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NZXT AC-SEN-3-B1

NZXT Sentry 3 Fan Controller User Manual

Model: AC-SEN-3-B1

1. Introduction

The NZXT Sentry 3 is an advanced 5.4-inch touch screen fan controller designed to provide comprehensive control over your PC's cooling system. It combines high power output per channel with an intuitive user interface, allowing for precise fan speed adjustments and temperature monitoring.

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your Sentry 3 fan controller, ensuring optimal performance and longevity.

2. Safety Information

- Always disconnect power from your PC before installing or removing any components.
- Handle the Sentry 3 with care to avoid damage to the touchscreen or internal components.
- Ensure proper grounding to prevent electrostatic discharge (ESD) damage.
- Do not expose the device to moisture or extreme temperatures.
- Integrated over voltage, under voltage, and short protection are built-in, but proper installation is crucial.

3. Product Features

The NZXT Sentry 3 offers a range of features designed for superior fan control:

- **Large Touchscreen Display:** A 5.4-inch capacitive touchscreen provides an intuitive interface for control.
- **High Power Output:** 15 watts of power per channel, capable of controlling up to three high-performance fans per channel (with appropriate splitters, not included).
- **Five Independent Channels:** Control up to five separate fan groups.
- **PowerSlide Bar:** Quickly adjust fan speeds with a simple swipe.
- **Channel Linking:** Group multiple fan channels for simultaneous control.
- **Temperature Monitoring:** Real-time temperature display (Celsius or Fahrenheit) via an included thermal probe.
- **Alarm System:** Configurable alarms for fan failure and high temperatures.

- **Wide Compatibility:** Supports both 3-pin and 4-pin PWM fans.
- **Standard Form Factor:** Designed for a single 5.25" drive bay.

4. Package Contents

Verify that all items are present in your package:

- NZXT Sentry 3 Fan Controller
- Temperature Sensor Probe (with adhesive tape)
- Mounting Screws
- Zip Ties for cable management
- User Manual (this document)

5. Setup & Installation

5.1 Physical Installation

1. **Prepare PC:** Power off your computer and disconnect it from the power outlet. Open your PC case.
2. **Locate 5.25" Bay:** Identify an available 5.25" drive bay in your PC case. Remove any front panel covers or bay covers.
3. **Insert Sentry 3:** Carefully slide the Sentry 3 into the chosen 5.25" bay from the front of the case until it is flush with the front panel.
4. **Secure Device:** Use the provided mounting screws to secure the Sentry 3 to the drive bay on both sides.

5.2 Connections

The Sentry 3 requires a Molex power connection and connects to your case fans and a temperature sensor.

