wav — Mono file recording of input 1 signal
- Tr2.wav — Mono file recording of input 2 signal
- TrA.wav — Mono file recording of input A signal
- Tr34.wav — Stereo file recording of sound pad track
- P200101_001.h8prj — Project file (PODCAST app recording)

SOUNDPAD

- opening.wav
- bgm1.wav

Input and output settings

Setting input sources

Set according to the devices connected to Inputs 1–4/A/B.

■ Connecting a mixer or other device with a +4 dBu standard output level (Inputs 1–4)

1. Set the corresponding PAD switches (◯) to –20dB.

■ Connecting guitars and other devices with high output impedance (Inputs A/B)

**1.** Set the corresponding Hi-Z switches (◯) to Hi-Z.

PAD switches (1/2)

Hi-Z switches
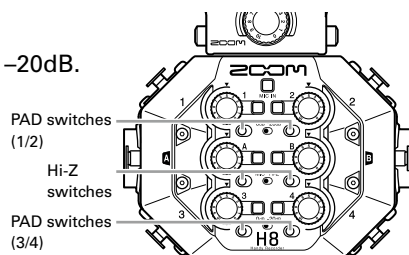
PAD switches (3/4)

> **HINT**
>
> When connecting an ordinary mic, set the PAD switch to 0dB.

■ Connecting condenser mics and other devices that require phantom power (Inputs 1–4/A/B)

1. Tap these in the following order:
   - FIELD app screen > 🎤 > select track
   - MUSIC app screen > select track > 🎤
   - PODCAST app screen > 🎤 > select track

2. Tap Phantom.

3. Tap On/Off to set to On.
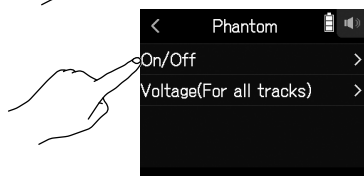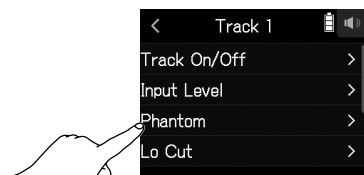
> **NOTE**
>
> - When connecting devices that are not compatible with phantom power, do not turn phantom power on. Doing so could damage the device.
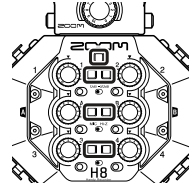> - When connecting a dynamic mic, phantom power does not need to be supplied.

> **HINT**
>
> In addition to +48 V, phantom power can also be set to +24 V.

Enabling tracks (and stereo linking)

Select which tracks to record from MIC IN, 1–4 and A/B.
The MIC IN, 1–4 and A/B tracks correspond to the MIC IN, 1–4 and
A/B inputs.

1. Launch the recording app, and press the track buttons (▢) for
   the tracks to record so that the corresponding LED indicators
   light red.

> **HINT**
>
> While pressing a track button, pressing the adjacent button (1 and 2, 3 and 4, or A and B)
> will stereo link those tracks, making a stereo track and creating stereo files on the SD
> card. Do the same thing to end a stereo link.

Adjusting input levels (trim)

Adjust the input levels to record with high audio quality.

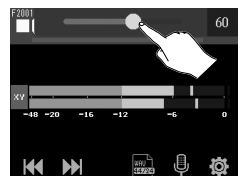1. Turn ◎ for the selected tracks to adjust their input levels.

   Adjust so that their peak levels stay
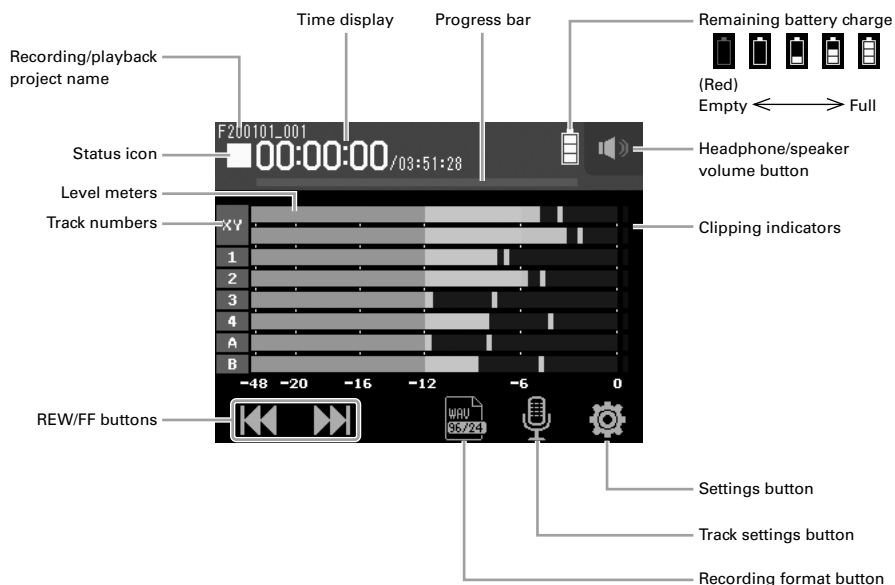   around –12 dB on the level meter.
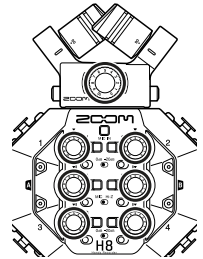
Adjusting headphone and speaker levels

