



# Song Meter User Manual

## Model SM2

**Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.**

[www.wildlifeacoustics.com](http://www.wildlifeacoustics.com)

Firmware Version 2.2.0

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**Rev. 5/10/10 (Firmware release Song Meter II R2.2.0)**

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## **Prohibition against Eavesdropping**

United States law (Federal Communications Commission Part 15 Section 15.9) states “Except for the operations of law enforcement officers conducted under lawful authority, no person shall use, either directly or indirectly, a device operated pursuant to the provisions of this Part for the purpose of overhearing or recording the private conversations of others unless such use is authorized by all of the parties engaging in the conversation.”

You are responsible for complying with all applicable laws within your jurisdiction.

## **Electromagnetic Interference**

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by Wildlife Acoustics, Inc., could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

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## **Introduction**

### *Updates and Support*

# **Introduction**

The Song Meter™ SM2 is a second-generation acoustic monitoring and data logging platform both flexible to meet a broad range of applications today and expandable to meet future requirements tomorrow. SM2 was designed from the ground up to be the most cost-effective and reliable solution for the long-term acoustic monitoring of birds, frogs, bats, fish, cetaceans, and other wildlife in harsh field conditions.

You can program Song Meter to record automatically on a schedule. Song Meter has the battery life and memory capacity to record for hundreds of hours spread out through months at a time.

Song Meter recordings can be analyzed automatically by Song Scope™ software, sold separately, to quickly locate species of interest. For more information, please visit our web-site at [www.wildlifeacoustics.com](http://www.wildlifeacoustics.com).

## **Updates and Support**

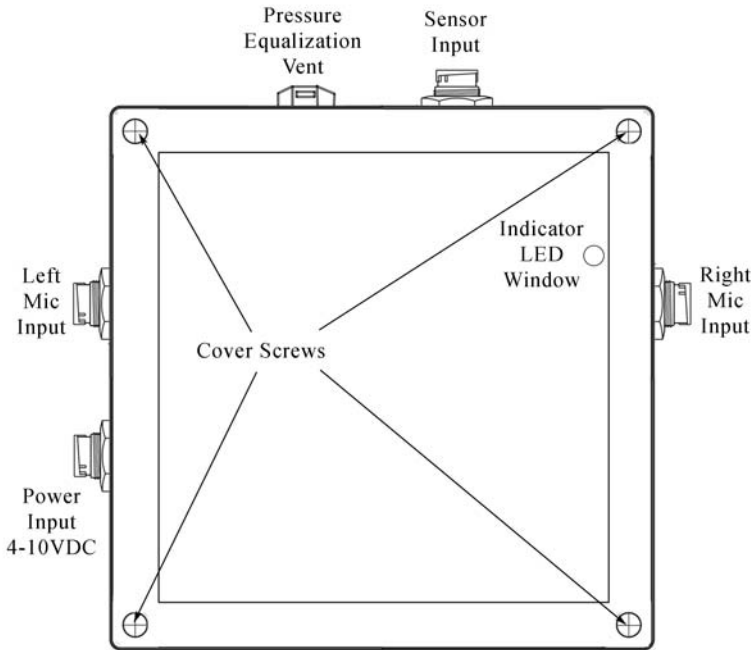
Song Meter is field upgradeable, and we frequently add new versions of the firmware to make improvements and add features. Please take a moment to join our mailing list and/or our on-line forum so that you will be notified when new firmware updates are available. The on-line forum is also a place to get support and leave feedback. Please visit [www.wildlifeacoustics.com](http://www.wildlifeacoustics.com) and click on the “Contact Us” link if you wish to be added to our mailing list, and click on the “Forum” link to join the discussion board.

## **Overview**

A diagram of the SM2 weather-proof enclosure is shown in Figure 1 below. This enclosure, when properly closed, is weather tight and vented to protect against condensation and stress on seals caused by pressure changes. While the enclosure is designed to survive temporary immersion in water, it is not designed or recommended for underwater use.

## **Connectors**

The SM2 enclosure has four connectors as follows, each designed to make a weatherproof seal when mated or used with the watertight connector caps (not shown). Unused connectors should always be capped.



**Figure 1—Song Meter SM2 Enclosure**

## **Left and Right Microphone Inputs**

The two microphone inputs are for the left and right channels and can mate directly with the SMX-II weatherproof acoustic microphones, or extended on an optional cable. Connection with unauthorized devices may cause damage to the SM2 and will void the warranty. Please contact us for advice on connecting alternative microphones.

## **Sensor Input**

The SM2 includes an integrated data-logger for logging internal temperature and an optional sensor connected to the sensor input connector. The data-logger can resolve 10-bits on a scale of 0-3.3 volts (i.e. precision of  $3.3/1024 = 3.2$  millivolts). Connection with unauthorized devices may cause damage to the SM2 and will void the warranty. Please contact us for advice on connecting sensors.

## **Introduction**

### *Overview*

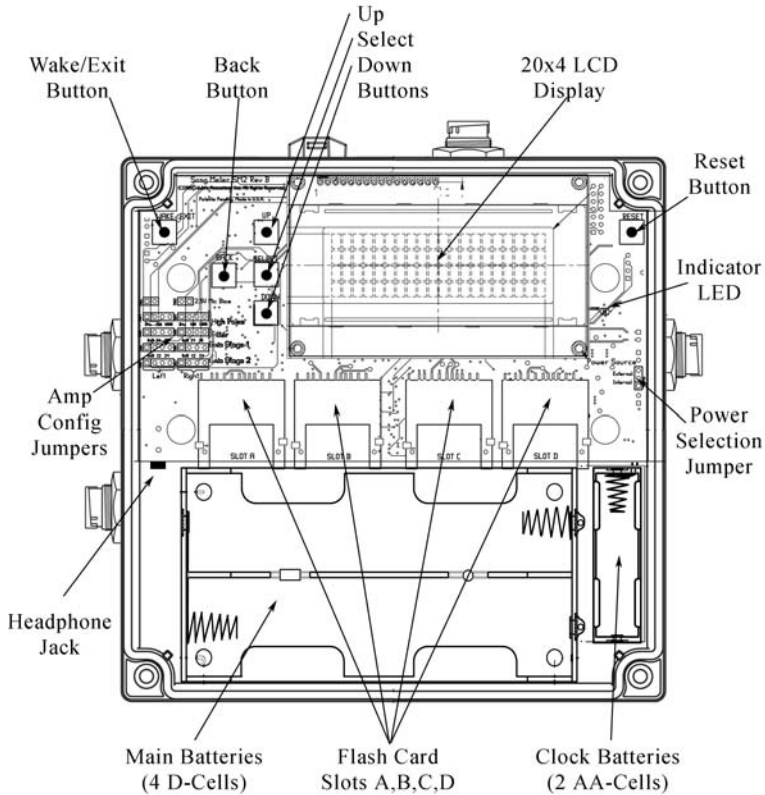
## **External Power Input**

The SM2 can be configured (jumper-selectable) to use either internal power from four D-size Alkaline or NiMH batteries, or external power through this connector. The power connector can safely accept voltages from 4-10V DC and is intended for 6V external battery systems. An optional power adapter is available that provides 5V output to this connector from higher voltage (6-20V) input sources suitable for a 12V solar power system and provides protection against accidental reverse currents and overvoltage. Connection with unauthorized devices may cause damage to the SM2 and will void the warranty.

## **Inside the Enclosure**

All of the Song Meter electronics, batteries, data storage flash cards, display, and controls are mounted inside the weatherproof enclosure to protect them from the elements, and are therefore inaccessible without removing the enclosure's cover as described in "Removing and Replacing the Cover" on page 10. Figure 2 below illustrates the inside of the SM2 with various parts described in more detail below.





**Figure 2—Song Meter SM2 (Cover Removed)**

## Main Batteries and Power Selection Jumper

The power selection jumper can be used to select between “internal” and “external” power sources. If internal power is selected, the four D-size main batteries are used to power the Song Meter. If external power is selected, then power comes from the external 4-10VDC power connector described previously “External Power Input” on page 3.

The main batteries can be NiMH rechargeable or Alkaline batteries. Alkaline batteries are best for long-term deployments because NiMH batteries self-discharge at a rate of about 30% capacity per month.

## **Introduction**

### *Overview*

The SM2 will drain batteries down to approximately 3.5-3.8 volts. While this is good for long deployments with disposable Alkaline batteries, it can cause damage to NiMH batteries (they may no longer charge properly) because they are not designed to be discharged below about one volt per cell (or 4.0 volts total). So, if you are using NiMH batteries, we recommend that you plan on replacing the batteries before they are depleted.

The SM2 uses almost no current (around 0.5mA) when “sleeping” between scheduled recording events so it can remain idle (not recording) for months at a time (noting that batteries will discharge on their own over time). When recording, depending on accessories, sample rates, compression, and other variables, the SM2 can use as little as 50mA current. That translates to almost 280 hours of recording time using high quality Alkaline batteries. See “Managing Power and Memory Resources” on page 28 for more information.

