

Using the H4 Zoom Audio Recorder as an External Microphone for a Camera With the Option to Record a Separate Audio Track



The H4 Zoom Recorder can be used the same as a standard microphone with the bonus of having a built-in sound mixer! This handout guides you through the steps of using the H4 with a camera/camcorder as an external mic. The H4 may be placed close to the subject when the camera is too far away to capture quality audio.

***Note-** The H4 goes through batteries fairly quickly; use the power supply for long recordings.

Additional items you'll need are **headphones**, and an **audio splitter** if your camera does not have separate headphone and mic ports. You will want to monitor the audio while recording. The splitter connects the headphones and mic to the camera. You also need an **aux audio cable** (1/8" to 1/8") or an aux to whatever the input port is on the camera. The **1/8" to 3/32" adapter** is needed for some cameras. A tabletop or full-sized **tripod** may be desirable if the H4 is not mounted on the camera. Ask for the hot shoe mount if placing the recorder on the camera [see next page]. **All items are available at the IMC service desk**



In this example I'm setting up the H4 on a tabletop tripod to use as a desktop microphone connected to a camera with an aux input.

Insert the splitter into the headphone/Line out port on the left side of the recorder.





Use the splitter when you have only a microphone input on the camera. Connect the headphones to the splitter. Connect the aux cable to the second splitter input and the other end of the aux cable to the microphone port of your camera.

If the camera has both microphone and headphone ports, connect the headphones and H4 to the camera. Use the aux cable to connect the H4 to the camera.

Use the H4 hot shoe adapter if you are mounting the H4 onto the camera as pictured.

***Note-** A separate bracket is required for the IMC's camcorders and cameras without hot shoe mounts.



When you are ready to record:

Check the camera settings. Your model may have a setting for enabling an external microphone. The camera needs to be set to headphones, not AV, to test the audio.

If you want to use the H4 as a microphone only press the REC button once to put H4 in standby mode (this is indicated by the red ring flashing). Use your headphones to confirm everything is working properly and the audio levels are acceptable. Adjust the recording volume with the 'Rec Level' buttons on the right side of the recorder.

If you wish to also record a back-up of your audio track on the H4 press the REC button again. Your recording time displays on the screen and the red REC button remains lit.