Use headphones, for example, to monitor input/playback sounds and adjust levels
(volume).

1. Tap 🎧 / 🔊 at the top right of the screen.

   A speaker icon will appear when headphones are not connected.

2. Slide ▬▬●▬ to adjust the volume.

3. When done adjusting, tap the volume value at the top
   right of the screen.

Using the FIELD app

Time display — Progress bar — Remaining battery charge

Recording/playback project name

(Red)
Empty ←——————→ Full

F200101_001

Status icon — 00:00:00 /03:51:28

Headphone/speaker volume button

Level meters

Track numbers — XY — Clipping indicators

1
2
3
4
A
B

-48 -20 -16 -12 -6 0

REW/FF buttons — |◄◄ ►►| WAV 36/24 🎤 ⚙

Settings button

Track settings button

Recording format button

Recording

1. Press ⊙ on the FIELD app screen.

■ Operations during recording

Function	Control operation
Pause/resume recording (add mark)	Press ►/ll.
Stop	Press ■/HOME or ⊙.

> **NOTE**
> - When recording is paused, a mark is added at that point.
> - A maximum of 99 marks can be added in each project.
> - If the recording file size exceeds 2 GB when recording with the FIELD or PODCAST apps, a new project folder will be created automatically and recording will continue. Sound will not be interrupted between files.
> - Track indicators (LEDs) will blink and clip indicators will appear lit when loud sounds are input. Adjust the input level so that the clip indicators do not light.

Playing recordings

1. Press ⏏ on the FIELD app screen.

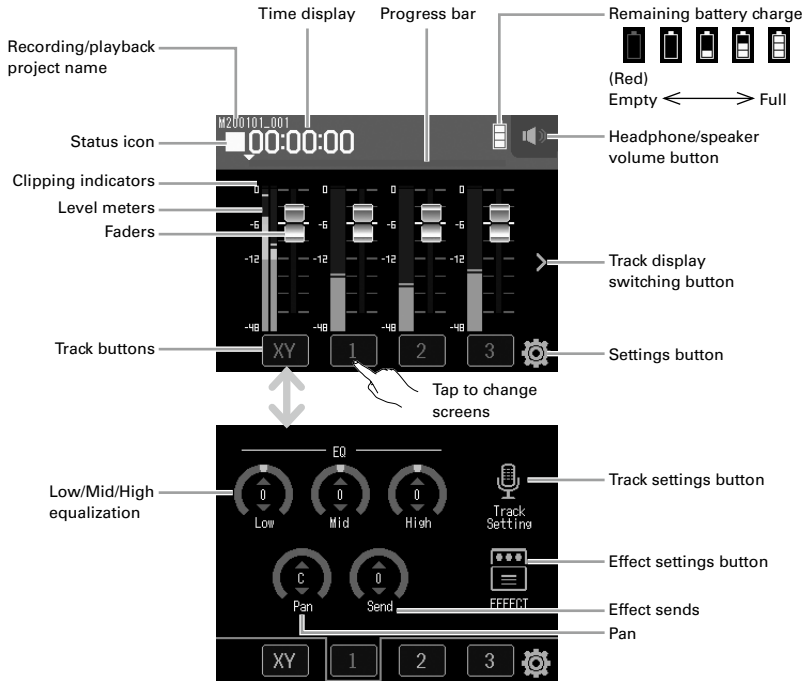## ■ Operations during playback

Function	Touchscreen/control operation
Select playback project/move to mark	Tap ◀◀ ▶▶.
Search forward/backward	Press and hold ◀◀ ▶▶. Slide ▬▼ left/right.
Pause/resume playback	Press ⏏.
Stop	Press ■/HOME.

