



A20-Mini

Digital Transmitter

User Guide

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Welcome to the A20-Mini

Sound Devices' first miniature transmitter incorporates state-of-the-art features such as full remote control via the A20-Remote app, GainForward Architecture, internal 32-bit float recording, a worldwide tuning range of 470 MHz – 694 MHz, and more. The A20-Mini is fully compatible with Sound Devices' existing A10 Digital Wireless System.

- Full remote control of the Mini via A20-Remote companion app. Control frequency and RF power, turn the Mini on and off, start and stop recording, mute the microphone, format the media, view the status of all your Minis, and more.
- GainForward Architecture: set the Mini's gain levels via trim control (with an 8-Series) or at the A10-RX (other mixers).
- Full 10 Hz – 20 kHz audio bandwidth; 100% digital RF modulation and transmission. Same excellent range and audio quality as the A10-TX.
- Worldwide tuning range of 470MHz – 694MHz.
- Built-in 32-bit float, 48 kHz recorder with 64 GB storage for over 80 hours of record time.
- Offload recorded WAV files via USB-C and optionally conform/convert with SD-Utility.
- Powering via AAA or NP-BX1 (Li-Ion) with built-in charging for NP-BX1 Li-Ion battery.
- Internal supercapacitor-powered timecode generator can be jammed via USB-C.
- Water-resistant with a rounded form factor.

Conceal...

The A20-Mini digital wireless transmitter combines legendary British audio quality with the best of American design. The sleek, rounded form fits perfectly into body contours and underneath tight clothing.

...and control.

Control the A20-Mini from your phone or tablet via Bluetooth 5.2 with companion app A20-Remote. Set frequency and RF power, turn the Mini on and off, start and stop recording, mute the microphone, format the media, view the status of all your Minis, and more. The A20-Mini's high-efficiency internal 2.4 GHz antenna ensures excellent Bluetooth range.

GainForward.

With the Mini's GainForward Architecture, easily set the Mini's gain, low-cut, and limiter directly on your 8-Series. This immediate, local control of gain allows quick adaptation to changing gain levels and saves time during production.

32-bit float recording.

The A20-Mini records in 32-bit float for an astounding >130 dB of dynamic range. This allows for audio gain decisions to be made after recording, with zero loss in headroom or noise performance.

Built-in 64 GB media.

No more SD card management – the ample-sized media stores more than 80 hours of continuous, uncompressed 32-bit float recording. Simply offload the recorded WAV files via the high-speed USB-C port to a computer.

Never lose time.

The Mini's ultra-accurate 0.2 ppm internal timecode generator can be jammed via USB-C with negligible drift over a 24-hour period.

Flexible, worldwide operation.

With a built-in 470 MHz to 694 MHz UHF tuning range, your Mini can go wherever work takes you.

Power away.

Use off-the-shelf rechargeable or AAA batteries – no adapter needed. 3 AAA batteries or a rechargeable Sony NP-BX1 give you the ultimate in powering flexibility. You can even recharge the NP-BX1 via the Mini's USB-C.

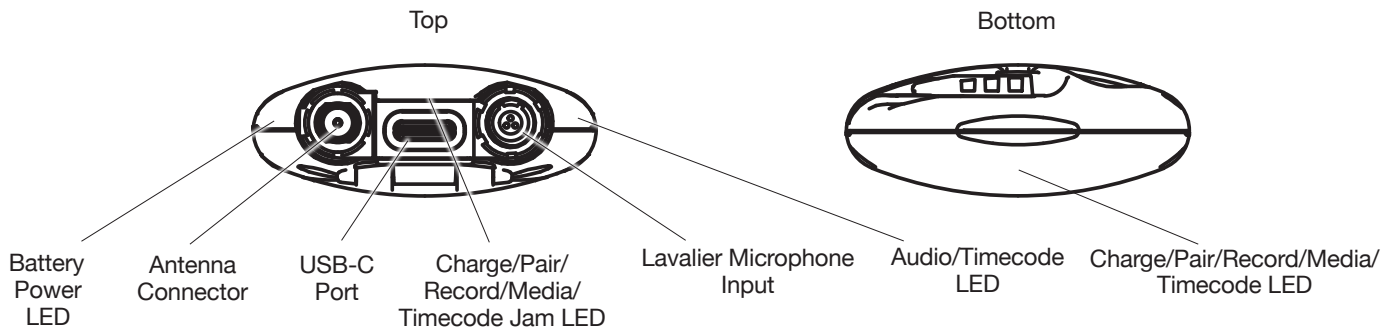
Water-resistant.

With its extensive gasketing and waterproof connectors, the A20-Mini can easily withstand water and sweat.

PowerStation-8M

Optional accessory provides easy battery charging, file transfer, and timecode jamming of up to eight A20-Minis at a time. Powered via DC (TA4) or USB-C (USB-PD).

Panel Views



Battery Power LED

Indicates the state of battery life.

- Green = Good
- Orange = Marginal, about an hour of battery life remaining.
- Red = Low, 15-20 minutes of battery life remaining.
- Flashing Red = Critically low, RF, audio, and recording disabled.
- Blue = Batteries inserted. Power LED is blue when batteries are inserted and goes off when the unit is ready to be powered on by the red button or from the A20-Remote app.

Antenna Connector

SMA connector. Attach antenna with a length specific to the frequency in use. Using the wrong length of antenna reduces RF range. See Antenna Guide for more information.

USB-C Port

Multifunction port used for:

- Powering A20-Mini
- Charging internal Sony NP-BX1 rechargeable battery (not included)
- Timecode input and output
- Transferring files to and from a computer

Charge/Pairing/Record/Media/Timecode Jam LED

Indicates charging, Bluetooth pairing, recording, media activity, and timecode status.

- Solid Orange = Charging
- Solid Green = Charging complete
- Off = No charging
- Solid Red = Recording
- Flashing Red = Recording stopped due to full media or recording error
- Flickering Blue = Media activity
- Flashing Blue = Timecode Jam
- Rapid Flashing Blue = Bluetooth Pairing

Lavalier Microphone Input

3-Pin LEMO connector for connecting a lavalier microphone. Can be set to power transmitter on and off via lav mic connection and disconnection.

Audio/Timecode LED

Audio/Timecode LED indicates audio activity and timecode status.

- Green (variable intensity) = Audio activity from lavalier microphone
- Red = Microphone clipping
- Solid Blue = Microphone is muted
- Flashing Blue = Timecode 00 frame (only when unit is off)

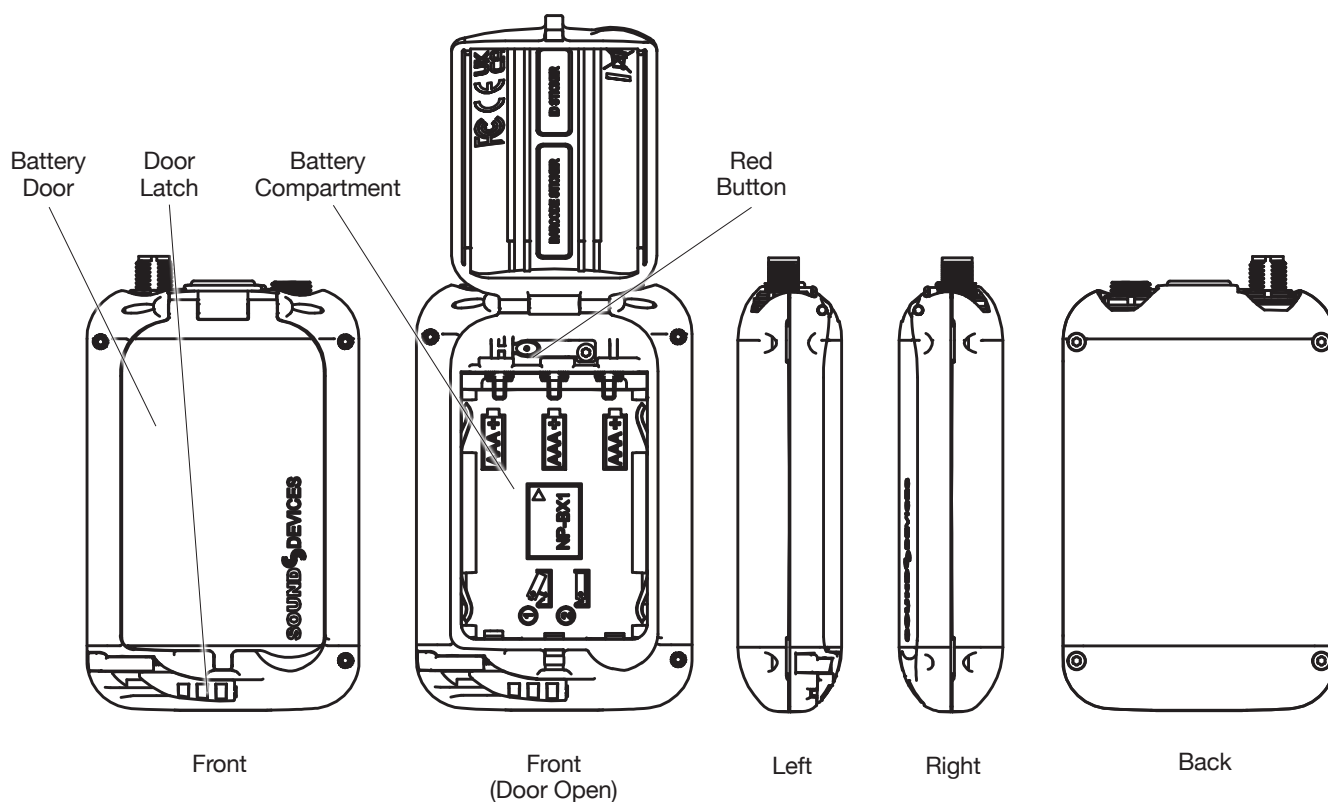
Note: Due to the high dynamic range of the microphone input, under normal use the audio LED should never light up red. If it does, this is an indicator that the microphone itself (not the mic preamp) is clipping and the audio level should be attenuated acoustically by moving the mic capsule or using a lower sensitivity microphone.

