Recording with the Sony MZ-NH-900

Set-Up Steps for MD Mode Only

The HiMD recorders can record in two formats: the higher quality HiMD format or the Standard MD SP format. They can also record on both the old, "MD" discs and the new HiMD discs. The separate set-up steps for the Hi-MD mode follow these below.

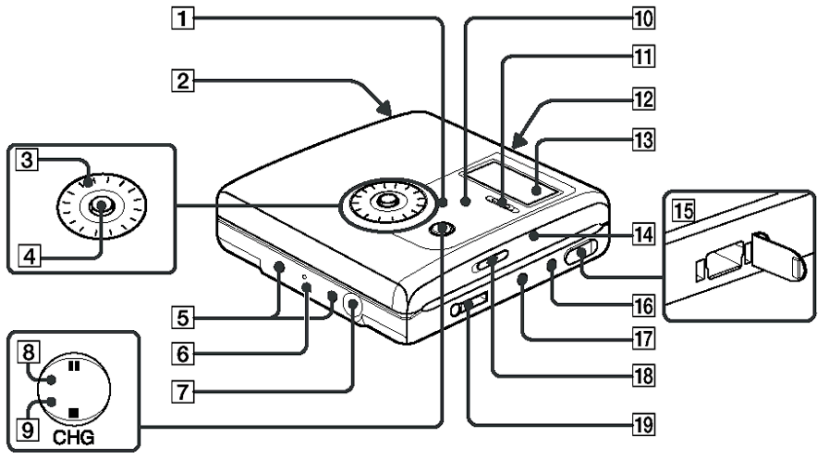
These steps are for MD Disc mode, NOT Hi-MD !!
Files created in the MD format cannot be transferred digitally via SoundStage and a USB cable on a PC. MD format recordings have to be transferred in real time on the Transfer platform in B-18 or via a analog cable. Format Your Discs should be formatted in HiMD mode unless you have a special reason to use MD mode.

Recording Kit: Sony MZ-NH900 recorder; 110 A.C. power Supply; Charging cradle; USB cable; AA battery holder (detachable); Sony MDR-V600 Headphones or similar. 1- Rode NT4 stereo mic or 1- stereo pair of Sound Professional Binaural mics.

With a Sound Devices Preamp Some Sony MZ-NH900 recorders will become available alone and some will be in backpack kits using the MP-2 or Mix Pre mic preamps and condenser mics-- probably the Rode NT1A's and the CAD 179's. The later kits can only be checked-out to students who have taken Field Audio 420 or are enrolled in 460 and receive a demo.

Set-Up Steps for the Sony MZ-NH900 MD Recorder

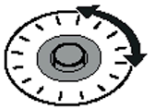
It is very important to go through theses steps every time before you start recording and, preferably, before you even set off to record. Take some time to practice placing the recorder into manual record gain mode because you'll need to be able to do this quickly and confidently in the field. If you fail to do some of the below steps, your recording can suffer in terms of quality and in some cases, it won't be able to be imported into a computer without a lot of extra work or maybe, not at all.



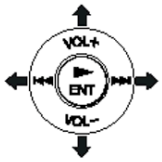
1 •NAVI/ MENU button
Press lightly to go to the NAVI (navigation) setting mode (page 48).
Press for 2 seconds or more to go to MENU setting mode (page 27).

2 Battery compartment

3 Jog dial



4 5-way control key



Operation	Function
Press ENT [1]	play, enter
Press towards ⏮	find the beginning of the previous track, rewind
Press towards ⏭	find the beginning of the next track, fast forward
Press towards VOL +[1] or VOL –.	volume

[1] There are tactile dots beside the ENT and VOL + buttons.

5 Terminals for attaching dry battery case

6 Terminal for attaching the battery charging stand

7 DC IN 3V jack

8 ⏸ (pause) button

9 ■ (stop) • CANCEL/CHG button

10 GROUP button

11 ●REC (record) switch

12 OPEN switch

13 Display window

14 T MARK button

15 USB cable connecting jack

16 LINE IN (OPT) jack

17 MIC (PLUG IN POWER) jack
There is a tactile dot beside the MIC (PLUG IN POWER) jack.

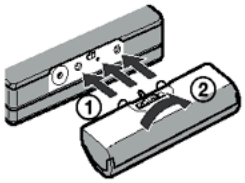
18 HOLD switch
Slide the switch in the direction of the arrow to disable the buttons on the recorder. To prevent the buttons from being accidentally operated when you carry the recorder, use this function.

