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## QUICK START HELP

*Thank you for purchasing our modified TASCAM Professional Grade Digital Recorder/DAC!*

*Please refer to the included Tascam Operations manual for all operating instructions. The only functional change between the ZDSD and the original unmodified Tascam is in Section 7 - Recording/playback with cascade connections. The ZDSD can not be connected with multiple units as the cascade functionality has been deleted.*

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### Connecting the output

On the rear of the ZDSD are a pair of audiophile grade silver RCA jacks, color coded RED for RIGHT and WHITE for LEFT. These are the transformer coupled RCA outputs that we think you'll find simply amazing. We left the stock RCA output intact so you can compare.

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### Adjusting output level

On the front panel, hit the MENU button and rotate the knob four positions until you get to REF LEVEL. Press the knob in to select REF LEVEL. Rotate the knob left and right to select the correct level for your system. The range is -9dB to -20dB, the -20dB is the loudest. On amplifiers with a 2 volt input sensitivity and a gain (volume) control (*like many Decware amplifiers*) setting the output level to somewhere between -16 and -20 is usually the best result. On amplifiers with a higher input sensitivity of say 1 volt or less, setting the output level somewhere between -9 and -16 is usually the best result. You can adjust this level while your ZDSD is playing music so just listen for the best sound and experiment regularly until you get familiar with how this effects the dynamics, weight and density of the sound.

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### Using memory cards

Included with your unit is a sample memory card that contains recordings made by connecting the ZDSD directly to an Otari MTR10 mastering machine playing 15 IPS reel-to-reel master tapes.

Insert the memory card in the appropriate slot in the front of the unit and press PLAY. To see what resolution the files are on the card, press INFO at any time while the music is playing. There is a list of tested and known compatible memory cards in the Tascam manual.

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### Using a CD player, Transport or Computer

To connect the ZDSD to a CD player, transport or computer, use the COAX (SPDIF) RCA connector on the back of the ZDSD via a good quality digital coaxial cable. Press the MENU button on the front of the unit. Rotate the knob ten positions until you find INPUT SEL. Press the knob to enter INPUT SEL. Rotate the knob left or right to select SPDIF. Once selected as your input, the digital source can be listened to by either pressing the REC button, or by turning on the IN MONITORING to ON. To turn the input monitoring to ON hit the MENU button and rotate the knob 14 positions until you reach IN MONITOR. Press the knob to select IN MONITOR and turn the knob left or right to select ON or OFF.

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## Recording

Recording is as simple as pressing the REC button with a memory card installed. Recording will automatically start when you press the button and end when you press stop or pause. The unit will write files to the memory card. You can control how the files are named with either the front control panel, or by plugging a USB keyboard into the appropriate USB connector on the front of the unit. Personally, I just let the machine name the files whatever it wants and when it's done, I put the memory card in my computer and use my computer to rename the files to whatever I want.

Obviously, you can record at any resolution between 16/44 and 24/192 or DSD and DSD 5.6mhz. If you are recording LP's from your vinyl rig, please consider using the highest resolution. You can fit approximately 22 minutes of high res recoding on a 2 gig memory card, so a 4 gig card can fit both sides of an album.

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## Care and Use

The ZDSD has no moving parts or optical components to wear out and this includes the Decware designed output stage. The longevity of a device like this is tied primarily to heat and you will find after being on a few hours it accumulates a fair amount of heat. It is important that the vents be free and clear with good air circulation both above and below the unit and the environment remain clean. Always have clean hands when handling memory cards. Do not eat food for example when handling memory cards.

Make sure memory cards and the connectors are ULTRA CLEAN at all times before inserting them into the ZDSD and you will have many years of trouble free use.

Do not spray cleaners of any kind on the unit as the mist might enter the cooling fins. Instead mist a cotton rag with Windex or just pure water and wipe the top sides and front of the unit while the unit is off.

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*The sound of this unit is fully dependent on the quality of amplification it feeds. This is more important than the type of speakers you have. Always insist on Decware amplifiers whenever possible. The combination of this unit paired with a Decware amplifier is all you need to experience truly great fidelity.*

*Please, if you have any questions or comments about the ZDSD or your stereo in general don't hesitate to call us and ask for me.*

*Thanks,*

*Steve Deckert /Decware High Fidelity Engineering Co. USA*