Bottom Panel Charge/Pair/Record/Media/Timecode LED

LED indicates charging status, timecode sync, Bluetooth pairing, recording, and media activity. Positioned on the bottom of the A20-Mini to make it easily visible when slotted into the optional PowerStation-8M.

- Solid Orange = Charging
- Solid Green = Charging complete
- Off = Not charging
- Solid Red = Recording
- Flashing Red = Recording stopped due to full media or recording error
- Flickering Blue = Media activity
- Flashing Blue = Timecode Jam
- Flashing Blue = Timecode 00 frame (only when unit is off or when jamming timecode)
- Rapid Flashing Blue = Bluetooth Pairing

Left, Front, Right, Back Panels



Battery Door

Access to the battery compartment and red button.

Door Latch

Slide left to unlock the battery door.

Battery Compartment

Accepts either 3x AAA Lithium batteries or one rechargeable Sony NP-BX1 Li-Ion battery. Sound Devices recommends using genuine Sony NP-BX1 or Energizer AAA Lithium primary batteries for best performance. Alkaline and NiMH are not recommended because of compromised run times.

Red Button

This button is used to power the A20-Mini on or off and enter Bluetooth Pairing mode.

- Power On = Press and release button.
- Power Off = Press and hold button for 3 seconds.
- Pairing Mode = While A20-Mini is off, press and hold button for 5 seconds. The Pairing LED on the bottom and top panel flashes blue rapidly while in Pairing mode.

Power

The A20-Mini powers via USB-C, 3x Energizer AAA Lithium primary batteries, or one Sony NP-BX1 Li-Ion battery.

Opening the Battery Door

To open the A20-Mini battery door:

1. Slide the door latch to the left to unlock the battery door.
2. Lift the battery door using the indented space on the bottom right-hand side of the battery door.

Closing the Battery Door

To close the A20-Mini battery door:

1. Slide and hold the door latch to the left.
2. Close the battery door.
3. Release the door latch to lock the battery door.

Powering from AAA or Sony NP-BX1 Li-Ion

To power the A20-Mini using AAA batteries or Sony NP-BX1 Li-Ion:

1. Open the A20-Mini battery door.
2. Insert three AAA batteries or one Sony NP-BX1 Li-Ion into the battery compartment, taking care to place the batteries in the correct orientation. Batteries should be inserted with the negative side first.
3. Power LED is blue when batteries are inserted and goes off when the unit is ready to be powered on. Press and release the red button to power on the A20-Mini.
4. Close the A20-Mini battery door.
5. To power off the A20-Mini, press and hold the red button for three seconds. The Power LED flashes rapidly while the A20-Mini powers off. The Power LED is off when the unit is off.

USB-C

USB-C can be used to power the A20-Mini and/or to charge inserted Sony NP-BX1 batteries. The A20-Mini does not charge AAA batteries. USB-C is the priority power source whenever connected.

To power the A20-Mini via USB-C:

1. Connect a USB power source to the A20-Mini's USB-C port.
2. Open the battery door then press the red button.
3. To power the A20-Mini off, press and hold the red button for three seconds.

To charge the Sony NP-BX1 from USB-C:

1. Open the battery door and insert a Sony NP-BX1 into the battery compartment.
2. Connect a USB power source to the A20-Mini USB-C port.
3. The Charge/Pair/Rec LED glows solid orange while the battery is charging. The Charge LED turns solid green when charging is complete.

The A20-Mini is fully operational when charging batteries from USB-C.

PowerStation-8M

The PowerStation-8M is an optional accessory for the A20-Mini. An A20-Mini using a Sony NP-BX1 battery can be inserted into a charging bay of the PowerStation-8M to charge the battery. See PowerStation-8M for more details.

Auto Power On and Off with PowerStation-8M

The A20-Mini automatically powers off when inserted into a charging bay of the PowerStation-8M. To save time from having to manually power on the A20-Mini, use the Power On When Removed from the PowerStation-8M feature. When this feature is selected, removing an A20-Mini from the PowerStation-8M immediately powers on the transmitter. This feature is turned on or off in the A20-Remote application. See A20-Remote for more details.

Auto Power with Lav Mic Connection

When Auto Power with Lav Mic Connection is selected, connecting a lavalier microphone to the A20-Mini automatically powers on the transmitter. Removing the LEMO connection automatically powers the A20-Mini off.

This feature can be turned on or off in the A20-Remote application. See A20-Remote for more details.

Estimated Battery Life

The tables to the right show estimated battery rundown times in Hours:Minutes for Sony NP-BX1 Li-Ion and three Energizer Ultimate AAA Lithium primary batteries based on RF Power setting and whether the A20-Mini is recording.

The first chart shows estimated battery life under continuous use and the second chart shows battery life when utilizing the A20-Mini's ability to power the unit on and off remotely from the A20-Remote app when the transmitter is not in use. Estimates are based on a 50% duty cycle.

Estimated Battery Life, continuous

RF Power & Record	Sony NP-BX1	3x AAA (Energizer Ultimate)
A20-Mini On, RF Power Off	8:20	9:30
RF Off, Recording	8:00	8:10
2 mW, Recording	4:30	5:10
10 mW, Recording	3:40	4:20
20 mW, Recording	3:30	4:00
40 mW, Recording	2:50	3:00
A20-Mini Off	6 months	6 months
Charge Time PowerStation-8M	2:30	Not Supported
Charge Time USB 500 mA (A20-Mini Off)	2:40	Not Supported

Estimated Battery Life, 50% off time using A20-Remote

RF Power & Record	Sony NP-BX1	3x AAA (Energizer Ultimate)
RF Off, Recording	16:00	16:20
2 mW, Recording	9:00	10:20
10 mW, Recording	7:20	8:40
20 mW, Recording	7:00	8:00
40 mW, Recording	5:40	6:00

A20-Mini Holster

The A20-Mini ships with an easy-to-assemble holster. The A20-Mini can be inserted with the antenna and lavalier microphone coming out of the top or bottom of the holster.

Inserting the A20-Mini in the A20-Mini Holster

Slide the A20-Mini into the A20-Mini Holster's pocket in the orientation that works best for the situation. Fold the security flap over, securing the transmitter in place using the hook-and-loop fastener strips. Use the clip on the back of the holster to attach the transmitter to the talent's garments.



Introduction to A20-Remote



A20-Remote is an application for Android/iOS phones and tablets designed to pair with the A20-Mini. All settings for the A20-Mini are conveniently controlled using A20-Remote.

When connected via Bluetooth LE to the A20-Mini, A20-Remote offers control and display of all A20-Mini parameters, including:

1. Power on and off the A20-Mini
2. Monitor battery status
3. Frequency and RF power setup
4. Monitor audio signal presence
5. Microphone mute
6. Transport controls (Record, Stop)
7. Timecode display
8. Media formatting and monitoring of remaining space
9. A20-Mini settings (Mode, power options, and more)

Download and install the A20-Remote app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

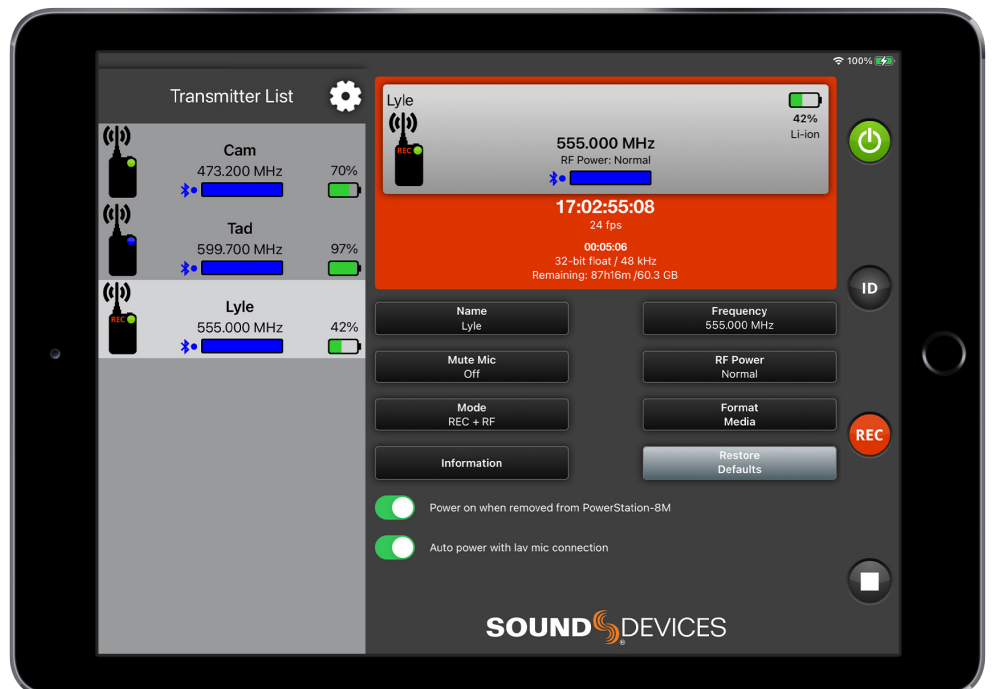
<https://www.sounddevices.com/a20-remote>

A20-Remote has the following minimum operating requirements:

Android tablets and phones running Android 8+, or iPad and iOS devices running iOS 13+. The device must have Bluetooth and Location Services on in order to connect with an A20-Mini.

