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ALON Dictaphone

User's manual (v. 1.9.3)

Thank you for choosing the ALON Dictaphone! We hope that you will like our product and will find it useful for you. We welcome any feedback from you for improving the ALON Dictaphone. Please, contact our support at support@alonsoftware.com

1. Introduction

Note: The description corresponds to the Pro version of ALON Dictaphone or to the Free version which includes all of the built-in extensions. The following extensions can be purchased:

- **Share Audio Memos**

This option allows you to share the audio files via E-mail, FTP servers, Dropbox, SoundCloud, GoogleDrive, OneDrive, Box, Evernote and iCloud. The additional option which you will get is the opportunity to open the audio records in other applications.

- **Advanced Audio Pack**

Adjusting the microphone sensitivity, sound activation (the option allows you to filter a "silence" and activates recording by a "real sound") and adjusting volume and balance during playback.

- **Multiple Selection**

This option gives you an opportunity to delete/share (FTP/E-mail/Wi-Fi)/move (between categories) at once on the set of tracks. As a result, it improves the management of a large quantity of recorded tracks.

- **Bookmarks**

This option allows you to make the time markers the same during playback as during recording. You can also create a play route from these bookmarks in order to play back parts of the track in the needed sequence.

- **Categories**

With this option you can easily structure your recorded tracks. For example, you can create categories like "Lectures", "Interview", "Private", "Studies" and so on. You can move the tracks between categories, if needed.

- **Adjustable Playback Speed**

This is a convenient option for fast playback of the recorded track in order to find a desired location or to slowly playback to a certain place in order to distinguish the sounds of the track. There is the ability to choose the playback speed (x0.5, x0.8, x1, x1.5, x2, x4).

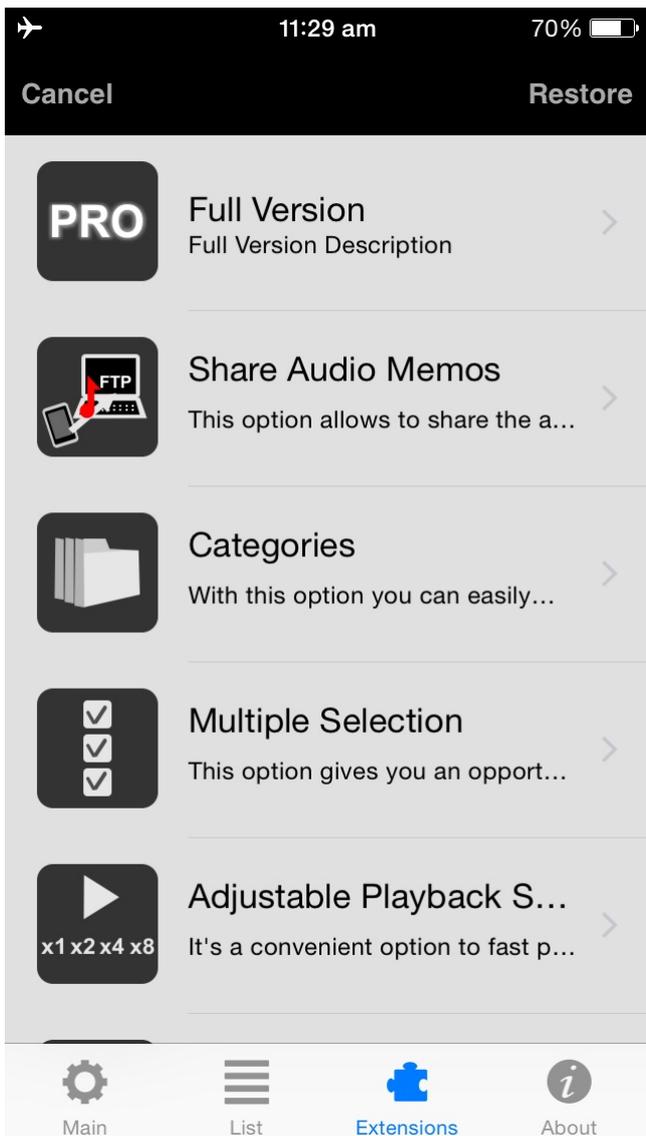
- **Edit Options: Append, Overwrite, Trim, Cut, Insert, Conjunction**

With this option, you can edit the audio recordings.

- **Without Advertisement**

It is free from any advertisements.

You can get the desired extension for the Free version via In-App Purchases in the Settings (left top button in the navigation bar) > Extensions tab:



Please note that all of these extensions are included in the Pro version.

ALON Dictaphone allows you to record in **mp3** and **wav** audio formats. You can easily turn your iPhone/iPad/iPod into an advanced digital Dictaphone and start to record lectures, conversations and interviews and then send the recordings to SoundCloud, Dropbox, Google Drive, OneDrive, Box, Evernote, Ftp server or use iTunes or Wi-Fi to copy them to your laptop directly. You can also send recordings via E-mail.

The iCloud option allows you to synchronize recordings between iOS devices. You can also find your recordings in the iCloud Drive. The Auto Dropbox Synchronization option allows you to synchronize recordings between Dropbox and your iOS devices automatically.

All of your recordings can be easily structured by groups. You can add a new group at any time, move recordings into a corresponding group or delete a group.

For any recorded track, you can resume recording using the functionality of an appending record or you can also easily overwrite any part of the recorded track in order to trim or cut needed parts of the audio file.

You can filter “silence” during the recording process (voice activation).

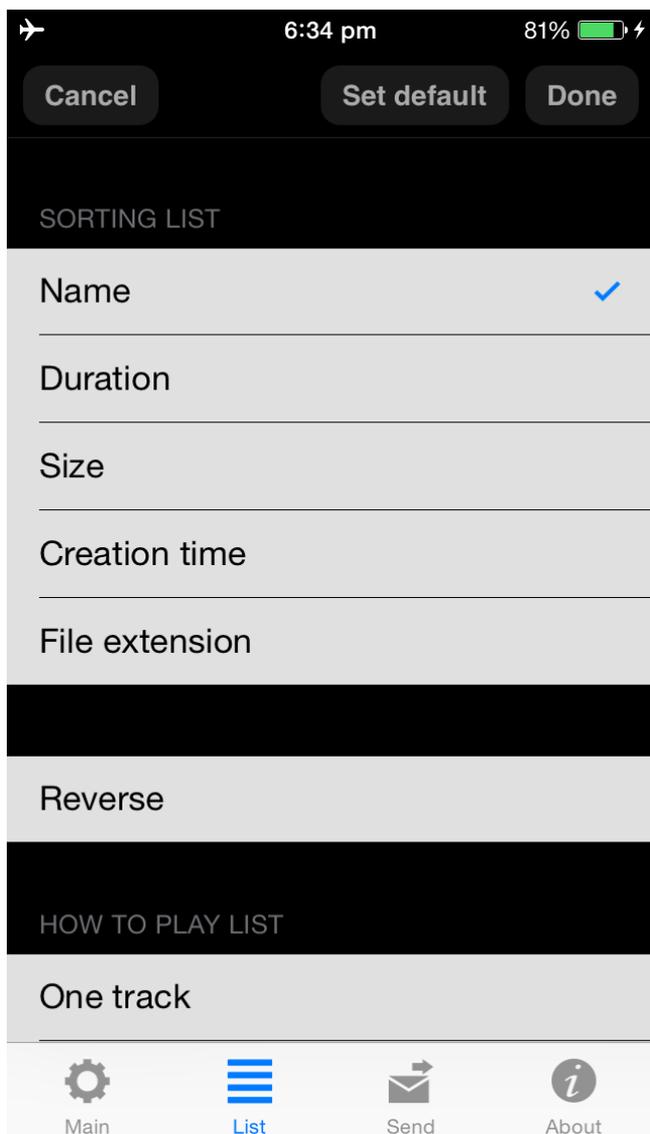
You can easily add bookmarks during recording as well as during playback.

2. Interface survey

The main window consists of a top navigation bar, track list (list of recordings) and media buttons. The buttons from the top navigation bar can be used for (from left to right):

1. Open “Settings”  (Settings button)
2. Open Tool bar  (Tools button)
3. Set the Edit mode  (Edit button)
4. Share(for iPad only)  (Share/Send button)
5. Shows the current category and provides an opportunity to pass to a Category window and to choose the other category.

The track list represents each track by a track name, duration, date of creation, extension and size. For each of these parameters, you can sort a track list via “Settings > List tab > Sorting list”:



Media buttons allow navigating on the track list, playing back of a chosen track and making the recordings. The buttons rewind/previous or forward/next have several options in the app:

1. In the “Stop” state (no Playback/Recording), you can scroll by page with these buttons.
2. In the “Playback” state, you can press and hold the previous/next button in order to rewind/forward. A long press on the previous/next button will increase the rewind speed according to the recording size.

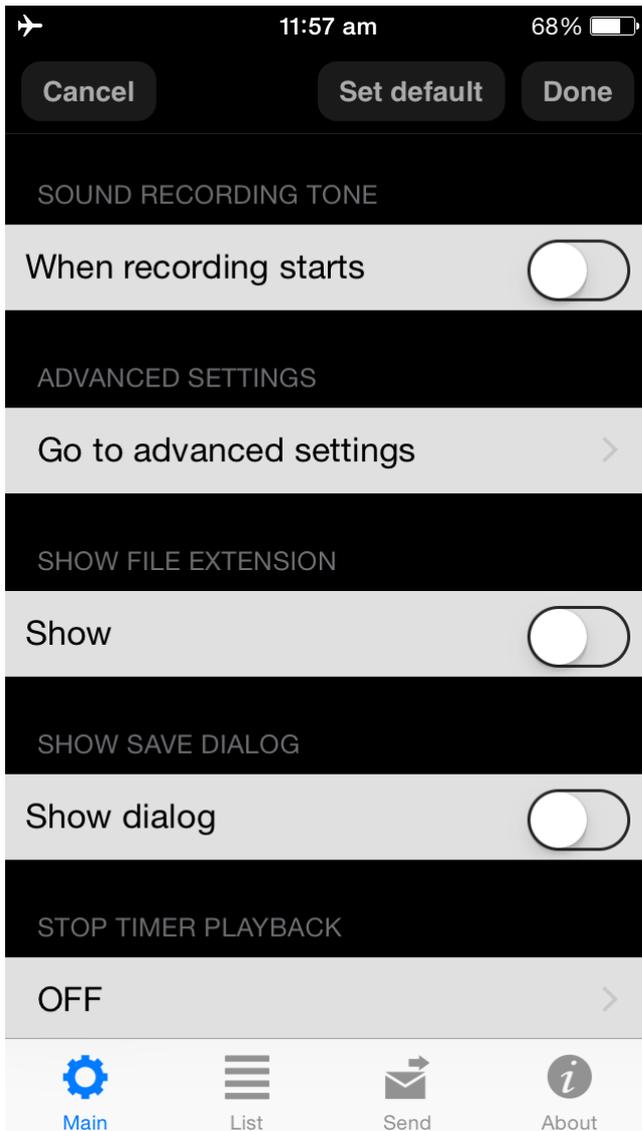
You can also use the playback slider at the bottom of window for rewind/forward.

