**INQUIT AUDIO QUICK GUIDE TO THE ZOOM H5**

The Zoom H5 was launched in late summer 2014, replacing the H4n, but bringing in some elements from the larger H6. The unit is slightly smaller and lighter than the H4n and – like the H6 – the in-built microphones are detachable, allowing two additional external XLR sockets with an additional accessory.

As before, the H5 records up to 24-bit, 96kHz uncompressed WAV recording. Battery life is much improved, and whereas the H4n managed 2-3 hours of recording, the H5 runs for 10-15 hours on two AA batteries. The H5 does not include a power supply, but the AD017 USB power supply is available as an additional accessory. In common with many other portable devices, the H5 uses the micro-USB port for power input and so it is theoretically possible to use any USB power supply such as those from smartphones. Not all these work well however, and some may not supply enough power, especially if using phantom power (insufficient amps rather than insufficient voltage) and/or may cause a buzz on recordings; check before an important recording.

The in-built microphones are larger and sound better than those from the H4n, but are smaller than those from the H6; the microphone preamps are the same as those from the H6 and very clean.

Setting up the recorder

1. Settings are changed by going into the Menu system. Turn on the unit by moving the On button down (against its spring) and holding for a second or two until the screen comes to life. Press the Menu button on the top right hand edge; move up and down the menu items by moving the jog wheel just above the Menu button up or down; press the jog wheel In towards the body of the recorder to choose an option. In this quick guide menu settings are expressed as Menu>Record>Auto, meaning press Menu, choose Record, choose Auto. To move Back through the menus press Menu again.

2. First set up the recording settings. Press Menu>Rec>Rec Format to set the recording parameters. CD quality is 16-bit, 44.1kHz, which is the minimum at which you would usually record; recording in 24-bit, 44.1kHz gives greater dynamic range and a 'more expansive' feel to the sound and is worthwhile.

Don't be tempted to record original material as MP3; better to make your originals as good as you can by recording uncompressed WAV files, from which you can make a compressed MP3 copy later if you wish, but the original is kept uncompressed.

3. For most recordings you will record as a stereo pair: press Menu>Record Mode>Stereo File. You will come out of the menu system – this is normal.

4. If you are using just one external microphone then turn on the dual mono mode. The H5 cannot record a single mono track; recording with one mic in stereo would

create audio coming from just one channel which sounds strange, so it's best to record as dual mono, ie the same sound comes from both left and right channels, by choosing Menu>In/Out>In1/2MonoMix and set to ON. For two external mics you leave MonoMix OFF, ie record in stereo.

5. The balanced XLR inputs for external microphones are one of the H4n's great benefits: if you need phantom power switch it on from the Menu>In/Out>In1/2Phantom option.

Rather unusually for XLR sockets the plugs do not lock in, so take a little care not to pull them out while recording.

6. To record using the built-in microphones on the end on the recorder press the L and R buttons on the top panel; the two red indicator lights should come on. To record using external microphones plugged into the sockets on the bottom of the recorder ensure buttons 1/2 are pressed, and illuminated while recording.

7. To record, adjust the recording level by rotating the round knobs so that the bars on the screen peak at around -6dB; press the red Record button on the top panel; the small red light to the left of the button will light to show it is recording and the counter will start running.

There is no record pause mode on the H5 unlike the H4n; metering is always on and the Record button is On or Off. There is no automatic record level setting on the H5.

8. To stop recording press the Stop button (square symbol).

9. To listen to the last track recorded press Play (triangle symbol); to move between recorded tracks press the double arrow buttons to go backward (<<) or forward (>>). You can listen through the built-in speaker or through headphones.

10.To transfer tracks to a PC, turn off the recorder; attach to the PC with the USB cable supplied; turn the H5 on, then choose “SD Card Reader” from the screen by pressing the Jog Wheel In; the recorder will appear as an external drive in Windows (the actual drive letter will depend on your system) or on the desktop on a Mac. Copy files over to the PC using your preferred method.

11.When you are completely sure the recordings are safe and secure on your PC the files may be deleted from the memory card on the recorder.

Safely detach the recorder from the PC; press Menu>File List>press Record to enter the delete menu; choose the files you wish to delete using the jog wheel; press Record again, then choose Yes.

We hope this Quick Guide is useful. Do call 020 3002 0111 if you need more guidance – we really are here to help.

**Additional notes from Carolyn**

A few more comments:

- I have set the recorder to work with the external mic. The quick guide supplied by Inquit tells how to set up for using the 'internal' 'mics if you wish to change over.

- using the menu and scroll controls  is easy - once you get a feel for them!

- these ''internal' mics are attached to the outside of the recorder, and you will have to remove them to use the external mic. Grasp them at each side, and push in the little buttons. They come off easily in one piece.

-  if you are using the external mic, the cable goes  into  one end of the recorder: make sure you have it properly pushed in.(I didn't, first time round).

- I have left the battery in the mic for now, although we should not leave it there for long periods unused.

- I have put the recorder and mic in the netbook bag, along with spare SD cards, USB power supply etc, brief instructions, handbook, copyright forms etc.

- I have left out for now the stand for the mic. You could add it to the case to carry to a recording session, but it is relatively big, and I  think it might distort the bag to leave it in all the time.  The pieces of the stand screw together, and by pulling upwards you can raise the height.

- the recorder itself is smaller and lighter than the Marantz, and basic recording is as easy. There is no pause button. You do need to watch the recording level, but for the sort of task we are doing, there probably will not be too much variation.