Other functions

Function name	Details
Automatic recording	Recording can be started and stopped automatically in response to the input level.
Pre-recording	This function enables recording for up to 6 seconds before ⦿ is pressed.
Sound markers	Half-second tone signals (sound markers) can be output from the PHONE OUT and LINE OUT jacks when recording is started and stopped. Since sound markers are also written to recording files, when recording audio for video with the **H8**, sending its output signal to the camera input can make synchronizing audio and video easier.
Backup Rec	When using a mic capsule with up to two channels on the MIC IN, a backup recording file can be recorded at a level 12 dB lower than the set input level. This can be used to replace the regular recording file if its recording level was too high, causing distortion, for example.
L/R track recording	A stereo file recording of the L/R outputs from the built-in mixer can be simultaneously created.

Using the MUSIC app

Recording/playback project name

Status icon

Clipping indicators

Level meters

Faders

Track buttons

Time display

Progress bar

Remaining battery charge

(Red)
Empty ⟵⟶ Full

Headphone/speaker volume button

Track display switching button

Settings button

Tap to change screens

Low/Mid/High equalization

Track settings button

Effect settings button

Effect sends

Pan

M200101_001
00:00:00

EQ
Low Mid High
Track Setting

Pan Send EFFECT

XY 1 2 3

Creating new projects

In the MUSIC app, a project must be created before starting recording.

1. On the MUSIC app screen, tap and select 🔧 > New Project > Rec Format in order.

2. Tap a Rec Format setting value to select it, and tap ❮.

3. Tap Create, and input the project name.

4. Tap Enter.

> **NOTE**
>
> When a new project is created, all recording tracks will be off, so change settings as necessary.

> **HINT**
>
> - The recording formats that can be set are 44.1 kHz/16-bit WAV, 44.1 kHz/24-bit WAV, 48 kHz/16-bit WAV, and 48 kHz/24-Bit WAV.
> - Effects can only be used when the recording format is 44.1 kHz/16-bit WAV or 44.1 kHz/24-bit WAV.
> - To open an existing project, select it from ⚙ > Projects.

Adjusting the input signal monitoring mix

1. On the MUSIC app screen, slide faders (▯) up and down.

Recording

1. Press ⊙
   on the MUSIC app screen.

   This starts recording standby.

2. Press ▶/॥.

   This starts recording.

■ Operations during recording

Function	Control operation
Pause/resume recording	Press ▶/॥.
Stop	Press ■/HOME or ⊙.

Playing recordings

1. Press ▶/॥
   on the MUSIC app screen.

■ Operations during playback

Function	Touchscreen/ control operation
Search forward/ backward	Slide ▭ left/right.
Pause/resume playback	Press ▶/॥.
Stop	Press ■/HOME.

Other functions

Function name	Details
Effects	These alter the sounds of instruments, voices and other sources. The included effects, which are equivalent to those in ZOOM multi-effects processors, can be used with a variety of instruments. Using the free Guitar Lab effect management application on a computer (Mac/Windows), you can add effects that are distributed online as well as edit and back up patch memories, for example.
Metronome	This is useful when recording instrument performances.
File assignment	Track files recorded in other projects can be freely assigned to tracks.
Punch in/out/new file recording	These functions can be used to make a new recording of an already recorded track partially or from the beginning.
Mixdown	Levels, panning, EQ and effects can be adjusted for multiple track sound sources, and a mixed stereo track file can be created.