19 (headphones/earphones)/LINE OUT jack

Perform these steps with No Disc in the Recorder:

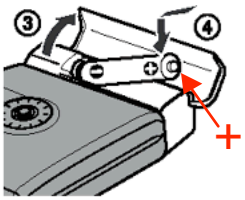
1 Attach the dry battery case to the recorder.

Rear of the recorder

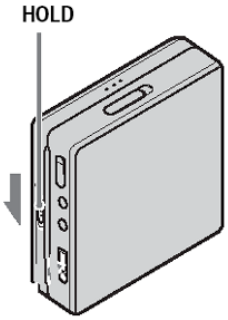


Insert a LR6 (size AA) alkaline dry battery.

2 Insert the battery minus end first.

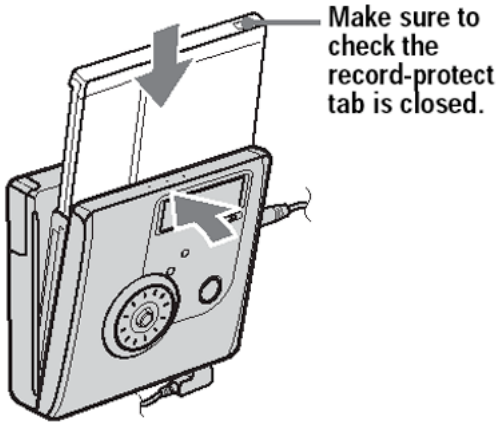


3. Slide HOLD to the opposite direction of the arrow (→) on the recorder or the remote control to unlock the controls.



3.

Insert a disc with the label side facing front, and press the lid down to close.



4. **Set to Advanced Menu Mode** Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate the circular jog wheel until the word, "Option," is blinking. Press down on the small ENTER button (the button in the middle of the Jog wheel) to select "Option." Rotate the jog wheel until the word "Advanced" is blinking and select it by pressing ENTER. You cannot access manual record gain unless it is in this mode.

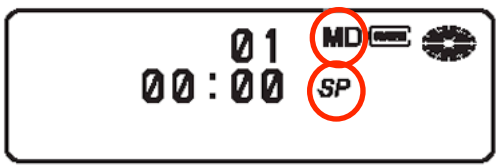
"EOR" (EDIT; OPTION; RECORD SET)

5. **Format Disc in MD format (this erases everything that is already recorded on the disk)** Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate jog wheel to EDIT, select it by pressing the ENTER button in the center of the Jog Wheel. Under Edit-> select Format-> and blinking "Yes." If there is no "Format" option provided, select "Erase All." "Disc Mode" is blinking. Select "Disc Mode" by pressing ENTER. Jog until the word, "MD" is blinking. Select it with ENTER.

6. **Set Disc Mode in MD format** Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate jog wheel to Option, select it by pressing the ENTER button in the center of the Jog Wheel. Under Option-> select Disc Mode-> and blinking "MD."

7. **Set Record Mode to SP** Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate Jog Wheel until "REC Set" is blinking and press Enter. Select "Rec Mode" and then "SP."

8. Look at the Menu window. The Record Mode should show "MD" and "SP. If the window shows HiMD or LP2, re-do the above steps 5 and 7.