## **Clock Batteries**

The SM2 uses two AA alkaline batteries to power the clock. These batteries have an expected life of between two and three years. However, we recommend that they are tested and/or replaced at the beginning of each field season because the Song Meter will not operate if they are depleted.

## **Flash Card Slots A, B, C and D**

The SM2 supports standard off-the-shelf SD and SDHC flash memory cards for storing recordings and data logs. Recordings are stored in standard “.WAV” format files or in our proprietary “.WAC” lossless compression format. Data is logged in tab-delimited “.TXT” text files. The four card slots can be populated with one to four flash cards of assorted capacities. As of this writing, today’s SDHC cards are available in up to 32GB (32 billion bytes). With four slots, the SM2 has a capacity of 128GB today, and more as higher capacity cards become available.

In addition, the flash card slots can also support SDIO cards so that we can provide new functionality in the future with plug-in peripherals like GPS, Bluetooth and WiFi.

## **Indicator LED**

A low-power LED on the board, and visible through a window on the enclosure cover, provides a visual cue as to the status and health of the Song Meter. When sleeping but scheduled to wake up for a future recording, the LED will blink green once a minute for one second. When actively recording, the LED will blink green for a fraction of a second each second. Otherwise, the LED remains off.

The LED is intended to provide some status, but not at the cost of high power consumption. Therefore, it may not be easily seen in bright sunlight or from off angle.

## **Headphone Jack**

The standard 3.5mm stereo headphone jack provides an audio output capability. When making a recording, you can press the “Select” button to toggle the headphones on and off to listen to the recording in progress and check audio levels and quality.

## **Amplifier Configuration Jumpers**

Several jumpers are provided to configure the left and right microphone input channels. The jumpers are arranged in five rows of two columns. The column on the left controls the left channel and the column on the right controls the right channel.

The first row, labelled “2.5V Mic Bias”, enables a 2.5V bias through a 2.2K resistor to the signal input. This is required for most electret microphones including the SMX-II microphones. To enable the bias, the two jumper pins are shorted with a jumper installed. To disable the bias, the jumper should be removed. (You can leave the jumper hanging on one pin so you don’t lose it).

The second and third rows configure a two-pole butterworth high-pass filter to attenuate unwanted low-frequency sounds. Each of these two rows have four pins such that a jumper can short either the left two, the middle two, or the right two pins. If both jumpers short the left pins, the cut-off frequency is around 2Hz. If both jumpers short the middle pins, the cut-off frequency is around 180Hz. If both jumpers short the right pins, the cut-off frequency is around 1kHz as illustrated below.

## Introduction

### Overview

```
2Hz Cut-off:
    *. . . High pass
    *. . . Filter

180Hz Cut-off:
    . *. . High pass
    . *. . Filter

1,000Hz Cut-off:
    . . *. High pass
    . . *. Filter
```

The fourth row configures the first stage of a two-stage microphone pre-amplifier. A jumper shorting the left two pins provides 0dB gain, shorting the middle two pins provides +24dB gain, and shorting the right two pins provides +36dB gain.

The fifth row configures the second stage of a two-stage microphone pre-amplifier. A jumper shorting the left two pins provides 0dB gain, shorting the middle two pins provides +12dB gain, and shorting the right two pins provides +24dB gain.

The combined amplification of the pre-amplifier is the sum of these two stages as follows:

```
+0dB
    *. . . Gain Stage 1 (+ 0dB)
    *. . . Gain Stage 2 (+ 0dB)

+12dB
    *. . . Gain Stage 1 (+ 0dB)
    . *. . Gain Stage 2 (+12dB)

+24dB
    . *. . Gain Stage 1 (+24dB)
    *. . . Gain Stage 2 (+ 0dB)
```

+36dB	. . * . .	Gain Stage 1 (+24dB)
	. . * . .	Gain Stage 2 (+12dB)
+48dB	. . * . .	Gain Stage 1 (+24dB)
	. . . * .	Gain Stage 2 (+24dB)
+60dB	. . . * .	Gain Stage 1 (+36dB)
	. . . * .	Gain Stage 2 (+24dB)

Note that there is an additional third-stage gain for audio rates  $\leq$  48kHz that can be configured from the user interface for +0 to +12dB additional amplification in 1.5dB increments. Song Meter can therefore be configured for gains between +0 and +70dB in 1.5dB increments on each channel.

## LCD Display

A 4-row by 20-column LCD display is used for status and configuration.

## Reset Button

The reset button forces the Song Meter to reboot to its initial power-up state. Note that this does not reset any saved parameters, but will cause an advanced schedule to be reset so it will start again from the beginning. Avoid pressing the reset button while recording.

## Wake/Exit Button

Song Meter normally sleeps until the next scheduled recording time arrives. In order to check or configure Song Meter, it must be woken up manually. Press the Wake/Exit Button to wake up the Song Meter.

To put Song Meter back to sleep and resume the recording schedule, press the Wake/Exit button again. If the Wake/Exit button is pressed during a scheduled recording, the Song Meter will begin recording immediately until the scheduled ending time of the recording, and then go to sleep to wait for the next scheduled recording.

## **Introduction**

### *Overview*

If Song Meter is awake and not recording, it will automatically resume the recording schedule after 5 minutes of inactivity.

## **Up, Down, Select and Back Buttons**

Use the Up, Down, Select and Back buttons to navigate Song Meter's menus. The Up and Down buttons are used to advance to the previous or next menu item or parameter value. The Select button is used to select the menu item or lock in the parameter value, and the Back button is used to back up.

## **Temperature Sensor**

The built-in temperature sensor is located on the motherboard inside the enclosure and can be used to log temperature.

Note that the temperature measured is the air temperature inside the enclosure. If the SM2 is shaded from direct sunlight, this will generally be reasonably close to the ambient air temperature outside the enclosure. However, if exposed to sunlight, the air temperature inside the enclosure can rise significantly.

See "Sensor Settings" on page 23 and "Data Log Files" on page 43 for details.

# Getting Started

## Removing and Replacing the Cover

The SM2 cover has four plastic cover screws in the corners as shown in Figure 1 on page 2. These screws have clips to prevent them from falling out and getting lost. For best results, use a properly sized flat-head or phillips-head screw driver to turn the screws. Note that the plastic is soft, and use of incorrect tools can damage the heads. When in doubt, a flat-head screw driver is safest. If necessary, you can purchase replacement cover screws from us.

If the enclosure is wet on the outside, we recommend drying it off with a towel before removing the cover. You can then loosen the cover screws by turning them counter-clockwise and lifting the cover straight away from the enclosure body.

To close the cover again, make sure the indicator LED window is correctly oriented and tighten the screws by turning them clockwise. **Be careful not to over-tighten the cover fasteners.** If the fasteners are too tight, the knife-edge of the cover can warp slightly reducing the effectiveness of the gasket seal. Additionally, there is some risk of stripping the threads. Instead, gently tighten the fasteners until the plastic on the cover just meets the plastic on the enclosure at the corners. Continue to tighten a generous 1/8th turn more. This is equivalent to approximately 9.0 inch-pounds or 1.0 newton-meters of torque.

## Installing Batteries

### Main Batteries

If using internal batteries, make sure the power source jumper is set properly as described in “Main Batteries and Power Selection Jumper” on page 4.

Song Meter takes 4 standard “D” size batteries and works with disposable Alkaline batteries as well as rechargeable NiMH batteries.

If you are using NiMH rechargeable batteries, you should make sure they are fully charged as these batteries tend to discharge over time when not in use. **Warning: NiMH batteries can be damaged if discharged beyond their capacity.** See the section on “Managing Power and Memory Resources” on page 28” for more information.

## **Getting Started**

### *Installing Flash Cards*

Be sure to install the batteries in the correct orientation as indicated by the battery holder.

Battery life can vary widely depending on the battery capacity, brand, charger used, temperature, etc.

## **External Power**

Instead of the internal batteries, you can also provide power to the Song Meter from an external 6 or 12 volt battery or solar power system using the SM2PWR adapter. Make sure the power selection jumper is set to select power from the external connector. The SM2PWR adapter provides 5V power to the Song Meter through the connector, and provides battery clips to attach to a large 6 or 12 volt battery. The SM2PWR provides voltage protection up to 20 volts and reverse current protection to prevent damage from accidentally reversing the battery polarity.

## **Clock Battery**

Song Meter uses two AA alkaline batteries to power the clock. These batteries should last between two and three years, but we recommend that you check and/or replace them before each field season because the Song Meter will not operate when these batteries are depleted.

## **Installing Flash Cards**

You must install at least one flash card in order for Song Meter to make and store recordings. You may install up to four flash cards for additional storage capacity.

Song Meter supports SD and SDHC cards. We recommend using Class 4 and higher cards.

## **Installing Microphones**

The SMX-II weather-proof microphones can attach directly to the left and right microphone input connectors on the Song Meter. Alternatively, they can be extended on cables. The connector is keyed and the microphone (or cable) can be pushed into the connector when oriented correctly and then locked into place by turning the locking ring on the microphone or cable clockwise.