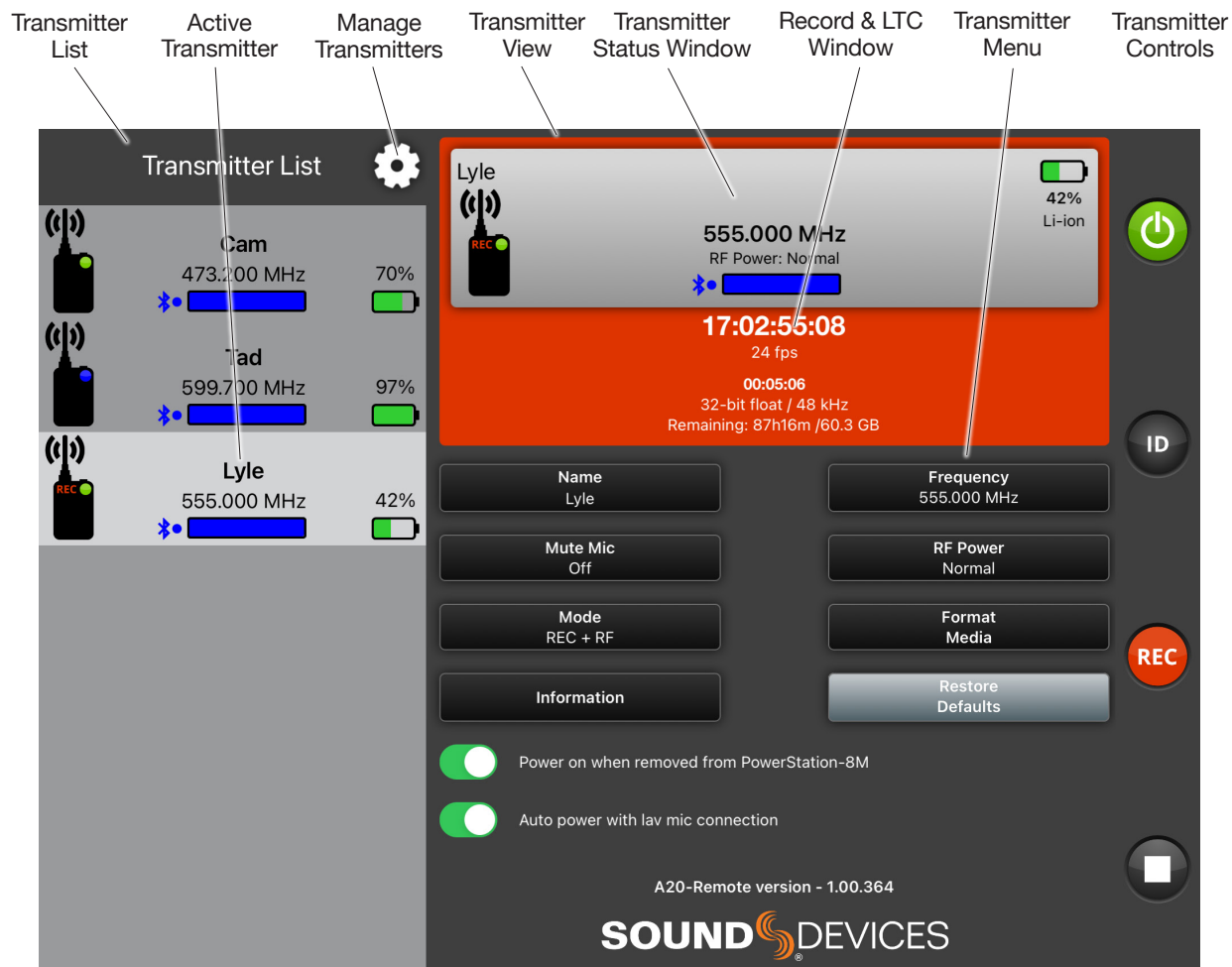
IMPORTANT: The mobile device's location is used to determine available frequencies, RF power levels, and TV channel mapping of the A20-Mini. The Country setting is automatically set using the mobile device's Location Services.

The mobile device's system date and time are used in the metadata of recorded files.

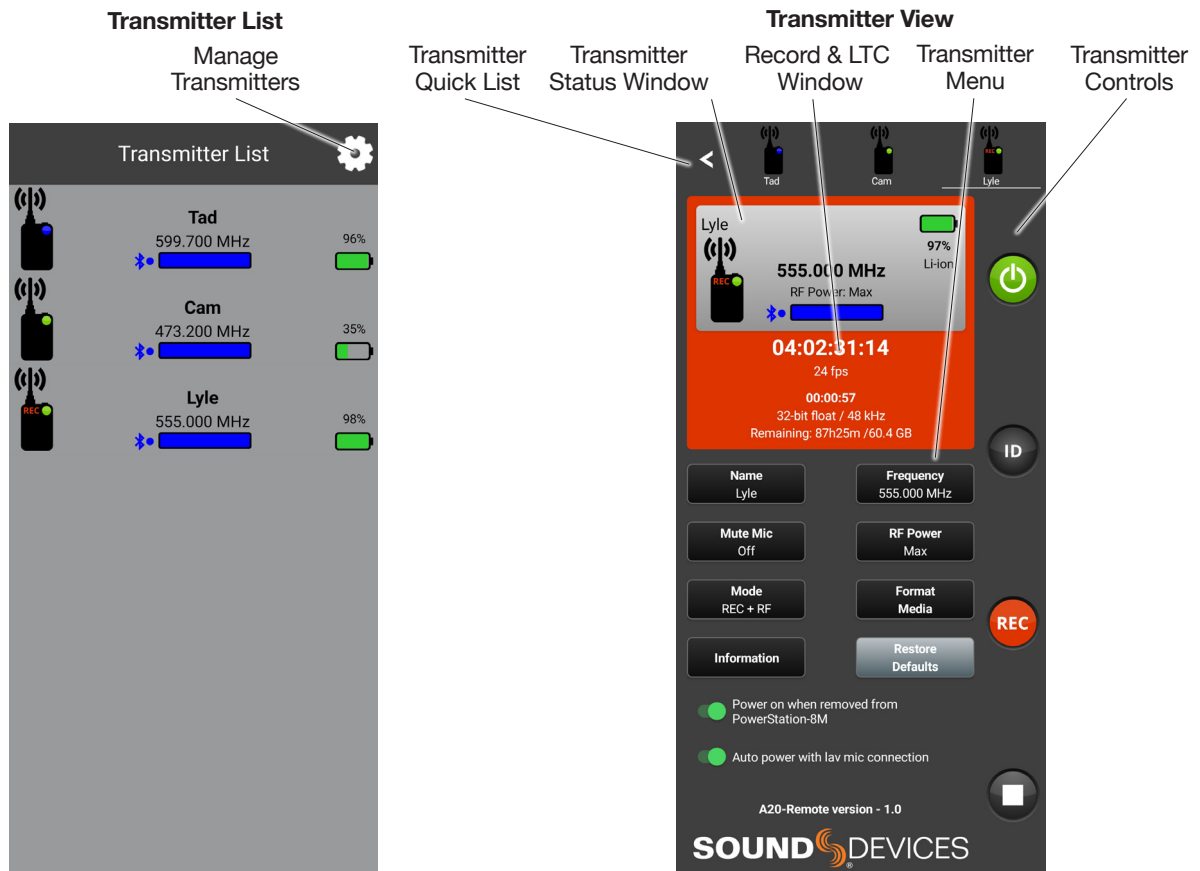


A20-Remote Overview

Tablet View



Phone View



Transmitter List

Scroll to see all available transmitters in the Transmitter List. Touch a transmitter to select it as the active transmitter for the Transmitter View. Transmitters that are enabled from Manage Transmitters appear in the Transmitter List. See Transmitter List for more details.

Manage Transmitters

Touch the Gear icon to access Manage Transmitters. From Manage Transmitters, pair transmitters, enable transmitters, set Country, and view A20-Remote version information.