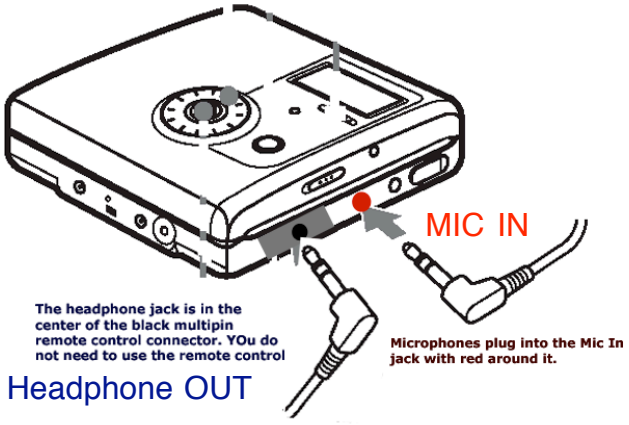


9. Install a fresh, alkaline, 9 volt battery into the Rode NT-4 mic by un-screwing the lower section of the body and sliding the battery into the cavity (terminals first). Check for correct polarity (+ to + and – to –). Secure the battery in place with the flexible spring clip and screw the sections back together.

10. Slip the mic back into the shock mount and attach the fake fur jacket. The Rode NT-4 mic is *very sensitive* to hand-holding and the slightest amount of wind. Unless you are mounting it on a mic stand indoors, the results are likely to be disappointing without a shock mount/zepplin.

11. Its best to turn ON the mic before plugging it in to the Recorder. The switch is on the Mic body ON. When the NT4 is switched ON, the red battery status light should illuminate for about 1 second and turn off. If the L.E.D. remains illuminated significantly longer, the battery should be replaced. Life expectancy for a high quality alkaline battery is in excess of 400 hours. If left ON, the battery power will be unnecessarily depleted.

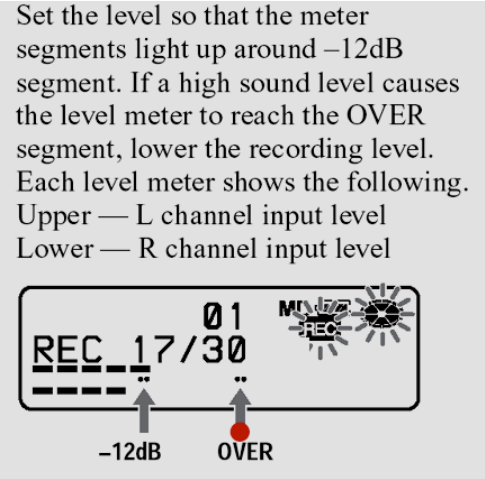
12. Attach the XLR-> 1/8" stereo mini-plug cable to the end of the NT4 mic. Plug the mini-plug connector into the RED mic in jack on the Sony Recorder and the headphones into the black headphone jack.



13. **Set/Check Mic Sensitivity** (Low or HI) Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Use Jog Wheel to navigate to "Rec Set" and then "Mic Sens." Select "High" if you are recording ambience or "Low" if you are recording close voice or loud sound effects.

14. **Set in Manual Record Level Mode** Unfortunately, one cannot go directly into Manual Record Mode; you must go into Auto Gain mode,

place it in pause and then use the menu to change to Manual Record level. Push the RED REC button down and slide the button to the right to put the recorder in instant record mode (auto gain). Press on the PAUSE BUTTON. Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate jog wheel until "REC Set" is blinking. Select "REC Volume," and then "Manual." You can now adjust Record Level manually with the Jog Wheel. Set the record level gain so the normal volume "peaks" cause about 1/2 of the segments to come on (turn black). Notice that the over-modulation segment occurs right under the "0" of "30."



You can change the record level as the deck while recording if necessary.

15. To start recording, press again on the Pause button. When you are ready to stop recording, press on the PAUSE button again. Try to not stop the recorder with the STOP button unless you are taking a break because this will take the deck out of Manual Record Level mode. Note that the recorder jumps to unused disc space when a new recording is started. Recordings are organized into "groups." A 'Group" includes all the tracks made with the pause button. Pressing STOP will cause a new "group" to be created the next time the a recording is made on the disc.

16. To raise the headphone volume, press on the top edge of the ENTER button and on the lower edge to lower the headphone volume. This may take some practice.

17. You can create a marker for a new track as the Recorder is running by pressing the "T mark" button above the mic input jack. This will create a new track at this point making it much easier to locate later.

18. **Allow the Record to Save the Files**. After pressing STOP, the recorder needs to write the file to the disk in order to save it. DO NOT remove the disk or turn off the power to the unit by removing the battery or power cord during this phase or you will lose the recordings on the disc.

