

Natural Radio

News, Comments and Letters About Natural Radio

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This past month has been a bit hectic so the article will be short. My wife had both knees replaced on April 9 and her recovery is going well. The surgery was 45 minutes per knee, about as long as it takes to get a tooth filled. She was back to work in a little over three weeks and driving just four weeks after the surgery. I find these advances and technology completely amazing

Because of this and being behind at the office, I didn't make the Dayton Hamfest this year, so I'll have to confine my shopping to the closer hamfests. At today's gas prices I'll be giving second thoughts to all road trips.

Samson Zoom H2 Recorder – I am still using a cassette recorder for Natural Recordings which is somewhat of an embarrassment, since everything I use at the studio has been digital for years. I've been waiting for a low-cost miniature recorder with flash memory in the \$200 range and it appears the waiting is over. New in the marketplace is the Samson Zoom H2 Ultra-Portable Digital Audio Recorder. This palm sized unit has a street price of about \$200 which includes a 512 Mb SD Card which will record about 45 minutes of uncompressed stereo audio. (16 bit, 44.1 kHz.) This pricing makes the unit competitive with mini-disk recorders.



Multiple microphones are built in for a variety of polar patterns, but more importantly, there is a line input that will allow connection to your Natural Radio receiver. You can add up to a 4GB SD Card for up to six hours of stereo recording. The unit records in Records in WAV 96kHz/48kHz/44.1kHz at 16-bit or 24-bit, MP3 to 320kbps and Variable Bit Rate (VBR) data formats. The unit will record up to 4 hours on a set of AA batteries.

There is a time stamping function for reference during production. The H2 can also be used as a USB Mic or digital audio interface for recording directly to a computer. And of course you can transfer your recorded files to computer via the USB interface.

A backlit display features recording levels, time code, file name and remaining battery life. Transport controls include one button recording, playback and pause, fast forward and rewind. Use the Menu key to enter the control menu and the cursor keys to navigate through the feature sets.

And you can fine-tune your levels on the fly with the Record Level buttons on the front. The recorders will be available later this summer – I can't wait to get my hands on one.