

Portable Digital Audio Recorder Comparison

	Zoom H2	Zoom H4	M-Audio MicroTrack 24/96	Marantz PMD620	Edirol R-09	Marantz PMD660
Mic Inputs	Mini (3.5mm)	Combo XLR – ¼” Phone, 24-48V phantom	¼” balanced TRS (L/R), 30V phantom; mini (3.5mm) TRS, 5V for electret mic	Mini (3.5mm), 5V phantom for electret mics	Mini (3.5mm)	XLR, 48V phantom
Built-in Mics	Front, Back, or Omnidirectional Modes	Front, Back, or Omnidirectional Modes	Good add-on stereo electret T-mic	2 Good sound.	Good sound.	Poor sound.
Best External Mics	High output condenser mic; Dynamic cardioid ok	High output condenser mic	High output condenser mic w/own phantom power; quality dynamic omni	High output condenser mic w/own phantom power; quality dynamic omni	High output condenser mic w/own phantom power	High output condenser mic
Digital Audio Input	no	no	yes	no	No (but, there is Optical Line Out)	no
Memory Card	SD; some SDHC	SD; some SDHC	CF, Microdrive	SD/SDHC	SD only	CF, Microdrive
Battery	AA (2)	AA (2)	Internal rechargeable (lithium-ion)	AA (2); NiMh rechargeable	AA (2); NiMh rechargeable	AA (4)
Battery Life	4 hours	6 hours	3-5 hours	5 hours	6 hours	3-6 hours
# Channels	2 or 4	2 or 4	2	2	2	2
Single Track (mono) Recording	yes	yes	Yes (pending)	Yes	no	yes
Bit Rate	WAV: 16, 24-bit MP3: 48 - 320 kbps	WAV: 16, 24-bit MP3: 48 - 320 kbps	WAV: 16, 24-bit MP3: 96 - 320 kbps	WAV: 16, 24-bit MP3: 32 - 192 kbps	WAV: 16, 24-bit MP3: 128 - 320 kbps	WAV: 16-bit MP3: 64 - 128 kbps
Computer Connection	USB 2.0	USB 2.0	USB 2.0	USB 2.0	USB 2.0	USB 1.0
Connectors	1 x AC Power Input 1 x 3.5mm External Mic Input 1 x 3.5mm Line-Level Input 1 x 3.5mm Headphone/Line Out 1 x USB 2.0	1 x AC Power Input 2 x XLR – ¼” Phone Combo External Mic Input 1 x 3.5mm Line-Level Input 1 x 3.5mm Headphone/Line Out 1 x USB 2.0	1 x AC Power Input 2 x ¼” Phone Mic/Line balanced Input (L/R) 1 x 3.5mm Mini Mic Input 2 x RCA Phono Out 1 x 3.5mm Headphone/Line Out 1 x USB 2.0	1 x AC Power Input 1 x 3.5mm Mic Input 1 x 3.5mm Line Input 1 x 3.5mm Line Output 1 x 3.5mm Headphone/Line Out 1 x USB 2.0	1 x AC Power Input 1 x 3.5mm External Mic Input 1 x 3.5mm Line Input 1 x 3.5mm Headphone/Optical Line Out	1 x AC Power Input 2 x XLR External Mic 1 x 3.5mm Line Input 1 x 3.5mm Wired Remote Input 1 x 3.5mm Headphone/Line Out

Dimensions	Width: 2.5" Depth: 4.3" Height: 1.25" Weight: 3.8 oz	Width: 2.75" Depth: 6" Height: 1.38" Weight: 6.7 oz	Width: 2.4" Depth: 1.12" Height: 4.3" Weight: 5.2 oz	Width: 2.5" Depth: 4.3" Height: 1.25" Weight: 6 oz	Width: 2.5" Depth: 4.07" Height: 1.19" Weight: 6 oz	Width: 4.5" Depth: 7.2" Height: 1.9" Weight: 1.1 lbs
Pros	USB Audio Interface. Good sound with internal mics for musical performances or moderately loud ambient events.	USB Audio Interface. Quieter than Edirol R-09 & Marantz PMD660, equal to M-Audio MicroTrack II	Clean sound. Manufacturer promised mono recording firmware update.	1-button recording. Good sound w/external mics. Auto track marking.	Good sound with internal mics for musical performances or moderately loud ambient events. Small, fast, easy to navigate.	Clean sound with condenser mics. Preset recording modes.
Cons	Sound poor for interviews; external mics give poor results; use of preamp with line-in has clipping.	Must be connected to main USB port (no hubs).	Battery not field swappable. Nonstandard phantom voltage can fry recorder or mics, so stick with approved list f/M-Audio. 1/8" mic input noisy.	External mics require phantom power (internal battery or dynamic mics). Audio delay in headphones, audible button clicks.	Sound poor & hissy, w/low gain, for quiet ambient events & interviews.	Relatively large & heavy; hissy w/some dynamic mics.
Price	\$200	\$300	\$300	\$399	\$399	\$450