Transmitter Quick List (Phone View Only)

From a phone, the Transmitter List and Transmitter View are not displayed simultaneously. The Quick List is a simplified version of the Transmitter List allowing for quick selection of transmitters from the Transmitter View. The list is horizontally scrollable and lists transmitters by name with their Status indicator. Touch the Back button to return to the Transmitter List.

Active Transmitter

Touch any transmitter in the Transmitter List to make it the active transmitter. From a tablet, the highlighted transmitter in the Transmitter List indicates the active transmitter shown in the Transmitter View displayed on the right-hand side of the app. From a phone, the active transmitter is the one displayed in the Transmitter View and underlined in the Transmitter Quick List.

Transmitter View

Displays the active transmitter's status window and provides access to the transmitter's menus and controls.

Transmitter Status Window

Displays the active transmitter's name, transmitter status, battery life, power source, frequency, RF power level, licensed frequency icon, and Bluetooth signal strength meter.

Record and Timecode Window

Displays the current timecode value, frame rate, absolute time of recording, and the remaining time and space of media. The window is red when the transmitter is actively recording. This window is not displayed when A20-Mini Mode is set to RF Only.

Transmitter Menu

This menu offers control of the active transmitter's Name, Frequency, Mute Mic, RF Power, Mode, and power options. The menu also provides access to format media and information about the transmitter.

Transmitter Controls

Allows control of the active transmitter's Power, Identify mode, Record, and Stop.

Manage Transmitters

Manage Transmitters is the first page displayed when launching the A20-Remote app if no transmitters have been paired to the mobile device.

Manage Transmitters displays all transmitters within range that are in Pairing mode and any A20-Mini that has been previously paired to the mobile device. Transmitters appear in Manage Transmitters with transmitter name and current firmware version. Paired transmitters that are not within Bluetooth range or are connected to another device are displayed in italics and the Enable switch is grayed out.

Enter Manage Transmitters at any time by touching the Transmitter List gear icon.

Pairing an A20-Mini with A20-Remote

With A20-Mini off, press and hold the red button until the blue LED blinks continuously. USB must be disconnected from computers to enter Pairing mode. Make sure all instances of A20-Remote are fully closed on other mobile devices before attempting to pair to a new device.

From A20-Remote's Manage Transmitters window, touch the Pair box to add a check mark and pair the A20-Mini to the mobile device. The A20-Mini exits Pairing mode once it has been paired with the mobile device. Agree to the Terms and Conditions displayed in the app to continue.

To unpair/remove an A20-Mini from the mobile device, touch the Pair box to clear the check mark. Once removed, repeat the pairing process to re-add the transmitter.

Enabling A20-Mini transmitters for control

From the A20-Remote Manage Transmitter window, enable an A20-Mini for control using the Enable switch. Enabled transmitters are added to the Transmitter List and can be controlled from A20-Remote.

Power off from app requires confirmation

When Power off from app requires confirmation is active, touching the Power button in the Transmitter View displays a confirmation pop up to avoid accidentally powering off an A20-Mini. Deactivate this option when you want the Power button to power off A20-Mini transmitters without confirmation.

Country

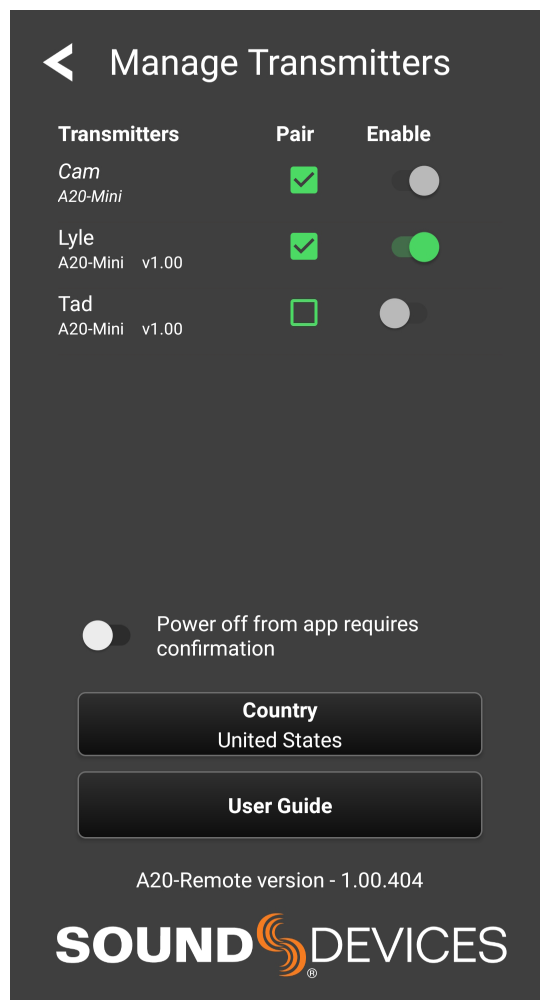
Country is automatically set depending on GPS or Location Services of the mobile device. Use the Country menu to verify your country of operation. If the country of operation is not listed, select the "Other" option. The Country setting determines available Frequencies and RF Power options. It is the users responsibility to operate on allowed frequencies in their area.

User Guide

Touch to visit Sound Devices website with quick links to the A20-Mini User Guide, FAQ, and tutorial videos.

A20-Remote Version










Displays the current A20-Remote software version.

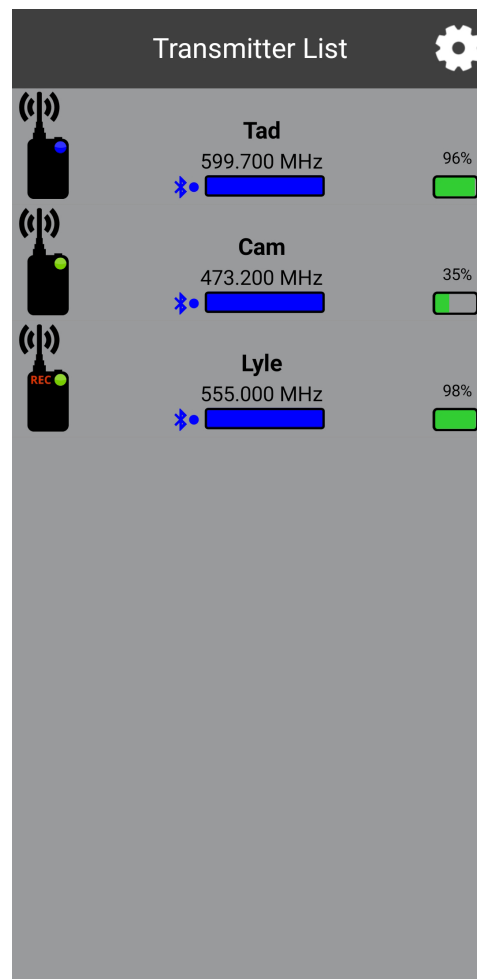


Transmitter List

The Transmitter List is a scrollable list of all enabled transmitters. Each transmitter is listed with a high-level view of the transmitter's status. This includes the transmitter's name, set frequency, Bluetooth signal strength meter, the status of battery level/charging, and an A20-Mini Status indicator that displays the status of A20-Mini power, audio presence/mute, record, RF transmission, and Identify mode.

A20-Mini Status Indicator

Icon	Description
	A20-Mini Off The A20-Mini appears gray when it is powered off.
	A20-Mini On The A20-Mini appears black when it is on.
	A20-Mini Recording The letters "REC" appear in red in the top left corner when the A20-Mini is recording.
	A20-Mini Transmitting RF The A20-Mini appears with RF waves coming from the antenna when it is transmitting RF.
	A20-Mini Audio Presence The A20-Mini appears with a green circle in the top right corner when audio is present.
	A20-Mini Mic Muted The A20-Mini appears with a blue circle in the top right corner when the microphone is muted.
	A20-Mini Recording, Transmitting, Audio The A20-Mini is on, recording, transmitting RF, and audio is present.
	A20-Mini Identify Mode The A20-Mini appears with a flashing 'ID' when the unit is in Identify mode.
	A20-Mini Unknown State The A20-Mini appears with '?' when the status is unknown. This could be displayed because the unit is out of range or the power source has been removed or depleted.



Transmitter List (Cont.)




Transmitter Name

Displays the name of the A20-Mini. The serial number is the default name of the A20-Mini. The A20-Mini name is changed in the Transmitter View menu.

Transmitter Frequency

Displays the RF frequency on which the A20-Mini is transmitting. The RF frequency can be changed in the Transmitter View menu.

Battery/Power Status Indicator

Icon	Description
	Battery Level Indicator Displays the level of the battery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green = Good • Orange = Marginal, about an hour of battery life remaining. • Red = Low, 15-20 minutes of battery life remaining. • Flashing Red = Critically low, RF, audio, and recording disabled. <p>Remaining battery is displayed directly above the battery icon in percentage for Li-Ion and in voltage for AAA batteries.</p> <p>It is normal to see voltages increase for the first 60-90 minutes when fresh Energizer Lithium primary AAA cells are put under load. This is due to the characteristic of the cells gradually warming up, raising the terminal voltage.</p>
	Battery Charge Indicator Displays the charging status of the battery. Orange = Charging Green = Charging complete
	USB Power Displays when USB is powering the A20-Mini and there are no batteries inserted.