## Mounting the Song Meter

You must first remove the enclosure cover as described in “Removing and Replacing the Cover” on page 10.

With the cover removed, you can drop M4 or #6 screws into any of the four holes used for mounting the cover. The tips of the screws will emerge through holes in the back of the Song Meter and can be screwed into the fixed object. When the cover is replaced, the plastic cover fasteners will cover the heads of the mounting screws.

There are many possible mounting solutions. You could drop #6 wood screws into the four holes and screw them into a piece of plywood which, in turn, could be easily mounted to a tree or post. Or, you could drop #6 machine screws using wing nuts on the back to secure a wire or chain.

## Waking Song Meter

Song Meter is designed to remain in a deep sleep between recording events and must be manually awoken in order to view or change the recording schedule or settings.

The SM2 can be awoken by pressing either the “Wake/Exit” button or the “Reset” button. The “Wake/Exit” button causes the SM2 to wake up preserving any advanced scheduling state so that a schedule-in-progress can be resumed where it left off. The “Reset” button reboots the Song Meter from its power-on causing the advanced scheduling state to be cleared so that a schedule-in-progress can only be restarted from the beginning.

When the Song Meter wakes up, the display will show something like the following:

```
2009-Sep-11 13:32:56
Song Meter II R2.2.0
A: 32G 48%B: 32G 0%
C: N/A D: N/A
```

The top row displays the current date and time and is updated every second.

The bottom two rows display the status of the four SD flash memory card slots labelled “A” through “D”.

## **Getting Started**

### *Waking Song Meter*

If no SD flash card is plugged into a slot, “N/A” is displayed to indicate that the slot is not available.

Otherwise, its capacity in gigabytes and percent full are displayed. In the above example, slots A and B each have a 32GB card installed with A at 48% full and B empty at 0% full, and slots C and D have no card installed. Note that if a card is write-protected, “WP” will be displayed instead of a percent full indication. If a problem occurred while scanning a card, “ERROR” will be displayed.

# Configuration

## Using the Song Meter Configuration Utility

All of the Song Meter settings and recording schedule can be configured directly on the Song Meter using the display and buttons as described throughout this manual. As a convenience, you may also create, view, or edit Song Meter configuration files using the *Song Meter Configuration Utility* application software. This software is available at no charge from the Wildlife Acoustics website at <http://www.wildlifeacoustics.com/>.

The Song Meter Configuration Utility also comes with sample configuration files that may already fit your needs for a variety of applications.

## Menu Navigation

After waking the Song Meter, press the “Select” button to enter the main menu. The display will look like this:

```
Song Meter Main Menu
_ Schedule (daily)
- Settings
- Utilities
```

By convention throughout this manual, the box above shows the contents of the 20 column by 4 row display. The double underline indicates the blinking cursor position. Each menu screen can only display three lines at a time. Any lines shown below the box can be seen by scrolling down using the “Down” button.

The “Up” and “Down” buttons can be used to scroll through the menu choices. To select a menu choice, press the “Select” button. To return to the previous menu, press the “Back” button. From the main menu above, you can press the “Back” button to return to the start-up screen.

The “Wake/Exit” button will start or resume the recording schedule.

## Configuration

### *Viewing or Changing the Daily Recording Schedule*

## Viewing or Changing the Daily Recording Schedule

The Song Meter can be configured to follow a simple daily recording schedule (the default), or a more advanced recording schedule (discussed later).

From the main menu, scroll to the “Schedule” line. Note that the line indicates which scheduling mode is selected in parentheses e.g. “(daily)” or “(advanced)”. Press the “Select” button once to select the schedule mode. If necessary, you can then use the “Up” or “Down” buttons to toggle the scheduling mode between daily and advanced. Select the daily schedule mode and press “Select” a second time. The display will look like this:

```
Schedule:      (HH:MM)
- Add new entry
=
```

If a recording schedule has already been programmed, the display will show one line for each recording entry as follows:

```
Schedule:      (HH:MM)
- @ 05:30 for 01:30
- @ 23:00 for 01:00
- Add new entry
```

In the example above, there are two scheduled recording times, one from 5:30AM for an hour and a half and another at 11:00PM for an hour. Note that there can be up to 128 different scheduled recording times. If there are more than three scheduled recording times, then only three will be displayed at a time with others scrolled off the screen.

You can use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to scroll through the schedule entries and the “Add new entry” line.

To make a selection, push the “Select” button.

## **Adding a New Scheduled Recording Time**

Use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to scroll to the “Add new entry” line, and then press the “Select” button.

```
Schedule:      (HH:MM)
- @ 05:30 for 01:30
- @ 23:00 for 01:00
- @ 00:00 for 00:00
```

Notice that the “Add new entry” is replaced with “@ 00:00 for 00:00” with the cursor on the starting time hour.

Use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to select the closest hour to the desired start time, then press the “Select” button.

The cursor will now advance to the minutes portion of the starting time. Again, you can use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to change the minute (and hour) to the desired start time, then press “Select”.

The cursor will now advance to the hours portion of the recording duration. Use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to select the closest number of hours and press “Select”.

Finally, the cursor will advance to the minutes portion of the recording duration. Use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to select the minute (and hour) of the desired recording duration, then press “Select”.

You can use the “Back” button to back up if you make a mistake.

Notice that you may not have any two recording periods that overlap. In fact, there must be at least a one minute gap between the end of one recording period and the beginning of the next. If you attempt to create a recording entry that violates this rule, the error message “OVERLAP! TRY AGAIN” will be displayed for 5 seconds.

Also note that the maximum file size for any individual recording is 2GB. If you specify a duration (times sample rate, times number of channels, times 2 bytes per sample) exceeding 2GB, the recording may be split into more than one file.

## Configuration

### *Viewing or Changing Song Meter Settings*

#### **Changing an Existing Scheduled Recording Time**

Use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to scroll to the entry you wish to change, and then press the “Select” button. The cursor will advance to the starting time hour. Follow the steps above to change the entry.

#### **Deleting an Existing Scheduled Recording Time**

Use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to scroll to the entry you wish to delete, and then press the “Select” button. Follow the steps above and set the recording duration to 00:00. This will cause the entry to be deleted.

## **Viewing or Changing Song Meter Settings**

From the main menu, use the “Up” or “Down” buttons to scroll to the “Settings” choice and press the “Select” button to enter the settings menu. The display will look like this:

```
Song Meter Settings:
-Time and date
-Location
-Audio
-Sensors
```

The settings are organized into four groups as indicated. You can use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to scroll to the desired settings group and press “Select” again to enter a group-specific submenu.

### **Time and Date**

Select “Time and date” from the settings menu. The display will look like this:

```
Time and date:
2009-Sep-16 03:00:39
-Solar Sunrise/Set
Rise 05:52 Set 17:58
```

The current time and date are shown on the second line, and today’s calculated sunrise/sunset times are shown on the bottom line.

## Changing the Time and/or Date

To change the time and/or date, scroll to the second line and press the “Select” button. The cursor will select the year and you can change the year by pressing the “Up” and “Down” buttons. To continue, press “Select” again to select the month, day, hour, minute, and second. After changing the seconds, pressing “Select” one more time will lock in the new time and date. At any time, you can back up by pressing the “Back” button.

## Changing the method of Solar Calculation

You can also change the method for sunrise and sunset calculations by scrolling down to the “Solar” line. Press “Select” and use the “Up” and “Down” buttons to scroll through the following choices:

- Sunrise/set      when the sun is just below the horizon
- Civil              when the sun is 6 degrees below the horizon
- Nautical          when the sun is 12 degrees below the horizon
- Astronomical    when the sun is 18 degrees below the horizon

For sunrise and sunset calculations, you will also need to configure your location (latitude and longitude) and timezone as described below.

## Location Settings

From the settings menu, select “Location”. The display will look like this:

```
Location Settings:
-Prefix
-Latitude          0.00 N
-Longitude        0.00 W
-Timezone UTC + 0:00
```

## Configuration

### Viewing or Changing Song Meter Settings

## Filename Prefix

Song Meter lets you specify a filename prefix of up to 12 characters that will become part of the recording file names and can be used to uniquely label recordings made by each Song Meter (e.g. to designate a location and/or project). Recordings are saved in a “Data” folder on the flash card and have names of the form

*Prefix\_YYYYMMDD\_hhmmss.wav*, where *Prefix* is the prefix specified here, *YYYY* is the year, *MM* is the month, *DD* is the day, *hh* is the hour, *mm* is the minute, and *ss* is the second at which the recording was started. The suffix “.wav” is used for uncompressed files, and “.wac” for the proprietary lossless audio compression WAAC format.

Log files are also saved in the “Data” folder and have names of the form *Prefix\_Sensor-X.txt* where *X* is the card slot letter A, B, C or D.

The prefix may contain capital letters, numbers, and hyphens. Press the select button to advance to each position in the prefix, and then use the up and down arrows to select from among the possible characters. Press select one more time to mark the end of the prefix.

