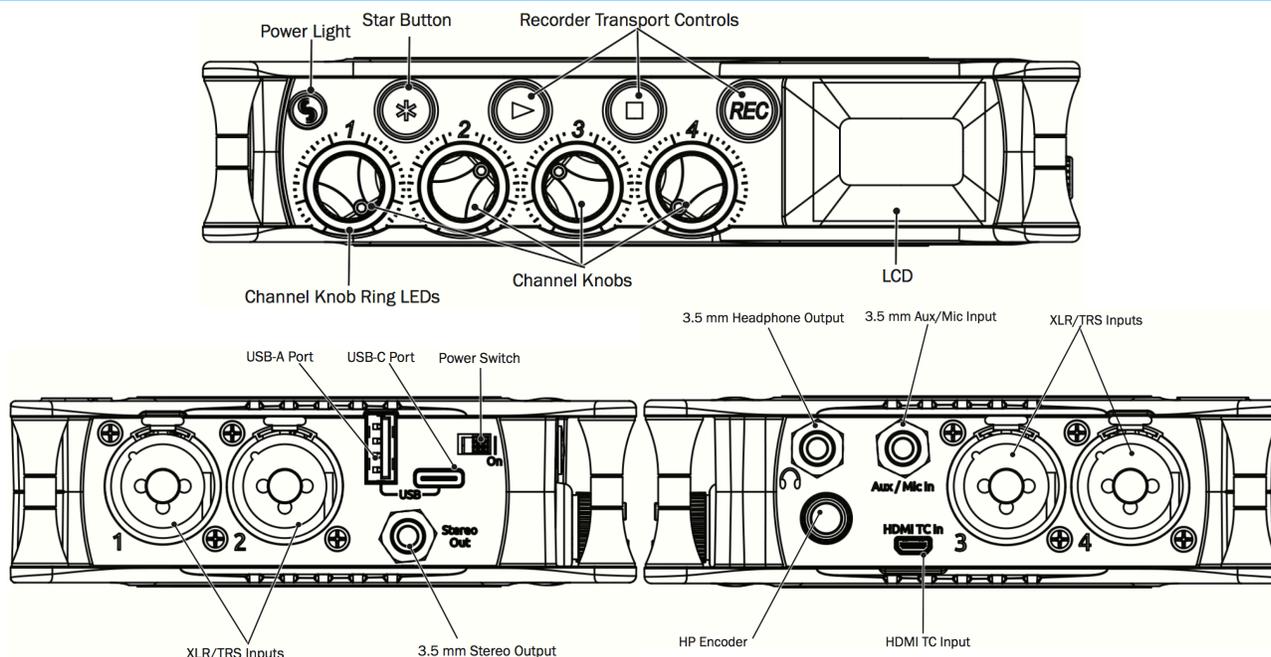


SOUND DEVICES MIXPRE-6 QUICKSTART

The MixPre-6 is the new sound recorder/field mixer by Sound Devices and is compact, lightweight, and without compromise in terms of sound quality. It is expected to quickly become a new standard recorder for small-scale film productions. The recorder is available for checkout with a 32 GB SD card already installed, giving you about 60 hours of track record time.

The MixPre-6 is a very versatile and potentially complex machine. This handout will detail the basics of getting started and recording with the MixPre-6, utilizing the customized FV presets.