Bluetooth Signal Strength Indicator



Bluetooth Signal Strength Indicator

Displays the signal strength of the A20-Mini Bluetooth signal received by the mobile device. The Bluetooth meter border is red when the mobile device is not communicating with the A20-Mini. A blue dot appears after the Bluetooth icon when the A20-Mini is connected.

Transmitter View

The Transmitter View displays further details of the active A20-Mini and provides control of functions and menus of the selected transmitter.

Active A20-Mini in the Transmitter View

The active A20-Mini in the Transmitter View is indicated by the highlighted entry of the Transmitter List. Touch any transmitter in the Transmitter List to make it the active transmitter.

Quick List (Phone Only)

The Transmitter Quick List is available on phones only because the nature of the phone's smaller screen size does not allow the Transmitter List and the Transmitter View to be simultaneously displayed.

The Quick List is a horizontally scrollable list of all enabled transmitters displayed only with the A20-Mini Status indicator and transmitter names. Touch a transmitter in the Quick List to make it the active transmitter in the Transmitter View. Touch the back button to exit back to the Transmitter List.

Transmitter Status Window

The Transmitter Status window displays detailed information of the active transmitter. The A20-Mini Status indicator, Battery / Power status indicator, and Bluetooth Signal Strength meter are described in detail in the Transmitter List section. These indicators are also present in the Transmitter Status window. In addition, the Transmitter Status window shows the active power source and RF Transmission details.

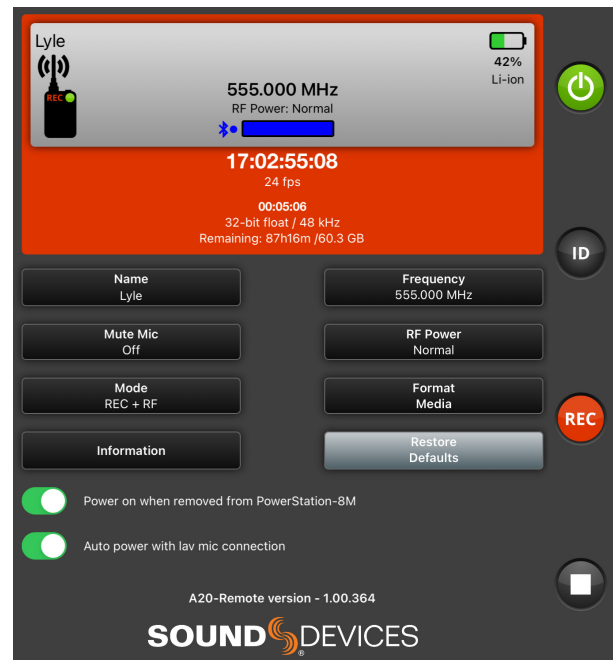
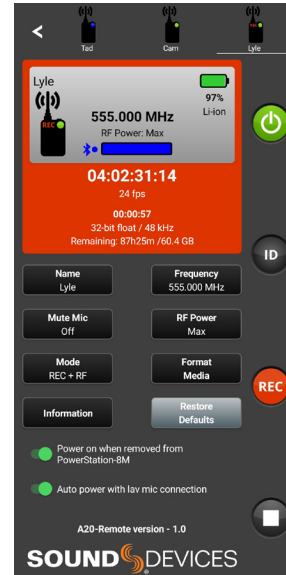
Power Source Details

The active power source is displayed next to the Battery Level meter and battery percentage/voltage.

- AAA is displayed when powering from AAA batteries.
- Li-Ion is displayed when powering from a Li-Ion Sony NP-BX1 battery.
- USB is displayed when powering the A20-Mini from the USB-C connector.

RF Transmission Details

RF Transmission details are displayed when A20-Mini mode is set to RF Only or REC + RF (not available in the U.S.). The set frequency is displayed in MHz and the RF Power setting is listed below.



License Required

Some frequencies may require a license to operate on in your area. The License icon appears as a reminder to the user if the set frequency requires a license for the current Country.

Recording & Timecode Status Window

Recording & Timecode details are displayed when A20-Mini mode is set to REC Only or REC + RF (not available in the U.S.). Timecode values, frame rate, absolute record time counter, file format (32-bit float, 48 kHz), and remaining record time / space of the media. This window is red when the A20-Mini is recording.

Transmitter View (Cont.)

Controlling A20-Mini from A20-Remote

From the Transmitter View you can control parameters of the A20-Mini while it is powered on. The A20-Mini continues to communicate with the app when powered off. While off, the A20-Mini settings and timecode are displayed. The A20-Mini can be powered on or put into Identify mode from the app while the A20-Mini is powered off.

Transmitter Controls

The far right-hand side of the Transmitter View provides easy access to Power, Identify mode, Record, and Stop.



Transmitter Power

Touch the Power button to power the A20-Mini on or off. The icon is white when the transmitter is off and green when on. By default a confirmation pop up message appears when powering off the A20-Mini from the app. This can be deactivated in Manage Transmitters by deactivating Power off from app requires confirmation.



Identify Mode

Touch the Identify button to put the A20-Mini into Identify mode. The LEDs on the A20-Mini flash making it easy to locate a specific A20-Mini. The Identify button and the A20-Mini Status indicator also flash when Identify mode is active. Touch the Identify button again or press the A20-Mini red button to disable Identify mode.



Record

Touch the Record button to start a recording on the A20-Mini. The button is red while recording. The button is gray when recording is not permitted.



Stop

Touch the Stop button to stop recording. The button is yellow while recording is stopped. The button is gray when recording is not permitted.

Transmitter Menu

The Transmitter Menu is displayed beneath the Transmitter and Record & Timecode Status windows of the Transmitter View. It offers control of the A20-Mini Name, Frequency, Mute Mic, RF Power, Mode, Format Media, Restore Default settings, Power on when removed from PowerStation-8M, Power on with Lav mic connection, and access to A20-Mini Information.

Naming the A20-Mini

While in the Transmitter View, touch the Name button and use the pop up QWERTY keyboard to rename the transmitter. Up to twelve alpha-numeric characters can be used for the transmitter's name. The serial number of the unit is the name by default. Transmitter names are sent over RF to the A10-RX and are embedded in metadata as the Track Names of recorded WAV files.

Transmitter View (Cont.)

Setting Frequency

The A20-Mini transmits on frequencies ranging from 470 MHz–694 MHz. The frequencies available are determined by your geographic location.

Touch the Frequency button to enter the Frequency menu. From the frequency menu, use the scroll wheels to select a frequency (integer and fractional of MHz) or use the +400 kHz and -400 kHz buttons. Touch the Set Frequency button to set the frequency and exit back to the Transmitter View.

After changing frequency, attach an antenna with a length specific to the frequency in use. Using the wrong length of antenna reduces RF range. The recommended antenna for the set frequency is displayed in the Information menu. See Antenna Guide for more information.

Mute Mic

Touch the Mute Mic button to mute the microphone. When muted, no audio is present in the recordings or transmitted. Mute status is indicated by a blue Mute Mic menu button, a blue dot in the A20-Mini Status indicator, and the A20-Mini Audio LED turns solid blue.

Setting RF Power

RF power is the strength of the transmitting signal. The A20-Mini offers the following RF power settings.

- Off - A20-Mini is not transmitting RF.
- Low - 2 mW
- Normal - 10 mW
- High - 20 mW
- Max - 40 mW

RF power settings are based on the selected Country of the device running A20-Remote as some legal restrictions may apply. Touch the RF Power button and make a selection from the list.

Mode

Touch the Mode button to enter the Mode menu. Select between RF Only, REC Only, and REC + RF.

Simultaneous Record and Transmit mode is not available on A20-Mini units sold or operated in the United States of America.

Record & Timecode details are not displayed in the TX Status Window when RF Only is selected. RF Transmission details are not displayed in the Transmitter Status window when REC Only is selected.

Formatting Media

Formatting the A20-Mini media deletes all recorded files. It is good practice to periodically format media. Make certain to transfer any files before formatting. The first eleven characters of the transmitter name are used to name the media. Media is named at time of format.

Transmitter View (Cont.)

Information

Displays the recommended antenna and TV Channel of the current set frequency, version of A20-Mini firmware, A20-Mini serial number, and compliance documentation for local government requirements if applicable.

Restore Defaults

Touch the Restore Defaults button to restore default settings.

- Tx Name = Serial Number
- Frequency = Lowest frequency allowed in current Country
- Mode = REC + RF (International), RF Only (United States)
- RF Power = Normal - 10 mW
- Mute Mic = Off
- Power on when removed from PowerStation-8M = Off
- Auto Power with Lav Mic Connection = On
- Recording = Stopped
- Timecode = 00:00:00:00
- Frame Rate = 30 fps
- Identify Mode = Off
- Power = On

Auto Power On When Removed from the PowerStation-8M

The A20-Mini automatically powers off when connected to a charging bay of the PowerStation-8M. To save time from having to manually power on the A20-Mini, activate the Power On When Removed from the PowerStation-8M feature. When active, removing the A20-Mini from the PowerStation-8M powers the transmitter on. This feature can be turned on or off. See PowerStation-8M for more details.