Each track has a bookmark-button. The bookmark-button allows the opening of the Bookmark window in order to work with bookmarks.

3. Recording

The recording process has three states. The first state is used for starting a new recording. It creates a new track every time that you press down on this button. The recording starts after a short beep. The beep can be disabled in the “Extended mode”:

1. Settings(left top button) > Main tab > Advanced settings > Extended mode > On > Done
2. Settings(left top button) > Main tab > Sound recording tone > OFF



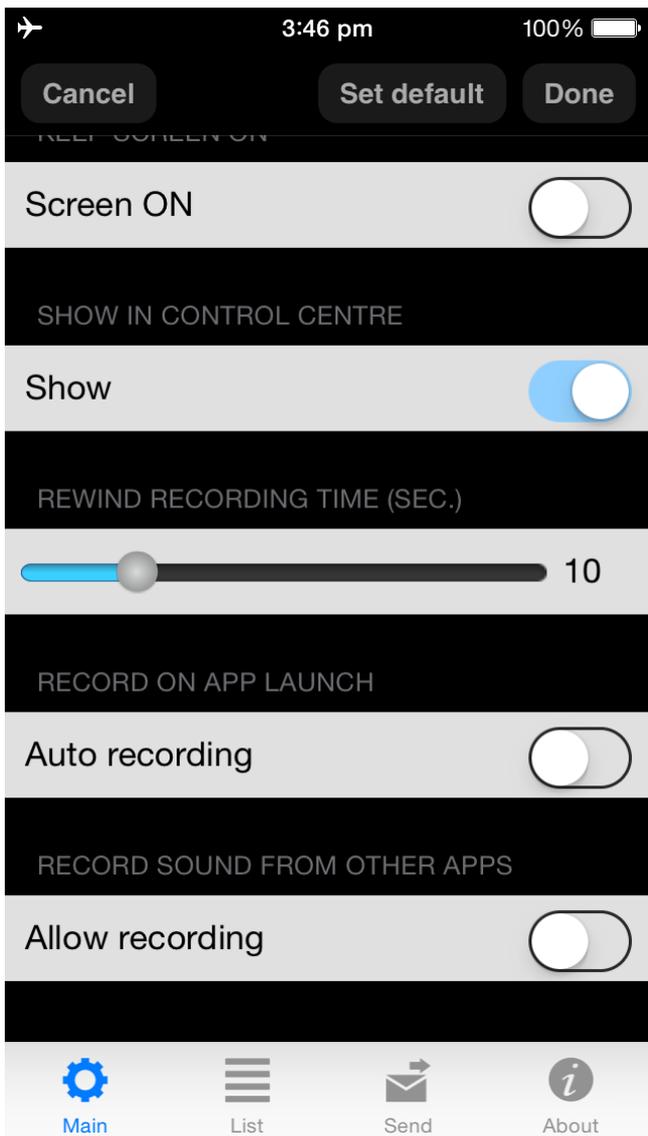
The main window of the app (without any actions like Recording/Playback) looks like:



The first state of the recording is shown below:



In this state, you will be able to re-write the last part of the recording quickly, using the Pause button and slider at the bottom of the window. The duration for re-writing (Rewind Recording Time) is set in the Settings > Main pane:



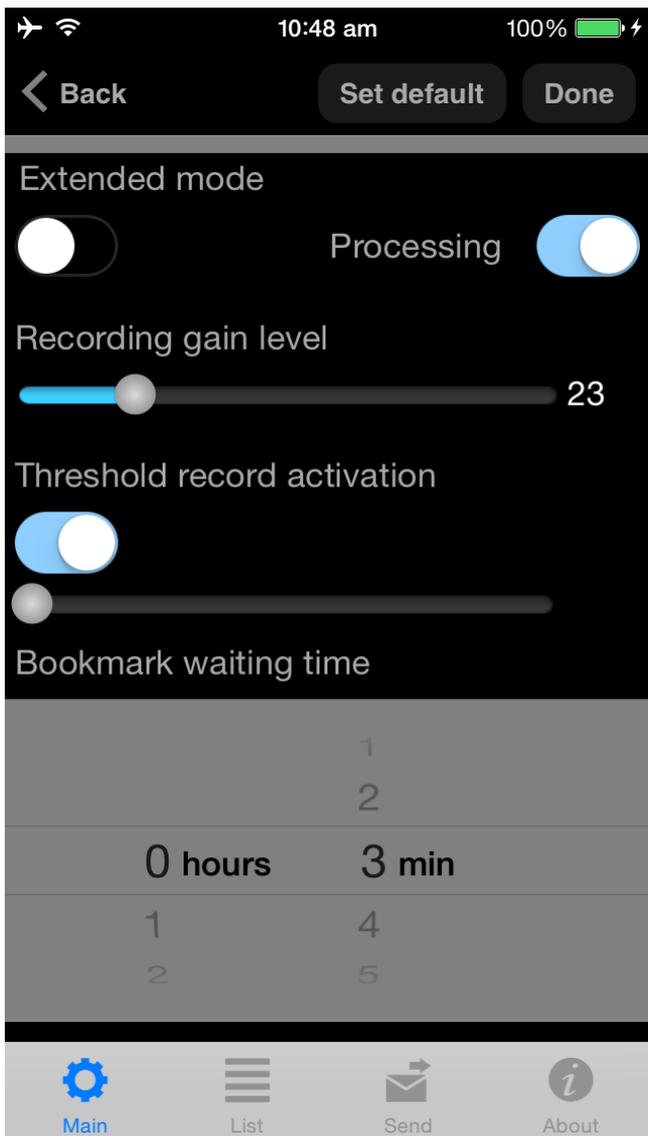
Rewind Recording Time can be adjusted between 5 and 30 seconds. While paused, you can also play back the last part of the recording to know exactly from what position you want to re-write the recording. The slider will return to the original place automatically as the playback is finished.

The second state is used for filtering silence during recording. In order to turn it “On”, you should go to “Settings > Main > Go to advanced settings > Threshold recording activation” and set the switch to “On”. In this state, you can also adjust “Threshold recording activation” by using the slider. It provides an opportunity to filter the more quiet sounds which will be considered as “silence” and recording will be paused. The leftmost position of the slider corresponds to the state where the silence is almost absent (it’s similar to the first recording state).

The window looks like:



The app has an option called the “Bookmark waiting time” which is used to specify how long the app will wait until it creates a bookmark during the Threshold Record Mode. These bookmarks allow you to determine the periods of silence. The “Bookmark waiting time” can be specified in the Advanced Settings (Settings > Main tab > Go to advanced settings > Bookmark waiting time):

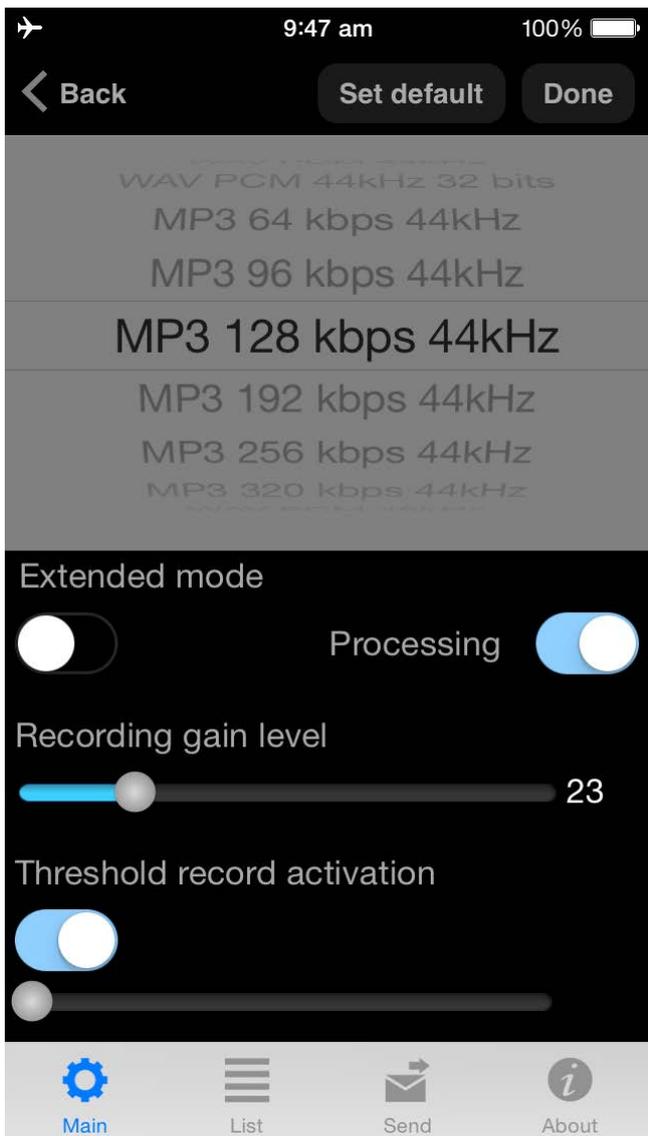


The third state (Edit mode) is used to edit the audio tracks. The following operations are available: Overwrite, Append, Insert, Trim and Cut. A more detailed description of these operations can be found in the Edit mode section below.

For all of these recording states you can set recording gain via “Settings > Main tab > Go to advanced settings > Record gain level”. This option allows you to record silent sounds more loudly. However, on the opposite side, the sound of the noise will also be increasing in your recording. The leftmost position of the slider corresponds to an auto gain level.

Note: “Threshold record activation” depends on “Record gain level”. It means that if you are using the “Threshold record activation” and change a “Record gain level”, you should adjust the “Threshold record activation” value again.

