

Creative SB1300

Creative Sound Blaster Recon3D THX USB External Sound Enhancer User Manual

Model: SB1300 (70SB130000000)

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Creative Sound Blaster Recon3D is a USB audio enhancer designed to deliver powerful gaming audio for PC, PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, and Mac platforms. Powered by the Sound Core3D multi-core Sound and Voice processor, this device integrates hardware-accelerated THX TruStudio Pro and Dolby Digital decoding to transform standard stereo audio into immersive 3D surround sound for headsets or speakers. It also features proprietary Scout Mode technology for enhanced in-game audio awareness and CrystalVoice for clear communication.



Figure 1: Creative Sound Blaster Recon3D THX USB External Sound Enhancer. This image shows the overall design of the device, featuring its sleek black casing with blue illuminated accents and primary control buttons.

2. KEY FEATURES

- **Sound Core3D Processor:** Utilizes a multi-core audio and voice chipset for advanced audio processing, including CrystalVoice and THX TruStudio Pro enhancements.
- **THX TruStudio Pro:** Provides a suite of audio technologies (Crystalizer, Surround, Bass, Dialog Plus, Smart Volume) to enhance audio fidelity and immersion for games, movies, and music.
- **Dolby Digital Decoding:** Hardware-accelerated decoding for immersive surround sound.
- **Scout Mode:** A proprietary technology that enhances in-game audio cues, allowing users to hear distant enemies more clearly.
- **CrystalVoice Technology:** Designed for clear vocal fidelity during VOIP and video conferencing, ensuring commands and conversations are heard distinctly.
- **Recon3DProfile System:** Allows users to calibrate and save audio settings directly to the device for consistent performance across different platforms.

- **Tactic Link Expansion Slot:** Enables direct connection to compatible Sound Blaster Tactic3D Omega Wireless headsets and future Sound Blaster products with an optional Tactic Link transmitter card (sold separately).



Figure 2: Close-up view of the Scout Mode button. This button activates the proprietary technology designed to enhance subtle in-game audio cues, providing a tactical advantage.

3. SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

Before connecting your Sound Blaster Recon3D, ensure your system meets the minimum requirements and you have all necessary cables.

3.1 Package Contents Verification

Verify that all items are present in your package:

- Sound Blaster Recon3D unit
- Micro USB-to-USB cable (4.9ft)
- Installation CD
- Optical cable (3.3ft)
- 2.5mm stereo cable for Xbox 360 controller (4.9ft)
- Audio extension cable for console (9.8ft)
- Warranty information

3.2 Connecting the Device

Refer to the diagram below for port identification and connection points.

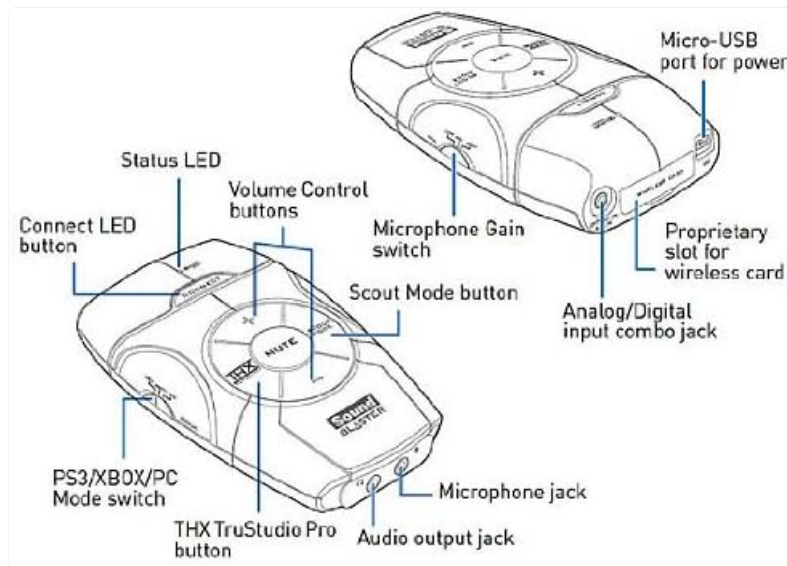


Figure 3: Labeled diagram of the Sound Blaster Recon3D. This diagram illustrates the various ports, buttons, and indicators on the device, including the Micro-USB port, audio jacks, and control buttons.

1. **Power Connection:** Connect the Micro USB-to-USB cable from the Recon3D unit's Micro-USB port to an available USB port on your PC, console, or a powered USB hub.
2. **Audio Input (Console):**
 - a. For PlayStation 3 or Xbox 360, connect the optical cable from your console's optical audio output to the Recon3D's optical input.
 - b. For Xbox 360 voice chat, connect the 2.5mm stereo cable from the Recon3D to your Xbox 360 controller.
3. **Audio Input (PC/Mac):** Connect the Micro USB-to-USB cable directly to your computer. Audio and microphone signals will be transmitted digitally via USB.
4. **Audio Output:** Connect your headphones or speakers to the appropriate audio output jack on the Recon3D unit.
5. **Microphone Connection:** If using a separate microphone, connect it to the microphone jack.
6. **Software Installation (PC/Mac):** Insert the installation CD into your computer's CD-ROM/DVD-ROM drive and follow the on-screen instructions to install the necessary drivers and the Sound Blaster Tactic3D Control Panel software. This software is essential for customizing audio settings and profiles.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once connected and drivers are installed (for PC/Mac), you can begin using your Sound Blaster Recon3D.

