

2019 Recorder Survey					
Brand / Model	Purchase Date	Purchase Price, USD	Positives	Negatives	Remarks, Additional Feaures
Fostex FR2Le	1995	307	Great quality, lightweight, clear display, long battery life	Slightly bulky in some situations	
M-Audio Microtrack 24/96	2003	?	Plug-in-power	noisy preamps, poor user interface, short battery life, no XLR connectors	I still hang onto this as a backup device. I love to use it with a USB battery pack and 2 Sure MX391 omni mics in a 'tree ears' configuration. A portable setup I feel comfortable leaving in the field overnight.
Marantz PMD 620	2008	400	Small size, sturdy metal case, a decent noise floor.	No XLR microphone jack. It no longer remembers the date after resetting it (a problem that developed after ten years of use). This is an older model that can only use older SD cards.	
Marantz PMD-620	2009	400	Compact and sleek so always have it, and good capacity.	Screen and menu are small. Also the memory card door latch can break which causes a "Door Open" message to block the screen, no chance of the card falling out. Scotch tape works fine to hold the door closed so you can actually use it. Customer service is terrible, they won't repair it.	
Marantz PMD661mkII	2019	270	No problems so far, band rehearsals (acoustic and electric instruments) sound full.	Unit is large for a hand-held device. A minor problem, unit will name recordings starting from 1001.wav when previous recordings are deleted from sound card. My old device would continue to increment the number.	Internal stereo mic, line inputs, and XLR inputs with phantom power
Olympus LS-10	2014	200	Small, good battery life, well built with mainly metal parts, easy to disable internal filters and DSP tools.	The menu can feel slow if the sd card is almost full.	It's tough and works well in -20c weather
Olympus LS-11	2012	287	great pre[amps], best for run-and-gun operations.	Battery life is so-so (I'm spoiled by the M10), rec. level control is fidgety, can't be pocketed in a normal pocket.	LS11 & M10 constituted, in my opinion, the high water-mark of pro-level handheld recorders.
Sony M10	2011	200	Rugged, very good sound	No longer made; mic angle is fixed; no XLR input	
Sony PCM D50	2008	716	it works, robust, HQ input jacks for mic and headphones, great preamps, ok internal mics, high bias voltage, good battery life, ergonomic gain wheel, good limiters	no XLR inputs, no USB-mic mode,	
Sony PCM-D100	2016	662	Best cardiods on a handheld. Unbelievable pres[ence] (for a handheld).	large, heavy, very sensitive to wind, battery life good but not great.	

Sony PCM-M10	2013	209	hard as nails, endless battery life, best friends with my binaurals.	builtin omnis are good, but in a terrible position; barely good enough for some ambience without external mics.	LS11 & M10 constituted, in my opinion, the high watermark of pro-level handheld recorders.
Sound Devices Mix-Pre 6	2017	1213	Wonderfull pres, very good headphone amp, very small size, limiters	Small headphone and main rotary encoder, hard to turn in bag	
Sound Devices Mix-Pre III	2019	770	Quiet pre amps! Excellent D/A. Sound quality superb	Slightly clunky menu system / needs heavy and expensive batteries	Almost perfect.
Tascam TR-07	2012	100	Intuitive interface, modest handheld size (but not small enough to put in front jeans pocket), reliable	Poor bass response. When gain turned up high, circuit would add high-pitched tone into recording/monitoring	24bit .wav recording, also .mp3 format.
Zoom	2017	160	small cute		cute and round
Zoom H4n	2019	100	Low cost, AA battery, phantom power, 2 XLR with 1/4" inputs integrated, 3.5mm input with plug in power, 4 channel recording, Mid side, 24/96khz, Backlit display. 90 and 120 degree patterns. Multi-position low cut, adjustable compressor/limiter. 4 track mode with built in effects.	Body sound is very loud, boot up can be slow with larger SD cards. Cumbersome. Does not charge batteries over USB. Battery Door is under Tripod mount, User interface is not intuitive. Record level buttons click, shows up in recordings. Low resolution display, No RTA mode.	Can be used as a USB sound card without drivers. Also has 4 track mode with an impressive selection of built in effects.
Zoom H5	2019	300	Sounds great and so easy to use. Great battery life and multiple mic inputs. Can playback directly on the recorder. Lightweight and super portable.	The mix that comes with it is good, but I'd like something more directional. Luckily you can attach several different mics, so just need to buy the mic i want for it.	
Zoom H5	2019	300	Easy, responsive	kind of hissy on the headphone output when the gain is high	