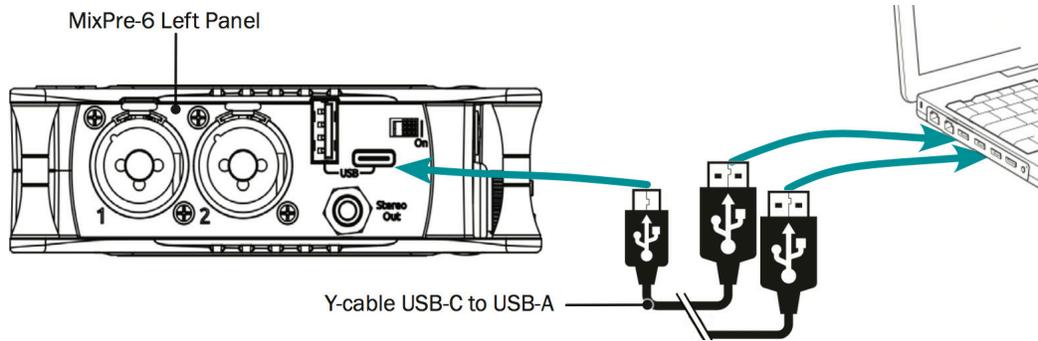
Power



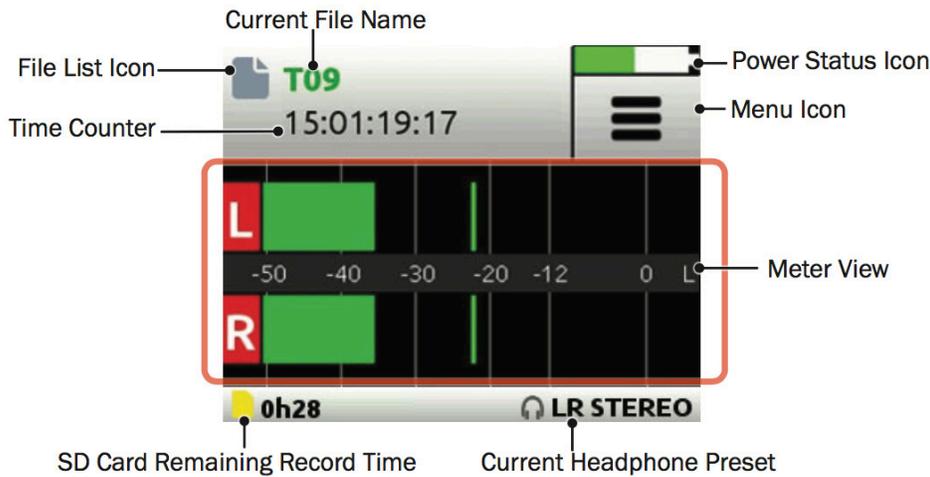
1. Make sure the batteries are installed on the rear mount. You can use one or two batteries, and they can be hot-swapped.
2. To remove a battery, slide the release level *away* from the battery you want to remove, and slide the battery *toward* the release lever and up out of the sled.



3. You can also power the MixPre-6 from a laptop using the provided special USB cable. You must plug it into *two* USB ports to get enough power.



4. Turn the MixPre-6 on, using the power switch on the left panel. This will bring up the *Home Screen* on the front panel. The front panel is a touch screen LCD display, thus menu navigation and operation is done through a combination of tapping the display and pressing and turning the encoders.



FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
File List icon	Tap this icon to view the list of recorded files.
Current file name	The name of the current file appears red when recording and green when playing.
Power status icon	Displays an icon representing type of power source (USB or battery); the battery icon also indicates the current batteries' remaining power level.
Menu icon	Tap this icon to access the main Menu screen. When displaying menus, this icon changes to the Home icon.
Meter view	The stereo meter view shows the left and right mix channels
Status bar	Tap the status bar to toggle through three views of information that includes date and time, current headphone presets, remaining record times, sample rate and bit depth.
Time counter	Displays elapsed time or the timecode, which is stamped on each recorded file and can help simplify audio-to-video synchronization during post-production editing.

Getting Started

1. Tap the **Menu** icon. You'll see three dots under Menu, indicating 3 pages of menu items. Tap **Menu** to go to the second page.



2. Tap **SD Card > Edit > Format**.
3. When asked to confirm the command to format the card, tap **OK**.
4. Since the MixPre-6 is so versatile, we have created 4 presets for to make it the best machine for field & studio recording:
 - 1 Microphone
 - 2 Microphones
 - 4 Microphones (for 3 or 4 inputs)
 - 418 Stereo Mic (only for the Sennheiser 418S M-S mic)

 Don't use the *Factory Default* preset, as it clears all settings and puts the MixPre-6 in a state not well-suited for CalArts production recording.

5. To load Presets, first tap the **Menu** icon.



6. Tap **Presets > Load Preset**. Use the headphone encoder knob to highlight the desired preset. Press the knob twice to select.



Preparing to Record ...

1. Plug in the microphone(s), starting with Input 1.
2. Plug in the headphones to the mini jack on the right side (NOT the jack on the left side). The headphone encoder knob below it controls the volume.



Be careful! This recorder can put out very loud levels to headphones that could damage your hearing!