4.1 Device Controls



Figure 4: Top-down view of the Recon3D, highlighting the central control panel. This image shows the volume controls, mute button, THX TruStudio Pro button, and Scout Mode button.

- **Volume Control Buttons (+/-):** Adjust the master audio output volume.
- **Mute Button:** Mutes or unmutes the audio output.
- **THX TruStudio Pro Button:** Toggles THX TruStudio Pro audio enhancements on or off. An indicator light will show its status.
- **Scout Mode Button:** Activates or deactivates Scout Mode. An indicator light will show its status.
- **PS3/XBOX/PC Mode Switch:** Located on the side of the device, this switch selects the operating platform. Ensure it is set correctly for your connected system.
- **Microphone Gain Switch (LOW/MID/HIGH):** Adjusts the sensitivity of the connected microphone. Select the appropriate setting for your environment and microphone.
- **Connect LED:** Indicates connection status.
- **Status LED:** Provides general device status.

4.2 Customizing Audio Settings (PC/Mac)

For PC and Mac users, the Sound Blaster Tactic3D Control Panel software provides extensive customization options:

- **THX TruStudio Pro:** Fine-tune settings like Crystalizer, Surround, Bass, Dialog Plus, and Smart Volume to optimize your audio experience.
- **CrystalVoice:** Adjust microphone settings for noise reduction, echo cancellation, and voice morphing.
- **Equalizer:** Create custom EQ profiles for different genres or applications.
- **Mixer:** Control individual volume levels for playback and recording.
- **Recon3DProfile:** Save your customized audio settings directly to the Recon3D unit. This allows your preferred settings to be used even when connected to other compatible platforms without the software.

5. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Sound Blaster Recon3D, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the device. Avoid using liquid cleaners or abrasive materials, as they may damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the device in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Cable Management:** Avoid kinking or sharply bending cables. Store cables neatly to prevent damage.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Do not expose the device to water, excessive humidity, or dust.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Sound Blaster Recon3D, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power/Device Not Recognized:**
 - Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the Recon3D and your computer/console.
 - Try a different USB port or a powered USB hub.
 - Verify that the correct platform mode (PS3/XBOX/PC) is selected using the switch on the device.
 - For PC/Mac, ensure drivers are correctly installed. Reinstall if necessary.
- **No Audio Output:**
 - Check that your headphones/speakers are properly connected to the audio output jack.
 - Increase the volume using the '+' button on the device and check your system's volume settings.
 - Ensure the audio is not muted on the device or your system.
 - Verify that the correct audio output device is selected in your computer's sound settings.
 - For console connections, ensure the optical cable is securely connected and the console's audio output is set to optical/Dolby Digital.
- **Microphone Not Working:**
 - Ensure the microphone is securely connected to the microphone jack.
 - Check the microphone gain switch (LOW/MID/HIGH) and adjust as needed.
 - Verify that the Recon3D is selected as the default recording device in your computer's sound settings or console's audio settings.
 - For PC/Mac, check CrystalVoice settings in the Tactic3D Control Panel.
 - For Xbox 360, ensure the 2.5mm stereo cable is correctly connected to the controller.

- **Sound Quality Issues:**

- Ensure THX TruStudio Pro settings are configured to your preference in the software (PC/Mac).
- Check for interference from other electronic devices.
- Update drivers and firmware if available from the Creative website.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

| Feature | Detail |
|----------------------|---|
| Product Dimensions | 5.27 x 3.19 x 1.17 inches |
| Item Weight | 4.8 ounces |
| Item Model Number | 70SB130000000 |
| Manufacturer | Creative |
| Compatible Devices | Personal Computer, Laptop, Gaming Console (PS3, Xbox 360), Speaker, Headphone |
| Hardware Interface | USB |
| Audio Output Mode | Dolby Digital, Stereo, Surround Sound |
| Platform Support | Mac OS X 10.5+, PlayStation 3, Windows 7, Windows Vista, Xbox 360 |
| First Available Date | August 22, 2011 |

8. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

To ensure proper operation, your system must meet the following minimum requirements:

- **Operating System:** Microsoft Windows 7 (64-bit or 32-bit), Windows Vista (64-bit SP2 or 32-bit SP2), Mac OS X 10.5 and above (Intel-based machines only)
- **Processor:** Intel Core 2 Duo or AMD equivalent processor, 2.2 GHz or faster
- **USB Port:** Available USB port
- **RAM:** 1 GB RAM
- **Hard Disk Space:** 600 MB of free hard disk space
- **Optical Drive:** Available CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive for software installation

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, please refer to the documentation included in your product package or visit the official Creative website. Technical support and driver updates can also be found on the Creative support portal.

Creative Support: <https://us.creative.com/support/>