19. Playing Recordings. Insert the disc, press the left or right edge of the ENTER button to shuffle through your tracks.

20. Prevent accidental erasure of recorded discs by sliding the white tab on the rear edge of the disc until the slot is open.

21. Disc Capacities: A standard MD disk has a capacity of 74-80 minutes recorded in SP mode. (Don't record in the LP mode, the quality is compromised!)

Sony MZ-NH-900
Hi-MD and MD format Recorder
Set-Up Steps for HiMD Record Mode Only

The HiMD recorders can record in two formats: the HiMD format which can create a 16bit PCM file on HiMD disks and the older MD SP format which uses compression.

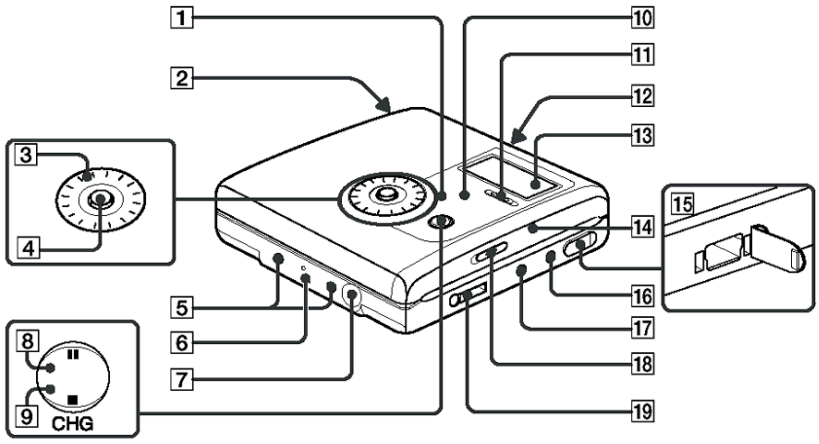
Most users will want to record on HiMD formatted disks because, in addition to better quality, one can transfer the files digitally to a PC using a USB transfer cable and Sony's *Soundstage/Wave Converter* software v3.2.

You can obtain higher resolution files and digital transfer capability using the older MD discs but the discs must be formatted to HiMD before recorded upon.

You also cannot make USB digital transfers of a recordings made onto an older MD disc unless the disk is reformatted into the HiMD format. There is a PC computer in B-56 or B-18 for making the digital transfers from the Sony NH-900 itself. You must use a Mac compatible HiMD recorder and disks recorded on this Mac compatible recorders (models MZ-M100 or MZ-M10) to be able to transfer HiMD recordings directly to a Mac. HiMD disks recorded on a PC compatible HiMD recorder like the NH-900 must be transferred on a PC platform.

Set-Up Steps for the Sony MZ-NH900 MD Recorder

It is very important to go through these steps before you start recording and, preferably, before you set off to your location. Take some time to practice placing the recorder into manual record gain mode because you'll need to be able to do this quickly and confidently in the field. If you fail to do some of the below steps, your recording can suffer in terms of quality and in some cases, it may not be able to be digitally imported into a computer.



1 •NAVI/ MENU button
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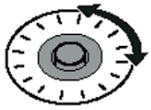
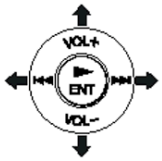
2 Battery compartment

3 Jog dial



4 5-way control key



Operation	Function
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Press towards VOL +[1] or VOL –.	volume

[1] There are tactile dots beside the ENT and VOL + buttons.

5 Terminals for attaching dry battery case

6 Terminal for attaching the battery charging stand

7 DC IN 3V jack

8 ⏸ (pause) button

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17 MIC (PLUG IN POWER) jack
There is a tactile dot beside the MIC (PLUG IN POWER) jack.

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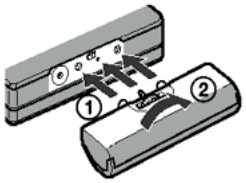
Slide the switch in the direction of the arrow to disable the buttons on the recorder. To prevent the buttons from being accidentally operated when you carry the recorder, use this function.