You can choose the additional recording formats from “Settings > Main tab > Advanced...”:

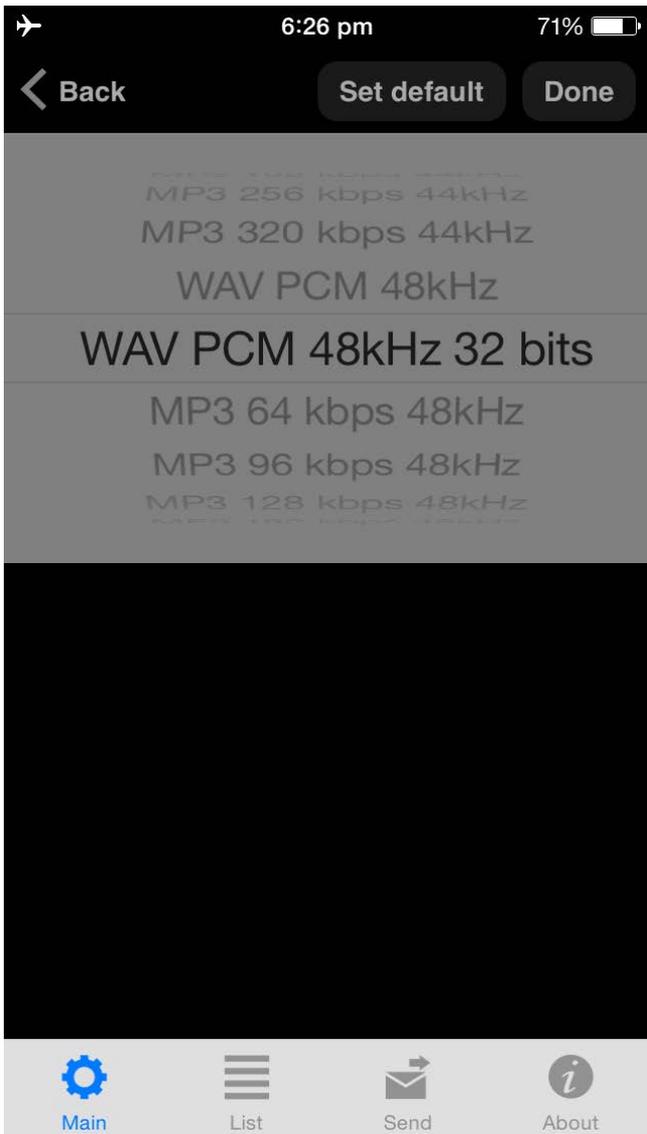


You can change the recording template from “Settings > Main > Recording template”.

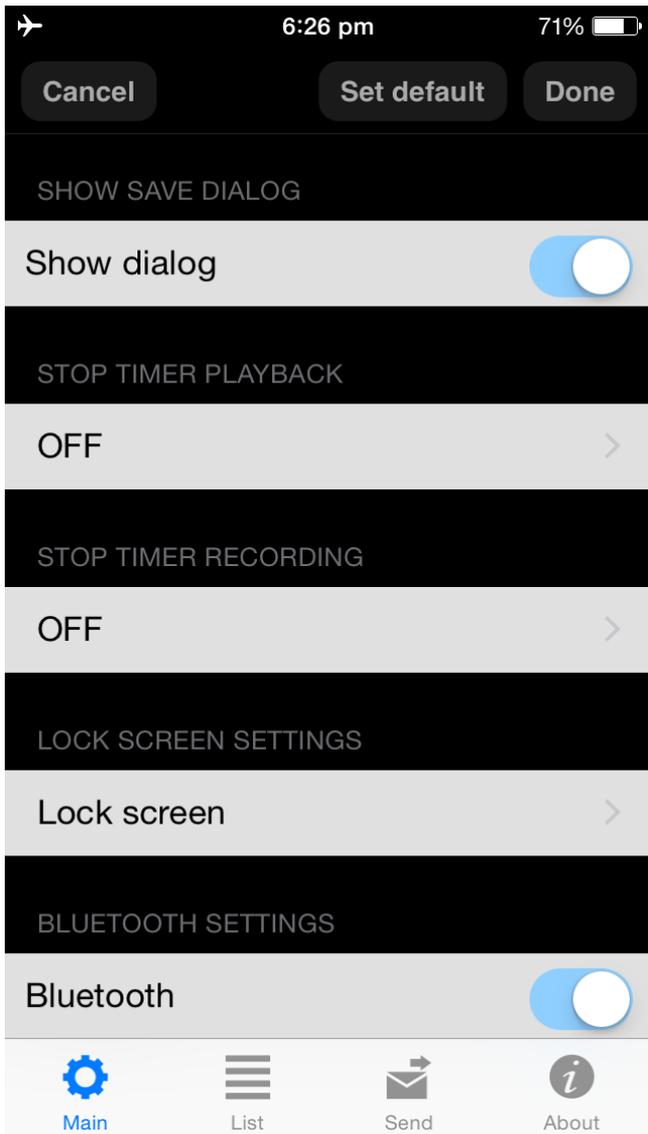
The stereo recording is possible with the external microphones suitable for your device. You can also try to turn off the "Processing" option (Settings > Go to advanced settings > Processing > Off) for some external microphones.

Note: The sample rate can be decreased (resample) for some mp3 stereo formats by application in order to save the current bitrate.

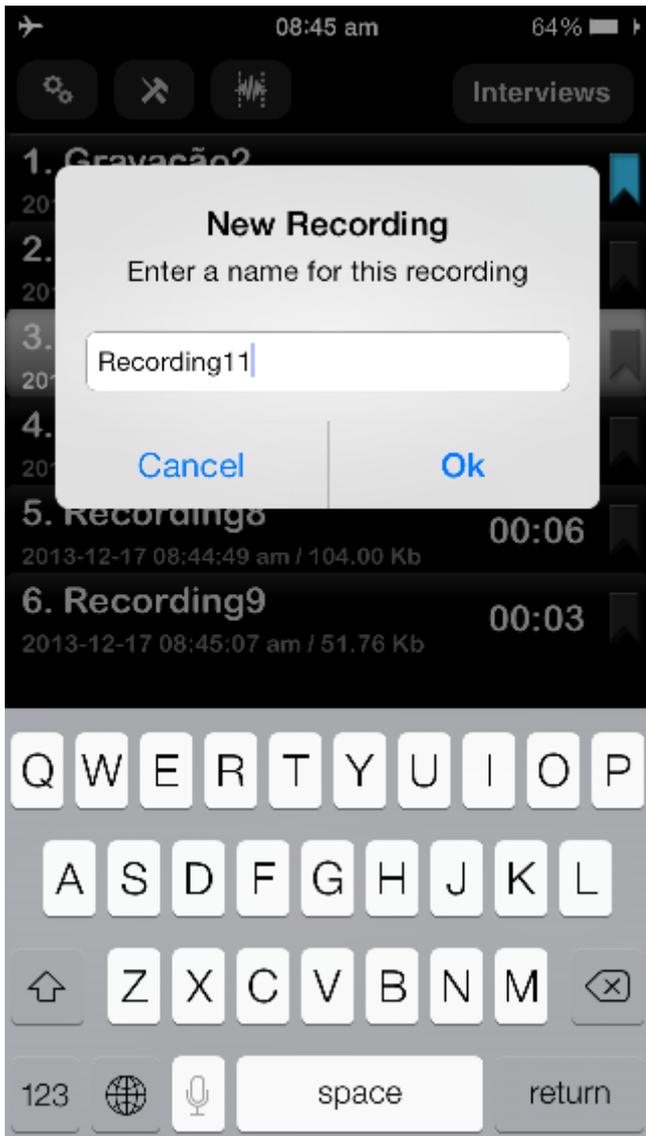
You can make the recordings with 32 bit depth for wav audio formats:



If you need to enter a new name of the recorded track by yourself, you should set the option “Show save dialog” to ON as shown in the image below:



The save window looks like this:



You also can set the timer in order to stop the recording process after a certain amount of time. This option is available from the Settings > Stop Timer Recording.

4. Edit mode

To enable this mode, you should press the Edit button  on the top navigation bar. This edit state offers these opportunities:

1. Append a new recording to the end of the current one.
2. Overwrite a part of the current recording.
3. Insert a new recording in the current recording.
4. Trim operation
5. Cut operation

The edit mode state is shown below:



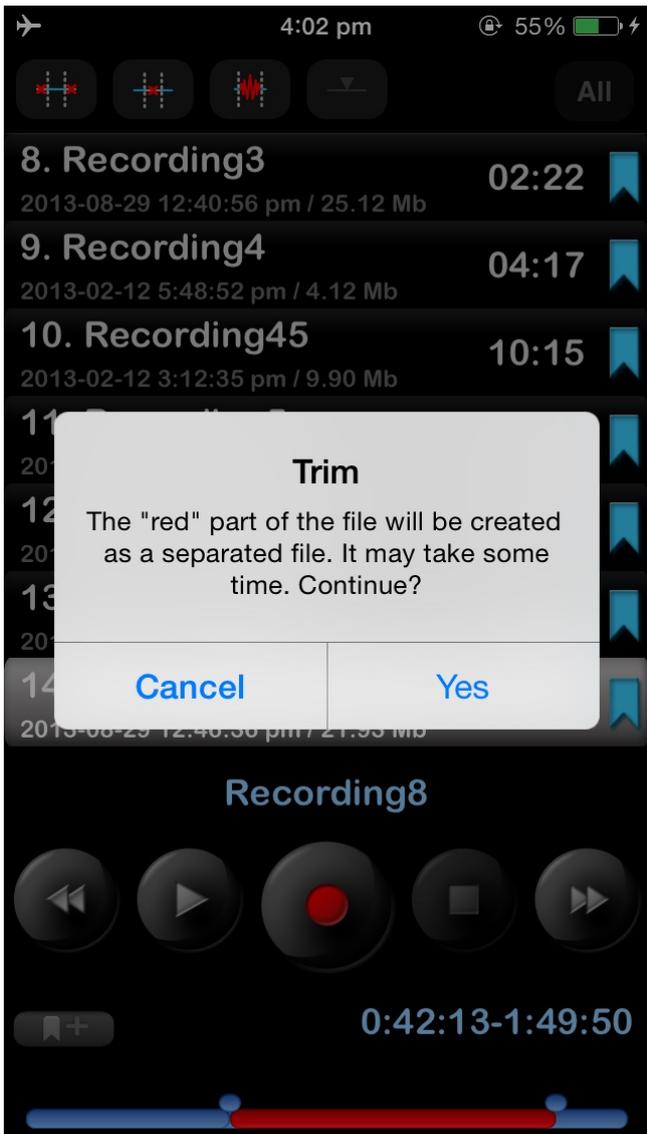
In order to append a new recording, you should press the Record button.
The video can be seen here: [Append recording](#)

If you need to overwrite some part of the audio track, you should select the required time positions as shown in the picture below.

