Quick Start Guide
ZOOM H5

- **The Zoom H5 is a portable digital audio hardware recorder that is an excellent tool for recording high quality audio for podcasts, radio, and video.**

- The H5 is equipped with an onboard stereo microphone pair as well as two mono audio inputs that accept both XLR and 1/4" connectors that will allow you to use external microphones and other audio sources. You even have the option of recording all three of these separate audio inputs simultaneously.

- The microphone stereo pair module also has an 1/8" (headphone sized) line input for recording direct audio sources that do not require a microphone but may already have a headphone output.

- The H5 requires an SD card to store the audio you record. SD cards over 32GB capacity are not compatible with this unit.

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Microphone Stereo Pair

Microphone Stereo Pair Input Volume

Channel 1 & 2 Input Select

Headphone Output Jack

Headphone Output Volume

Power On/Off and Hold*

Channel 1 & 2 Input Volume

Record Button**

** press once to begin your recording

Microphone Stereo Pair Input Select

Playback Controls***

*** press STOP once to end recording in progress; press PLAY/PAUSE to pause a recording

Channel 1 & 2 Inputs

Above: XLR connector

MESSAGE

Hold

* To turn the recorder on or off, hold the Power switch in the down (in the photo) position. To use the HOLD function, which disables all buttons to prevent the accidental stoppage of a recording in progress. HOLD does not affect the input volume knobs. You will see the above screen when you press a button while HOLD is engaged.

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- The 3.5mm **line in** input can be used for directly connecting and recording audio sources that do not require a microphone, such as any other device with a headphone output. Connecting to this input will override the microphone stereo pair, and the input volume for the line in is controlled by the stereo pair's knob on the front of the recorder.
- To access the menu screen, first press the **MENU button.** Then you can use the **Menu Navigation Controls** to move the cursor up and down, as well as press it to make selections. While in the menu screen, pressing the MENU button again will go back to the previous screen.
- The H5 is powered by 2 **AA batteries**. It is important switch out all the batteries at once and replace them with fresh ones; batteries with different charge levels may cause audio issues. If you want to use rechargeable batteries, you have to switch the BATTERY TYPE setting from ALKALINE to Ni-MH to prevent audio issues (see right).
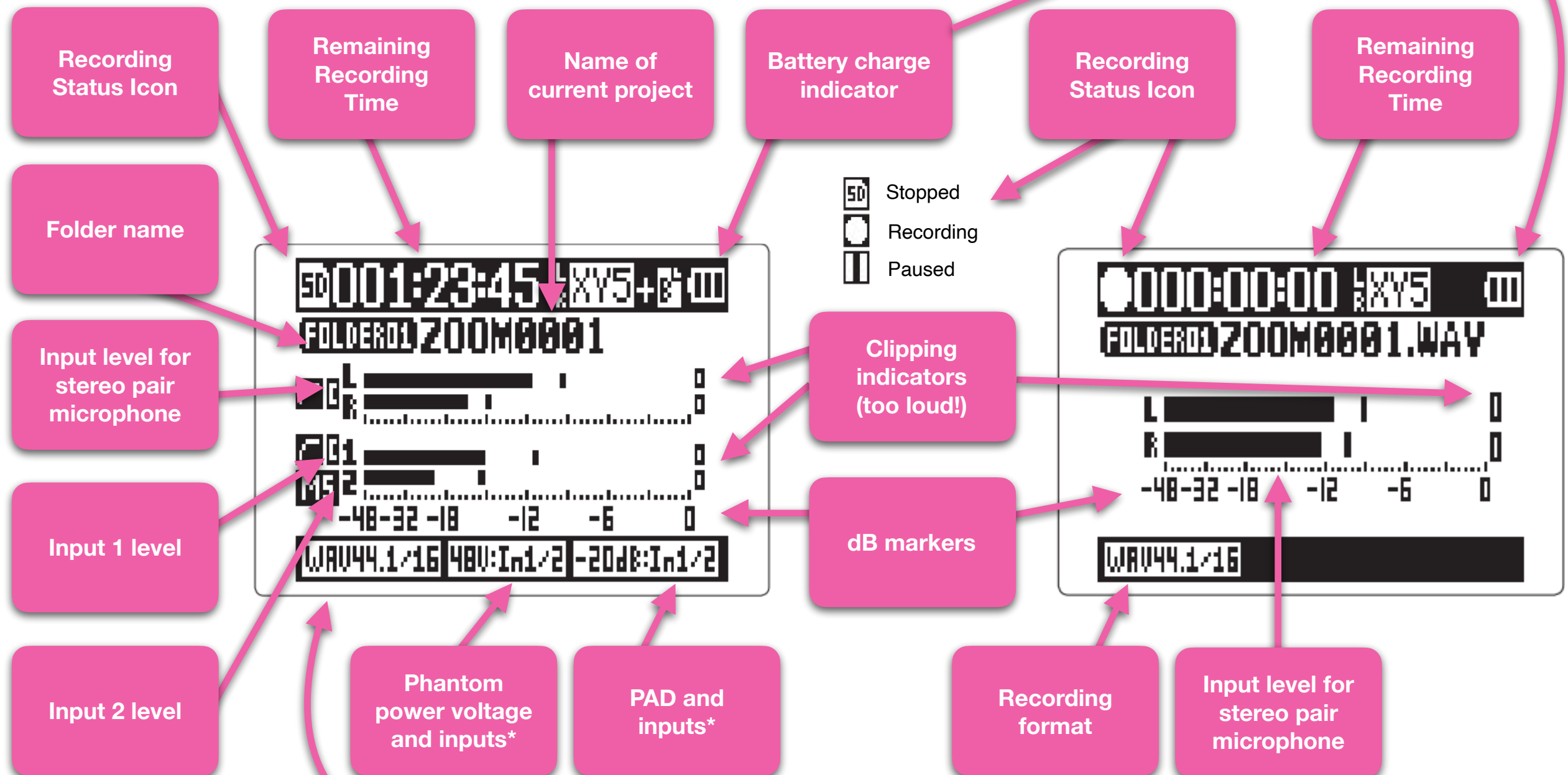
Line In Input

