

WHAT IS IT?

Stereo digital recorder with and four-capsule omni patterns

CONTACT

Who: Numark Alesis
Tel: +44 (0)1252 896000
Web: alesis.com

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Ease of use
- 2 Pocket sized
- 3 Optional microphone arrays

SPECS

Recording media: SD card, SDHC card

Recording format: 44.1/48kHz, 64–320kbps MP3 and 16/24-bit WAV

Overdubs: None
Connections: 1/8" stereo mini jack line input, 1/8" stereo mini jack mic input, 1/8" stereo mini jack headphone output, USB
Features: Onboard speaker, four onboard mics, MP3 Voice Cancel, Tuner, threaded mounting point
Effects: Bass compensation, Chorus, Pitch Shift, Delay, Reverb
Power: Two AA batteries

Dimensions: 152 x 107 x 25mm
Weight: 143g



WHAT IS IT?

Portable stereo digital recorder with infinite overdubbing capacity

CONTACT

Who: Korg UK
Tel: +44 (0)1908 857100
Web: korg.co.uk

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Unlimited overdubs
- 2 Dedicated guitar input
- 3 Onboard rhythms

SPECS

Recording media: microSD card (512MB–2GB)

Recording format: WAV

Overdubs: Number depends on memory card space

Connections: 1/4" jack guitar input, 1/8" stereo mini jack line input, 1/8" stereo mini jack mic input, 1/8" stereo mini jack headphone output

Effects: 100 – Guitar (36), Mic (25), Master (30). Touchscreen effects (9)

Power requirements: 2 AA batteries

Other Features: onboard speaker, tuner, 50 onboard Rhythms

Dimensions: 132 x 69 x 33mm
Weight: 182g

Alesis PalmTrack | £119

Alesis' multi-mic gives performance and price

The number of portable digital stereo recorders on the market has really grown in the last couple of years.

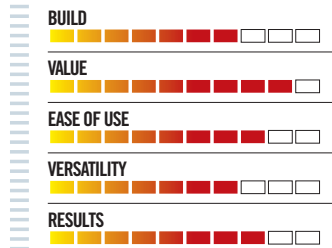
However, the Alesis PalmTrack is slightly different from the norm as it boasts four onboard microphones and is designed to record stereo or four-capsule omni audio in any location. You can choose two-mic or four-mic operation, the latter allowing you to place the PalmTrack in the middle of a rehearsal room to capture sound from all around. External mic or line level signals are also accepted and you can hold the PalmTrack in your hand, place it on a flat surface or attach it to a camera tripod or, via an adapter, to a microphone stand.

Operation is very easy – you can be recording within seconds of switching the PalmTrack on, the gain being easily set by a high/low mic gain switch and up and down Record Gain incremental buttons. Onboard processing includes optional vocal enhancement when recording for

boosting vocal frequencies and you can treat your recorded audio to bass compensation for reducing the proximity effect in close-miked situations or add chorus, pitch shift, delay or reverb. The PalmTrack has an onboard tuner but is not particularly set up for phrase-training as there is no option for altering audio speed.

However, you can loop audio and there is a voice cancelling function that works on some audio. **FM**

FutureMusic VERDICT



It's no-nonsense design makes it an ideal 'point and shoot' stereo recorder at a great price.

Korg Sound on Sound | £234

With infinite overdubs and amp sims too

While the Korg Sound on Sound Unlimited Track Recorder (SOS) can record stereo

audio in any location like the rest of the hand-helds on the market, it supports overdubs – as many overdubs as you like, in fact – the amount only limited by its memory capacity. With a wedge shape that makes it convenient for placing on a tabletop, the SOS can record through its internal mics but can also take external mic or line signals or the output from a guitar.

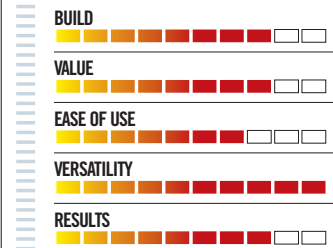
Guitarists can in fact benefit from an onboard tuner and a range of amp sims (just some of a wide range of onboard effects) to transform their sound. The SOS even comes equipped with 50 onboard rhythms and facilities to loop audio and slow it down without changing pitch, so can be put to use as a practice aid and phrase-trainer. In fact, it's hard to think of a useful musical feature that they haven't squeezed inside!

Perhaps best of all each overdub is

recorded as a separate WAV file and the whole lot can be transferred to a DAW as separate tracks – all automatically lined up with the correct start and end points, if the DAW supports the BWF format.

It's rather complex to use (and baffling if you were expecting a straight up 'recorder') and there's no USB (so you'll need to use a card reader to transfer audio) but these are small flaws in an amazing bit of kit. **FM**

FutureMusic VERDICT



The Korg Sound on Sound is likely to become a must-have utility item for many musicians.