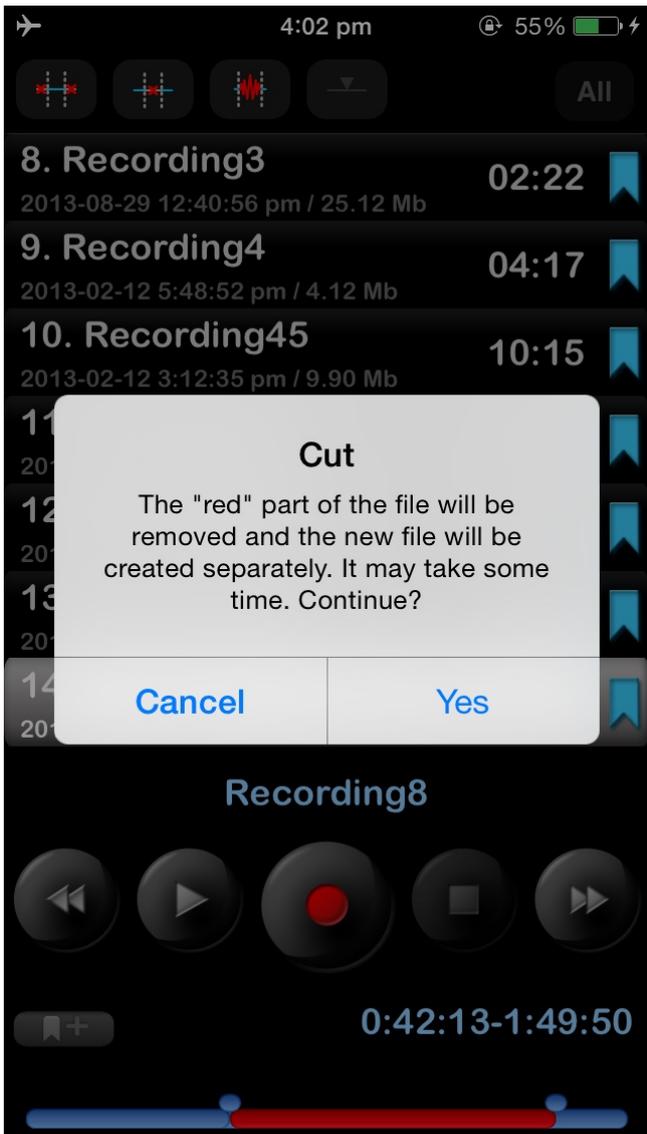


You should then press the Record button. The video can be seen here: [Overwrite operation](#)

In order to trim a part of the track in a new file, you should adjust the desired interval (red part of the track) for the trim operation on the track. You should then press down the top left button on the navigation bar (see the picture below). The video can be seen here: [Trim operation](#)



In order to cut off part of the track in a new file, you should adjust the desired interval (the red part of the track will be removed). The next step is to press down the second top button on the navigation bar (see the picture below). The video can be seen here: [Cut operation](#)

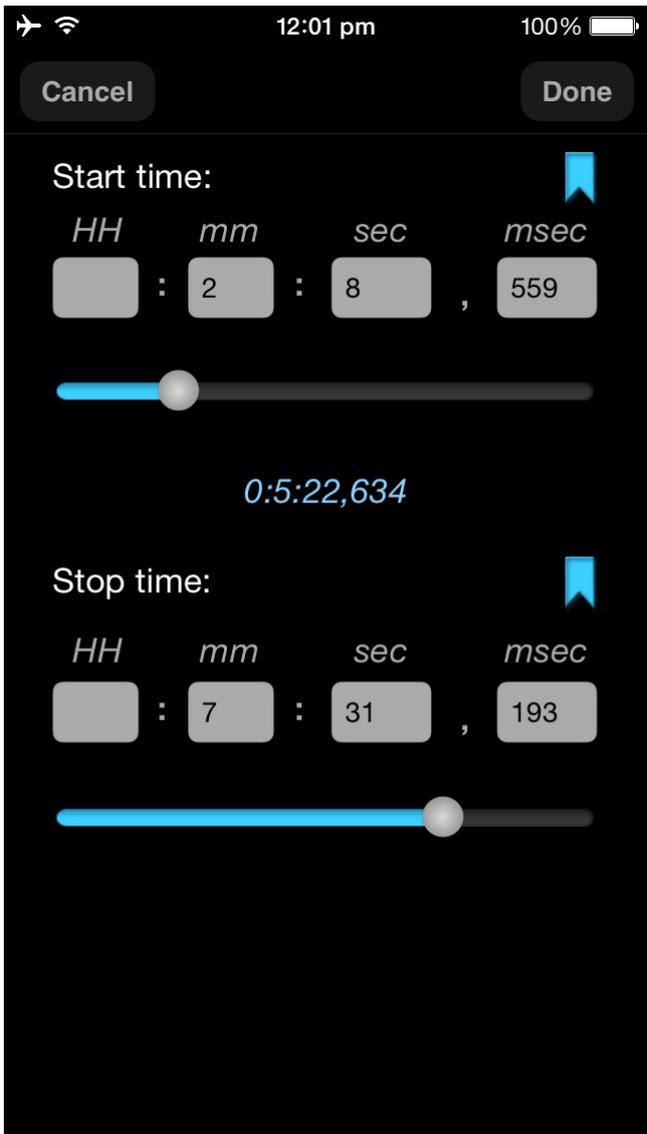


The Insert operation is available when you set the time to insert a new recording like on the window below:



Note: When you press the Insert button  the existing file will be modified due to the new recording that will be inserted into the file. The initial recording remains in your list. It will be named with an additional suffix “_initial” . The video can be seen here: [Insert operation](#)

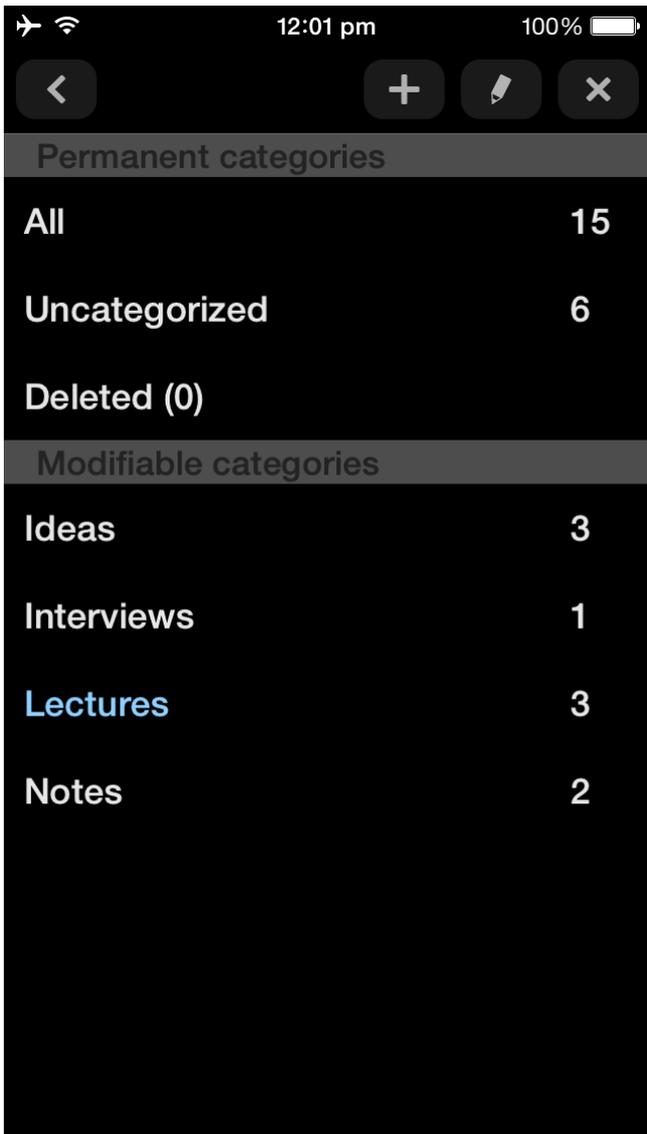
In order to precisely adjust the interval time for the trim, cut, and insert operation, you can tap on the clock time (Edit time button for iPad) to get the following window:



In this window, you can also choose bookmarks (if any) in order to quickly select the required edit times.

5. Categories

In order to pass Category window you need to press down the right top navigation button. The Categories window looks like:



In this window, you can add a new category or edit or delete the already existing one. Each category shows how many tracks belong to it. There are 3 unchangeable categories “All”, “Uncategorized” and “Deleted”. One tap on the category allows you to pass to the needed category. The way to use the “Deleted” category is described below (in the Tools). Please note that the “Deleted” category is available only for the Pro version or free version + “Categories” extension.

6. Tools

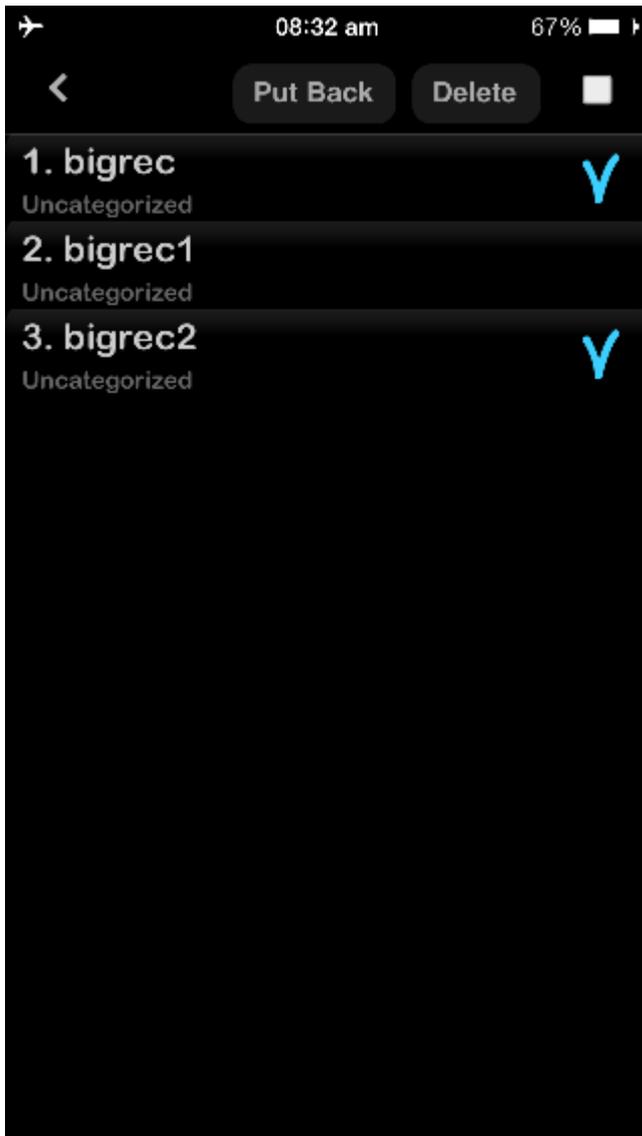
The Tools button () shows the tool bar. In this state, you can work with tracks in order to delete, rename, share/send, concatenate and move them. You can also open any track from within another application. The tool window looks like:



The tool bar has 6 buttons (from left to right):

