



TASCAM DR-07mkII Handheld recorder

Entry level price with pro features

By Jimmy Den-Ouden



Brand:
Tascam
Model:
DR-07mkII
RRP:
\$299.00 inc GST
Product Info:
www.tascam.com
Distributor:
www.cmi.com.au



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Many readers will recognize Tascam as a tape machine company. This was true for a long time – even back to the days when reel-to-reel units were not only commonplace, but also the only option. Time has since marched on, and recognizing the need to keep up with it Tascam has shifted into digital gear.

The DR-07mkII is a handheld, 2 channel recorder with in-built microphones. Each mic rotates through 90 degrees, so you can have an open stereo pair or a tighter XY configuration. When you spin the mics, the recorder pops up a notification on-screen and asks you to confirm the config change with a button press. Recordings are stored to a microSD card, and the unit ships with a 2Gb card included. 2Gb buys you just over 2 hours record time at 24 bit, 48k WAV.

A wide range of recording formats is available, from 44.1k to 96k WAV at 16 or 24 bit, as well as MP3 at anything from 32k through to 320k. Selecting record format

is pretty easy – all done via the on-screen menu system. The display is LCD backlit in gentle orange, which is not as nice as an OLED screen but is certainly functional and easy enough to read.

Recording with the DR-07mkII is dead simple. Switch it on, press record, and then press play to begin. Set record levels using the previous/next track keys while referring to the on-screen meters. When you're done, press stop. It really doesn't get much easier than this. I did some test recordings in the office, and even with some gain applied the noise floor seemed very low (I couldn't hear one). The stereo imaging is really nice – using simple internal mics the recorder yields great results. Other cute features include an inbuilt tuner as well as some basic reverb effects, which can be applied to the input or output. A small size mic stand thread is recessed into the base.

The unit will run on AA batteries, or you can power it via USB using the inbuilt mini USB connector and supplied cable. If the recorder loses power while running (I

simulated this by pulling the batteries) you end up with a zero file size – or in other words no recording. It may react better under real conditions and close the file when it detects a low battery.

When you connect the USB lead the recorder prompts you to select "Bus Power" or "Storage" mode. Choosing Storage mode sees the SD card inside the DR-07mkII appear just like a normal USB drive on your Mac or Windows computer. Transferring files happens at USB2.0 speeds, so you won't be waiting hours either.

There's an external mic input between the inbuilt mics – it's a mini jack capable of supplying "plug in power". I'd want an XLR or two if I were connecting external mics, but if that's what you're after look at the DR-40 instead (4 channels, XLR inputs).

But external mics isn't what the DR-07mkII is about. It's designed to be quick to setup and record with, using the internal mics. It's definitely all that, and retailing at under 300 bucks the price is certainly attractive.