The default value is no prefix, in which case no *Prefix\_* will be present in the recording file names.

## Latitude

Latitude is one of the parameters used to calculate the actual time of sunrise and sunset for scheduling recordings relative to sunrise and sunset times. You can specify the latitude of the Song Meter’s location on the globe in degrees north (N) or south (S) of the equator.

## Longitude

Longitude is one of the parameters used to calculate the actual time of sunrise and sunset for scheduling recordings relative to sunrise and sunset times. You can specify the longitude of the Song Meter’s location on the globe in degrees west (W) or east (E) of Greenwich.

## Timezone

Timezone is one of the parameters used to calculate the actual time of sunrise and sunset for scheduling recordings relative to sunrise and sunset times. You can specify the local timezone (as used to set the



clock) in hours relative to UTC (Universal Time Coordinated). Half and quarter timezones (e.g. :00, :15, :30, :45) are also supported.

Note that Song Meter does not automatically adjust for daylight savings time. This is mostly because daylight savings time is determined by government action and not by nature, so we can not predict the start or end of daylight savings time as this in fact changes from time to time in different countries by their respective governments.

## Audio Settings

From the settings menu, select “Audio”. The display will look like this:

```
Audio Settings:
-Sample rate    16000
-Channels       Stereo
-Compression    Off
-Gain left     + 0.0 dB
-Gain right    + 0.0 dB
-Advanced settings
```

## Sample Rate

Song Meter supports the following sample rates (in samples per second):

- 48,000
- 44,100
- 32,000
- 24,000
- 22,050
- 16,000
- 8,000
- 4,000

The default value set by the factory is 16,000 samples per second.

## Configuration

### *Viewing or Changing Song Meter Settings*

## Channels

Song Meter can record in Stereo (both left and right channels) or Mono (using either the left or right channel). The default value set by the factory is two-channel stereo recording.

## Gain

The Song Meter audio path has three gain stages for amplification of the microphones on each channel. The first two stages are configured by jumpers as described in “Amplifier Configuration Jumpers” on page 6. The third stage can be configured independently for each channel from between + 0.0 dB and + 12.0dB in 1.5 dB increments. The default value set by the factory is + 0.0 dB for both channels.

## Compression

Song Meter can compress audio files to increase storage capacity. By default, compression is turned off and the audio files are stored as uncompressed “.WAV” files. If compression is turned on, Song Meter will instead store audio files using the proprietary Wildlife Acoustics Audio Compression (WAAC) file format “.WAC” files.

The WAC0 format is a lossless audio compression format designed to provide efficient compression for typical open microphone field recordings. On average, “.WAC” files will be 60% the size of uncompressed “.WAV” files. Actual compression rates will vary depending on the sounds picked up by the microphones.

The WAC1-8 formats are lossy compression formats in which the least significant 1 to 8 bits of the 16-bit audio samples are dropped, respectively. In most cases, the amplified self-noise of the microphone is well above the -96dBV full-scale represented by 16-bit audio samples such that the lower bits generally contain only random noise and no detectable information. For SMX-II and SMX-US microphones at +48dB gain, the noise floor is typically above the least significant 6 bits so that the WAC6 format can be used without any detectable loss of information and improving compression ratios to about 5:1.

To calculate the noise floor of a microphone in dBV, take the sensitivity in dBV/pa, subtract the SNR in dB, and add the gain in dB. For example, an SMX-II with sensitivity of -40dBV/pa and an SNR of

63dB amplified by +48dB has a noise floor of  $-40 - 63 + 48 = -55\text{dBV}$ . Each bit represents a dynamic range of about 6dB, so the significant bits above the noise are  $55/6 = 9.2$  bits. So we can keep 10 and drop 6 of the 16-bits using the WAC6 format.

Some additional processing power is required when compression is used resulting in an increase of power consumption.

## Advanced Settings

The advanced settings sub-menu looks like this:

Advanced Settings:			
-Dig	HPF	Left	Off
-Dig	HPF	Right	Off
-Dig	LPF	Left	Off
-Dig	LPF	Right	Off
-Trg	Lvl	Left	Off
-Trg	Lvl	Right	Off
-Trg	Win	Left	1.0s
-Trg	Win	Right	1.0s
-Div	Ratio		16

The first four lines configure optional per-channel digital band-pass filters to filter out frequencies below the high-pass filter (HPF) and above the low-pass filter (LPF). The corner frequencies of these filters are configurable to the sample rate divided by either 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 24, 32, 48, 64, or 96.

The next four lines configure optional per-channel triggers. When triggers are enabled, recording is suspended until a trigger event is detected. Recording then continues until no trigger event is detected for the specified period of time between 0.1 and 9.9 seconds (default 1.0 seconds). For .WAV files, the file is simply shortened with periods of no activity on all active channels removed from the recording. For .WAC files, highly compressed zero-value frames are stored in the recording independently preserving elapsed time between triggered events.

There are two kinds of triggers. Adaptive triggers are configured between +1 and +88 dB SNR and indicate a threshold level above the

## Configuration

### *Viewing or Changing Song Meter Settings*

rolling average background spectrum within the frequency band selected by the band-pass filters. A +6dB trigger works fairly well for most cases. A higher value will be less sensitive and a lower value will be more sensitive.

The second kind of trigger is an absolute threshold between -1dB and -88dB full scale rms of the total energy in the frequency band selected by the band-pass filters.

“.WAC” files can be read by our Song Scope software. Additionally, we provide a free cross-platform “.WAC” to “.WAV” (wac2wav) conversion program available from our website at:

<http://www.wildlifeacoustics.com/downloads/>

Finally, for SM2s equipped with ultrasonic sample rate boards (e.g. SM2BAT), the “Div Ratio” option sets the frequency divider used for headphone output when listening to ultrasonic signals in realtime. The default value is 16. This setting is not displayed unless an ultrasonic board is installed.

## Sensor Settings

The Song Meter has two sensor ports including a built-in temperature sensor (port zero) and an optional external sensor connected to the sensor port connector (port one).

The Song Meter can take a voltage measurement on either sensor port with 10-bit resolution. The voltage range is 0-3.3V with a resolution of 3.2 millivolts.

Each sensor can be configured and/or calibrated to translate a voltage reading into meaningful units appropriate for the sensor.

These sensors can be configured and calibrated by selecting “Sensors” from the settings menu. The display will look like this:

```
Sensor settings:
0: (Linear      )
1: (Linear      )
  0:   22.4   1:  1.650
```

The middle two lines represent configuration for the two different sensor ports, and the bottom line displays the current display value for the two sensors.

By default, both sensor ports are configured on a “Linear” scale. Port zero is set up to use the built-in temperature sensor and automatically converts voltage levels to degrees celsius as displayed on the bottom line and in the sensor logs. Port one is set up by default to display the actual voltage level as measured on the external sensor port. The value is not deterministic if no external sensor is connected.

In addition to a linear scale, a Steinhart-Hart scale is also supported for precision thermistor temperature sensors. The Steinhart-Hart equation is a slightly non-linear curve that more accurately models actual thermistor response to temperature thus making more accurate readings possible.

When you select on one of the two sensor ports, you can then use the up and down buttons to toggle between Linear and Steinhart-Hart modes. Press select again to configure the Linear or Steinhart-Hart parameters for your particular sensors.

When configuring a linear sensor, the display looks like this:

```
Sensor 0 (Linear )
- Zero @ 0400.00 mV
- Scale 1/0019.50 mV
- Precision 1 digits
```

The first setting represents the offset, in millivolts, representing zero units. For example, the built-in temperature sensor on port 0 measures 0 degrees C at 400 millivolts.

The second setting represents the scale, in millivolts, representing one unit. For example, the built-in temperature sensor on port 0 represents each degree C as a difference of 19.5 millivolts.

The third setting represents the precision of the resulting conversion. For example, we display the internal temperature sensor value with one digit to the right of the decimal point.

The sensors can then be calibrated for accuracy by adjusting these settings, and a variety of sensors can be supported.

## Configuration

### Utilities

When configuring a Steinhart-Hart sensor, the display looks like this:

```
Sensor 1 (Steinhart)
- Rs  100 x10^2 ohms
=
- A   1143 x10^-6
- B   2313 x10^-7
- C   1093 x10^-10
- D  -7251 x10^-14
```

Rs represents a series resistor between the thermistor and ground and can be specified with a 3-digit mantissa and exponent. In this example, a 10,000 ohm series resistor is specified.

The other values A, B, C, and D represent coefficients of the Steinhart-Hart equation as follows:

$$1/T = A + B (\ln Rt) + C (\ln Rt)^3 + D(\ln Rt)^5$$

Where T is the temperature in Kelvin, Rt is the resistance of the thermistor, and A, B, C, and D are constants. When using the SM2 with Steinhart-Hart sensors, the resistance is calculated with knowledge of the series resistor Rs, and then the temperature is calculated and converted to degrees celsius with one digit precision to the right of the decimal point.