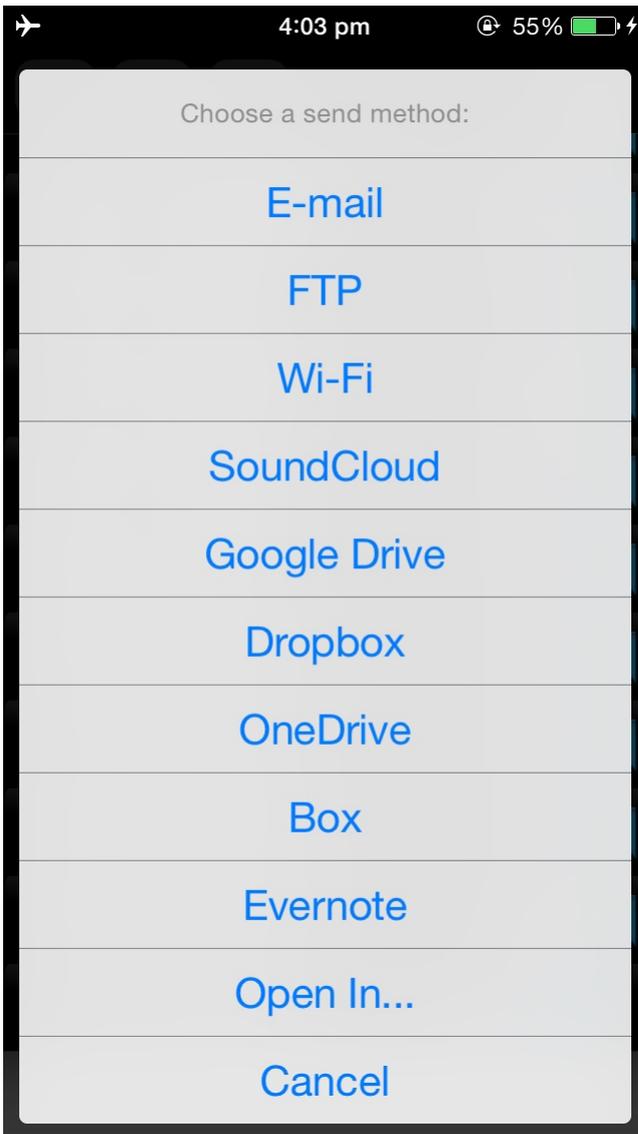
1. Delete track(s).

The deleted tracks can be managed from the Categories > Deleted. Here you can return the deleted track to the list of recordings or completely remove it from the device:



2. Conjunction of recordings
Select the desired track > press the Conjunction button in the toolbar (second button from left to right) > select the track which will be added to the end of the previous one > Ok. The video can be seen here: [Conjunction operation](#)
3. Rename track
4. A. (Share/Export audio recordings)
Send track(s) via E-mail; to Ftp server; SoundCloud/Dropbox/Google Drive/OneDrive/Box/Evernote server or HTTP server using Wi-Fi for local storage (laptop for example).

B. (Export recording)
Open a recording in another application (Open In...).



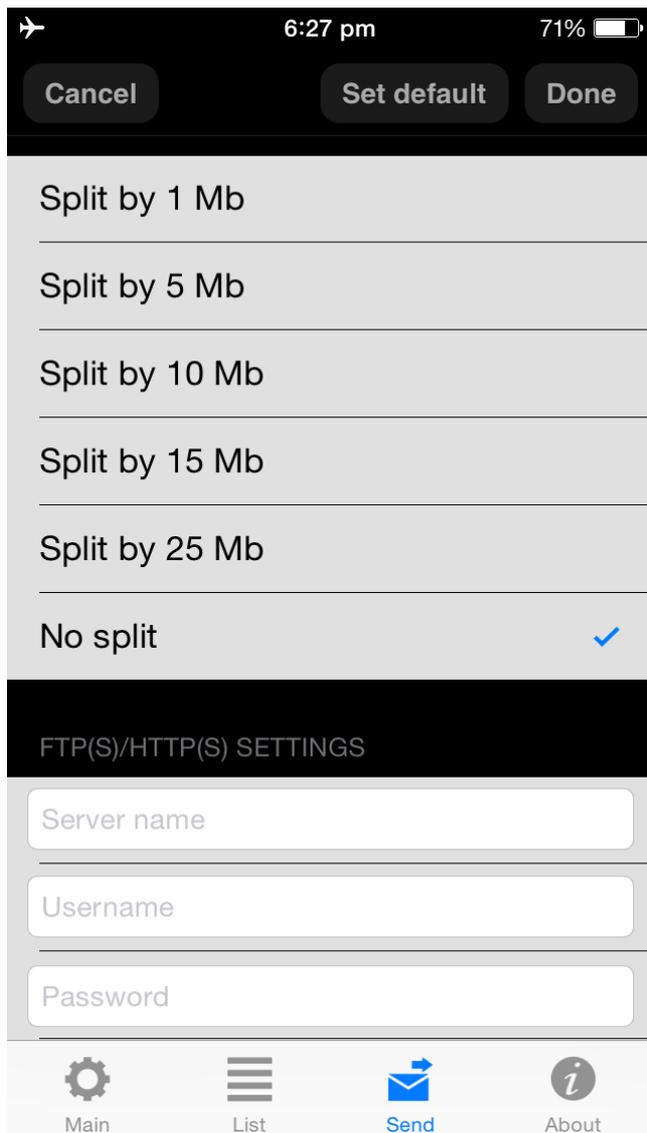
The preferred method can be chosen from “Settings > Send tab”. In this case, the program will not ask you what method you will choose for sending tracks.

Note: Before you start sending tracks, you should set up the needed information for the corresponding send method. It can be done from “Settings > Send tab”.

You can point to up to 3 recipients' email addresses.

If the size of the sending track exceeds the “split size”, the track will be sent by parts. The “split size” can be set from “Settings > Send tab”.

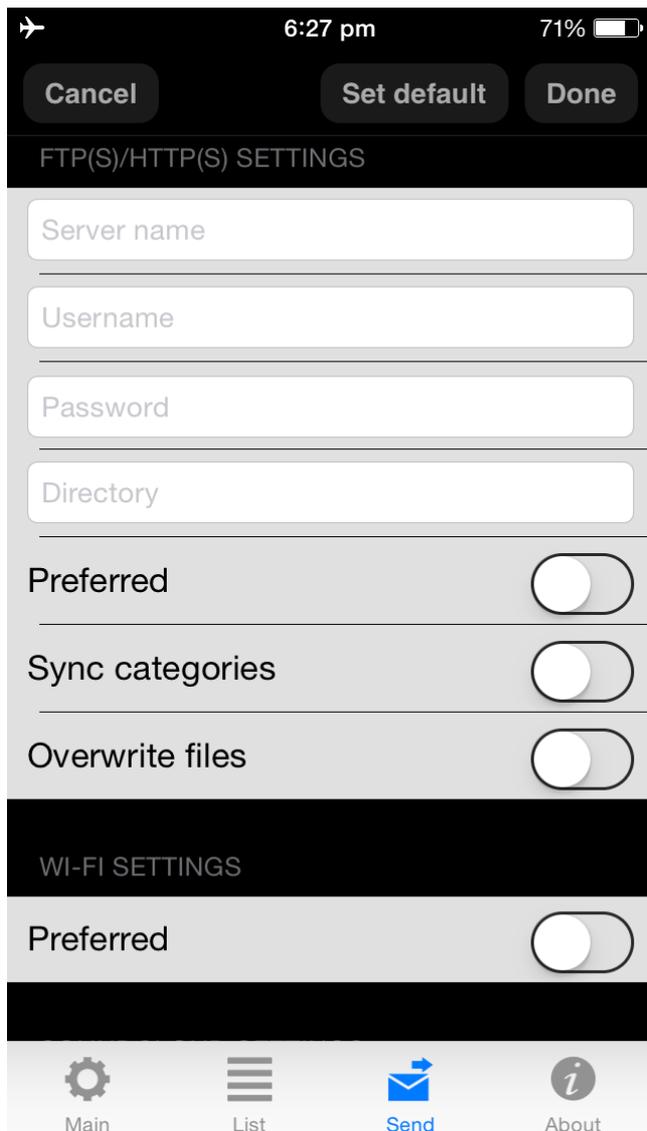
Note: You can choose “No split” in the Settings. In this case, you can attach any track with an e-mail. You will also be able to send several letters at one time. However, in this case, an error may occur if the total size of all the letters or the size of one letter will be more than what is allowed by the server.



Uploading to the Ftp server:

You should complete the appropriate fields with the:

1. Server name
2. User name
3. Password
4. Directory(optional)



If you choose the “Sync categories” option, all of the tracks will be saved in the appropriate category on your Ftp server in the same way as on your device.

Getting recordings via iTunes:

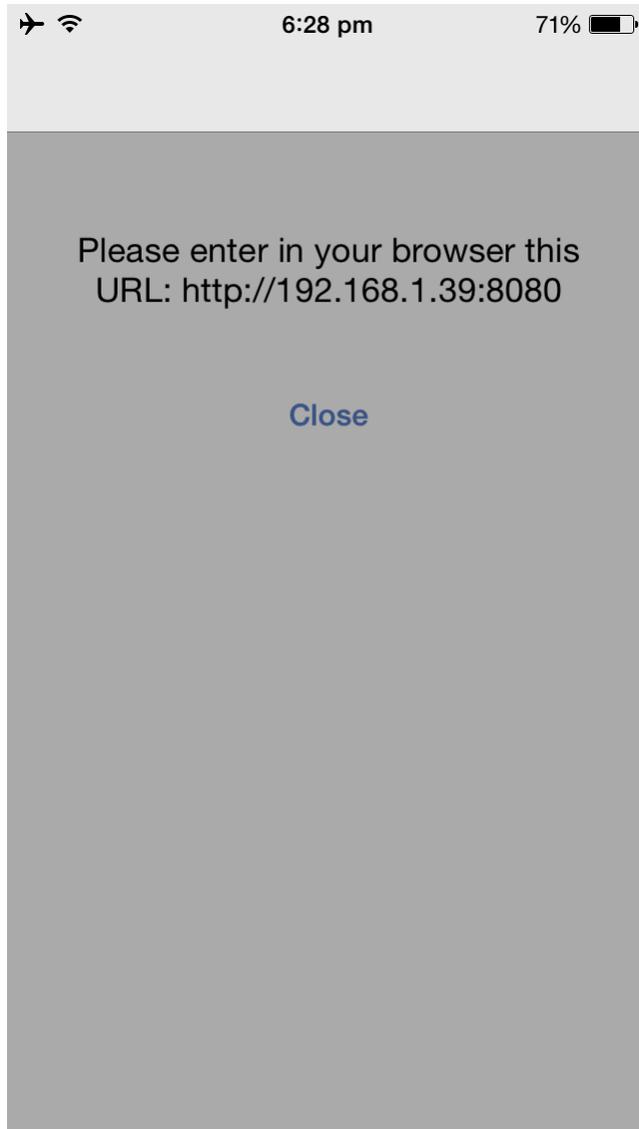
The recordings are saved in the ALON Dictaphone (Dictaphone) directory named "Documents". You can easily get access to this directory via iTunes ([Getting recordings via iTunes](#)). You need to do the following:

1. Sync your device with iTunes.
2. Choose your device in the left column.
3. Choose the Apps tab on the top of window.
4. Scroll down and you'll see the "File Sharing" title.

