

M-AUDIO

English

MicroTrack 24/96

Quick Start Guide

MicroTrack 24/96

Congratulations on your purchase of the M-Audio MicroTrack 24/96, the easy-to-use solution for portable digital recording. This Quick Start Guide will show you how to make your first recording, play it back and transfer the file to your computer. This guide will also detail the steps necessary to install Audacity, an audio editing program for Mac and PC, which you can use for editing and converting your recorded files.

What's In the Box

When you open your MicroTrack 24/96 package, you will find:

- MicroTrack 24/96 mobile digital recorder
- Protective bag for product
- Quick Start Guide
- CD containing editor for Mac and Windows plus PDF manual
- Stereo electret microphone
- CompactFlash card
- USB cable
- USB power supply
- Earbuds

Charging the MicroTrack 24/96

The MicroTrack 24/96 battery ships with only a minimal charge and you may have to connect the device to a power source before you can use it. If your MicroTrack 24/96 still does not power on, even after connecting to the provided power supply or a computer's USB port, then the battery may have been drained below the required minimum for operation.

The battery will need to be charged and it may take up to 15 minutes before minimum capacity is reached. The device will then power on automatically. This is normal.

To charge the battery, follow the steps below:

- Plug the smaller end of the supplied USB cable into the USB connector on the bottom of the MicroTrack 24/96.
- Plug the large end of the USB cable into the supplied USB power supply.
- Plug the USB power supply into a power outlet.
- An animated battery symbol will be displayed in the right upper corner of the LCD on the MicroTrack 24/96 to indicate that the device is being charged.
- When the battery is fully charged, the animation will stop and the battery symbol will appear solid.
- You can now disconnect the MicroTrack 24/96 from the USB cable.

Formatting the CompactFlash Card

CompactFlash cards may need to be formatted before you can use them to record. To format the CompactFlash card:

- Put the CompactFlash card into the MicroTrack 24/96 and power the unit on. Note: If the MicroTrack 24/96 is connected to its power supply or a computer's USB port, then it will boot into charge or host mode. Push the delete or power button to exit to normal operation mode.
- Once the MicroTrack 24/96 has finished booting up, you will see the main menu. If the main menu does not appear, press the [MENU] button on the left side of the MicroTrack 24/96.
- Push the [NAV] wheel up or down until "System" is highlighted. Press in on the [NAV] wheel to confirm the selection.
- Similarly, select "Format Media" using the [NAV] wheel.
- The LCD will read "Format Media?" Confirm the action by pressing in on the [NAV] wheel again. The display will read "Formatting Media" during this process.
- When formatting is complete, the display will read "Format complete." Press in on the [NAV] wheel or press the Menu button to exit the format window .

You can now record files to the CompactFlash card.

Making Your First Recording

While the MicroTrack 24/96 can record from a wide variety of audio sources such as microphones, line-level devices, and S/PDIF signals, this Quick Start Guide will illustrate how to make a recording from the supplied stereo "T" microphone. Please refer to the User Guide provided on the CD-ROM for details on recording other input types.

This section assumes the MicroTrack 24/96 is properly turned on with the CompactFlash card inserted and formatted. If you need instructions on how to do this, refer to the previous part of this guide.

SELECTING AN INPUT AND MAKING RECORD SETTINGS

- Connect the supplied stereo "T" microphone to the 1/8" microphone jack on the top of the MicroTrack 24/96.
- Use the [NAV] wheel on the right side to scroll down through the menu options until "Record Settings" is selected. Press in on the [NAV] wheel to activate the Recording menu.
- Highlight "Input Source" from this menu, and press in on the [NAV] wheel to select it.
- The Input Source item has three parameters. The first parameter is 1/8." Select this item and press in on the [NAV] wheel. This will select the 1/8" input as the recording source and will return you to the previous menu.
- Using the [NAV] wheel in the same fashion as described above, set the remainder of the Recording settings as follows:
 - Encoder [WAV]
 - Sample Rate [44.1]
 - Bit Depth [16]
 - Channels [Stereo]

- Once all of the above parameters are set, press the [MENU] button. This will exit the Record Settings menu and return you to the Main menu. Press the [MENU] button once more to leave the Main menu and display the main screen of the MicroTrack 24/96.