## Utilities

From the main menu, select “Utilities” to access a number of additional commands. The display will look like this:

```
Utilities:
=
-Go to sleep
-Load config from A:
-Save A:SONGMETR.SET
-Erase all cards
-Set factory default
```

## Putting the Song Meter to Sleep

Selecting “Go to sleep” puts the Song Meter to sleep immediately. In this mode, the Song Meter will not wake up again until the “Wake/Exit” or “Reset” buttons are pressed. This is a convenient way of putting the Song Meter into a low power state for short-term transportation or storage and prevent it from automatically waking to make scheduled recordings. For long-term storage, it is better to move the power source selection jumper to “external” to effectively disconnect the internal batteries. See “Main Batteries and Power Selection Jumper” on page 4.

## Loading and Saving Configuration Files

The recording schedule and settings can be saved to or loaded from a *.SET* file on the flash card plugged into slot A. This feature is handy if you need to configure several Song Meters using the same schedule and settings. For example, you can configure one Song Meter and save the configuration, then load the same configuration on other Song Meters.

You can also use the *Song Meter Configuration Utility* application software to conveniently create or edit configuration files on your computer and visualize the recording schedule. **Note that by default, microphone gain settings, sensor settings and the prefix are not updated when you load settings.** The microphone gain settings and sensor settings may be calibrated to the tolerances of individual microphones and Song Meters, and the prefix is intended to uniquely identify each Song Meter in the field. However, you can override these parameters when using the *Song Meter Configuration Utility* application software.

To load a configuration file, select the “Load config from A:” selection from the utilities menu. The display will show a list of available *.SET* files present in the top directory of the flash card in slot A. You can then scroll through the list of files and select the configuration file you wish to load. The schedule and settings will be updated from the configuration file.

To save a configuration file, select “Save A:SONGMETER.SET” from the utilities menu. This will save the schedule and settings to a file called *SONGMETER.SET* on the flash card installed in slot A.

## Erase All Cards

You can permanently delete all the files on all flash cards to make room for new recordings. Select “Erase all cards” from the utilities menu. You will

## Configuration

### *Start Recording Schedule*

be prompted to confirm this action. Scroll down to “Yes” and press the “Select” button. All flash cards will then be erased.

## Setting Factory Defaults

Selecting “Set factory default” from the utilities menu causes all of the parameter settings to be set to the factory defaults and erases both the daily and advanced schedules.

## Start Recording Schedule

Press the “Wake/Exit” button. If the next scheduled recording is more than 45 seconds away, the following message is displayed:

```
2009-Sep-12 13:34:12
Going to sleep until
2009-Sep-12 05:30:00
```

The top row indicates the current time and date. The bottom shows the next scheduled recording start time. After 5 seconds, the Song Meter will go into a deep sleep and the display will go blank. You should now replace the protective cover. See “Removing and Replacing the Cover” on page 10. The LED indicator light will blink once per minute for one second to indicate that the Song Meter is asleep and scheduled to wake up.

If the next scheduled recording event is in progress or within 45 seconds away, then Song Meter will begin preparing to record and begin recording at the correct start time (or as soon as possible if a scheduled recording is already in progress).

If there were no scheduled recordings configured, the following message is displayed instead and Song Meter will go into a deep sleep until manually awoken:

```
2009-Sep-12 13:34:12
NO SCHEDULED EVENTS
Going to sleep.....
```



## Managing Power and Memory Resources

Recording time is limited by power and memory resources. Song Meter can only record while it still has sufficient power available in the batteries and while it has sufficient room to save recordings in the SD/SDHC flash cards. Download our free *Song Meter Configuration Utility* to see estimates of how long battery and memory resources are expected to last given your specific recording schedule and configuration.

### Power Resources

The Song Meter SM1 can run on 4 “D”-size Alkaline or rechargeable NiMH batteries. Song Meter draws only 50-90 milliamps of current when recording (depending on sample rates and compression), and almost no measurable current (approximately 0.5 milliamps) when sleeping between recording events. Add another 7 milliamps if using the external SM2PWR adapter.

### Rechargeable NiMH Batteries

Good rechargeable NiMH D batteries have a capacity of 11,000 mAh (milliamp hours) delivering an estimated potential battery life of 120-220 hours of recording time. Unfortunately, NiMH batteries have a high self-discharge rate and will typically lose 1% of their capacity per day, so the effective recording time may be greatly reduced depending on the recording schedule.

Actual battery life will also vary due to a number of other factors including the quality of the batteries and charger used, temperature, time between charges, etc. NiMH batteries may need to be cycled several times before they are able to hold a full charge. In addition, some Song Meters might draw a little more or a little less current due to the variability in tolerances of electronic components used.

**Warning: NiMH batteries should not be over-discharged.** If you are using NiMH batteries, and Song Meter runs out of power before it runs out of memory, the batteries will continue to discharge and may become unable to accept a new charge if left in this state for too long. We recommend that you either arrange your recording schedule to run out of memory first, or plan on retrieving the batteries before they are expected to run out of power.

## Configuration

### *Managing Power and Memory Resources*

## Alkaline Batteries

Good alkaline batteries will typically deliver around 14,000 mAh when used with Song Meter. In addition, alkaline batteries have a very long shelf life and can maintain over 90% of their full capacity for a year. Song Meter will typically deliver around 150-280 hours of recording time when using Alkaline batteries.

## Estimating Battery Life

The following table illustrates typical estimated run-times based on daily recording minutes for 11,000mAh NiMH and 14,000mAh Alkaline batteries assuming a 60mA drain during recording (add 30 seconds for each recording per day to account for overhead), 0.5mA drain while sleeping, and 1% daily self discharge rate for NiMH batteries. When using audio compression, power consumption can rise from 55mA to 90mA depending on sampling rates, so these estimates should be reduced accordingly. Recording time will be about 80% at 24kHz stereo with compression and 70% at 48kHz stereo with compression. Additional power is consumed when using advanced features like digital band-pass filtering and triggering.

Scheduled Recording Time per Day	Alkaline		NiMH	
	Total Run-time (days)	Total Recording Hours	Total Run-time (days)	Total Recording Hours
5 minutes	775	65	87	7
10 minutes	608	101	83	14
15 minutes	501	125	80	20
20 minutes	425	142	78	26
25 minutes	370	154	75	31
30 minutes	327	163	72	36

Scheduled Recording Time per Day	Alkaline		NiMH	
	Total Run-time (days)	Total Recording Hours	Total Run-time (days)	Total Recording Hours
35 minutes	293	171	70	41
40 minutes	265	177	68	45
45 minutes	243	182	66	50
50 minutes	223	186	64	53
55 minutes	207	190	62	57
1 hour	193	193	61	61
2 hours	106	212	46	91
3 hours	73	219	37	110
4 hours	56	223	31	122
5 hours	45	225	26	131
6 hours	38	227	23	138
7 hours	33	228	20	143
8 hours	29	229	18	147
9 hours	26	230	17	151
10 hours	23	230	15	153
11 hours	21	231	14	156
12 hours	19	231	13	158
13 hours	18	231	12	160

## Configuration

### *Managing Power and Memory Resources*

Scheduled Recording Time per Day	Alkaline		NiMH	
	Total Run-time (days)	Total Recording Hours	Total Run-time (days)	Total Recording Hours
14 hours	17	232	12	161
15 hours	15	232	11	163
16 hours	15	232	10	164
17 hours	14	232	10	165
18 hours	13	232	9	166
19 hours	12	233	9	167
20 hours	12	233	8	168
21 hours	11	233	8	168
22 hours	11	233	8	169
23 hours	10	233	7	170
24 hours	10	233	7	170

## Memory Resources

Song Meter has four SD/SDHC card slots. As of this writing, high capacity flash cards are available with up to 32GB (gigabytes = billion bytes). Thus, with four 32GB cards, Song Meter can be configured with a capacity of 128GB, and more in the future as higher capacity flash cards become available.

Recordings consume 2 bytes (16-bits) per sample, times the sample rate, times the number of channels per second. For example, a recording made at a sampling rate of 44,100 samples per second in stereo (2 channels) consumes  $2 \times 44,100 \times 2 = 176,400$  bytes per second. With 128GB total capacity,  $128,000,000,000$  divided by  $176,400 = 725,623$  seconds = 201 hours of recording time.

Note that the largest file size allowed for an individual recording is 2GB. You may need to adjust the duration of a given recording to fit within this limit. Otherwise, Song Meter will automatically break up the recording into pieces to satisfy this requirement.

In most applications, there is no reason to use sampling rates faster than twice the frequencies of interest. The majority of frog vocalizations are under 4KHz and need only be sampled at 8KHz while most bird vocalizations are under 8KHz and need only be sampled at 16KHz (with the exception of some high-pitched warblers who sing at 10KHz and need to be sampled at greater than 20KHz).

The following tables illustrate the recording time in hours available for different combinations of total memory capacity, sample rates and channels. If you enable compression, you can almost double the capacity. (Compression rates vary with sample rates and site-specific ambient sound levels).

