

About BirdMIKE

The BirdMIKE pen is a recording and audio playback device, which can also function as an MP3 player. It has three modes of operation. In *Record* mode, the pen can make and play-back your recordings. In *Print* mode, the pen can play pre-made audio recordings from our wide range of printed materials including our range of Bird Call & Song Audio Encyclopaedias. These materials are available separately. In *MP3* mode, you can play music (or other audio) from MP3 files that you have added to the pen.

You can connect a pair of headphones or an external microphone to the BirdMIKE pen via the Headphones and Mic In audio jack ports on the side of the unit (under a rubber cover). There is also a USB port for storing or retrieving audio on the pen.

Getting Started

The BirdMIKE pen comes ready to use – just switch on and go. In the unlikely event that the two pre-installed AAA batteries need to be changed, please see below for instructions.

Controls

The BirdMIKE has four controls. Starting from the top, bulbous end of the pen, these are ON/OFF, VOLUME, MODE and RECORD. These controls are explained below. The RECORD button is easy to identify, even in the dark, because it protrudes further than the other buttons, and is nearest the nib.

ON/OFF button

The ON/OFF button is the button closest to the top of the pen, next to the indicator light. To switch on, hold down the button for about two seconds, until the pen beeps and the indicator light comes on. The pen always starts in *Record* mode.

To switch off again, hold down the ON/OFF button for about two seconds until the pen beeps and the indicator light goes out.

Note that if you do not use the pen for more than three minutes it will automatically switch off to save the life of the battery.

VOLUME button

The VOLUME control is a two-part button, allowing the speaker or headset volume to be increased or decreased. Press and release the button marked with a plus (+) to increase the volume by one level; click repeatedly until you reach the desired volume. Similarly, press and release the button marked with a minus (-) to decrease the volume.

MODE button

The MODE button is just above a small hole with a raised rim, which is the pen's internal microphone. The MODE button is used to cycle the pen through its various functions: *Record* mode, *Print* mode and *MP3* mode (see below). To change to the next mode, hold down the MODE button for about two seconds until the pen beeps – once for *Record* mode, twice for *Print* mode and three times for *MP3* mode. The indicator light will be red while the pen is in *Record* mode, or blue otherwise.

Note that the pen will not switch to *MP3* mode if there are no MP3 files on the pen.

RECORD button

The RECORD button is nearest to the nib of the pen, and protrudes further than the other buttons to make it easier to locate by touch. When the pen is in *Record* mode, the button is used to make a new recording.

Making a recording

Switch on the pen if necessary using the ON/OFF button. If the pen is not in *Record* mode, use the MODE button to switch to *Record* mode – the indicator light must be red.

Start by selecting an audio soundspot to attach your recording to. For example, the BirdMIKE audio diary has circular sound spots printed down the side of each page, and each Recordable Sticky Label contains an audio soundspot.

To make a recording, hold down the RECORD button and gently touch the nib of the pen to the audio soundspot until the pen chimes and the indicator light goes purple – the pen is now recording. Keep holding down the RECORD button to continue recording, and release the RECORD button to end the recording. In summary:

Hold RECORD and touch – Chime! – make recording – Release RECORD

Note: DO NOT swipe the pen or press the nib of the pen into the soundspot

Playing back a recording you have made

To playback a recording on an audio soundspot, the pen must be in *Record* mode (red indicator light). If necessary, switch the pen on with the ON/OFF button, or change to *Record* mode with the MODE button.

To play back a recording you have made, simply touch the nib of the pen to an audio soundspot.

Playing printed material

To playback the audio from our printed material, such as the Bird Call & Song Audio Encyclopaedia, the pen must be in *Print* mode (blue indicator light). If necessary, switch the pen on with the ON/OFF button, or change to *Print* mode with the MODE button.

To play audio, simply touch the nib of the pen to an audio soundspot.

Note: to play audio from printed material which you did not buy with the BirdMIKE pen, you must first install it onto the pen. Please see the “Installing additional audio” section below for more information.

Listening to MP3s

To play MP3s, you must first copy them onto the pen. Please see the “Installing additional audio” section below for more information.

To start playing, switch the pen to *MP3* mode (blue indicator light). If necessary, switch the pen on with the ON/OFF button, or change to *MP3* mode with the MODE button. You can adjust the sound level to your taste with the VOLUME control. You can also pause or un-pause playback by pressing and releasing the ON/OFF button.

Making a backup of your recordings (and restoring)

If you have access to a computer we recommend that you periodically backup your recordings. To do so, connect the BirdMIKE to your computer using the USB cable which came with the pen. Your computer will show that a new drive called BirdMIKE has been detected. Open the drive and you will see three folders – AP4, REC and MP3. To take a backup of your recordings, copy the REC folder and paste it onto a drive in your computer harddrive. To restore simply reverse this process, but be careful not to overwrite any files on the pen! Visit www.birdmike.co.uk to see a video of how to backup or restore.

Installing additional audio or MP3s

To install additional audio for our printed material (“printed audio”) or your own MP3s onto the pen you will need a computer. Connect the BirdMIKE to your computer using the USB cable which came with the pen. Your computer will show that a new drive called BirdMIKE has been detected.

If you are installing printed audio, you can use a software program to do the installing for you. This program will be provided, either on CD or as an Internet download, when you buy the printed audio from us. Simply run the program, and follow the instructions on screen to complete the process.

If you want to copy your MP3s to the pen, open the drive called BirdMIKE and you will see three folders – AP4, REC and MP3. Copy your MP3s to the MP3 folder, then disconnect the pen.

Attaching headphones or microphone

With the buttons facing you, there is a rubberised flap on the left side of the pen, covering three sockets. From the top downwards these are the microphone, USB and headphone sockets. When you plug in a microphone, the pen will record from that instead of its internal microphone. When you plug in a pair of headphones, the pen will play sound through those instead of its internal speaker. In general, using headphones (or earphones) will increase the BirdMIKE’s battery life, depending on the power your headphones require.

Changing the Batteries

BirdMIKE uses two AAA batteries, which are pre-installed when you first buy it. When you need to change the batteries first open the battery cover by gently pulling the lever and lifting. Remove the spent batteries and insert the new ones. If you put the batteries in the wrong way, no damage is done, but the pen just won’t start. To save on battery life, the Pen switches off if not in use after 3 minutes. Battery life can be improved by using earphones or lightweight headphones.

Attaching the Lanyard

You can also fix the lanyard, which comes in the pack. Thread the thin looped end of lanyard through the two holes at the top of the pen, then pass the other end of the lanyard through the thin loop.

Storing the BirdMIKE

BirdMIKE comes in a re-usable plastic box, which has this inlay card in it. We recommend that you keep the box, since it will neatly fit any new set of labels or audio diaries that you may buy in the future.