Menu Navigation Controls

MENU Button

SD Card Slot

Tripod Mount

AA Batteries

BATTERY TYPE

ALKALINE
Ni-MH

MENU:CANCEL

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DISPLAY LAYOUT

This display information will help you check many settings without going into the submenus, and help you to monitor your recordings.

Recording Status Icon

Remaining Recording Time

Name of current project

Battery charge indicator

Recording Status Icon

Remaining Recording Time

Folder name

Input level for stereo pair microphone

Input 1 level

Input 2 level

SD Stopped

◯ Recording

❚❚ Paused

Clipping indicators (too loud!)

dB markers

Phantom power voltage and inputs*

PAD and inputs*

Recording format

Input level for stereo pair microphone

SD 001:23:45 XY5+⦿ III
FOLDER01 ZOOM0001
L
R
1
2
-48 -32 -18   -12   -6   0
WAV44.1/16 48V:In1/2 -20dB:In1/2

◯ 000:00:00 XY5 III
FOLDER01 ZOOM0001.WAV
L
R
-48 -32 -18   -12   -6   0
WAV44.1/16

* these settings are usually OFF

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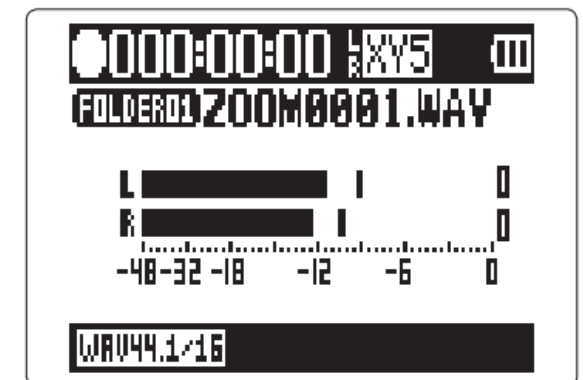ARTHUR L. CARTER JOURNALISM INSTITUTE

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GETTING READY TO RECORD

Before going out into the field, you will want to verify that your H5's settings are appropriate for how you want to work.

- **REC MODE** (Recording Mode) determines how your H5 will take your recordings and divide them into audio files on your SD card. This is important for optimizing your workflow once you start working with your audio in software. With either mode, a new audio file is created each time you hit REC and then STOP.

  - **MULTI FILE** mode provides the most versatility and is recommended for most applications. This mode allows you to record from 3 inputs simultaneously (the built-in stereo microphone and 2 external inputs), and the H5 will create individual mono audio files for each audio source. Having individual files often makes it easier to edit and mix your project.