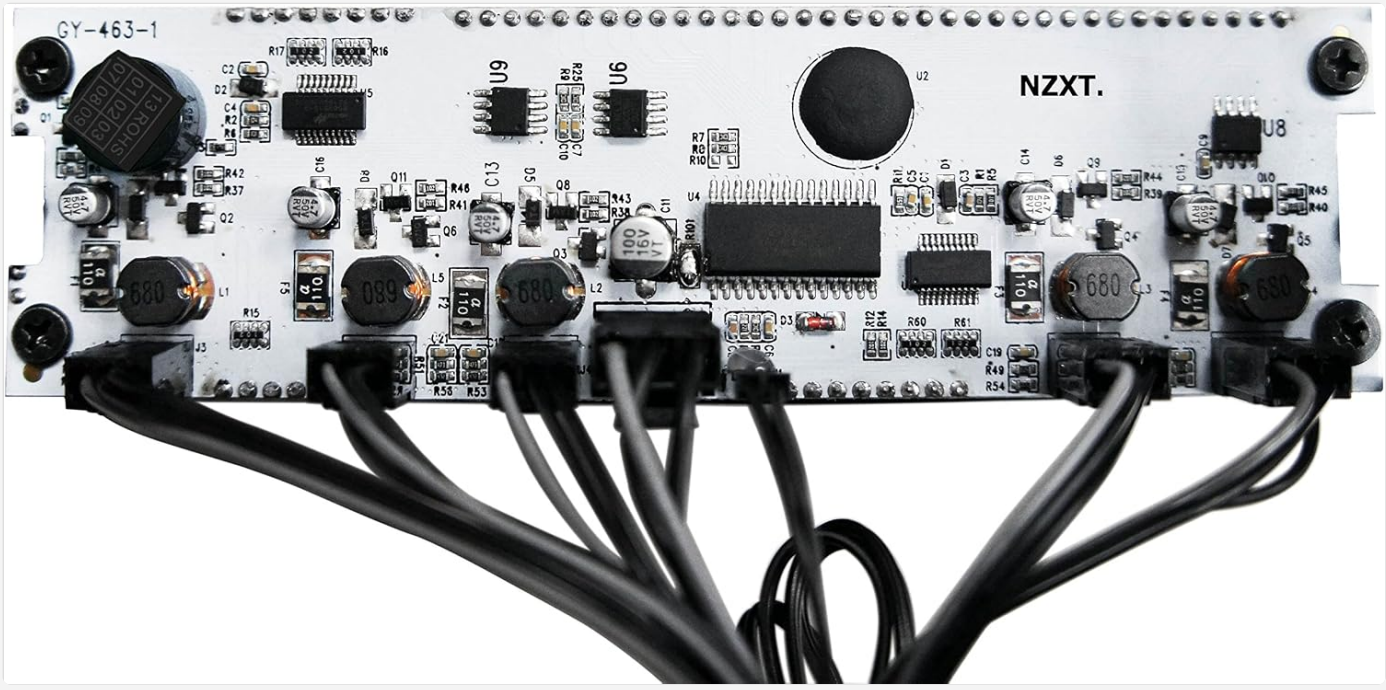


Image: Rear view of the NZXT Sentry 3 showing the PCB, Molex power connector, and five fan headers.

1. **Connect Power:** Connect a 4-pin Molex power connector from your PC's power supply unit (PSU) to the Molex input on the Sentry 3.

2. **Connect Fans:** Connect your 3-pin or 4-pin PWM case fans to the five available fan headers on the Sentry 3. Each header is labeled for easy identification.
3. **Install Temperature Sensor:** Connect the temperature sensor probe to the designated port on the Sentry 3. Route the probe to a location where you want to monitor temperature, such as near your CPU cooler, GPU, or a specific area within your case. Use the provided adhesive tape to secure the probe.
4. **Cable Management:** Use the included zip ties to neatly manage all connected cables, ensuring proper airflow within your PC case.

Once all connections are made, close your PC case, reconnect the power, and power on your computer.

6. Operating Instructions

The Sentry 3 features an intuitive touchscreen interface for easy control.



Image: The NZXT Sentry 3's main display, showing fan RPM, temperature, and the five fan control channels.

6.1 User Interface Overview

- **RPM/Percentage Display:** Located on the upper left, shows current fan speed in RPM or as a percentage.
- **Temperature Display:** Below the RPM, shows temperature from the probe in Celsius (°C) or Fahrenheit (°F). Tap to switch units.
- **Fan Mode Icons:** To the left of the central circle, indicate the current operating mode (Performance, Quiet, Manual).
- **Central Fan Number:** Indicates the currently selected fan channel (1-5). Tap the large round button to cycle through modes.
- **PowerSlide Bar:** The horizontal bar on the upper right allows for quick fan speed adjustment in Manual mode.
- **Fan Channel Buttons (1-5):** On the lower right, tap to select individual fan channels for control.
- **Link Button:** Below the PowerSlide Bar, used to link fan channels.
- **Arrow Buttons:** On the lower left, used for fine-tuning fan speed in 10% increments.
- **Speaker Icon:** On the far right, tap to toggle sound (beeps and alarms) on/off.
- **Power Icon:** On the far right, tap and hold for 3 seconds to turn the display off. Touch the screen to turn it back on.



Image: Close-up of the Sentry 3 display, highlighting the selected fan channel and the 'Link' button.

6.2 Fan Control Modes

The Sentry 3 offers three primary operating modes:

- **Performance Mode:** An automatic mode where fan speeds are aggressively ramped up based on the temperature sensor reading to prioritize cooling performance.
- **Quiet Mode:** An automatic mode where fan speeds are kept at minimum for longer, increasing only when necessary based on temperature, to prioritize quiet operation.
- **Manual Mode:** Provides full manual control over fan speeds. You can adjust each channel individually or link them.

