

Bumps in the Night!!!!

Tools of the Trade

Digital Recorders – Zoom Handy Recorder Series



Zoom H4n

A key tool that all paranormal teams use during an investigation is a digital audio recorder. Also called a “digi”. These digis are just common everyday digital recorders that can be purchased at any electronics store and can be used with no modifications.

Digis are used during an investigation to try and capture audio data such as EVP's, disembodied voices, or any other paranormal sounds. We utilize a wide range of digital audio recorders. We place several of these at a location (stationary) and each investigation team will carry one. Digis allows you to have a record of data you may or may not have heard during an investigation. The use of digis is an invaluable tool for paranormal investigations, as the majority of data that is captured comes in the form of audio. With special audio editing programs we are able to listen to, review, and playback audio.

We have several different types of digis we use, but there is one type that we really like, the Zoom Handy Recorders. We have 2 of the 3 different models (H1, H2, and H4n) that are available. These digis have built-in directional microphones that can focus on the sound being recorded. Unlike omni directional microphones, these mics ignore the unwanted noise.

All Zoom recorders have two onboard microphones that are configured in a criss cross pattern, called X/Y. Because they are arranged on the same axis, they are equidistant from the source for better sound quality. The results are amazing and provide great recording. These recorders are used by musicians for demo tapes and studio taping, due to the excellent sound recording.

We like these digis because they allow you to record and hear what is being recorded at the same time. This allows an investigator, wearing headphones, to hear an EVP or other sound, as they happen. Rather than days later during the review process. This gives you an advantage to tag what was heard, as well as to ask further questions along those same lines. We have found this recorder to be a very effective tool during an investigation.

We also use them as stationary recorders during an investigation. Used in this manner it provides for a higher quality recording and typically picks up information that other recorders will not. Therefore, they assist with review by providing more information on tagged data, which assists us with ruling it out or supporting that it is indeed data. Another selling point is that they can be plugged into a wall outlet, so no worries of battery drain.

The one downside to these recorders is that they are more expensive than other recorders on the market. However, we think they are well worth the cost difference.

To learn more about the Zooms go to <http://www.zoom.co.jp/english/products/> and select one of the options under **Handy Recorder**.



Zoom H2