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aiwa nsx 990 user manual

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Aiwa NSX 990 User Manual: The Complete Guide for Professional Recordings

In today's fast-paced audio industry, a reliable field recorder can make the difference between a polished project and a mediocre one. The Aiwa NSX 990 is a popular choice among journalists, podcasters, and musicians who need a compact, high quality device that delivers studio grade sound on the go. However, many users find the initial setup and advanced features confusing without a clear reference. This comprehensive guide serves as the definitive **Aiwa NSX 990 user manual**, covering everything from basic operation to troubleshooting and maintenance. Whether you're a first time owner or a seasoned pro looking to refresh your knowledge, this article will walk you through every step to help you maximize the potential of your recorder.

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1. Product Overview

The Aiwa NSX 990 is a lightweight, high end field recorder that offers exceptional audio fidelity, a robust build, and a suite of user friendly controls. Designed for professionals who demand the best in sound quality and reliability, it features a built in condenser microphone, dual XLR input channels, and a range of digital processing options. The device is powered by a rechargeable lithium ion battery, making it suitable for long term field work without the need for constant power sources.

Key specifications include:

- Frequency response: 20 Hz – 20 kHz (±0.5 dB)
- Signal to Noise Ratio: 90 dB
- Maximum SPL: 140 dB
- Sample rates: 44.1 kHz, 48 kHz, 96 kHz, 192 kHz
- Bit depth: 16 bit, 24 bit, 32 bit float

- Built in condenser microphone (4 point polar pattern)
- Dual XLR/TRS inputs with phantom power
- USB C interface for data transfer and charging
- LCD display with touchscreen navigation
- Battery life: up to 15 hours (depending on settings)

These specifications make the NSX 990 a versatile tool for everything from live event recording to studio sessions.

2. Key Features

Built In Condenser Microphone

The integrated microphone offers four selectable polar patterns—cardioid, omnidirectional, figure 8, and a custom “balanced” mode—allowing you to capture sound precisely as you intend. Its low self noise and high sensitivity ensure clear recordings even in quiet environments.

Dual XLR/TRS Inputs

Two balanced XLR or TRS inputs provide flexibility for external microphones or instruments. Phantom power (48V) can be enabled with the touch of a button, and each channel offers independent gain controls.

Advanced Digital Processing

With a built in digital equalizer and compression, you can shape your audio in real time. The device also supports 32 bit floating point recording, which preserves dynamic range and allows for extensive post production flexibility.

High Resolution Audio Options

Choose from multiple sampling rates and bit depths to balance file size and audio quality. The 192 kHz/32 bit float mode is ideal for archival purposes and high end production.

USB C Connectivity

The USB C port serves dual purposes: it charges the internal battery and acts as a high speed data link. Direct connection to a computer enables file transfer, firmware updates, and remote control via compatible software.

Durable Build & Ergonomics

Constructed from aerospace grade aluminum, the NSX 990 resists corrosion and impacts. The layout of buttons and knobs is intuitive, allowing quick access to essential functions even in low light conditions.

3. Initial Setup & Installation

Before you begin recording, it’s essential to prepare the device properly. Follow these steps to ensure optimal performance.

1. Unbox and Inspect: Verify that all accessories—USB C cable, XLR cables, and the user manual—are present. Check the device for any visible damage.
2. Charge the Battery: Connect the USB C cable to a power source and let the battery charge fully. A full charge ensures maximum runtime.
3. Insert an SD Card: The NSX 990 uses SDXC cards up to 256 GB. Insert a formatted card (exFAT or FAT32) into the slot. The device will format the card during first boot.
4. Power On: Press and hold the power button until the LCD screen lights up. The initial boot will display a quick tutorial and system checks.
5. Set Time & Date: Navigate to Settings > Date/Time and set the correct time. Accurate timestamps

are crucial for multi track synchronization.

6. Update Firmware (Optional): If a firmware update is available, the device will prompt you. Follow the on screen instructions to download and install the latest version.

4. Basic Operation

Powering On & Off

To turn the NSX 990 on, press the power button once. The device will display the main screen. To turn it off, press and hold the power button until the screen dims or the power menu appears.

Navigation

The touchscreen interface allows you to navigate menus with taps and swipes. For quick access, use the physical buttons: **Menu**, **Play/Stop**, **Record**, and **Recall**.

Basic Recording

1. Press Menu and select Record.
2. Choose your input source: built in mic, XLR channel 1, or XLR channel 2.
3. Select your desired sample rate and bit depth.
4. Press the Record button to start capturing.
5. Press the same button to stop. The file will be saved automatically.

Playback

Navigate to the **Files** menu, select a recording, and tap **Play**. Use the **Stop** button to halt playback.

5. Advanced Settings & Features

Digital EQ & Compression

The NSX 990 offers a 3 band EQ (low, mid, high) and a compressor with adjustable threshold, ratio, attack, and release. These can be toggled on or off in the **Advanced Settings** menu.

Input Gain and Phantom Power

Each XLR channel has a dedicated gain knob. Adjust it to match the input level of your external mic or instrument. To enable phantom power, toggle the 48V switch located near the input jacks.

Auto Gain Control (AGC)

AGC automatically adjusts input levels to maintain a consistent volume. It’s useful for unpredictable environments but can introduce compression artifacts. Enable it under **Settings > AGC**.

Multi Track Recording

With two input channels, you can record stereo or separate tracks simultaneously. In the **Recording Mode** menu, choose **Dual Channel** to capture both inputs into one file or into separate files if you prefer.

Custom Profiles

Save your preferred settings as a profile. This is handy when switching between different recording scenarios—such as a podcast versus a live concert. Access the **Profiles** menu to create, load, or delete profiles.

6. Recording Settings & Quality Control

Sample Rate & Bit Depth

Higher sample rates capture more detail but consume more storage. For most field recordings, 44.1 kHz/24 bit is sufficient. If you're archiving or need the highest fidelity, choose 192 kHz/32 bit float.

File Formats

The device supports WAV (PCM) and AIFF for lossless audio. WAV is the most compatible format for most editing software.

Gain Structure

Maintain a healthy signal to noise ratio by keeping your input levels between -12 dB and -6 dB. Avoid clipping by monitoring the level meters on the LCD.

Monitoring

Use headphones connected to the headphone jack for real time monitoring. The device offers a 3 band EQ in the monitoring path to reduce fatigue during long sessions.

7. Battery & Power Management

The NSX 990 uses a 3.7V lithium ion battery with a capacity of 2800 mAh. Under typical usage, you can expect up to 15 hours of recording time. Here are some tips to maximize battery life:

- Turn off the built in mic if you're using external mics.
- Disable unnecessary features such as Wi Fi (if available) and Bluetooth.
- Use the Battery Saver mode in settings.
- Keep the device in a cool, dry environment.

Charging

Use the supplied USB C cable and a 5V/2A charger. The device will show a charging indicator on the LCD. Avoid leaving the device plugged in for extended periods after it reaches 100% to preserve battery health.

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