SETTING YOUR INPUT LEVEL

- Set the [L/M/H] switch to M.
- Press the [REC] button. The volume meters on the main screen will show the input level being received through the stereo "T" microphone. Try speaking and you should see the volume meters rise as you talk. If the meters are not moving, double-check that the MicroTrack 24/96 is set as described above.
- You now need to set the record level. You will probably see that while talking in a normal speaking voice, the input level meters do not reach their maximum level. This means that the record level should be increased. If, on the other hand, you find that it's easy to make the meters reach full level, you will need to decrease the record level to avoid distorting your recording. Use the [LEVEL] buttons to increase or decrease the recording level of the left and right channels such that the meters almost reach their full level without going over. Additionally, you may move the L/M/H switch to the "L" position to lower the recording level even further and allow for a maximum sensitivity range. If the recording level is too high, the red LEDs above the [LEVEL] buttons will blink, indicating that the recording will be distorted, or clipped.
- Once you have set your record level, press the [REC] button again. While setting your levels, the MicroTrack 24/96 was actually already recording to a file. Pressing [REC] for the second time will end the recording process. Press the [DEL] button and confirm by pressing the same button a second time to delete the small file you just recorded.

Note: Press [Rec] and push in on the [NAV] wheel immediately after to enter Record-Pause mode. This will allow you to set your levels without actively recording while doing so.

MAKING A RECORDING

- Press the [REC] button, and the MicroTrack 24/96 will immediately begin recording a new audio file.
- Speak into the microphone and record your voice for about 20 seconds. The MicroTrack 24/96 will show the length of the current recording and the remaining recording time in the lower-right corner of the screen (separated by "/").
- When you want to stop recording, press the [REC] button again.
- When the recording has stopped, the MicroTrack 24/96 will finish writing data to the CompactFlash card and will then set the file to standby, making it ready for playback.

PLAYING BACK YOUR RECORDING

Now that you have an audio file on the CompactFlash card, you can play it back using the MicroTrack 24/96. The MicroTrack 24/96 can output audio through its RCA connections at the bottom of the unit or through the headphone output at the top of the unit. This Quick Start Guide will illustrate how to use the supplied earbuds to monitor playback. If you wish to use another output, refer to the User Guide on the CD-ROM.

- Plug the supplied earbuds into the 1/8" headphone jack on the top of the MicroTrack 24/96.
- Use the [VOLUME] button to set the output volume (shown as a wedge-shaped meter at the top of the MicroTrack 24/96 LCD display) to around 50%. This is a good place to start and will help prevent the headphone output from being too loud and damaging your ears. Once audio playback begins, you can adjust the output volume to your taste.
- You should still be looking at the opened file you have just recorded. Press the [NAV] wheel in and the file will play. However, if you exited to a different screen after recording, then you will need to press the [MENU] button and use the [NAV] wheel to select "Files." Then use the [NAV] wheel to select the file you just recorded. Push in on the [NAV] wheel to start playback.
- While the file is playing, you can:
 - Adjust the output volume using the [VOLUME] button.
 - Return to the beginning of the file by pressing down once on the [NAV] wheel.
 - Move forward or backward (seek) through the file by pressing and holding the [NAV] wheel up or down for more than two seconds. Release the [NAV] wheel to return to normal playback.
- To pause playback, press in on the [NAV] wheel.

Transferring Your First Recording to Your Computer

Now that your first recording is saved on the CompactFlash card, you can copy this file from the MicroTrack 24/96 to the computer. Once on the computer, your recorded file will behave like any other audio file of the same type, allowing you to rename, edit, and store the file in any location you wish.

- With your computer running and the MicroTrack 24/96 off, connect the large end of the supplied USB cable to an available USB jack on your computer.
- Connect the small end of the supplied USB cable to the USB connector on the bottom of the MicroTrack 24/96. The MicroTrack 24/96 will automatically boot into host mode (you will not be able to record or play files in this mode). The display will read "M-Audio" and will show a USB symbol.
- If you are using a Windows computer, then the MicroTrack 24/96 will be detected as a "Mass Storage Device" upon first connection and as a result, a "Found new Hardware Wizard" will open. Do not change any of the pre-selections. Click "Next", then "Finish" to complete the automatic installation. If you have Service Pack 2 for Windows XP installed, you will first get an additional "Can Windows connect to Windows Update to search for the software?" message. In this case, select "No, not at this time" and then next. No such installation steps are required when connecting to a computer running Mac OS X.

