

## Samson Zoom H2 Review

### PROS:

What we really like about this 24 bit recorder is the fact that it is only \$200 as compared to professional 12 bit dictation “only” \$500 recorders. We also like the fact that it doubles as a decent USB voice array microphone with as much as a 3 foot range and a choice between a 120° mic spread and 90°. We recommend using the front 90° spread on 1 or 2 monitors and the 120° mic spread on 3 or more monitors. 24 bit recording is impressive. Price wise you can't beat the H2 for recording conferences, lectures or concerts. This unit even includes a number of professional features like Time Stamp, 512 Mb internal memory (can accommodate 4 Gb SD cards), low-cut filters and can even simultaneously record with all 4 microphones (surround sound) for round table conference discussions and auto-level mic input control.

### CONS:

NaturallySpeaking cannot transcribe 24 bit recordings so you can only utilize the MP3 settings which can only produce mediocre quality transcription (about equivalent to low-end consumer quality digital recorders). The H2 doesn't include playback or editing software like most other digital recorders. The membrane buttons lack the tactile feel of a dedicated push button and there is no dedicated slider switch control functionality like double speed play back (cue/review) or seamless punch in because the recorder isn't designed for transcription use. The H2 is also more than twice the size of a traditional transcription recorder.

Although the H2 doubles as a good voice array microphone system (surpassing other dedicated voice array systems like the high priced \$345 Acoustic Magic's USB Voice Tracker or Andrea Electronics \$80 USB Superbeam) it isn't quite as good as the Samson Q7 or [Buddy Desktop](#) which are roughly the same price.

One feature which we particularly dislike is if you wish to use the H2 primarily as a desktop USB microphone you have to go through 9 menu selections to activate the USB microphone output because the H2 doesn't remember your changes when you power down the unit.

## CONCLUSION:

If you are looking for an inexpensive digital recorder for serious or even semi-serious work, we cannot recommend the H2 unless you are echo dictating. Note that unlike other digital recorders, the H2 doesn't include playback/editing software because it is designed for another purpose.

If you are looking for the perfect desktop microphone, the H2 is decent but again, not our 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> choice but if you are on a \$200 budget and need a 24 bit digital recorder for conferences, lectures and even concerts that will double as a USB voice array microphone for speech recognition, the Zoom H2 is a great choice