To switch between modes, tap the large round button in the center of the screen. Note that the selected mode applies universally to all connected fans; you cannot mix modes for different channels.

6.3 Adjusting Fan Speed (Manual Mode)

In Manual Mode, you can adjust fan speeds using two methods:

- **PowerSlide Bar:** Drag your finger along the horizontal bar on the upper right to quickly set the fan speed from 40% to 100%, or slide it all the way to the left to turn the fan off.
- **Arrow Buttons:** Use the up and down arrow buttons on the lower left to adjust fan speed in 10% increments.

To adjust a specific fan, tap its corresponding number button (1-5) on the lower right, then use the PowerSlide Bar or arrow buttons.

6.4 Linking Fan Channels

To control multiple fan channels simultaneously:

1. Tap and hold the **Link** button for approximately 3 seconds.
2. The fan channel buttons will become selectable. Tap the numbers of the channels you wish to link. Linked channels will show a small orange bar above them.
3. Once linked, adjusting the speed of any fan within the linked group will apply the same speed to all linked fans.
4. To unlink, tap and hold the **Link** button again for 3 seconds, then tap the linked channels to deselect them.

6.5 Alarm Settings

The Sentry 3 can alert you to critical conditions:

- **Fan Failure Alarm:** The unit will beep if a connected fan stops spinning or is obstructed.
- **High Temperature Alarm:** To set a temperature alarm, tap and hold the temperature display on the screen. You can then adjust the threshold at which the alarm will sound.

7. Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your NZXT Sentry 3:

- **Cleaning the Screen:** The capacitive touchscreen can accumulate fingerprints. Use a soft, lint-free microfiber cloth to gently wipe the screen. Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Dust Removal:** Periodically open your PC case and use compressed air to remove dust from around the Sentry 3 and its connections. Ensure the PC is powered off and unplugged before cleaning.
- **Cable Check:** Occasionally verify that all fan and power cables are securely connected to the Sentry 3.

8. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Sentry 3, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
Sentry 3 display is off or unresponsive.	Ensure the Molex power connector is securely attached to the Sentry 3 and your PSU. The display might be in sleep mode. Tap the screen to wake it up. Check your PSU for proper operation.
Fans are not spinning or not responding to controls.	Verify that fans are correctly connected to the Sentry 3 fan headers. Ensure the Sentry 3 is receiving power via the Molex connector. In Manual mode, ensure the fan speed is not set to "Off" or too low (below 40% for some fans). Test fans individually by connecting them directly to a motherboard fan header if possible.
Temperature reading is inaccurate or not displayed.	Ensure the temperature sensor probe is securely connected to the Sentry 3. Verify the probe is placed in a location that accurately reflects the temperature you wish to monitor. Check for any physical damage to the temperature probe cable.
Touchscreen is unresponsive or erratic.	Ensure your fingers are clean and dry when interacting with the screen. Restart your PC to reset the controller. Ensure no foreign objects or debris are on the screen.

If the problem persists after trying these solutions, please contact NZXT customer support for further assistance.

9. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	AC-SEN-3-B1
Material	Steel, ABS Plastic, Capacitive Touchscreen, PCB
Screen Size	5.4 Inches
Form Factor	Single 5.25" Drive Bay
Channel Quantity	5 Channels
Channel Wattage	15 Watts per channel
Fan Connector Type	3-pin & 4-pin PWM
Power Connection	1x Molex
Other Connections	1x Temperature Sensor
Voltage	5 Volts
Product Dimensions (LxWxH)	6.89 x 2.36 x 3.12 inches
Item Weight	8.3 ounces
Hardware Platform	PC
Date First Available	May 16, 2014

10. Legal Disclaimer

This product is manufactured by NZXT. All trademarks, brand names, and model numbers mentioned herein belong to their respective manufacturers. This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a warranty or guarantee beyond what is provided by the manufacturer's official warranty policy.

For official warranty information and support, please refer to the manufacturer's website or contact their customer service directly.

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