Using the PODCAST app

Time display   Progress bar   Remaining battery charge

Recording/playback
project name

(Red)
Empty ⟵ ⟶ Full

Status icon

Headphone/speaker
volume button

Clipping indicators

Sound pads

Pad level

Level meters

Track settings button

Settings button
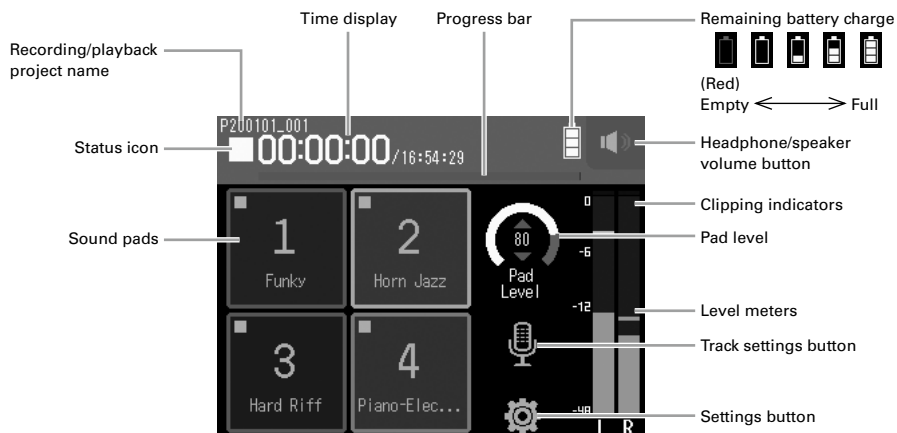
Recording

1. Press ⊙ on the PODCAST app screen.

■ Operations during recording

Function	Control operation
Pause/resume recording (add mark)	Press ⊏⊐.
Stop	Press ⊏⊐ or ⊙.

NOTE

The podcast app creates a stereo file that mixes in the sound pad signals. Inputs 3 and 4 cannot be used.

Playing recordings

1. Press ⏯ on the PODCAST app screen.

■ Operations during playback

Function	Touchscreen/control operation
Select playback project/move to mark	Tap ⏮ / ⏭.
Search forward/backward	Press and hold ⏮ / ⏭.
	Slide ▼ left/right.
Skip 15 seconds	Tap ⟲15 / ⟳15.
Pause/resume	Press ⏯.
Stop	Press ■/HOME.

Other functions

Function name	Details
Sound pads	Audio files (WAV format) can be assigned to buttons on the touchscreen that play them back. These are useful, for example, for playing effect sounds during podcasting and streaming as well as during live theater and music performances. When shipped new from the factory, the **H8** has 13 built-in sounds, and 4 are pre-assigned to sound pads.
Effects	These alter the sounds of instruments, voices and other sources. The included effects, which are equivalent to those in ZOOM multi-effects processors, can be used with a variety of instruments. Using the free Guitar Lab effect management application on a computer (Mac/Windows), you can add effects that are distributed online as well as edit and back up patch memories, for example.

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Main Specifications

Number of input channels		8 (XY mic capsule, 1-4, A, B)
Number of output channels		1 (combined stereo headphone/line)
Connectors	MIC IN	ZOOM mic connector
	INPUT 1-4	XLR jacks (2: HOT)
	INPUT A/B	XLR/TRS combo jacks (XLR: 2 hot, TRS: TIP hot)
	USB	USB Micro-B (audio interface, mass storage and Guitar Lab connection functions) Note: Use a USB cable that supports data transfer. Operation using USB bus power is possible.
	REMOTE	ZOOM BTA-1 or other dedicated wireless adapter
	LINE OUT	3.5 mm stereo mini
	PHONE OUT	3.5 mm stereo mini
Phantom power		+24 V/+48 V (independent ON/OFF for INPUTS 1–4, A and B)
Recorder	Recording media	Cards that support SD/SDHC/SDXC specifications
	Formats	WAV: 44.1/48/96 kHz, 16/24-bit, mono/stereo MP3: 128, 192, 320 kbps
	Maximum simultaneous recording tracks	12 (MIC IN, backup recording, 1-4, A, B, and LR)
Audio interface	Multitrack mode	44.1/48/96 kHz, 16/24-bit, 12-in/2-out
	Stereo mix mode	44.1/48 kHz, 24-bit, 2-in/2-out
Tuner		Chromatic/Guitar/Bass/Open A/Open D/Open E/ Open G/DADGAD
Built-in speaker		400 mW 8Ω mono speaker
Display		2.4" (320×240) full-color touchscreen LCD
Power		• 4 AA batteries (alkaline, NiMH or lithium) • AC adapter (ZOOM AD-17): DC 5 V/1A • USB bus power
Estimated continuous operation time using batteries (hours: minutes)		Using alkaline batteries Using XY mic, 44.1 kHz/24-bit (stereo × 1): about 15:00 • The above values are approximate. • Continuous battery operation times were determined using in-house testing methods. They will vary greatly according to use conditions.
External dimensions		**H8**: 116.4 mm (W) × 163.3 mm (D) × 48.6 mm (H) XYH-6: 78.9 mm (W) × 60.2 mm (D) × 45.2 mm (H)
Weight		**H8**: 354 g XYH-6: 130 g

Note: When using a USB cable designed for recharging, audio interface, SD card reader and Guitar Lab connection functions cannot be used.