  - **STEREO FILE** mode will put each recording into one audio stereo audio file. It will record either the built-in microphone stereo pair or both external inputs (with Input 1 being "left" and Input 2 being "right" in the recording). This mode can simplify things if you only plan to record with the stereo pair; if you plan to use the external inputs, MULTI FILE is usually preferable.
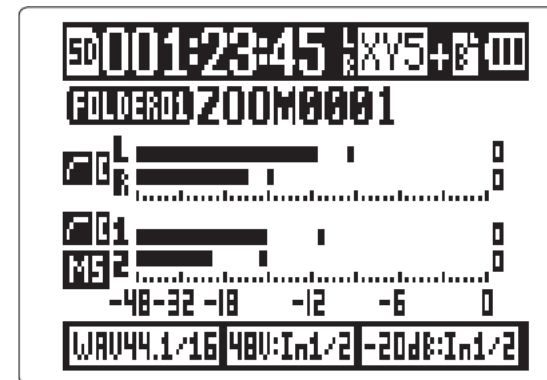
Screen with MULTI FILE mode engaged

Screen with STEREO FILE mode engaged
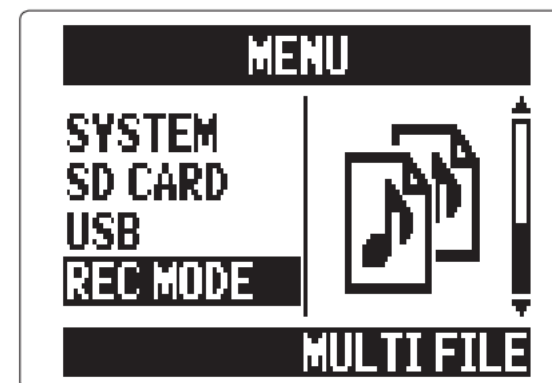
To access these settings, go into the MENU and select the REC MODE submenu. Once there, you can choose the mode you want.

Use the Input Select buttons to activate and deactivate which audio inputs will record. The red lights indicate which inputs are active. L/R always activate together; Inputs 1 & 2 can be selected independently when in MULTI FILE mode.
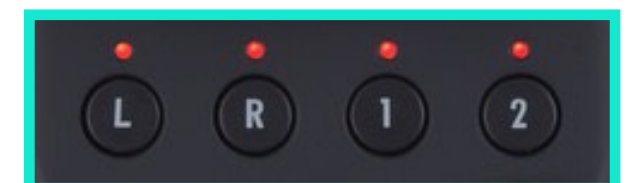
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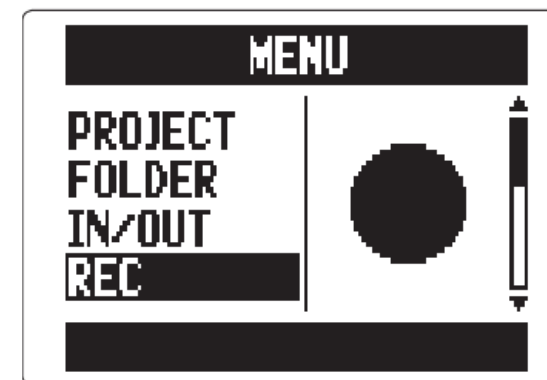
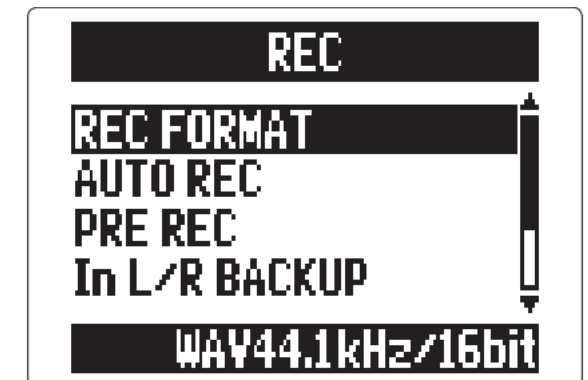| Quick Start Guide **ZOOM H5** |
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GETTING READY TO RECORD

Before going out into the field, you will want to verify that your H5's settings are appropriate for how you want to work.

- **RECORDING FORMAT** is the setting that determines what type of audio file the H5 will create as you make recordings. **WAV format** is an uncompressed file format that will provide the best audio quality with larger file sizes. **MP3 format** is a compressed format that uses smaller file sizes but has significantly inferior audio quality. Typical SD cards have enough storage that MP3's file size advantages should not matter for student projects; **WAV is the preferred format** for the H5.

  - For **audio projects**, such as radio and podcast programs, use the H5's setting of 44.1kHz sample rate and 16bit bitrate, shortened as **WAV44.1hHz/16bit**.

  - For **video projects**, use the H5's setting of 48kHz sample rate and 16bit bitrate, shortened as **WAV48hHz/16bit**.

To access this setting, select the REC submenu.

Then select the REC FORMAT option.