	<b>Mono (1 channel)</b>							
	<b>48,000</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>22,050</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
2GB	5.8	6.3	8.7	11.6	12.6	17.4	34.7	69.4
4GB	11.6	12.6	17.4	23.1	25.2	34.7	69.4	138.9
8GB	23.1	25.2	34.7	46.3	50.4	69.4	138.9	277.8
16GB	46.3	50.4	69.4	92.6	100.8	138.9	277.8	555.6
32GB	92.6	100.8	138.9	185.2	201.6	277.8	555.6	1111.1
64GB	185.2	201.6	277.8	370.4	403.1	555.6	1111.1	2222.2
128GB	370.4	403.1	555.6	740.7	806.2	1111.1	2222.2	4444.4

	<b>Stereo (2 channels)</b>							
	<b>48,000</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>22,050</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
2GB	2.9	3.1	4.3	5.8	6.3	8.7	17.4	34.7
4GB	5.8	6.3	8.7	11.6	12.6	17.4	34.7	69.4

## Configuration

### Viewing or Changing the Advanced Recording Schedule

	Stereo (2 channels)							
	48,000	44,100	32,000	24,000	22,050	16,000	8,000	4,000
8GB	11.6	12.6	17.4	23.1	25.2	34.7	69.4	138.9
16GB	23.1	25.2	34.7	46.3	50.4	69.4	138.9	277.8
32GB	46.3	50.4	69.4	92.6	100.8	138.9	277.8	555.6
64GB	92.6	100.8	138.9	185.2	201.6	277.8	555.6	1111.1
128GB	185.2	201.6	277.8	370.4	403.1	555.6	1111.1	2222.2

## Viewing or Changing the Advanced Recording Schedule

This section describes the advanced scheduling mode of the Song Meter. By default, Song Meter is configured to use a simpler “daily” scheduling mode as described in “Viewing or Changing the Daily Recording Schedule” on page 15. The advanced scheduling mode can be selected from the main menu. Scroll to the “Schedule” line. Note that the line indicates which scheduling mode is selected in parentheses e.g. “(daily)” or “(advanced)”. Press the “Select” button once to select the schedule mode. If necessary, you can then use the “Up” or “Down” buttons to toggle the scheduling mode between daily and advanced. Select the advanced schedule mode and press “Select” a second time.

### Advanced Recording Commands

When the Song Meter is configured to use advanced scheduling, the schedule is defined as a sequence of simple commands. Each command is numbered sequentially with up to 99 commands in a recording program.

**Warning: When the last command of the advanced schedule is executed, the program will end. If you want to repeat the schedule, you must include a GOTO LINE command at the end of your program.** It is always a good idea to use the *Song Meter Configuration Utility* to verify that advanced schedules will work as expected.

There are several types of commands as follows:

**AT TIME hh:mm:ss**

The “At Time” command is used to cause Song Meter to wait until the specified time of day. If possible, Song Meter will put itself to sleep until just before the scheduled time. Song Meter will wake up about 30 seconds early to take into account preparation time so that subsequent recordings begin at the specified time.

**AT SRIS-hh:mm:ss**

The “At Sunrise” command is used to cause Song Meter to wait until the specified amount of time before the next occurring sunrise. See “Solar Tracking” on page 39 for details.

**AT SSET-hh:mm:ss**

The “At Sunset” command is used to cause Song Meter to wait until the specified amount of time before the next occurring sunset. See “Solar Tracking” on page 39 for details.

**RECORD hh:mm:ss**

The “Record” command is used to cause Song Meter to record for the specified duration. If a zero duration is specified, no audio recording will be made. However, the internal temperature sensor and external sensor port will be read and logged to the sensor log file.

Note that the maximum file size is 2GB. You should make sure that the specified duration (times sample rate, times number of channels, times 2 bytes per sample) is less than this 2GB limit. Otherwise, the recording will be split into multiple recordings.

**PAUSE hh:mm:ss**

The “Pause” command is used to cause Song Meter to wait for the specified duration. If possible, Song Meter will put itself to sleep until about thirty seconds before the end of the pause. Additionally, Song Meter will take into consideration any delays in finishing and saving the previous recording such that the delay begins when the previous recording ended, not when the previous recording was saved. We recommend a pause of at least 30 seconds to give Song Meter enough

## Configuration

### *Viewing or Changing the Advanced Recording Schedule*

time to finish a previous recording and prepare for a subsequent recording.

Note that sequential “Pause” and “At Time” commands may be consolidated by Song Meter. For example, consider the following sequence:

```
AT TIME 05:00:00
PAUSE   01:00:00
```

When Song Meter comes across the sequence above, it will sleep until just before 06:00AM without waking up at 05:00AM.

## **GOTO LINE aa bbX**

The “Goto Line” command is used to create programmable loops (which may be nested). If “bb” is zero, the loop is always taken and the next command to be executed will be line “aa”. Otherwise, the loop to line “aa” will be executed “bb” times. After “bb” loops, Song Meter will continue with the commands immediately following the “Goto Line” command.

Be careful to avoid unwanted infinite loops. If Song Meter detects an infinite loop while running, it will abandon the program and go to sleep until awoken manually.

When inserting or deleting commands from the program, Song Meter will automatically adjust the “Goto Line” command line numbers referenced.

## **SET rrrrXccccc**

The “Set” command is used to change the recording settings to use the sample rate specified by rrrr and the number of channels specified by ccccc. These settings will be used until the next “Set” command, or until the program is restarted. When an advanced schedule program is first started, the initial settings specified by the settings parameter menu are used.



**DO**

The DO command starts a DO...UNTIL block as defined by a sequence of RECORD, PAUSE, GOTO LINE, or SET commands followed by either an “UNTTIME, UNTSRIS+, or UNTSSET+ command. These UNTIL commands specify an ending time for the block.

After the DO command, the advanced schedule program will continue normally. However, if the ending time is reached, any recording in progress will be truncated and the advanced schedule will skip ahead to the command following the UNTIL command.

If the UNTIL command is reached before the ending time, the schedule will wait for the ending time before continuing.

DO...UNTIL blocks may not be nested.

GOTO commands within the DO...UNTIL block should not jump out of the DO...UNTIL block.

AT TIME, AT SRIS- and AT SSET- commands should not be used inside a DO...UNTIL block.

**UNTTIME hh:mm:ss**

The “Until Time” command ends a DO...UNTIL block and specifies a specific ending time of day.

**UNTSRIS+hh:mm:ss**

The “Until Sunrise” command ends a DO...UNTIL block and indicates an ending time as the specified amount of time after the next occurring sunrise.

**UNTSSET+hh:mm:ss**

The “Until Sunset” command ends a DO...UNTIL block and indicates an ending time as the specified amount of time after the next occurring sunset.

**Advanced Recording Example**

Consider the following example:

```
01 AT TIME 05:30:00
```

## Configuration

### *Viewing or Changing the Advanced Recording Schedule*

```
02 RECORD 00:30:00
03 PAUSE 01:00:00
04 RECORD 00:01:00
05 PAUSE 00:09:00
06 GOTO LINE 04 10X
07 PAUSE 01:00:00
08 GOTO LINE 04 1X
09 GOTO LINE 01 0X
```

In the above example, a fairly complex schedule is defined in only 9 commands.

First, look at lines 01 and 02 in the example. Song Meter will wait until 5:30AM and record for 30 minutes (5:30-6:00AM).

Next, in line 03, Song Meter will wait for an hour (7:00AM), and then (line 04) record for one minute (7:00-7:01AM), and then (line 05) wait for 9 minutes (7:10AM).

Now look at line 06. The “Goto Line” command will go back to line 04 and repeat line 04 and 05 10 times. This will cause ten one-minute recordings to be made every 10 minutes at 7:10, 7:20, 7:30, 7:40, 7:50, 8:00, 8:10, 8:20, 8:30, and 8:40AM. The pause in line 05 added to the one minute recording causes Song Meter to wait until 8:50AM before reaching the “Goto Line” command on line 06 for the 11th time (after the 10th loop). Song Meter will now continue processing at line 07.

Next look at line 07. Song Meter will wait for an hour (9:50AM).

On line 08, another “Goto Line” command will cause lines 04 through 07 to be run one more time. This will result in eleven more one-minute recordings to be made at 9:50, 10:00, 10:10, 10:20, 10:30, 10:40, 10:50, 11:00, 11:10, 11:20 and 11:30AM. The last pause on line 05 ends at 11:40AM, and the pause on line 07 ends at 12:40PM.

Finally, line 09 causes the program to run all over again from the beginning waiting until 5:30AM on line 01.

As you can see, this simple 9-line program is able to schedule 23 different recordings per day at various intervals and durations.

## Configuring Advanced Recordings

From the main menu, scroll to the “Schedule” line. Note that the line indicates which scheduling mode is selected in parentheses e.g. “(daily)” or “(advanced)”.