- Go back to the home menu and tap the **Meter View** once. This will show you record tracks 1-6, as well as headphone monitor outputs L&R. The tracks with numbers highlighted red indicate what will be recorded.
- Use the front Channel Knobs to set levels. Peak levels should be between -12 & 0 dB. A ring around each knob will glow green, amber, and red to show recording levels.
- If the *1 Microphone* preset is selected, the MixPre-6 will record your single microphone onto mono WAV files, while the signal will go to L&R so it can be heard in both ears.



- If the *2 Microphones* preset is selected, it will record 2-channel WAV files. L&R will give the headphones Mic 1 on the left and Mic 2 on the right.



- If the *4 Microphones* preset is selected, it will record 4-channel WAV files. L&R will give the headphones Mics 1&3 on the left and Mic 2&4 on the right.



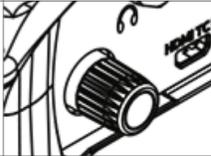
... File Naming ...

- To specify what a file will be named, tap the file name on the upper-left corner of the Home screen, the **Edit > Name**. Characters are selected via the headphone encoder knob.
- Unfortunately, the MixPre-6 doesn't display long file names well. Try using your initials and a truncated date, i.e. CS20170908. In any case, avoid using duplicate file names from day to day because it will confuse some NLEs & DAWs.



The MixPre-6 also has a USB-A port for input from a wired PC keyboard to make file naming (much) easier. Naming can also be done through the Wingman App. To learn about these features, refer to the MixPre-6 User Guide by Sound Devices in the link at the end of this handout.

... Time to Record!

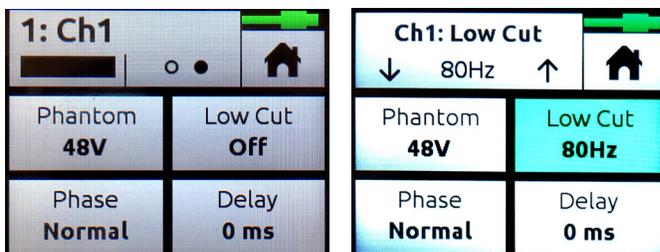
FUNCTION	CONTROL	ACTION
Record		Press to begin recording a new file. The button illuminates red while recording is in underway.
Stop		While recording, press once to stop recording. While in playback, press once to stop playback. While in standby, press and hold to display next take name.
Play / Pause		Press to begin playback of the last file recorded or file currently loaded. The button illuminates green during playback. While in playback, press once to pause, and press again to resume playback. Whenever playback is paused, the button and the current file name will flash green.
Scrub		While playing or paused, press and hold the headphone encoder to enter Scrub mode. Then rotate clockwise for fast forward or counter-clockwise for rewind at speeds of 0x, 1/8x, 1/4x, 1/2x, 1x, 2x, 4x, 8x and 16x. The audio may be heard in Scrub mode up to 2x speed.

Two Advanced Features

1. Push one of the channel level knobs to display the Channel Menu.
2. The first page of the Channel Menu has a *Solo* button which will let you hear one channel at a time. All channels will keep recording regardless of the *Solo* status. When a channel is soloed, its light ring will flash orange.



3. Tap the Menu dots to access the second page of the Channel Menu, which (among other things) shows the *Low Cut* filter settings. It can be set up to roll off bass frequencies or reduce mic handling noise, wind noise, and other undesirable low frequency sounds.
4. Tap the the *Low Cut* button and turn the headphone encoder to select a frequency. Typically, 80Hz is a good starting point. Listen carefully and make sure you aren't losing too much desired low frequency information.



Transferring Your Files to a Computer

1. The MixPre-6 can support USB file transfer between its SD and a USB-connected host computer. In order to use this feature, start from the *Home Screen*.

2. Tap **Menu** > **System** [page 3] > **File Transfer**.



3. The MixPre-6 will display that it has entered USB-C File Transfer Mode and a volume called MixPre SD will show up as an external drive on your desktop. Drag files to an appropriate volume.



4. When file transfer is complete, tap **Exit** on the Transfer Mode screen to return to the previous operating state.

Want More?

☀ The MixPre is a kind of Swiss Army Knife for sound: it can be used as a mixer, recorder, camera interface, and computer digital audio interface. It can do sub-mixes, and even record timecode for automated dailies syncing.

This handout cannot cover all of this. Sound Devices has an excellent, clearly-written user guide for the MixPre-6. It can be downloaded as a PDF from <https://www.sounddevices.com/products/recorders/mixpre-6>.

The full user guide also explains the Wingman App, which can be used as a remote control for the MixPre-6.