19 (headphones/earphones)/LINE OUT jack

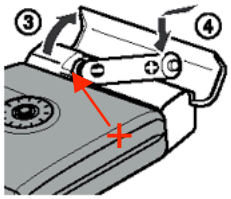
Perform these steps with No Disc in the Recorder:

1 Attach the dry battery case to the recorder.

Rear of the recorder

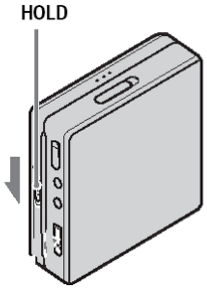


2 Insert the battery minus end first.



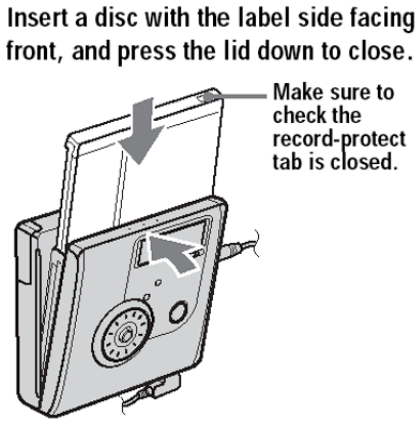
Insert a LR6 (size AA) alkaline dry battery.

3. Slide HOLD to the opposite direction of the arrow (→) on the recorder or the remote control to unlock the controls.



4. **Set to Advanced Menu Mode,** Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate the circular jog wheel until the word, "Option," is blinking. Press down on the small ENTER button (the button in the middle of the Jog wheel) to select "Option." Rotate the jog wheel until the word "Advanced" is blinking and select it by pressing ENTER. You cannot access manual record gain unless it is in this mode.

5. Insert disk you wish to record on into the recorder with the metal slide on top and to the right.



The "EOR" Steps

EDIT, OPTION and RECORD SET

6. Depending on the type and state of your disk, follow one of these steps:

   a) If you are recording onto new or blank 1GB HiMD disk, go to step 8.

   b) If you are recording on a 1GB HiMD disk that you wish to remove all previous tracks from before you begin, press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate jog wheel to **EDIT**, select it by pressing the ENTER button in the center of the Jog Wheel. Under Edit-> Erase-> All Erase->Yes. After the while it will indicate "No Tracks." Skip to step 8.

   c) If you are recording onto a blank, older MD disk, press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate jog wheel to **EDIT**, select it by pressing the ENTER button in the center of the Jog Wheel. Under Edit-> Format-> Yes. After the while it will indicate "No Tracks."

7. **Set Disc Mode in HiMD format** Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate jog wheel to **Option**, select it by pressing the ENTER button in the center of the Jog Wheel. Under Option-> select Disc Mode-> and blinking "HiMD."

8. There are two suggested recording modes PCM and HiSP, PCM is the highest quality mode. A 1GB disk will hold 92 minutes at the PCM quality and 8 hours at the HiSP quality. An older, smaller MD disk will hold 38 minutes of PCM quality and 74 minutes of HiSP quality.
   a) **To Set Record Mode to PCM.** Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate Jog Wheel until "**REC Set**" is blinking and press Enter. Select "Rec Mode" and then "PCM."
   b) **To Set Record Mode to HiSP.** Press and hold the Navi/Menu button for 2 seconds until the menu window activates. Rotate Jog Wheel until "**REC Set**" is blinking and press Enter. Select "Rec Mode" and then "HiSP" Do not use the HiLP mode unless you purposely want poorer quality.

8. Look at the Menu window. The Record Mode should show "Hi-MD" and either "PCM" or HiSP. If the window shows "MD" or SP, re-do the above steps, 6-8.