Auto Power with Lav Mic Connection

The A20-Mini can auto-detect the presence of a lavalier microphone connection and power on and off accordingly. When Auto Power with Lav Mic Connection is active, connecting a lavalier microphone to the A20-Mini automatically powers on the transmitter. Removing the lavalier mic connection automatically powers the A20-Mini off. This feature can be turned on or off.

Connecting Lavalier Microphones to A20-Mini

Connect a 2- or 3-wire lavalier microphone to the A20-Mini transmitter's 3-Pin LEMO connector. Lock the connection by turning clockwise until the connector is firmly attached to the A20-Mini.

The AC-BALXLR-4 3-pin LEMO to XLR female cable is not compatible with the A20-Mini as it does not have a balanced-input mode/microphone preamplifier.

Source Type	A10-TX	A20-Mini
2-wire lav	Yes	Yes
3-wire lav	--	Yes
Balanced mic XLR	Yes	--
Balanced line XLR	Yes	--
Auto-power-on w/ lav	--	Yes

Tuning A20-Mini and the Audio Ltd A10-RX

RF signals transmitted by the A20-Mini transmitter are received by the Audio Ltd A10-RX. Set the same frequency on the transmitter and receiver. See the A10-RX User Guide for more details.

GainForward

The A20-Mini transmitter introduces GainForward, a new feature that eliminates the need to adjust microphone preamplifier gain at the wireless transmitter. Audio levels from the transmitter are controlled either directly at the mixer's trim control or at the wireless receiver. If the talent speaks too softly or emotes too loudly after being "wired" with the transmitter, simply adjust the transmitter gain with the mixer's gain trim. Read more about GainForward at:

<https://www.sounddevices.com/gainforward-explained/>

Adjusting Audio of the A20-Mini Signal from the A10-RX

From the A10-RX home screen, press the channel's arrow button twice to enter the Input menu. From the Input menu, press the middle button to select a sub-menu to adjust gain, low cut, or limiter of the incoming A20-Mini transmitted signal.

Gain is adjustable from 0 to 60 dB. Low cut can be set to Off, 40 Hz, 60 Hz, 80 Hz, 100 Hz, or 200 Hz. Limiter can be turned on or off. The information menu displays the status of the tuned A20-Mini. See the A10-RX User Guide for more details.

Adjusting Audio of the A20-Mini Signal from the 8-Series or 688

When the A10-RX receiving A20-Mini signal is slotted into the SL-2 or SL-6, the A10-RX Input menu settings are bypassed and all gain, low cut, and limiter activity are performed and controlled by the 688, 833, 888, or Scorpio. See the Mixer-Recorder User Guides for more information.

Recording WAV Files

The A20-Mini records 32-bit float Broadcast WAV (under 4 GB) or RF64 WAV (over 4 GB) files at 48 kHz sampling rates. 32-bit float files are recorded such that gain decisions can be made after recording. Because of the high dynamic range of the A20-Mini audio levels are never too high or too low. Learn more about 32-bit float at:

<https://www.sounddevices.com/a20-mini-32-bit-float-recording>

A20-Mini recordings are started and stopped using the record and stop buttons in the A20-Remote Transmitter View.

The file name format is
transmitter name-YYMMDDHHMMSS.WAV.

For example, if the A20-Mini name has been changed to "Barney" and a recording is created on July 10, 2021 at 09:30 (24 hour format), the resulting file is named Barney-210710093000.WAV. All files are recorded at root of the media (no folders).

Jamming Timecode on A20-Mini

The A20-Mini accepts timecode from external LTC sources. The timecode value and frame rate are taken from incoming LTC source. If timecode has not been jammed, the A20-Mini starts rolling timecode from 00:00:00:00 when it is powered on.

Jammed timecode values are held for up to four hours after powering off, and for one hour after the battery has been removed. This allows for time to swap batteries without having to re-jam timecode.

To jam timecode, connect a valid LTC source using one of the optional accessories, Sound Devices XL-TC-USBC-LEMO or XL-TC-USBC-BNC, to the A20-Mini USB-C port. Timecode is automatically jammed once a valid LTC source is connected. After a successful timecode jam, the Audio/LTC LED flashes blue on the 00 frame crossing.

Timecode is output from the USB-C using the Sound Devices XL-TCU-LEMO, so that you can verify the A20-Mini timecode is in sync with the LTC source. The Audio/LTC LED stops flashing blue when USB-C is disconnected.

For more information about the A20-Mini timecode accessory cables visit:

<https://www.sounddevices.com/product/xl-tc-usbc-bnc/>

<https://www.sounddevices.com/product/xl-tc-usbc-lemo/>

A20-Mini can also jam timecode from 8-Series Mixer-Recorders using a standard USB-C to USB-A cable. Connect the A20-Mini to the 8-Series USB-A port. Enter the 8-Series Menu>Timecode/Sync>Jam A20-Mini then select Jam A20. The 8-Series Jam A20-Mini menu displays the current timecode frame rate and values for the 8-Series and A20-Mini and displays the difference between the two units.

When the A20-Mini is powered off, the Audio/LTC LED and the Charge & Timecode LED flash blue on the 00 frame crossing to indicate timecode is being held.

The A20-Mini can also receive and jam timecode while connected to the optional PowerStation-8M via USB-C. See PowerStation-8M for more details.

	A10-TX	A20-Mini	Cables
LTC via Lemo-3	Yes	--	AC-TCBNC-IN
AC-TCBNC-OUT AC-TCLEMO" LTC via USB-C	--	Yes	XL-TC-USBC-LEMO XL-TC-USBC-BNC
Timecode jam via USB-A on 8-Series	--	Yes	Standard USB-C to USB-A
Mass Timecode jam via PowerStation-8M	--	Yes	BNC

File Transfer to a Computer

The A20-Mini connects via USB-C to a computer as an exFAT-formatted mass storage device. Copy WAV files from the A20-Mini to the computer. When file transfer is complete, eject the drive from the operating system and disconnect USB.

Recording must be stopped on the A20-Mini before connecting to the computer. While connected to a computer RF transmission, audio, and recording are disabled.

Up to eight A20-Mini transmitters can be connected to a computer for file transfer using the optional PowerStation-8M. See PowerStation-8M for more details.

Updating A20-Mini Firmware

Register your A20-Mini to stay informed of firmware updates.

<https://www.sounddevices.com/product-reg-email/>

To update your A20-Mini firmware:

1. Connect the A20-Mini to the computer for file transfer using a USB-C cable or the PowerStation-8M. See File Transfer and PowerStation-8M for more information.
2. Download the A20-Mini firmware PRG file from:
<https://www.sounddevices.com/download/?prod=a20-mini>
3. Copy the PRG file to the root of the A20-Mini media.
4. Eject the A20-Mini from the computer.

At this point, the LEDs “dance” to indicate the firmware update is in progress. The firmware update can take a few minutes to complete. Wait for all LED activity to stop before using or powering off the A20-Mini.

When the firmware update completes, the A20-Mini automatically deletes the PRG file from the media. Firmware version information is displayed in A20-Remote Manage Transmitter view and in the Transmitter View Information menu.

SD-Utility



Sound Devices SD-Utility is a companion application for MacOS and Windows. This application can be used to process files recorded by the A20-Mini to be more suited to the given workflow. A20-Mini 32-bit float, 48 kHz, monophonic WAV and RF64 WAV files can be renamed, snipped by timecode values, converted to 24 bit, conformed to a CSV Sound Report, and more.

SD-Utility is also a companion application for the Audio Ltd A10-TX and A10-RX. For details specific to those products, please refer to their respective user guides.

Installing SD-Utility

Download the SD-Utility Installer for MacOS or Windows from:
<https://www.sounddevices.com/download/?prod=sd-utility>

Open the installer and install the application by following the on-screen instructions.