- A virtual hard drive will now appear on your computer. If you're using Windows, this new drive will be listed under My Computer. If you use Mac OS, the virtual drive will appear as a hard disk icon on your desktop.
- To view the contents of the MicroTrack 24/96 CompactFlash card, browse the contents of the new virtual drive on your computer. For Windows users, double-click My Computer, then double-click the drive. For Mac OS users, simply double-click the hard drive icon shown on the desktop.
- A window will open showing all of the files contained on the MicroTrack 24/96 CompactFlash card. If you've only made one recording so far, you will find only one file here. If you've made more than one, all of these files will be found here.
- To copy the file from the MicroTrack 24/96 CompactFlash card to the computer, simply drag the file from the window to the desktop of your computer or to any other location of your choice. When you drop the file in the desired location, it will be copied to this new location. The original file will still remain on the CompactFlash card.
- To disconnect the MicroTrack 24/96 from the computer, you will first need to "unmount" the virtual hard drive as follows:
 - For PC users, click on the "Safely Remove Hardware" icon located in the System Tray, which is in the corner of the taskbar where the computer's clock is displayed. After clicking the icon, click "Safely remove USB Mass Storage Device" from the pop-up menu. In a few moments, a message will pop up stating that you may now safely remove the hardware. You can now disconnect the MicroTrack 24/96.
 - For Mac users, simply drag the virtual hard disk from the desktop to the trash can. Don't worry—this does not delete the contents of the MicroTrack 24/96 CompactFlash card. This will simply unmount the drive. When the icon disappears, you can disconnect the MicroTrack 24/96.

Installing Audacity Editing Software

The MicroTrack 24/96 package includes a CD-ROM containing Audacity, an audio editing program for both Windows and Mac OS. You can use this program to edit your recorded files, apply effects, and save them in a variety of formats. The directions below detail the process of installing Audacity for each operating system.

Windows:

- Insert the CD-ROM into your computer's CD-ROM drive.
- The computer will automatically display the CD's interactive welcome screen. If your computer fails to open this window, you can manually open it by double-clicking the CD-ROM icon found inside My Computer.
- Select Audacity from the drop-down menu and click Install to begin the installation.
- Follow the installer's on-screen directions.
- When the installer is complete, press Finish.
- Before starting Audacity, use your web browser to visit <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> to download all available updates. This will ensure you get maximum performance from the program.
- Install the downloaded updates using the install directions supplied on the web site.
- Audacity is now installed and ready to use.

Mac OS:

- Insert the CD-ROM into your computer's CD-ROM drive.
- Double-click the CD icon when it appears on your desktop to view the contents of the CD.
- Double-click the "Open Me" icon to launch the CD's interactive welcome screen
- Select Audacity from the drop-down menu and click Install. A browse dialog opens, allowing you to choose the folder where you would like Audacity to be installed.
- Click "Install here" to begin the copy process. After the installation is complete, a finder window will open that shows you the installed Audacity folder.
- Before starting Audacity, use your web browser to visit <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> to download all available updates. This will ensure you get maximum performance from the program.
- Install the downloaded updates using the install directions supplied on the web site.
- Audacity is now installed and ready to use.

User Guide

For more information regarding all of the functions of the MicroTrack 24/96 (there are many not covered by this guide), please refer to the User Guide contained on the CD-ROM. Place the CD-ROM in your computer's CD-ROM drive. If you are using a Mac, please double-click the CD icon on your desktop and then double-click Open Me. If you are using a Windows computer, simply wait until the interactive welcome screen opens automatically. Make sure the MicroTrack 24/96 is selected from the drop-down menu and then click Learn. You can read the manual on screen or print the pages if you prefer. While you may have enough information to use the MicroTrack 24/96 to record after reading this simple guide, we highly recommend that you read through the entire User Guide to completely familiarize yourself with all of the features of the MicroTrack 24/96. Thank you and enjoy!

Contact Us

For additional help, you can request technical support via the technical support form on our web site at www.m-audio.com.

Alternatively, you can email us at techsupt@m-audio.com, or contact us by phone at: (626) 633-9055. Technical support is available by telephone from 7am - 7pm PST.

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