Press the “Select” button once to select the schedule mode. If necessary, you can then use the “Up” or “Down” buttons to toggle the scheduling mode between daily and advanced. Select the advanced schedule mode and press “Select” a second time. The display will look like this:

```
Schedule: (Advanced)
-01 <Add/Insert>
```

If an advanced recording schedule has already been programmed, the display will show one line for each recording entry, for example:

```
Schedule: (Advanced)
-01 AT TIME 05:00:00
-02 RECORD 00:30:00
-03 PAUSE 01:00:00
-04 RECORD 00:01:00
-05 PAUSE 00:09:00
-06 GOTO LINE 04 10X
-07 PAUSE 01:00:00
-08 GOTO LINE 04 1X
-09 GOTO LINE 01 0X
-10 <Add/Insert>
```

To change or delete a line, use the up and down buttons to scroll to the desired line and press the select button. You can then use the up and down buttons to choose from different commands or to choose “<Delete>” to delete the line. Press the select button to confirm your choice and advance the cursor to any parameters to be modified. Continue using the select, up and down buttons to complete the command, or the back button to back up.

To add or insert a line, scroll down to the “<Add/Insert>” entry and press the select button. You may then use the up and down buttons to change the line number. By default, a new line is created at the bottom of the program. However, you can choose a different line number and the new line will be inserted above your choice. Press the select button to confirm the line number and continue as described above to choose the command and parameter values for the new line until it is complete.

## Configuration

### *Viewing or Changing the Advanced Recording Schedule*

## Solar Tracking

Song Meter can be used to schedule recordings relative to actual sunrise and sunset times as they change according to the time of year and location on the globe. To use the solar tracking feature, the Song Meter's coordinates must be specified (see "Latitude" on page 19 and "Longitude" on page 19). In addition, the timezone used to set the clock must be specified relative to UTC (see "Timezone" on page 19).

Sunrise and sunset times are calculated according to when the sun rises or sets at the horizon. Alternatively, civil twilight (6 degrees below the horizon), nautical twilight (12 degrees below the horizon), or astronomical twilight (18 degrees below the horizon) can be specified. See "Changing the method of Solar Calculation" on page 18.

The advanced scheduling commands "AT SRIS" and "AT SSET" can be used to cause Song Meter to wait until some specified time before the next occurring sunrise or sunset respectively (see "AT SRIS-hh:mm:ss" on page 34 and "AT SSET-hh:mm:ss" on page 34). The following example advanced scheduling program would record daily for one hour beginning 15 minutes before sunrise, and another hour beginning 15 minutes after sunset:

```
01 AT SRIS-00:15:00
02 RECORD 01:00:00
03 AT SSET-00:00:00
04 PAUSE 00:15:00
05 RECORD 01:00:00
06 GOTO LINE 01 0X
```

The calculated sunrise and sunset times for the current day can be viewed by visiting the "Change time and date" menu. See "Changing the Time and/or Date" on page 18 for details.

## Ending a Recording Schedule at a Specified Time

The DO...UNTIL commands described above can be used to end a recording schedule relative to sunrise, sunset, or a specific time of day.

For example, the following sequence will record 5 minutes every hour from 15 minutes before sunrise until 15 minutes after sunset daily:

```
01 AT SRIS-00:15:00
```

```
02 DO
03 RECORD 00:05:00
04 PAUSE 00:55:00
05 GOTO LINE 03 00X
06 UNTSSET+00:15:00
07 GOTO LINE 01 00X
```

## **Caveats and Implementation Details**

The SM2 remembers the program state when interrupted. This means that you can manually wake up the Song Meter in the middle of an advanced schedule to check status, and Song Meter will then resume the advanced schedule where it left off when you press the “Wake/Exit” button. To reset the schedule from the beginning, you can press the “Reset” button. The schedule is also automatically reset if you make any changes to the schedule or other configuration parameters.

# Making Recordings

## Autonomous Operation

After configuring Song Meter as described in the previous chapter, pressing the “Wake/Exit” button will cause Song Meter to put itself to sleep until the next scheduled recording event.

Song Meter will automatically wake up about 30 seconds before the scheduled event to prepare. The start-up display will be as before:

```
2009-Sep-11 13:32:56
Song Meter II R2.2.0
A: 32G 48%B: 32G 0%
C: N/A D: N/A
```

After scanning the four SD flash card slots, the message “Preparing to record” will appear:

```
2009-Sep-11 05:29:11
Song Meter II R2.2.0
Preparing to record
```

Song Meter is now preparing itself to begin recording and will wait for the scheduled starting time to begin. Note that if a scheduled recording time is already in progress, Song Meter will begin recording as soon as it is ready to do so and end the recording on schedule. You can abort the next recording and return to the main menu by pressing the “Wake/Exit” button.

When Song Meter begins recording, the display will indicate progress as shown below:

```
2009-Sep-11 13:32:56
Recording: 01:29:12
B:0909111332.WAV 0%
44100xStereo 5%
```

The top line of the display shows the current date and time as before.

The second line indicates the time remaining in the current recording.

The third line shows the flash card slot and short file name of the recording file (*MMDDhhmm.WAV*) and the percent complete. Note that unique long file names are actually used on the flash card of the form *Prefix\_YYYYMMDD\_hhmmss.wav*.

The last line shows the sample rate and number of channels (x2 for stereo, x1 for mono), and the percentage indicates how full the SD flash card slot is on which the recording is being made.

You can press the “Select” button to toggle between the display above and the following. In this mode, the audio being recorded is also sent to the headphone jack so you can check levels.

```
2009-Sep-11 13:32:56
Recording: 01:29:12
L:*** -45.2dBV
R:**** -41.1dBV
```

The rms signal levels of each channel are shown both graphically (with each asterisk representing 6dB) and with an indication of signal level relative to 1Vrms full scale.

When making recordings at ultrasonic sample rates e.g. 192kHz or 384kHz, output to the headphones will be frequency divided by the specified Div Ratio in the advanced audio settings configuration.

## Making Recordings

### Audio Files

## Audio Files

Song Meter creates a file for each scheduled recording under a directory called *Data*. The file name indicates the actual start time of the recording and has the format *Prefix\_YYYYMMDD\_hhmmss.wav*, where *Prefix\_* is a user-defined label (see “Filename Prefix” on page 19), *YYYY* is the year, *MM* is the month (00-12), *DD* is the day (00-31), *hh* is the hour (00-23) *mm* is the minute (00-59), and *ss* is the second (00-59). The file is a standard 16-bit PCM uncompressed “.WAV” file. For display purposes, Song Meter shows a shortened version of the filename on the LCD of the form *MMDDhhmm.WAV*.

If compression is enabled, files are stored in the Wildlife Acoustics Audio Compression format indicated by “.WAC” instead of “.WAV”.

The filename is shown with an A:, B:, C:, or D: prefix indicating which SD flash card slot is being used. Song Meter will use the lowest lettered slot that is available and has sufficient remaining free space to store the recording. If there is no more room for recording in any slot, the following message will be displayed for 5 seconds, then Song Meter will go to sleep until manually awoken:

```
2009-Sep-11 05:29:11
Song Meter II R2.2.0
MEDIA FULL OR FAILED
Shutting down.....
```

## Data Log Files

Song Meter creates one log file for each card with the name *Prefix\_Sensor-X.txt*, where *X* is the card slot letter A, B, C, or D.

At the start of each recording, and every 5 minutes during recording, Song Meter takes a reading on the two sensors (the internal temperature sensor and the external sensor port). Each reading is appended on a line to the log file on the same card used to make the recording as follows:

```
2009-Oct-01      11:44:25      22.9   1.408
```

The four tab-delimited fields include the date, time, internal temperature, and external sensor readings. For scale and calibration information, see “Sensor Settings” on page 23.



## **Aborting a Recording in Progress**

While the Song Meter is recording, you can press the “Back” or “Wake/Exit” to abort the recording in progress and enter the start-up screen.

## **Manual Recording Feature**

In addition to recording on a schedule, the Song Meter can also start a recording when the start-up screen is displayed by pushing the “Up” and “Down” buttons simultaneously. This will start a one-hour recording on the lowest lettered slot on which the recording will fit.

Pressing the “Select” button toggles between display modes and headphone output as described in the previous section.

