



LATEST UPDATE ON EQUIPMENT February 2012

Reviewed by Trish Levido

Please note this information is for the general information.

There have been changes in the recorders available since compiling for Oral History NSW the Comparative Test of Field Recording devices a year ago. There has also been a general lowering of the prices for recorders. Below are listed the various recorders which have been evaluated for Oral History NSW members during February 2012, starting from the lowest selling price.

ZOOM H1 Portable Digital Recorder

In the past, Zoom H1 retailed for approx. \$160 and we recommended purchasing the accessories kit for a further \$20. Currently, Turramurra Music is selling this for \$139 approx., including the accessories kit. This is an entry level recorder for those members wishing to do a limited number of recordings. It is not robust and for this price cannot be expected to provide years of satisfactory use. The H1 records in Oral History NSW recommended 24bit 48kHz mode. Very light in weight and easy to learn to use.

ROLAND R-05 Portable Digital Recorder

The Roland R-05 sells for \$229 from Turramurra Music. The body is much more robust than the plastic body of the Zoom H1. It is also purported to be easy to learn to use. It uses normal sized SD cards versus the micro SDHC cards in the H1. Again, it records in recommended 24/48 mode.

ZOOM H4n Portable Digital Recorder

This is a more professional field recorder recommended by Oral History NSW which ticks all the boxes including XLR input jacks for external microphones, and 'phantom' power (which means you don't need a battery in your external microphones as the power is supplied by the recorder as long as you are using XLR jacks on both ends of the cable) something cheaper field recorders don't offer. This sells at Turramurra Music for \$339.

ROLAND R-26 Portable Digital Recorder

This is another more professional recorder and is basically the same as the previously recommended **Edirol R-09HR**. It is slightly bigger and it now has XLR inputs offering 'phantom' power, with a large LCD touchscreen display with the added advantage that you can set the screen to stay lit for the recording enabling you to easily monitor levels continuously. \$515 from Turramurra Music.

FOSTEX 2LE Compact audio recorder designed to meet the needs of professionals in the field.

Is a quality field recorder records on Type II Compact Flash cards, and broadcast wave format (BWF) stereo file format. It sells at Turramurra Music for \$699.



I recommend that you Google www.youtube.com or www.eHow.com (How to do just about everything) and type in the name of the recorder and you will find information plus video downloads of other people's experience using the different devices. There are hundreds of videos submitted from different sources (not just the manufacturers) talking about the pros and cons of each. These videos can take you from bringing home your recorder, right through to making a recording.

I would also like to recommend a web site which has tested various field recorders and microphones. The web site is: www.wingfieldaudio.com It is a U.S. based company and has tested and rated all three of our previously recommended recorders, Edirol R09HR, Zoom H1 and Zoom H4n. They include the test recordings for you to hear Click on 'Sound Samples'.

In addition if you go into the back copies of their newsletter you can access further information. This is also an excellent site for learning more about the various recorders. Remember the prices on this site are in \$US and if you buy equipment from the US there are usually warranty issues and shipping costs.

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