Audio and Boom Kit User Guide

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BOOM Kit
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RODE NTG-2 Shotgun Mic Basics

*The mic is a condenser mic; it needs power. You can do this by adding a battery or using phantom power (+48v) on your audio recorder or camcorder. We suggest using power from your recording device (note this will use the device’s battery power).

*It has a super-cardiod pick-up pattern. So, point the front of the mic at the sounds you want to pick up.

*It does not have a pad to attenuate the signal. Thus, you may want to set a “limiter” on recording device to handle loud peaks during recording.

*For flat frequency response, keep it set at —. If you want to roll off low frequencies (i.e. traffic noise, rumble, etc.) set it to —.

*Always use the provided windscreen for recording.

*Always use a shock mount and stand/boom for recording.
**H4N Easy Guide**

Power H4N on AFTER all mic and connections have been made. To turn off, first power off H4N and then disconnect from mic.

1. **Format Card** (do this to erase all files on card and to format new SD cards): MENU>SD CARD>FORMAT>YES

   *Note: put SD card in H4N while it’s off.

2. **Mic Input:** For most mic applications, select input 1 and 2 button NOT the mic input (this is for built in mic). The main inputs will accept balanced XLR or 1/4” TRS.

   Monitors: You need to monitor ALL recordings with headphones. Plug your headphones in, and use the “vol” control to adjust the monitor level. Do NOT use monitors to assess your incoming signal level, just to listen for audible hum, hisses, etc. Use VU to monitor/set levels. Your ears will deceive you!

   To turn monitoring on: MENU>INPUT>MONITOR>ON

   **Mono Mix:** By nature, mics have a mono output. To have a 2 channel mono mix (you may want this): MENU>INPUT>MONO MIX>ON

   *With mono mix off, you will only see the VU meter read on one channel and only hear the signal in one headphone. This is fine, it will play back in stereo L/R. Mono mix of a mono signal uses up memory that may be not needed.

   **Phantom Power:** All condenser mics need phantom power aka +48v. The Rode NTG-2 will allow you to use a battery too. To turn on phantom power: MENU>INPUT>PHONATOM>+48V

   *Note: if you record from a line level device (MP3 player/laptop) into the mic inputs, the signal is MUCH higher. Turn the gain all the way down, plug in line device, and adjust level. If you cannot get a undistorted signal into H4N by using the gain, turn the output level on MP3 player/laptop down.

   To record from an unbalanced line signal such as laptop or home stereo using a 1/8” stereo jack, use the EXT MIC 1/8” input on back of H4N and select the mic input on front of device.

   *Note: On the H4N you can record into both main mic inputs with 2 mics; however, you cannot control the channel gains individually (bummer). If you want each mic to record onto different channels (you will see their level on either L or R of VUs and hear each independently on your monitors), turn off the MONO MIX. Although you will hear each signal on the L or R in your monitors, it will play back in stereo L/R after it’s recorded.

   To record both mics’ signals onto both channels, keep the MONO MIX on.

3. **Mode:** The H4N has 3 recording modes. You want it to be set to STEREO mode (there is a indicator light)

   MENU>MODE>STEREO
4. Recording: First, you want to set your sampling rate and bit resolution. CD standard is 44.1KHz/16 bit, while TV/Film is 48.1KHz/16bit (DVD and HD audio is 24bit). You should set it to 48.1KHz/16bit or 48.1KHz/24 bit. As you become more proficient, you'll hear the difference (basically, 24bit can record a greater dynamic range) of a sound source.

MENU>REC>REC FORMAT>select your format

*Note: YOU WILL NEVER RECORD MP3s!!! Record WAVs!

*Note: The higher the sampling rate and greater the bit resolution, the larger the audio file (the H4N screen shows the format and remaining recording time under that format)

*Note: You should always roll recording 2-3 seconds before action. However, can set the H4N so it will pre-record a few seconds before that. MENU>REC>PRE REC>ON

Now, you must set your levels. This is IMPORTANT!!! Using the VU meters on the screen and the signal gain control “REC LEVEL” set your levels for about -12dB to -6dB. This will give you ample “headroom” for louder sounds (coughs, sneeze, explosions, etc.) during recording. Without headroom, louder sounds will reach digital zero and distort/clip. This is BAD!

*Note: Do NOT adjust levels while recording dialog, FOLEY, or sfx. DO it after! For long interviews, adjusting is “ok.” Try to keep the “average” or normal dB reading at -12dB; peaks at -6dB.

*Note: the VUs are a visual representation of the incoming signal’s level (amplitude). Use headphones to monitor how the recording sounds, but not to hear the “volume.”

Now that you have set your levels and have a nice -12dB read. Press the REC button. The H4N is not recording, but in pause mode. To begin recording, press the REC button again. To pause the recording, press the play/pause button again. To write the recording to your SD card, press the stop button.

*Note: always bring fresh batteries for recording in the field and DON’T rely on provided, rechargeable ones. Also, DO NOT record in stamina mode (you set this in the batter compartment).

To change the duration that the back light of screen is on: MENU>SYSTEM>BACK LIGHT>make selection (“ON” means it never goes off). The screen saps your battery.

You can also adjust the screen display contrast: MENU>SYSTEM>CONTRAST>make selection (4 is good)

***Note: +48v aka phantom power will sap your batteries.
5. Transferring files: Now that you have recorded and written recordings to your SD card, you want to load them to a computer. You can do this with the H4N and USB cable or use the SD card slots on Lab computers.

With H4N off, plug USB chord into H4N and then to your computer. The H4N will power on. Using the toggle wheel, select the STORAGE option. The H4N will connect to your computer. Then, a disk image will pop up. You can open that and move files from the STERO folder to another folder on your computer or on an external hard drive.

When done, drag H4N_SD icon into trash to eject. Then, simply unplug USB from computer.

*Note: See manual for setting file write folder location other than FOLDER01.

6. Booming or using Articulating Arm and Clamp on Tripod

In the kit you will find an articulating arm and a clamp. If you have someone booming you can use this system to affix the Zoom to the boompole or you may affix it to the tripod so that you can monitor levels.

To mount to boom or tripod:

1. Make sure that the center knob is tightened. Thread the male screw into the back of the Zoom recorder.

*On the thread, you can turn the rotating dial to firmly affix the Zoom to the mount.

2. Place the clamp end of the arm onto your boom or tripod. Once the clamp is secured and the system is affixed, loosen the center knob to adjust the position of the recorder (make sure to hold the Zoom when you do this). When you have the Zoom positioned, tighten the center knob. (Please note that the center knob locks the entire system.).

*Note: We suggest that you “lock” your SD cards before transferring them. This will prevent them from erasing during transfer. Simply slide down the lock on the SD card.