# Song Meter Specifications

## Physical Specifications

- Dimensions: 8.0" X 8.0" X 2.5"
- Weight: 2.0 pounds without batteries)
- Enclosure: NEMA Type 1,4,4X and 6 (weatherproof, vented)
- Operating Temp.: -4°F to +185°F -20°C to +85°C

## Audio Specifications

- Channels: 2
- Interface: 3-pin waterproof connector (ground, signal, 3.3V supply)
- Bias power: 2.5V 2.2K ohm, jumper enabled per channel
- High-pass filter: 2-pole butterworth, jumper selectable per channel at 2, 180 or 1,000Hz
- Pre-amplifier: 2-stage, jumper selectable per channel, at +0, +12, +24, +36, +48, or +60dB gain. For sample rates  $\leq 48\text{kHz}$ , third-stage digitally-configurable +0 to +12dB in 1.5dB steps
- Noise: -115dBV equivalent input noise
- ADC: 1V rms full-scale 16-bit, 90dB SNR
- Sample rates: 4, 8, 16, 22.05, 24, 32, 44.01 and 48kHz standard; 192kHz with SM2BAT daughter card.
- Digital format: 16-bit PCM (.wav) or proprietary lossless and lossy compression formats (.wac).
- Headphones: 3.5mm stereo jack

- Filtering and triggering: Configurable digital high-pass and low-pass filters at sample rate divided by 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 24, 32, 48 and 96. Adaptable trigger with configurable threshold above background 1-88dB, absolute trigger with configurable threshold -1 - -88dB full scale, inactivity time for trigger off 0.1 - 9.9 seconds.

### Sensors

- Channels: 2
- ADC: 10-bit at 3.3V reference (3.2millivolt resolution)
- Parameters available for precise calibration
- Internal temperature sensor accurate to within  $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  at  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- External sensor port with 3-pin waterproof connector (ground, signal, 3.3V supply)

### Storage

- 4 SD/SDHC/SDIO flash card slots (Class 4 or greater)
- 128GB total capacity with 4x32GB cards available today, more as higher capacity cards become available
- Compression increases effective capacity by 60-70% typically

### Power

- 4-10VDC main power (internal 4 D-size batteries or external weatherproof connector)
- 6-20VDC through external power adapter for 6 or 12V solar power systems
- < 1mA when idle between scheduled recordings
- *The following estimates can vary 10mA depending on flash cards used:*

## Song Meter Specifications

- 55-65mA when recording uncompressed up to 48kHz (except 32kHz), compressed up to 16kHz mono, and band triggered up to 8kHz mono.
- 70-75mA when recording compressed up to 48kHz (except 32kHz), and band triggered up to 24kHz mono.
- 80-90mA when recording 32kHz and up to 48kHz compressed, and band triggered up to 44.1kHz mono.
- 90-100mA when recording band triggered up to 48kHz mono.
- 110mA when recording band triggered up to 48kHz stereo.
- Separate power for time-of-day clock uses 2 AA-size batteries, < 0.1milliamps (2-3 year service life)

## Future expansion

- External analog sensor input port
- SDIO card capable to support GPS, Bluetooth, WiFi, etc.
- Digital expansion connectors on the motherboard
- Micro-USB connector on motherboard
- Field-upgradeable firmware

## SMX-II Microphones

- Enclosure: NEMA 4X weatherproof
- Sensitivity:  $-36\pm 4\text{dB}$  (0dB=1V/pa@1KHz)
- Frequency response: flat 20Hz - 20,000Hz
- Signal-to-Noise Ratio: > 62dB
- Directionality: Omnidirectional

# Warranty

## Wildlife Acoustics Inc. Limited Warranty

**HARDWARE:** Wildlife Acoustics, Inc. ("WAI") warrants to the original end user ("Customer") that new WAI branded products will be free from defects in workmanship and materials, under normal use, for one (1) year from the original purchase date. WAI warrants refurbished WAI products, marked and sold as such, for ninety (90) days from the original purchase date.

**SOFTWARE:** WAI warrants to Customer that any WAI branded software will perform in substantial conformance to their program specifications for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of original purchase. WAI warrants the media containing software against failure during the warranty period. WAI makes no warranty or representation that the operation of the software products will be uninterrupted or error free, or that all defects in the software products will be corrected.

### EXCLUSIONS

This warranty excludes (1) physical damage to the surface of the product, including cracks or scratches on the outside casing; (2) damage caused by misuse, neglect, improper installation or testing, unauthorized attempts to open, repair, or modify the product, or any other cause beyond the range of the intended use; (3) damage caused by accident, fire, power changes, other hazards, or acts of God; or (4) use of the product with any non-WAI device or service if such device or service causes the problem.

Any third party products, including software, included with WAI products are not covered by this WAI warranty and WAI makes no representations or warranties on behalf of such third parties. Any warranty on such products is from the supplier or licensor of the product.

### EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES

Should a covered defect occur during the warranty period and you notify WAI, your sole and exclusive remedy shall be, at WAI's sole option and expense, to

## **Warranty**

### *Wildlife Acoustics Inc. Limited Warranty*

repair or replace the product or software. If WAI cannot reasonably repair nor replace then WAI may, in its sole discretion, refund the purchase price paid for the product. Replacement products or parts may be new or reconditioned or comparable versions of the defective item. WAI warrants any replaced or repaired product, part, or software for a period of ninety (90) days from shipment, or through the end of the original warranty, whichever is longer.

**OBTAINING WARRANTY SERVICE:** Customer should refer to WAI's website at [www.wildlifeacoustics.com/support](http://www.wildlifeacoustics.com/support) for information on obtaining warranty service authorization. Methods for obtaining warranty service may vary depending on whether purchases were made from an authorized provider of WAI products, or from WAI directly. All requests for warranty service authorization must be made within the applicable warranty period. Dated proof of original purchase will be required. Products or parts shipped by Customer to WAI must be sent postage-paid and packaged appropriately for safe shipment. WAI is not responsible for Customer products received without a warranty service authorization and may be rejected. Repaired or replacement products will be shipped to Customer at WAI's expense. All products or parts that are replaced become the property of WAI. WAI shall not be responsible for Customer's software, firmware, information, or memory data contained in, stored on, or integrated with any products returned to WAI for repair, whether under warranty or not. The repair and replacement process for products or parts in locations outside of the United States will vary depending on Customer's location.

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## **Warranty**

### *Wildlife Acoustics Inc. Limited Warranty*

ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES AND EVEN IF ANY LIMITED REMEDY SPECIFIED IN THIS LICENCE AGREEMENT IS DEEMED TO HAVE FAILED OF ITS ESSENTIAL PURPOSE. WAI'S ENTIRE LIABILITY SHALL BE LIMITED TO REPLACEMENT, REPAIR, OR REFUND OF THE PURCHASE PRICE PAID, AT WAI'S OPTION. IN NO EVENT SHALL WAI'S LIABILITY FOR ALL DAMAGES RELATED TO THE PURCHASE OF PRODUCT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PAID FOR THE APPLICABLE PRODUCT. THE FOREGOING LIMITATIONS WILL APPLY EVEN IF THE ABOVE STATED REMEDY FAILS OF ITS ESSENTIAL PURPOSE.

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**GOVERNING LAW:** This Limited Warranty shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, U.S.A., and by the laws of the United States, excluding their conflicts of laws principles. The United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods is hereby excluded in its entirety from application to this Limited Warranty.

Wildlife Acoustics, Inc., P.O. Box 680, Concord, MA 01742-0680, United States of America, (888) 733-0200, [www.wildlifeacoustics.com](http://www.wildlifeacoustics.com)

# **Declaration of Conformity (EN 45014)**

Manufacturer: Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.  
P. O. Box 680  
Concord, MA 01742-0680  
United States of America

Declares that the following product:

Product Name: Song Meter  
Product Model Numbers: SM2

Product Type: Digital Audio Field Recorder

Conforms to the appropriate country standards and governing regulations listed below. We, as the manufacturer, are fully responsible for the design and production of the above-mentioned equipment.

89/336/EEC: Official Journal of the European Communities Council  
(3 May 1989) on Electromagnetic Compatibility

92/31/EEC: Official Journal of the European Communities  
(28 April 1982) Amending Directive 89/336/EEC on: Council Directive  
on Electromagnetic Compatibility

CFR 47, Requirements for commercial data processing  
FCC Part 15: equipment. Class A: Industrial and commercial  
(8/14/2006)

EN 55022: Limits and methods of measurement of radio interference  
(1998, A1:2000, characteristics of information technology equipment  
A2:2003) Class A: ITE

CISPR22: (2005) Information technology equipment - Radio disturbance  
characteristics - Limits and methods of measurement.  
Class A:ITE

AS/NZS: Limits and methods of measurements of radio  
(CISPR: 2004) disturbance characteristics of information  
technology equipment. Class A: Industrial and



## Declaration of Conformity (EN 45014)

commercial

ICES-003: issue 4 Electronic Emissions from Data Processing Equipment  
(2/2004) and Electronic Office Machines

EN 55024: Information technology equipment - Immunity  
(1998, A1:2001, characteristics - Limits and methods of measurement  
A2:2003)

EN 61000-4-2: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) Part 4: Testing  
(1995, A1:1998, and measurement techniques - Section 2: Electrostatic  
A2:2001) discharge immunity test

EN 61000-4-3: Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) Part 4: Testing  
(1995, A1:1998, and measurement techniques - Section 3: Radiated, radio  
A2:2001) frequency, electromagnetic field immunity test

This class A digital apparatus also meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.

Cet appareil numérique de la Classe A respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

This product operates on 6V DC.

This product was tested in a typical configuration.



Ian Agranat, President  
Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.  
October 1, 2009

**Declaration of Conformity (EN 45014)**