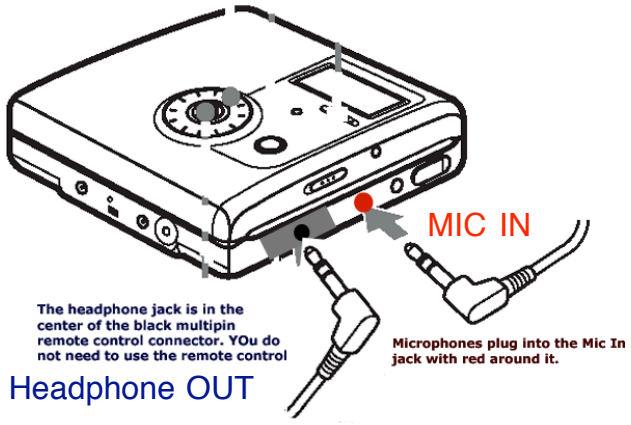
10. Install a fresh, alkaline, 9 volt battery into the Rode NT-4 mic by unscrewing the lower section of the body and sliding the battery into the cavity (terminals first). Check for correct polarity (+ to + and – to –). Secure the battery in place with the flexible spring clip and screw the sections back together.

11. Slip the mic back into the shock mount and attach the fake fur jacket. The Rode NT-4 mic is *very sensitive* to hand-holding and the slightest amount of wind. Unless you are mounting it on a mic stand indoors, the results are likely to be disappointing without a shock mount/zepplin. If your mic doesn't not have a shockmount/zepplin, consider making one yourself. Here are some pictures of the shock-mounts with car wqash mitt zeppelins we made in October 2005 for the 420 Field Audio Class:

http://www.uwm.edu/~type/Mic Preamps/DIY_NT4_3inchPVC_ShockZep/DIY_NT4_3inchPVC_ShockZep.html

12. Its best to turn ON the mic before plugging it in to the Recorder. The switch is on the Mic body ON. When the NT4 is switched ON, the red battery status light should illuminate for about 1 second and turn off. If the L.E.D. remains illuminated significantly longer, the battery should be replaced. Life expectancy for a high quality alkaline battery is in excess of 400 hours. If left ON, the battery power will be unnecessarily depleted.

13. Attach the XLR end of the XLR5-> 1/8" stereo mini-plug cable into the tail of the NT4 mic. Plug the mini-plug connector into the RED mic in jack on the Sony Recorder and the headphones into the black headphone jack.



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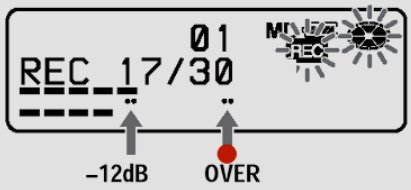
Set the level so that the meter segments light up around –12dB segment. If a high sound level causes the level meter to reach the OVER segment, lower the recording level. Each level meter shows the following.
Upper — L channel input level
Lower — R channel input level



You can change the record level as the deck while recording if necessary.

16. To start recording, press again on the Pause button. When you are ready to stop recording, press on the PAUSE button again. Try to not stop the recorder with the STOP button unless you are taking a break because this will take the deck out of Manual Record Level mode. Note that the recorder jumps to unused disc space when a new recording is started. Recordings are organized into "groups." A 'Group" includes all the tracks made with the pause button. Pressing STOP will cause a new "group" to be created the next time the a recording is made on the disc.

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18. You can create a marker for a new track as the Recorder is running by pressing the "T mark" button above the mic input jack. This will create a new track at this point making it much easier to locate later.

19. **Allow the Recorder to Save the Files**. After pressing STOP, the recorder needs to write the file to the disk in order to save it. DO NOT remove the disk or turn off the power to the unit by removing the battery or power cord during this phase or you will lose the recordings on the disc.

20. Playing Recordings. Insert the disc, press the left or right edge of the ENTER button to shuffle through your tracks.

21. Prevent accidental erasure of recorded discs by sliding the white tab on the rear edge of the disc until the slot is open.

USB Cable Transfer of MZ-NH-900 Sound files using Sonic Stage 3.2

The below steps are for PC compatible only not for the Mac Compatible HiMD recorders There should be PC computers in MIT B-18 and B-56 with the necessary software installed.

1. Your material must have been made with a PC compatible HiMD recorder like the NH-900 on a HiMD-formatted disk.

2. Start or restart the PC. Log on to the PC as "student" under the PSOA MITB…" option. Leave the password window blank..

