

Video Script

SM4 Daily Recording Schedules

Welcome to Wildlife Acoustics.

This video will explore working with Daily Recording schedules, including easy to use Quick Start schedules.

The SM4 can be configured for Daily or Advanced Schedule Mode. Daily schedules repeat the same recording cycle each day. Advanced schedules allow for the creation of different recording cycles on different dates. To select the schedule mode, go to the Settings menu, Advanced, and then Schedule Mode.

Back at the main menu you can see the first item is Quick Start. Select Quick Start and you'll see there are a number of different recording schedules ready to go.

The Quick Start choices are Record Always, Record 30 Minutes On and 30 Minutes Off. This schedule programs the SM4 to record for 30 minutes and then sleep for 30 minutes. The cycle will then be repeated indefinitely until the battery dies. The next Quick Start schedule is Five Minutes On and 55 Minutes Off. This will record for five minutes on the hour, each hour, indefinitely. Next, we see Sunrise to Sunset. This schedule will record from sunrise to sunset each day. If you've used the GPS Accessory to program the SM4, also make sure the correct UTC offset is entered. The last listed Quick Start schedule is Dawn and Dusk. This is similar to sunrise to sunset except recording only happens for two hours centered around sunrise and then another two hours centered around sunset.

Let's scroll back up and select the Record Always schedule. Press Enter to confirm the schedule. Press Schedule Start to begin. The SM4 is now recording in stereo to memory card A at 24 kHz sampling rate and will continue to do so until the battery dies. It's that easy. I'll press Schedule Stop to cease recording. We'll go back into the Quick Start menu and try the Five Minutes on and 55 Minutes Off schedule. When I press the right arrow button to select and save the new schedule the SM4 displays a prompt to either press Schedule Start to commence the new record cycle or press the left arrow button to exit the menu.

I'll press Schedule Start and the SM4 goes to sleep until the beginning of the next hour. At the beginning of the next hour the SM4 will then wake up to start recording. This Quick Start schedule is set to start its record cycle at the beginning of each hour. Any aspect of a Quick Start schedule is easily edited and we'll get to that in a moment. At the beginning of the next

Video Script

hour the SM4 will wake up to record for five minutes and then it will sleep for another 55 minutes and will repeat the schedule indefinitely.

I'll press the Schedule Stop button once to wake the SM4 and then press the Schedule Stop button again to exit the current schedule. Alternately I could just hold down the Schedule Stop button until the recorder wakes up and then ceases its recording cycle. Now let's take a look at how to edit the schedule. We'll use the currently selected 5 Minutes On and 55 Minutes Off Quick Start schedule as the starting point. I'll scroll down the Main Menu to the Schedule settings, and press the right arrow button to view the Schedule options. We see options to Import or Export Schedules and Settings between different Song Meter recorders. This is also how you would import a schedule and settings from the Configurator software. This is done via an SD memory card.

Now let's see how we can edit a schedule. When I press the right arrow button to see the Edit options the currently saved schedule settings are displayed.

In Daily mode the same recording schedule is run each day. Recording is based on schedule blocks. Multiple blocks can be created to build complex schedules within each day. We'll get to that in a moment. Right now what we're looking at is a single daily schedule block based on the Five Minutes On and 55 Minutes Off Quick Start schedule.

There are three elements to the schedule block – Start tells the SM4 when to commence the schedule. End specifies when the SM4 will stop the schedule. Here you can see the schedule is starting at midnight and ending at midnight. This means the SM4 is set to record all day, every day. If I want the schedule to Start and End at specific times each day I could for example enter a Start time of seven in the morning and a Stop time of 21 hours, which is 9 o'clock in the evening. The Five Minutes On and 55 Minutes Off schedule will now run only between the hours of 7 in the morning and 9 in the evening.

The middle line of the schedule block is the Duty Cycle. This is what's telling the SM4 to record for five minutes on and 55 minutes off within the Start and End times. It's simple to adjust. If I'd like to record for ten minutes on the hour I can change the On time to ten minutes and the Off time to 50 minutes. Now the SM4 will record ten minutes on the hour and sleep for 50 minutes between 7 in the morning and 9 in the evening. To disable the Duty Cycle scroll down through the On or Off times until the display shows Always. Always means there is no Duty Cycle and the SM4 will record continuously within the specified Start and End times.

It is possible to create a more complex schedule with different record Start and End times throughout the day. This is done by creating multiple schedule blocks. Schedule blocks can be added or deleted. Each schedule block will define a separate recording cycle within the day. Let's

Video Script

go back to the Quickstart menu and choose the Dawn and Dusk schedule. When I press the right arrow button to save the new schedule I get a prompt asking if I'd like to override the previously saved schedule. I'll save the new schedule and press the Schedule Start button. Because this Quick Start schedule is set to start recording at the next dawn or dusk the SM4 displays a message that it's going to sleep until recording time. I'll press the Schedule Stop button so the recorder doesn't sleep.

Now we'll check the Edit options to see how this works. The Dawn and Dusk Quick Start schedule uses two schedule blocks. The first schedule block starts the recording at one hour before sunrise. Recording End time is set for one hour after sunrise. I'll continue to scroll down and you see that we are currently viewing the first of two schedule blocks. I'll press the down arrow one more time and that switches the view to the second schedule block. The second schedule block is set to Start the recorder again at one hour before sunset and then End the recording one hour after sunset. If I'd like to start recording two hours before sunset, I can set a Start time of Sunset Minus Two Hours.

It is possible to create multiple schedule blocks that conflict with each other. For example there could be a first schedule block that describes recording for only two hours a day, and then there could be a second schedule block that is set to record always. If this ever happens the SM4 will always default to following the schedule block that is currently set to record.

In the next video we'll explore how to program the Song Meter SM4 with Advanced Schedules that can create different recording cycles for use on different dates.

Thank you for watching.