Minimum operating requirements:

- MacOS 10.11+, 64-bit
- Windows 10+, 64-bit

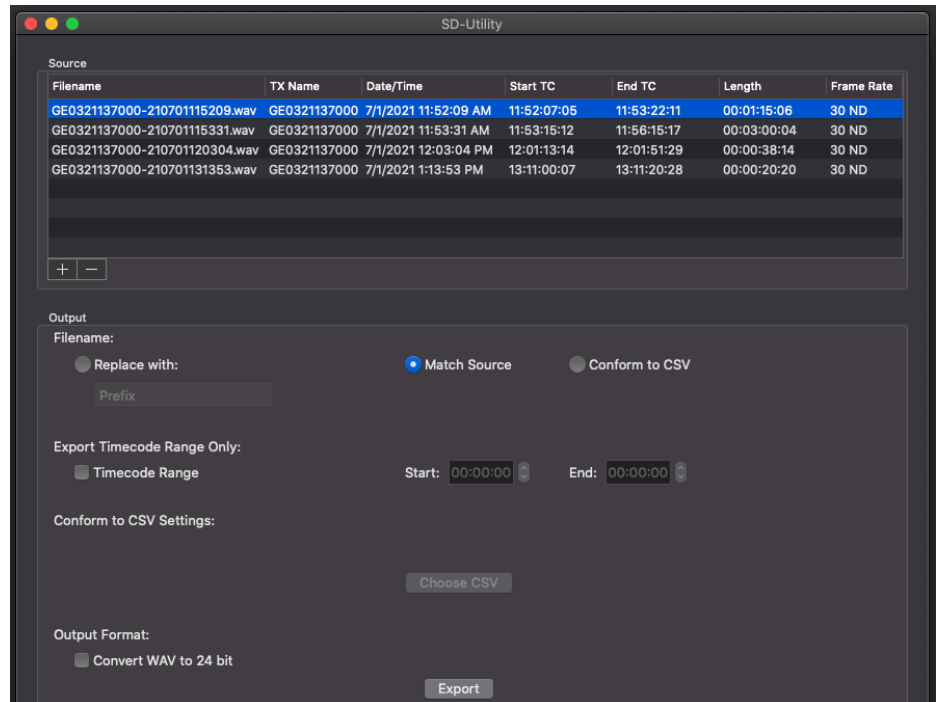
Importing A20-Mini WAV Files into SD-Utility

SD-Utility accepts monophonic WAV and RF64 WAV files recorded by the A20-Mini or MIC files recorded by the Audio Ltd A10-TX. There are three methods for importing files into SD-Utility.

1. Drag-and-drop WAV files or volumes/folders containing WAV files into the Source window.
2. Navigate File > Add and select WAV file(s) for import.
3. On the bottom left of the Source window, click + in Mac or Add in Windows, then select file(s) for import.

The Source window displays the following information for all imported files.

- Filename
- Transmitter name
- Date and time of file creation
- Start timecode
- End timecode
- Length of recording
- Frame Rate



SD-Utility (Cont.)

Removing WAV files from the Source Window

There are three methods for removing WAV files from the Source window.

1. Highlight the WAV file(s) to be removed from the Source window, then click - on Mac or Remove on Windows.
2. Highlight the WAV file(s) to be removed from the Source window, then navigate File > Remove.
2. Highlight the WAV file(s) to be removed from the Source window, then press the Delete key.

Selecting Files to Export

Highlight the file(s) to process and export from the Source window. Multiple files can be selected using keyboard modifiers, Apple and Shift in MacOS, Ctrl and Shift in Windows. If no files are selected, processing is applied to all files in the Source window.

Naming of Processed WAV Files

Processed WAV files will be named according to the Filename selection.

- **Match Source** uses the source file's name in the processed WAV file.
- **Replace with** allows the processed file to be named based on the custom entry.
- **Conform to CSV** uses the take information from a CSV Sound Report to determine the processed file names. See Conforming A20-Mini WAV Files to CSV sound reports.

Creating Shorter WAV Files Based on Timecode Range

When a shorter WAV file is needed than the original recording, you can use the Timecode Range feature to create a shorter WAV file. The length and content of the exported file is based on the entered timecode start and stop times.

1. Highlight the source file(s) from the Source window.
2. Select the Timecode Range check box.
3. Enter valid timecode start and end times. The values must fall within the range of the source file.
4. Select Process.

Selecting Bit Depth of Exported WAV Files

The A20-Mini records 32-bit float WAV files. To convert the WAV files to 24-bit integer, select the Convert WAV to 24 bit check box.

Files that contain audio that exceeds 0 dBFS will be normalized to -0.1 dBFS to avoid clipping when exported as 24-bit.

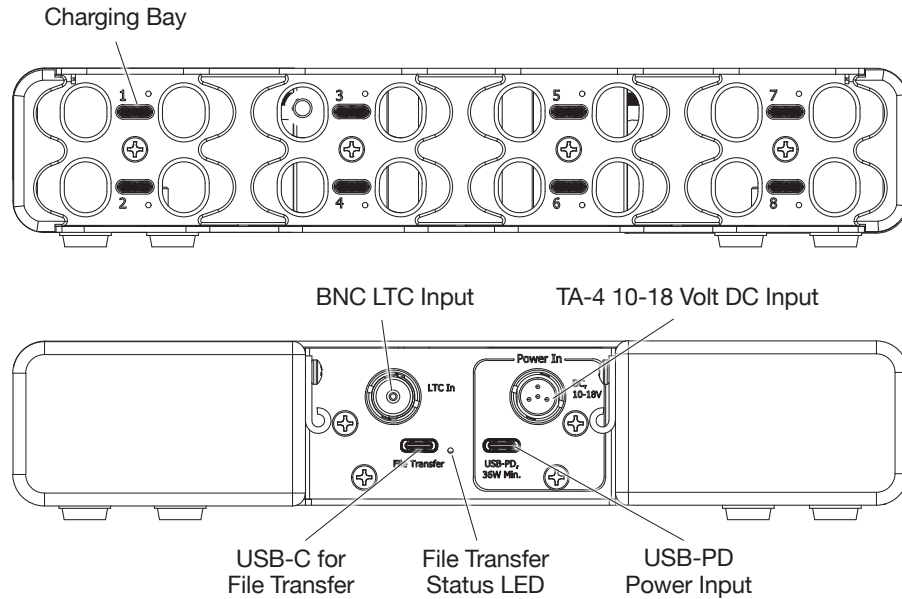
Conforming A20-Mini WAV Files to CSV Sound Reports

CSV sound report files generated by Sound Devices recorders can be used to extract only relevant audio from the A20-Mini WAV or A10-TX MIC files. Audio is extracted and a new WAV file is created based on the timecode in/out values of takes listed within the CSV.

The exported WAV file names and embedded metadata are changed to match the filenames and metadata of the corresponding takes in the CSV sound report.

PowerStation-8M

The PowerStation-8M Eight Slot Charger for A20-Mini is an optional accessory. It offers battery charging, A20-Mini timecode jamming, and USB file transfer to and from a computer for up to eight A20-Mini transmitters.



Charging Batteries from the PowerStation-8M

Enabled charging bays are indicated by LEDs within each charging bay. If a TA-4 or USB-PD with proper rating is used, all eight charging bay LEDs illuminate. If a USB adapter is used which does not supply sufficient power, then only three of the charging bay LEDs will illuminate.

The PowerStation-8M only charges Sony NP-BX1 batteries within an A20-Mini. AAA battery charging is not supported. Inserting A20-Minis with AAA batteries into the charging bay will not damage anything, but the unit will not charge.

Insert the A20-Mini into an enabled charging bay of the PowerStation-8M. The A20-Mini slides into a charging bay with the antenna-side first, the antenna may be left attached. Sound Devices recommends disconnecting lavalier microphones before inserting the A20-Mini into the charging bay.

Charging status is indicated by the A20-Remote application and the A20-Mini bottom panel Charge LED.

- Solid Orange = Charging
- Solid Green = Charging complete
- Off = Not charging

A20-Mini transmitters are powered off when inserted into a charging bay. The A20-Mini powers on when removed from the charging bay if 'Power On When Removed from PowerStation-8M' is active.

Bottom Panel 1/4"-20 Mounting Point (not pictured)

The PowerStation-8M offers a 1/4"-20 mounting point on the bottom panel for securely attaching to a rack shelf, such as the Pyle 1U Server Rack Shelf Mount Tray PLRSTN14U.

<https://pyleusa.com/products/plrstn14u>

PowerStation-8M (Cont.)

Powering the PowerStation-8M

The PowerStation-8M is powered via 12 VDC TA-4 connector or USB-PD power supply. The supplied 36 W USB-PD power supply supports full operation. Make certain third-party USB-C power supplies offer 36 W or higher in order to charge all eight A20-Mini transmitters at a time. Make certain any external supply connected to the TA-4 connector supplies at least 36 W.

Distributing Timecode to A20-Mini Transmitters

The PowerStation-8M is equipped with a Timecode input on BNC. Connecting a valid LTC timecode source to the PowerStation-8M jams the frame rate and timecode value to all inserted A20-Mini transmitters. The A20-Mini bottom panel Timecode LED flashes blue on the 00 frame following a successful jam.

Transferring A20-Mini Files via PowerStation-8M

The File Transfer USB-C connector is used to connect A20-Mini transmitters slotted into the PowerStation-8M to a computer as mass storage devices. Each connected A20-Mini transmitter will appear as its own mass storage device when the PowerStation-8M is connected to a computer. The PowerStation-8M USB-C connector is SuperSpeed USB (5 Gb/s) offering maximum transfer speeds when all eight slots are filled.

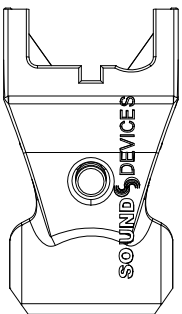
The File Transfer LED lights red when USB-C File Transfer is plugged in without a power adapter connected. The File Transfer LED lights green when USB-C File Transfer and either TA-4 or USB-PD are plugged in.

See File Transfer to a Computer for more information.

Updating A20-Mini Firmware via PowerStation-8M

Using File Transfer in combination with the PowerStation-8M, Firmware can be updated on up to eight A20-Mini transmitters.