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INPUT LEVEL

The goal is to avoid *clipping,* audible distortion that happens when your recording's input volume is too high. You cannot fix this after the fact.
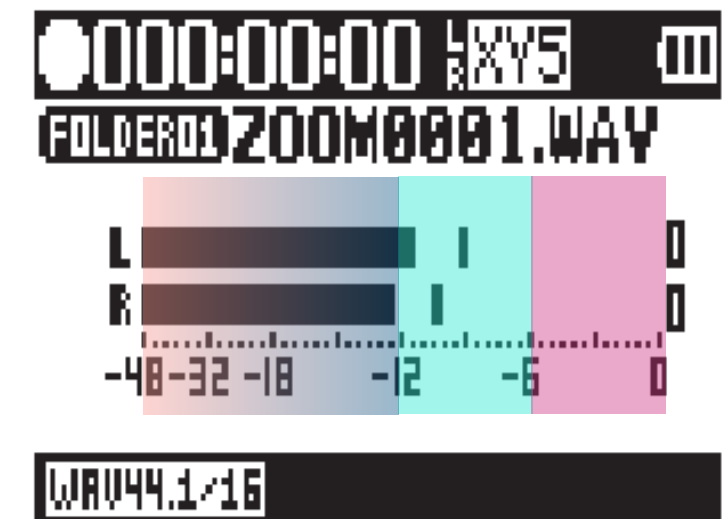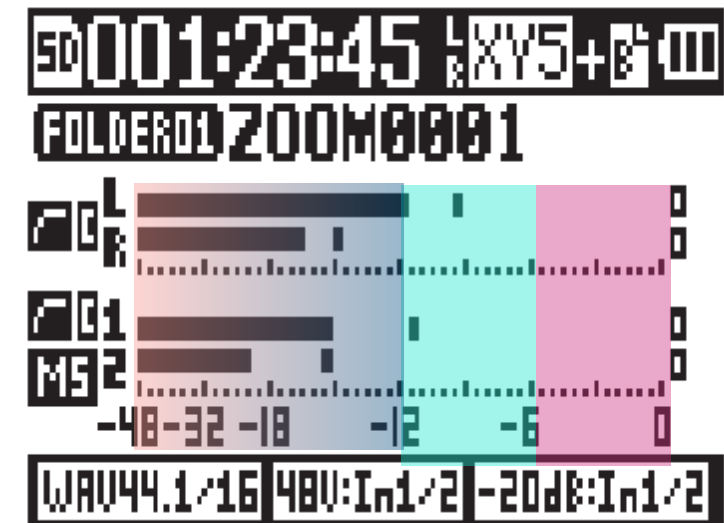
Not clipping, but too quiet

Ideal recording level

Risk of clipping!

Adjust input volume with these knobs

PRO-TIP: *Always* **wear your headphones when recording, even if you're the one conducting the interview.**

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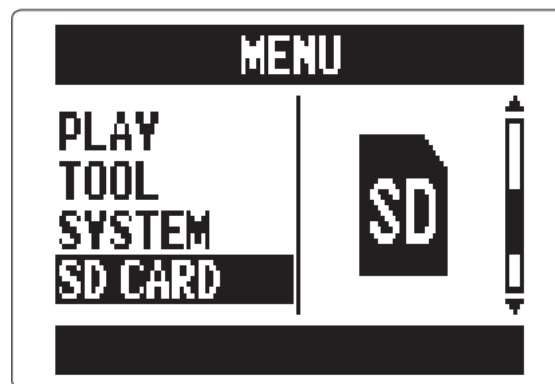ARTHUR L. CARTER JOURNALISM INSTITUTE
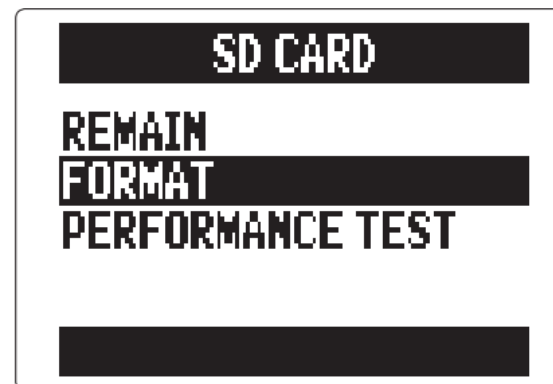
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HOW TO REFORMAT YOUR SD CARD

Even an 8GB SD card can hold a lot of audio, but if you need to reformat your card, follow these steps.

MENU	SD CARD	SD CARD FORMAT
PLAY	REMAIN	Are you sure?
TOOL	**FORMAT**	
SYSTEM	PERFORMANCE TEST	YES
SD CARD SD		**NO**
		MENU:RETURN

To reformat, first select the SD CARD submenu.

Then select the FORMAT option.

Say YES to the prompt if you are ready to reformat.

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