

Bumps in the Night!!!!

Tools of the Trade

Audio Recorders



A tool in almost every, if not every, paranormal team's tool kit is an audio recorder. And if it is not it should be. During an investigation we attempt to capture data (or proof, also known as an Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP)) that something paranormal exists and audio recorders is one tool we used to do that.

There are main types and brands/models of audio recorders used by paranormal teams. Some teams swear by the older cassette tape audio recorders and some by the new digital audio recorders. We at TnT Paranormal use digital audio recorders, which have been nicknamed digis, in our field.

As for brand or model that can vary also team to team. On our team we are not tied to one brand or model and have several to choose from. We have various models of the Olympus and Zoom brands, as well as

a Sony and Coby digis. The Olympus and Sony brands are just recorders that you need to playback to hear what you have captured. However the Zoom brands will allow for real-time listening.

The brand or model best for you (or your team) will vary based on factors such as cost, features, availability, and if playback later vs real-time is your goal. If you are looking for lower price, with good quality, but features don't really matter then the Coby brand might be best for you. If you are looking for good quality, easy to use, several features, and easily uploaded to a PC then the Olympus or Sony brand might be a good option for you. If you are looking for the highest quality, lots of features, easy to use, sensitive microphones, and/or real-time audio then the Zoom brand might be the option for you.

Most recorders have the same basic features such as microphone quality, file save type, time/date stamp, and Conference or Dictation. However, there is one feature we feel is key when you are making your selection of a digital audio recorder, and that is an

easy way to get the data off of the recorder once the data is saved onto it. This can be done with a USB port, removal SD card, PC connection (USB connector), or other media. There are really cheap recorders out there that may give you quality for the price, but the only way to get the data off of it is through the headset jack, making data retrieval difficult and cumbersome. This is one feature that should not be scarified. You'll pay for it in the long run.

Digs can be purchased on the internet (Amazon or eBay) or at local retail stores (Best Buy, Costco, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, etc.). You do not have to go to a specialty or "Ghost" store to buy them.