NOTE The recordings can be obtained via iTunes but only if you don't use the iCloud option “Settings > Send tab > iCloud”

Getting recordings via HTTP (Wi-Fi):

In this case, you should have a Wi-Fi connection in the same network where your laptop is. When you choose HTTP sync, just enter an URL in your browser. The URL will be shown in a sync window:



Uploading to SoundCloud:

You should make an authorization in the “SoundCloud settings” (“Send tab”) in order to upload the tracks. Therefore, it assumes that you already have a SoundCloud account.

You can upload the tracks as public or private using the “Public” switch in the “SoundCloud settings”.

Uploading to Dropbox/Google Drive/OneDrive/Box/Evernote:

You should make an authorization in the “Dropbox/Google drive/OneDrive/Box/Evernote

settings” “Send tab”) in order to upload the tracks. It, therefore, assumes that you already have a Dropbox/Google Drive/OneDrive/Box/Evernote account.

The Dropbox settings have the Auto synchronization option (Settings > Send tab). This option allows you to send recorded tracks to Dropbox automatically. It’s also possible to create any folder with tracks under root folder “ALON Dictaphone” on the Dropbox side and get them into your device.

In order to stop the sending operation, you can choose the “Tools” button in the navigation bar and then press the “Stop sending” button in the tool bar:



5. Open track with other application.

6. Move track(s) from one category to another

Note: You cannot move tracks from the “All” category because some recordings may already belong to some categories. Therefore, in order to organize your recordings, you should choose the “Uncategorized” category.

All of these operations can also be accessed from the main window. You can press and hold the desired track in order to get a context menu:



7. Play state

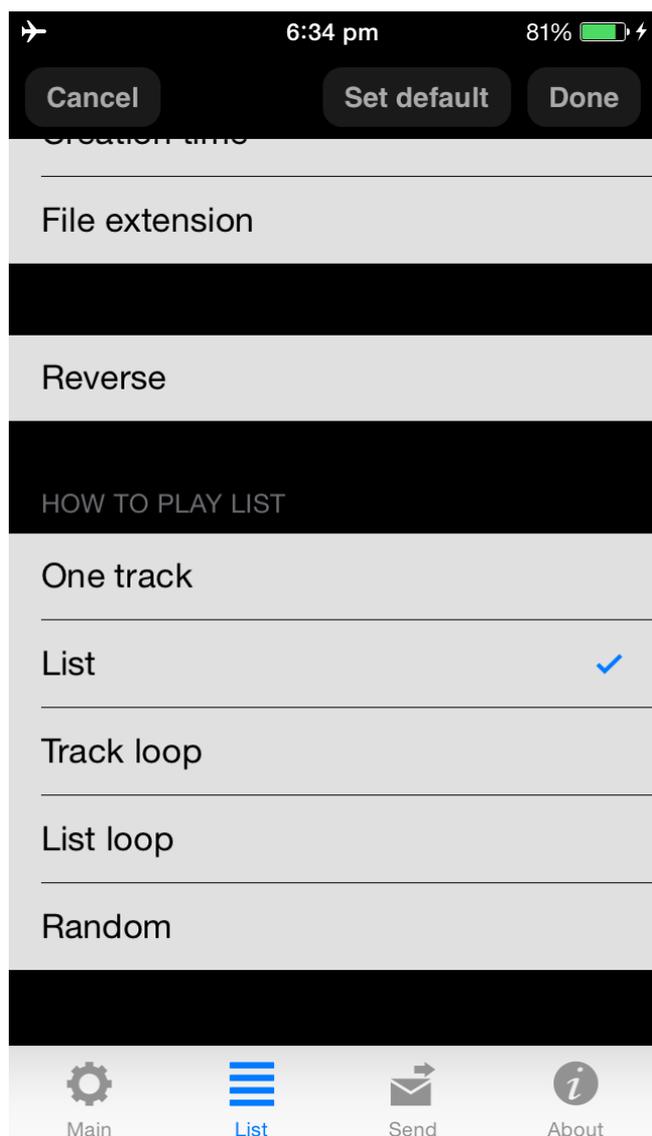
To fast rewind, you can press and hold the previous/next button in order to rewind/forward. A long press on the previous/next button will automatically increase the rewind speed according to the recording size.

You can also use the playback slider at the bottom of window for rewind/forward.

One click on the previous/next button, starts to playback a previous/next track in the list.

You can specify how to play a track list from “Settings > List tab > How to play list”. There are five

positions:



1. One track – plays one track and stops
2. List – plays the list and stops
3. Track loop – plays one track to the end and starts again
4. List loop - plays the list to the end and starts again
5. Random - randomly selects tracks to play

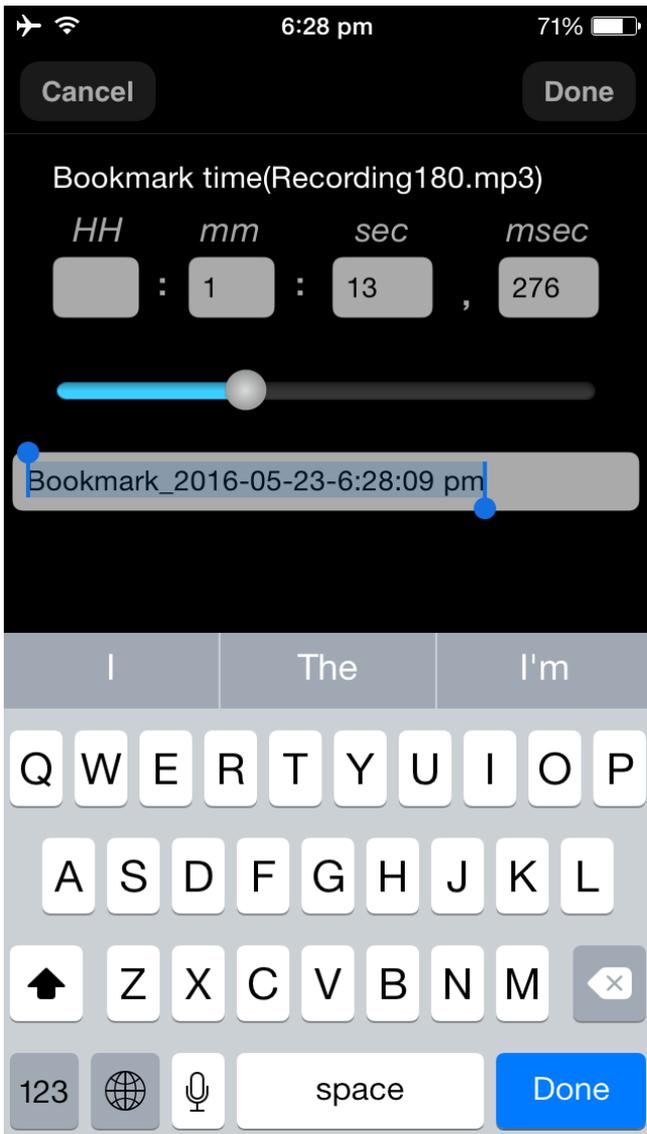
You also can set the timer in order to stop a playback after some time. This option is available from the Settings > Stop Timer Playback.

During playback you can change the playback speed using the Playback Speed button:

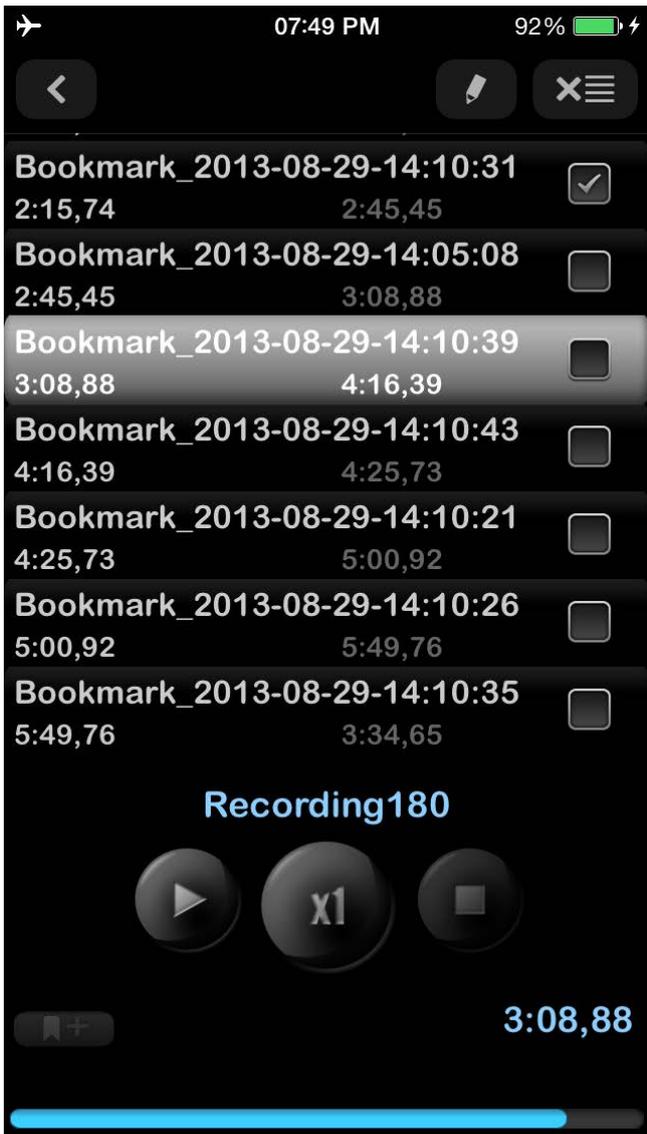


8. Bookmarks

You can set a bookmark for a track from the “Stop/Record/Play” states. The “Add bookmark” window looks like:

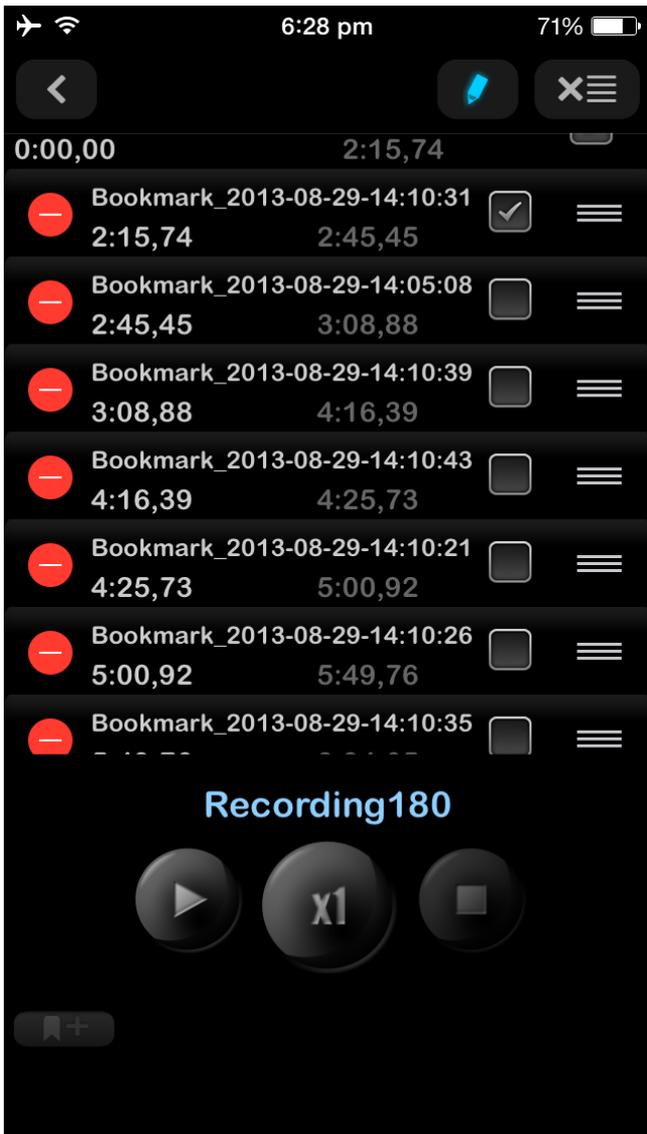


The track which has a bookmark is marked in the main list. If you choose a bookmark at the end of a row of the track, you will see a window that looks like this:



You can start playback from any bookmark or you can arrange a playback route from the bookmarks in this window.

The playback route consists of the selected checkboxes. The order of the bookmarks can be changed in the way that you want:

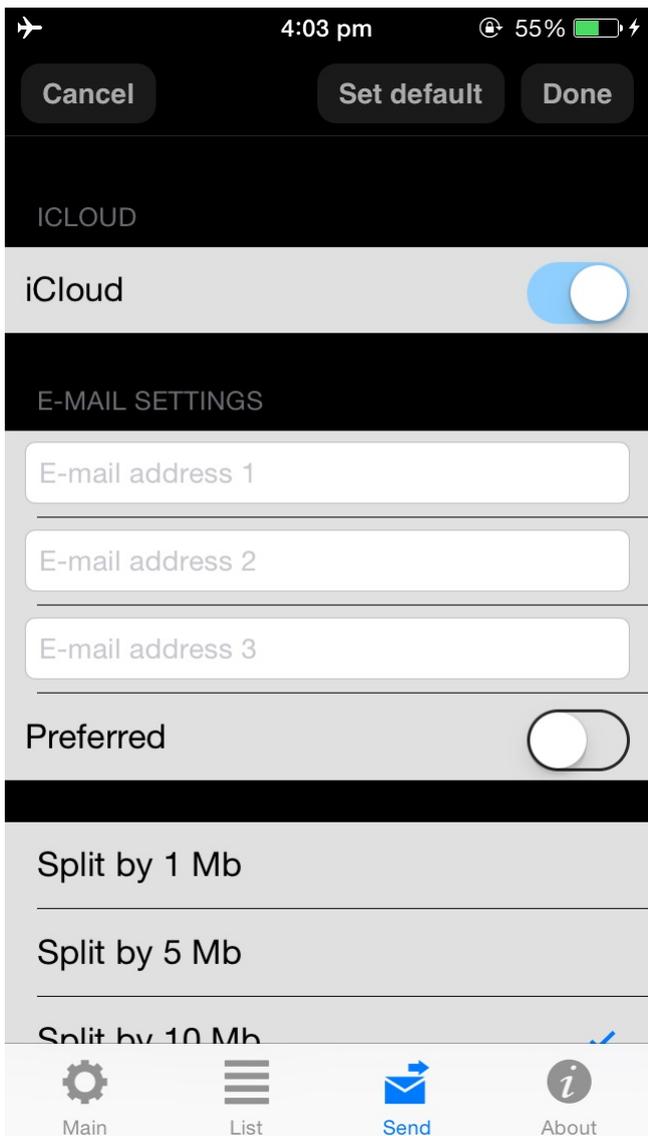


Note: In order to repeat a part of the recording, you should put the bookmark in the desired place then pass to the bookmark window and set a check box for this bookmark. You should then press the "Play" button.

If there are several chosen bookmarks, the whole route will be playing in a circle.

9. iCloud

You can synchronize recordings, bookmarks, main preferences and categories with iCloud for iOS devices. On your Mac, you can access the recordings in iCloud Drive through the Finder app:
Finder > iCloud Drive > ALON Dictaphone (Dictaphone)



If this option is “ON”, then the settings like "List tab" and "Send tab" will be synchronized via iCloud as well as by categories.

Note 1 If you already have had some settings in your "Send tab" and the option iCloud was OFF, then when you switch this option to ON, you'll get the question about replacing the current settings (if the iCloud has the "Send tab" settings unlike on your device).

Note 2 If some categories from iCloud are missing from your device and the “iCloud” option is switched ON, these categories will be added to your device. If there are some categories on your device that are not present in the iCloud and the “iCloud” option is switched ON, these categories will not be deleted from your device.

Note 3 The “Advanced settings” are not synchronized via iCloud.

Note 4 Please be aware that if you do not use your recordings for a long time, they can be removed from your device in order to clear the memory (the same also applies for large recordings). However, the metadata will remain (name of file, audio format) so when you load

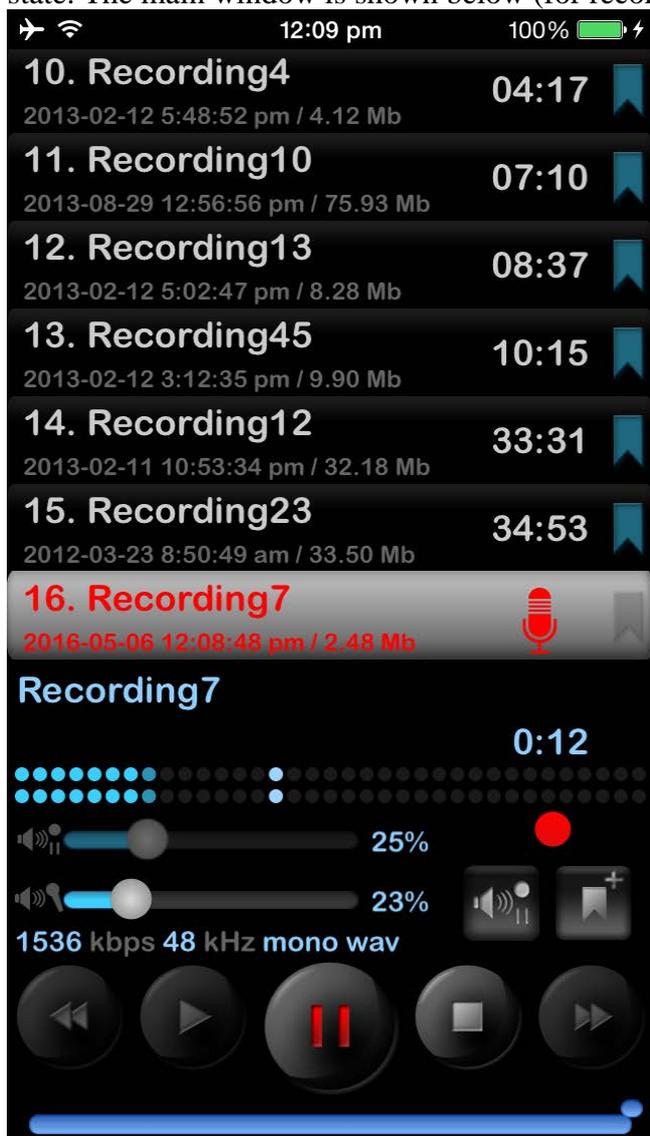
the app again, the recordings will be downloading from the iCloud server (the Internet must be present) again. It may require some time, depending on the size and number of your recordings.

To be sure that the downloading process has begun, try to restart the app:

- a. Double press the Home button
- b. To close app, simply swipe up.
- c. Start the app again.

10. Extended mode (Advanced settings)

This allows you to exactly set the needed audio format and adjust the record gain level or threshold record activation level. If you turn on "Extended mode", switch the record gain level and the threshold level will be accessible during recording process as well as "Volume" and Balance" for the playback state. The main window is shown below (for recording and playback states accordingly):

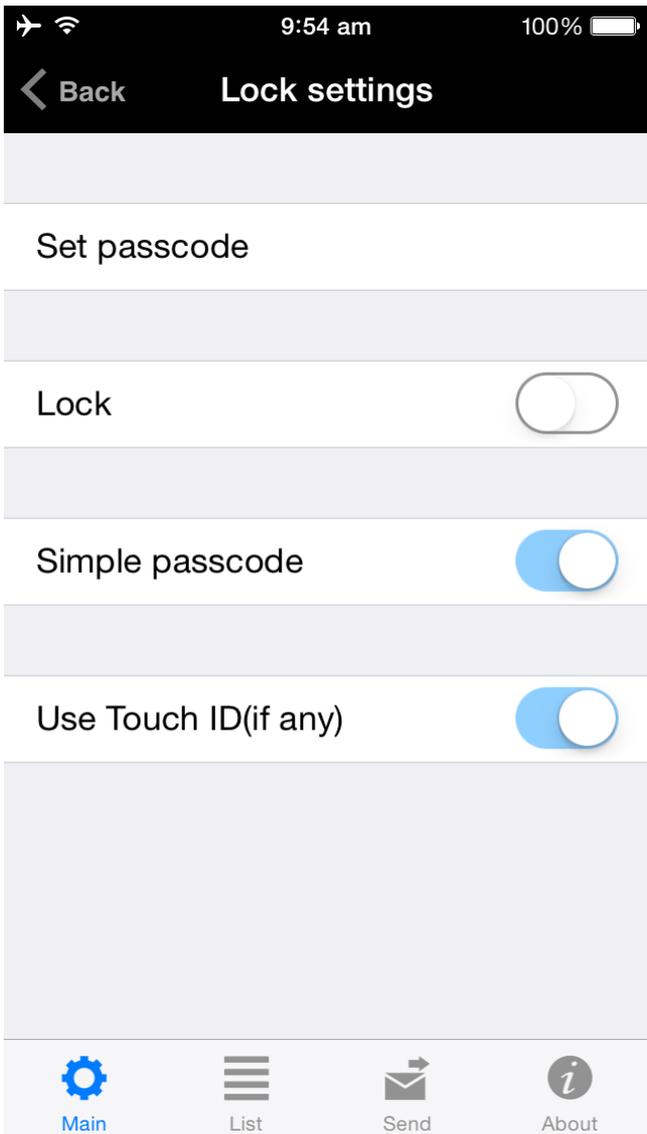




To turn on this option, you should open the Main pane (Settings > Main > Go to advanced settings > Extended mode > On)

11. Lock Screen

The Lock Screen option is available from Settings (Settings > Main tab > Lock screen). With this option, you can set a password to access the application. The password can be simple (4 digits) or arbitrary (any length and combination of letters and digits). If you use the Touch ID with your device, you can disable it by using the Touch ID to unlock the app.