PowerStation-8M Tongs



The PowerStation-8M ships with tongs for easy removal of A20-Mini transmitters from PowerStation-8M charging bays. When multiple A20-Mini transmitters are in the charging bays, the tongs provide more finger room.

The tongs come with an 18-inch steel lanyard for securing them to a rack. The lanyard can be removed by sliding the loop end of the lanyard over the center pillar of the tongs.

Insert the tongs into an empty charging bay for safe keeping.

Removing A20-Mini from PowerStation-8M with the Tongs

Align the Sound Devices logos of the tongs and the A20-Mini battery door, then slide tongs onto the A20-Mini until you hear a click. Pull the A20-Mini out of the slot. Pinch the handle to release the A20-Mini from the tongs.

PowerStation-8M

Specifications

Specifications are subject to change without prior notice.
For the latest information available on all Sound Devices products, visit our website: www.sounddevices.com.

Power

- USB-C: PD (Power Delivery), 36 W or higher, or
- TA-4: 10 - 18 VDC, 36 W or higher
- Pin-4 hot, pin-1 ground, pin-2 and pin-3 data for smart batteries. Leave pins-2 and pin-3 disconnected if not using smart batteries.

LTC Input

- Input impedance: 5k ohm
- Signal level: 0.3 - 5 Vp-p

USB-C

- USB 3.0 SuperSpeed, internal hub

Dimensions (HxWxD)

- 40 mm x 220 mm x 136 mm (without feet)
- 1.58 in x 8.66 in x 5.35 in (without feet)

Weight

- 670 g
- 1.5 lb

Included Accessories

- Power Supply
- 2x USB-C to USB-C Cables, USB 3.0

A20-Mini Specifications

Specifications are subject to change without prior notice. For the latest information available on all Sound Devices products, visit our website: www.sounddevices.com.

Frequency Range

- 470 to 694 MHz
- Transmitters are tunable in 25 kHz steps
- Available frequencies are dependent on region

RF Output Power

- Off, Low - 2 mW, Normal - 10 mW, High - 20 mW, Max -40 mW, selectable

Modulation Mode

- Sound Devices proprietary digital RF modulation

Antennas

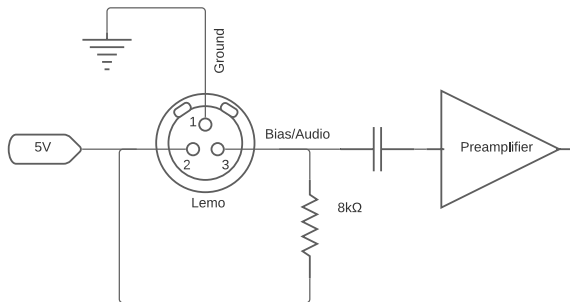
- UHF RF: SMA connector, removable
- 2.4 GHz built-in

Audio Frequency Response

- 10 Hz - 20 kHz, +/- 1 dB re 1 kHz

Audio Input Type

- Lavalier Microphone via 3-pin LEMO
- Pin-1 ground
- Pin-2 5 V bias
- Pin-3 audio/bias (8k ohm to 5 V)



Bias Power

- 5 V

Input Impedance

- 8k ohms

Input Clipping Level

- +5 dBu

Dynamic range

- 130 dB min (A-weighted)

Menu and Controls

- Power & Pair button protected inside battery compartment
- A20-Remote, mobile device application of iOS, iPad, and Android

Remote Control

- A20-Remote Android, iOS, and iPad app via Bluetooth 5.2 LE

Recording Media

- Internal 64 GB
- 10% over-provisioned for optimum performance

Recording File Format

- 32 Bit Float, 48 kHz, Monophonic
- Broadcast WAV (<4 GB), RF64 WAV (>4 GB)

Simultaneous Record and Transmit mode is not available on A20-Mini units sold or operated in the United States of America.

Timecode (LTC)

- Input via XL-TC-USBC-LEMO or XL-TC-USBC-BNC: 0.3 V - 3 V p-p (-17 dBu to +3 dBu), 20k ohm impedance
- Output via XL-TC-USBC-LEMO: 3 V p-p, 400 ohm impedance

Timecode Clock

- 0.2 ppm accuracy
- Holds accurate clock for four hours while powered down with batteries inserted, holds for one hour without batteries via internal supercap
- Auto Jams timecode from LTC source via USB-C connector, or from optional PowerStation-8M

Timecode Frame Rates

- 23.98, 24, 25, 29.97 DF, 29.97 ND, 30 DF, 30 ND
- Frame rates are auto-detected from incoming source

USB-C

- Mass Storage (USB-C): USB 2.0 high speed for file transfer
- Powers A20-Mini

Powering

- 3x AAA batteries (Energizer Ultimate AAA Lithium primary batteries recommended), or Sony NP-BX1 rechargeable Li-Ion
- Built-in Li-Ion charger via USB-C (7.5 W or more needed)
- Sony NP-BX1 is rechargeable via optional PowerStation-8M.

Environmental

- Water Resistant
- Operating: -20° C to 60° C, 0 to 90% relative humidity (non-condensing)
- Storage: -40° C to 85° C

Dimensions (H x W x D)

- 75.8 mm x 48 mm x 19 mm
- 2.98 in x 1.88 in x 0.74 in

Weight

- 51 g (without batteries)
- 1.8 oz (without batteries)

Antenna Guide

The A20-Mini ships with an antenna set with three antennas (1 straight 470-548 MHz, 1 straight 548-638 MHz, 1 straight uncut, set of antenna caps).

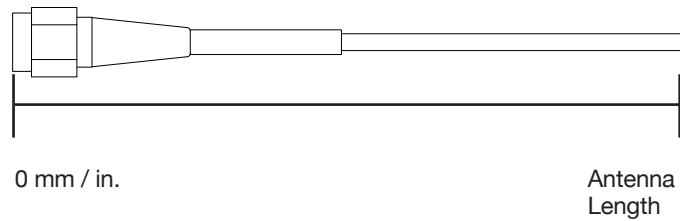
Sound Devices offers additional pre-cut and uncut antennas as available options.

Attach antennas with a length specific to the frequency in use. Using the wrong length of antenna reduces RF range.

Cutting Antennas to Length

Uncut antennas need to be cut to the length specific to the frequency for intended use.

- 1. Determine the frequency range intended for the uncut antenna using the Antenna Length chart.
- 2. Measure the antenna for the cut point. Measurements should begin from the bottom of the SMA connector.
- 3. Using a pair of cutters, cut the quarter-wave antenna at the specified cut point.
- 4. Position the antenna cap onto the cut-end of the antenna and push the cap firmly onto the antenna.



Antenna Length Chart

#	Frequency Range	Antenna Length in mm	Antenna Length in inches
1	470 - 548 MHz	140 mm	5.51"
2	548 - 638 MHz	120 mm	4.72"
3	638 - 694 MHz	104 mm	4.09"

Use antenna 1, 2, and 3 in the United Kingdom and Europe.
Use antenna 1 and 2 in the United States and Canada.

Legal Notices

Product specifications and features are subject to change without prior notification. Read and fully understand this manual before operation.

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FCC Compliance Statement



This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and
- (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation.

If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

This device complies with FCC radiation exposure limits for general population / uncontrolled environments. This device must not be co-located or operated in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

IC Compliance Statement

This Device complies with Industry Canada license-exempt RSS standard(s). Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) this device may not cause interference, and
- (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

Cet appareil est conforme avec Industrie Canada, exempts de licence standard RSS(s). Son fonctionnement est soumis aux deux conditions suivantes:

- (1) ce dispositif ne peut pas causer d'interférences, et
- (2) ce dispositif doit accepter toute interférence, y compris les interférences qui peuvent causer un mauvais fonctionnement de l'appareil.

This device complies with Industry Canada radiation exposure limits for general population / uncontrolled environments. The End-User must follow the specific operating instructions for satisfying RF exposure compliance. This device must not be co-located or operated in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

Cet appareil est conforme à la norme d'Industrie Canada sur les limites d'exposition aux radiations pour la population générale ou environnement incontrôlé. Pour être conforme, l'utilisateur final doit suivre les recommandations sur l'exposition aux radiofréquences. Cet appareil ne doit ni opérer ni être près de toute autre antenne ou émetteur.

WEEE Statement



If you wish to discard a Sound Devices product in Europe, contact Sound Devices (England) for further information.

Battery Advisory

Incorrect use of batteries poses a danger of explosion. Replace only with the same or equivalent type. Properly recycle batteries. Do not crush, disassemble, incinerate, dispose in a fire or expose batteries to high temperatures.

Servicing the A20-Mini

Do not attempt to service the A20-Mini. The case is water-sealed and needs to have new gaskets installed if taken apart. The internal parts are microscopic and not user serviceable. Please send to Sound Devices for any service needs.
<https://service.sounddevices.com/contact-support/>

Included Accessories

The A20-Mini includes the following accessories.

- **Antenna set** (1 straight 470-548 MHz, 1 straight 548-638 MHz, 1 straight uncut, 3 antenna caps)
- **A20-Mini Holster**

A20-Mini User Guide Revision List

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