3. Connect your Sony HiMD recorder to the AC power supply that's with the platform or in your recorder kit. Do not perform the below steps running on battery power! Connect your Sony Hi-MD recorder to the PC using the USB cable that with the platform or in your Recorder Kit. The USB port is next to the mouse port on the rear of the PC.

4. Open the folder on the desktop named, "Converted Wav Files here." If there are any files in this folder, drag them to the Recycle bin and empty the bin.

5. Launch the SonicStage v3.2 software using the Icon on the desktop.

6. Click on the "TRANSFER" button towards the top right of the SS window. Slide in the HiMD formatted disk you wish to transfer sound files from. After the disk mounts, your recordings should show as one or more 'Untitled" folders on the right side (the HiMD disc side). Click on the folders and open them. If you scroll the Transfer window view to the right, you can see the duration of each track in minutes and the mode (PCM or HiSP) it was recorded in.

7. To help ID the files, you can rename them in SS before you transfer them. To listen to a sound file, click on it once and press the > play button. (A pair of headphones need to be plugged into the jack in the rear of the PC in order to hear it). Stop playing the file. To rename it, click on a sound file's name in the HiMD disk list, press F2, and type the new name in the title bar. EG: "20050203MT_UrbanNitePres" Do not exceed 23 characters or it will have to ne renamed before importing it into Logic.

8. If there are more than a few ".oma" transfer files in the "My Library" side of the SS window., select them, click on the "X"-looking icon at the bottom of the window *on the PC side.* Select the "remove and delete option" and click OK. The sound files should disappear from the left window. In the top right hand of the My Library window there's a free space meter. You need at least 2GB to transfer a 1GB disk recorded in PCM mode and 5GB to transfer a disk recorded in the HiSP mode.

9. Hold on the Control Key and select the files you wish to transfer from your HiMD disc in the right panel. You can also use "select all" or cick on the

folder if you want every file in that folder. When you are sure you have selected all of the one's you want, click the Red Transfer button (left facing arrow). The transfer process takes about 40-50 minutes for the transfer and wav conversion of a full 1GB disk.

10. Be very careful to not disconnect the HiMD recorder or its power or the PC's power during this transfer process.

11. Sonicstage v3.2 will first create ".oma" files and then convert them into .wav files automatically. You can play the oma files on the My Library side to hear that they transferred okay. Note that "Wav" files are compatible with Mac and Logic, not ".oma"'s.

12. Look at the list of new tracks in My Library. Are any longer than 190 minutes each? (These can only be created by recording takes longer than 3 hours in HiSP mode) if so, go to the next steps.

13. **Dividing a recording that is longer than 190 minutes.** You'll need to "divide" any ".oma" (or "My Library" side) file into two smaller parts so none of the parts is longer than 190 minutes. Using the "divide" command in SonicStage doesn't destroy any material, it splits the file into two parts. (If you don't reduce length, the .wav file will be longer than 2GB and will show as "damaged" when trying to import it into Logic. If you don't notice this before, you can re-transfer the files and perform the below steps).

    a) Look in the folder named, "Converted Wav Files Here." Your converted wav files should be in here. If any of the files in this folder are larger than 2GB (or >2,000,000 KB). Make a note of its exact name and length in minutes and drag it to the Recycling Bin. You'll probably need to empty the bin.
    b) Look in the My Library side of SonicStage and find the (large) file with the same name as the one larger than 2GB. Ifs its larger than 360 minutes, it will have to be divided into three parts.
    c) To divide a file in half, make sure its not playing and select it. Under Edit select, Divide." This will open up a work window. Slide the upper slider about midway and select "Start Divide." Next it will show you the length of the first segment created by the divide. If its less than 2GB, click on OK. A new segment will be created in the Library. If the second segment is still longer then 190 minutes, divide the 2nd segment with the previous steps.

14. **Converting the New, >2GB Segments into .wav files.** Select all of the segments that need new .wav files made. Under Tools, select "Save in .Wav Format." Click create and navigation window will open . In this window create a new folder inside of the "My Music" folder and label it something like, "New Sm Wavs-- can toss." SonicStage will make these new smaller omas into wav files in this folder.

