

ANTH 323–Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology
RECORDING WITH A MINIDISC RECORDER

Note: you can record 2 hours and 40 minutes on an MD-80 minidisc (in monoaural mode)

WHAT YOU NEED

- G A mini-disc recorder with recharged battery or power cord
- G A lavalier microphone with functioning battery
- G A blank mini-disc

BEFORE RECORDING

1. Plug in microphone (MIC IN–red--jack) and turn it on (the microphone switch is located on the small cylinder connected to the microphone)
2. set the mini-disc recorder to the correct modes:
 - a. **Make sure “group mode” is not on** (this is evil!!! avoid group mode at all costs)
begin from a dead start by pressing the “REC” button
When in this mode, look at the screen
if it says NO NAME, you are fine
if it says something about groups, you are *not* fine. Do the following: Press the GROUP button for several seconds until the screen changes to say NO NAME
**if you record in group mode, you will have a hard time finding where you recording is located on the disc, and things will be very confusing, so avoid it!*
 - b. **set the recording level:**
 - You can do this directly after above (a)
 - or, you can begin from a dead start by pressing the “REC” button
Then press *„* or *ƒ* buttons until the recording level is at level 25. The screen will say “MIC H = 25”
 - c. **set it to monoaural mode:**
 - You can do this directly after above (b),
 - or, you can begin from a dead start by pressing the “REC” button
then press MENU
then use the *„* or *ƒ* buttons to scroll through the options (this loops through)
 - when you see REC MODE in Display window, press MENU button a 2nd time
scroll through options again using the *„* or *ƒ* buttons

when you see SP/MONO in display window, press MENU button a 3rd time—you have successfully selected mono mode

”mono” means that you are recording in monoaural rather than stereo mode, which is necessary if you want 2 hours and 40 minutes of recording.

d. **set the automatic tracking:**

→ You can do this directly after above (c)

→ or, you can begin from a dead start by pressing the “REC” button then press MENU button

scroll through the options using the *„* or *f* buttons

when you see MARK in Display window, press MENU button a 2nd time

Scroll through options using the *„* or *f* buttons

when you see TIME 3 min in display window, press MENU button a 3rd time

**this ensures that tracks will automatically be created every 3 minutes as you record, which will help you quickly move through the conversation when you are listening to it later*

**Note: if something important is said, you can automatically set a new track by pressing the REC button while recording*

You have now set up the recorder and are ready to record. You can either . . .

◆ turn the recorder off by pressing the } button twice

when you come back to record, you just press REC and the | ~ button

◆ begin recording immediately by pressing the | ~ button

RECORDING

* After pressing the red REC button but before beginning, you should always double-check that the recorder is in the correct mode by looking at the display window: in the upper left corner you should see REC and MONO, and in the lower right corner you should see a time device that shows the seconds ticking by. You *should not* see the word or abbreviation of GROUP anywhere!!

To begin recording from a dead stop: press the red REC button—the recorder is paused but ready to go. To begin recording, press the | ~ button and you will see the seconds tick by on the bottom right of the screen.

To finish recording: press the } button once, wait while the display window says “writing”. Then, press the } button again, and it will say “editing” then shut off.

**if you only press the the } button once and then immediately open the recorder, you will lose your data!*

To interrupt/pause recording: press the | ~ button. When you are ready to resume, press the | ~ button again. (note that when you resume, you will be on another track)

LISTENING TO YOUR RECORDING

press the | ~ button

if you see **GROUP** on the screen, get rid of it!! Press the **GROUP** button for several seconds until it disappears

you can scroll through the tracks by pressing the „ or *f* buttons (note, the track is indicated in the lower left corner of the display window)

ERASING TRACKS OR THE ENTIRE DISC

see booklet, page 50