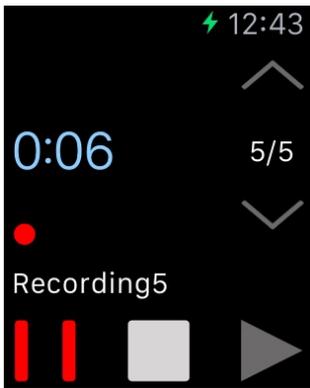


12. Apple Watch

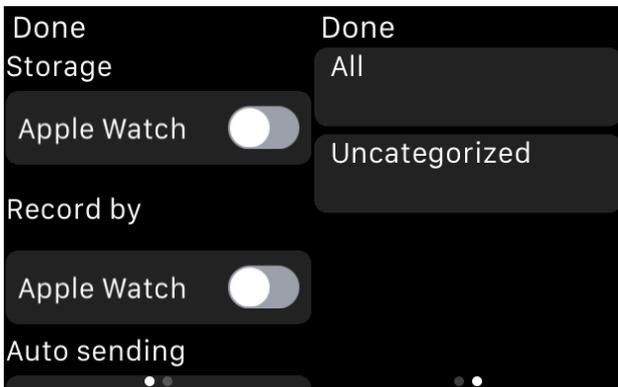
You have the option of connecting the Apple Watch to the iPhone. A description of using the ALON Dictaphone on the Apple Watch is shown below for each state.

1. Apple Watch is connected with the iPhone.

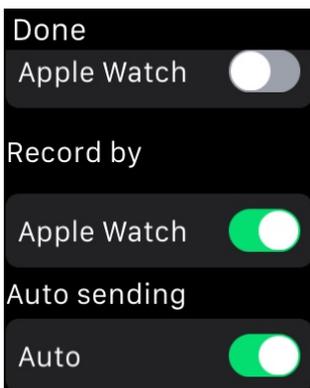
By default, the recordings will be produced on the iPhone side. In this state, the Apple Watch is working like a remote control for the ALON Dictaphone which is placed on the iPhone. You can Record/Play/Stop the recordings on the iPhone side via the Apple Watch. In order to start to record, you should press the Record button. The recording window looks like:



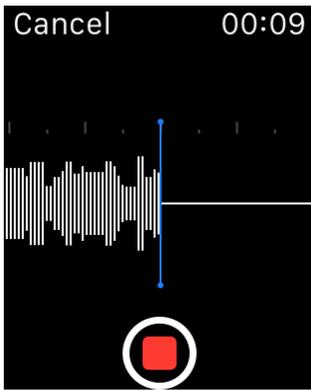
You can also change the current category from the Context menu > Settings > Right window (swipe to the left):



In order to start recording by Apple Watch, you should use the Context menu (*see below). The right top button will start the Apple Watch recording. The left top button will start the iPhone recording. To simplify recording using the Apple Watch you can choose:
Context menu > Settings > Record by > Apple Watch > ON:



The recording window looks like:



By default, the recordings are transferred automatically to the iPhone from the Apple Watch. In order to switch OFF this option, you can choose:

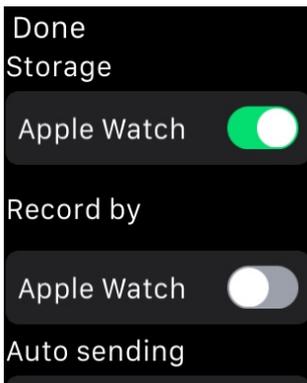
Context menu > Settings > Auto sending > Auto > OFF

In this case, all of your recordings will remain in the Apple Watch. In order to transfer them later to the iPhone, you can choose:

Context menu > Send

In order to use recordings from the Apple Watch storage only (when the connection with iPhone is established) you should choose:

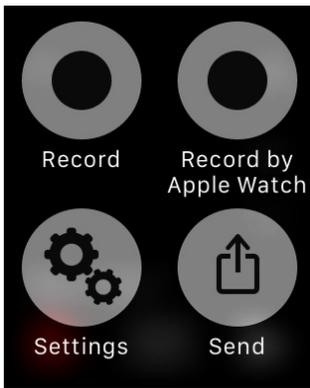
Context menu > Settings > Storage > Apple Watch > ON:



2. Apple Watch is not connected with iPhone.

When the connection with iPhone is not established (lost), all recordings will be produced by the Apple Watch and will remain in the local storage of the Apple Watch.

*Pressing the screen with a small amount of force, activates the Context menu:



In order to use Glances for ALON Dictaphone, you should allow it in the “Watch > ALON Dictaphone > Show in Glances”

Note: Please be aware that the direct audio recording via Apple Watch is not intended to be used or a long recording process. **The best duration for one recording should be no more than 20 minutes.** The large recordings may be cause of a significant delay for getting them from the Apple Watch.

13. Pro and Free versions

When the Pro version is installed, the free version will be working as the Pro version. In other words, all options from the Pro version will be available on the free version. All recordings will initially remain in the free version so you can share and edit your recordings with the free version in the same way as with the Pro version. However, if you want to transfer your recordings from the free version to the Pro one, you can use one of three methods:

1. Open the free version > Tools button (⌘) > Share/Send button (📤) > Open In... > ALON Dictaphone
2. Via iTunes (watch the video http://www.alonsoftware.com/downloads/itunes_save.m4v):
 Sync your device with iTunes.
 Select your iOS device.
 Choose the Apps tab on the top of window.
 Scroll down and you'll see the "File Sharing" feature.
 On the Apps list, select ALON Dictaphone (Dictaphone)
 *To save recordings on your computer hard drive, select the recording then click 'Save to...'
 *To add recordings, click 'Add File...'
3. Via iCloud:
 Open the free version > Settings button (⚙️) > Send pane > iCloud > On
 Open the Pro version > Settings button (⚙️) > Send pane > iCloud > On

If you purchased any extension as an In-App Purchase and it did not appear or you are going to use it on another device, try the following:

0. Make sure that you have the Internet on your device.

1. Make sure that you have the same Apple ID account when you made the purchase.
2. Open "Settings"(left top button) on your Dictaphone app and tap "Set Default", then tap 'OK' on the confirmation window.
3. Open "Settings" on your app again. Tap the 'Extensions' tab, then tap the "Restore" button.
4. Restart the app:
 - a. Double press the Home button
 - b. To close app, simply swipe up.
 - c. Start the free app again.

Or reboot the device.

14. Additional features and tips.

Show In Control Center – allows pausing and resuming a process of the playback/recording from the Control Center.

Recording On App Launch – start recording when the app becomes the foreground without pressing the Record button.

Record Sound From Other Apps – allows you to record sound from the other apps. In the usual case (without an intention to record audio from another application), this option is better if turned off.

Clicking on the current active recording (during playback/recording) allows returning to the actual recording of the track list. It's useful for a long track list if some recording is selected and you need to return quickly to the actual recording.

In order to repeat the whole recording you should choose Settings (left top button) > List tab > How to play list > Track loop.

In order to repeat some part of the recording you should put the bookmark in the desired place then pass to the bookmark loop window and set a check box for this bookmark. Then press the "Play" button.

In order to get your recordings you can use the following methods:

Recordings from the free version of the app you can be obtained through iTunes. (Watch the video http://www.alonsoftware.com/downloads/itunes_save.m4v):

The recordings are saved in the "ALON Dictaphone (Dictaphone)" directory. You need to make the following:

1. Sync your device with iTunes.
2. Select your iOS device.
3. Choose the Apps tab on the top of window.
4. Scroll down and you'll see the "File Sharing" feature.
5. On the Apps list, select ALON Dictaphone

*To save recordings on your computer hard drive, select the recording then click 'Save to..'

The recordings from the Pro version (or free + In-App Purchase "Share Audio Memos") you can get through:

1. Email

Normally, email providers allow around 10 MB of data for attachments. If you significantly exceed that, your recording will be split into multiple emails. If that is the case, you will need to use an archiving tool like MacHacha for Mac or WinRAR for PC to combine the files to convert it back to a MP3 or WAV file. The chunk size for sending can be set in the Settings (left top button) > Send tab > E-mail settings. You can choose "No split" in the Settings in this case. This allows you to attach any track with an e-mail letter you will also be able to send several letters at one time. However, in this case, an error may occur if the total size of all letters or the size of one letter is more than allowed by the server.

2. iTunes:

See above

3. via FTP:

You should fill in the appropriate fields in the Settings > Send (tab) with:

1. Server name
2. User name
3. Password
4. Directory (optional)

4. via HTTP

In this case, you should have a Wi-Fi connection in the same network where your laptop is.

5. via Dropbox

6. via Google Drive

7. via OneDrive

8. via SoundCloud

9. via Box

10. via Evernote

11. iCloud

On your Mac, you can access the recordings in iCloud Drive through the Finder app:

Finder > iCloud Drive > ALON Dictaphone (Dictaphone).

For Windows, you can install the iCloud Drive on your PC:

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201391>

12. AirDrop

13. For transferring between apps, you should choose the "Open In..." option in the Dictaphone app and choose "ALON Dictaphone" in order to transfer the needed recording in the ALON Dictaphone app.

Note: If you are going to use "Dropbox/Google Drive/OneDrive/SoundCloud/Box/Evernote", it assumes that the appropriate account already exists.

To pass to the Pro version you should choose "Settings (🔧) > Extensions". The cost of the paid (Pro) version is approximately \$5.00. You can also only get the share option via In-App Purchases in the same tab "Settings (🔧) > Extensions > Share Audio Memos"

The cost of the "Share Audio Memos" is approximately \$2.00. The button Settings (🔧) will be available in a stop state (no recording and playback)

When the Pro version is installed, the free will work as the Pro version. In other words, all options from the Pro version will be available on the free version.