15. Next, save all of your .wav files to disk.

Making PC and Mac Compatible Data Disks with Nero

These steps assume you have already created .wav files on a PC that are ready to be saved to disk. If any of your sound files is larger than 700mb, use a DVD-R blank. DVD-R will hold a little over 4.3 GB.

1. Launch Nero by double-clicking on its icon on the desktop.

2. Steps for making a data **CD-R's (max 700mb capacity)**
   a) In the New Compilation Window that opens, select CD in upper left hand corner.
   b) In the vertical window on the left, select CD-ROM [ISO] (the top one in the list).
   c) In the middle window, click on the ISO tab at the top. In the settings window, check these: Data mode: Mode 1; File System: iso9660 only; File Name Length: Max of 11 =8+3 chars (level 1); Character Set: ISO9660 [standard ISO CD-Rom); Turn off all relaxed restrictions.
   d) Click on "New" in upper Right Corner.
   e) Click on the title bar next to the disk icon in the window that opens and type in a name that is not in excess of 11 characters in length, e.g. "CD001_Jones"
   f) To add .wav files from SonicStage to this CD-R disk, open the folder on the desktop, "Converted .WAV files here." And drag all of the files that you wish to copy from this folder into the far left panel of the Nero window. They will appear in the middle pane.
   g) Click on the disk icon with the Red Flame to initiate the last step.
   h) Click on the ISO tab to make sure your settings haven't changed. Click "Burn."

3. Steps for making data **DVD-R's (max 4.3GB capacity)**
   a) In the New Compilation Window that Opens, select DVD in upper left hand corner.
   b) In the vertical window on the left, scroll and select DVD-ROM (UDF)
   c) In the middle window, UDF partition type: Physical partition; File System Version: UDF 1.02. Force DVD: leave box unchecked..
   d) Click on "New" in upper Right Corner.
   e) Click on the title bar next to the disk icon in the window that opens and type in a name that is not in excess of 11 characters in length, e.g. "DVD001_Jones"
   f) To add .wav files from SonicStage to this DVD-R disk, open the folder on the desktop, "Converted .WAV files here." And drag all of the files that you wish to copy from this folder into the far left panel of the Nero window. They will appear in the middle pane.
   g) Click on the disk icon with the Red Flame to initiate the last step.
   h) Click on the UDF tab to make sure your settings haven't changed. Click "Burn." Insert a blank DVD-R disc when prompted.

i) At the prompt regarding burning option, select "Burn without multi-session."
j) While it is burning, click in the box for "verify written data."

Importing/Splitting the files into Logic

4. On the Mac desktop, drag the folder named, "DragToYour HardDrive" to make a copy of it onto a partition of your FireWire Hard drive.

5. Open the folder inside named, "Field Recordings" (on the copy you just made to your FW drive)

6. Insert your CD/DVD with your .wav sound files into the Mac disk tray (the open CD/DVD tray button is the UP arrow in the top right hand corner of the KEYBOARD)

7. Double click on the CD or DVD icon after it mounts on the desktop. Select all (Apple-A) of the .wav files on the disc and click-drag (copy) them into the "Field Recordings" folder. The copy process will take a while to complete.

8. After the copying is complete, eject the CD/DVD by pressing the open tray button (up arrow) in the top right hand corner of the KEYBOARD)

9. Name the Logic Session doc in the folder on your drive something like, "Voice Edit 01" and launch Logic by double clicking on this doc.

10. Open the "Field Recording" folder again and again select all of the files. Drag them into Logic's "Audio" window (lower left corner of the screen usually). When the prompt requests permission to convert the files, allow it. This step creates split" files with the ".L" and ".R "endings. (If the name of a file is too short, shorten it in the finder before dragging it into the Logic Audio window.)

11. Save your Logic project after all of the audio files are imported.

12. Make a CD or DVD copy of all audio files you have to rename either for ID or to shorten their title length. Hang onto your transfers CD's/DVD's because you may need them to restore your edit should a file become corrupt.

You are now ready to start editing that material as "split" audio files in Logic. The "Mid" channel of M-S recordings should be the ".L" channel.