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Creative SB-G3

Creative Sound Blaster G3 USB-C External Gaming DAC and Amp User Manual

Introduction

The Creative Sound Blaster G3 is a portable USB-C external gaming Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC) and amplifier designed to enhance audio for gaming consoles and computers. It offers a driverless plug-and-play experience, GameVoice Mix for balancing game and chat audio, independent volume and microphone controls, and mobile app adjustments.

Package Contents

The Sound Blaster G3 package includes the following items:

- Sound Blaster G3 device
- Optical Cable
- USB Type-C to Type-A Converter
- Audio Survival Guide (Documentation)



Image: Contents of the Sound Blaster G3 retail package.

Device Layout

The Sound Blaster G3 features intuitive controls and ports for easy access and connectivity:

- **USB-C Port:** For connecting to gaming consoles (PS4, Nintendo Switch) and computers (PC, Mac).
- **Headphone Port:** 3.5mm jack for connecting your headphones.
- **Microphone Port:** 3.5mm jack for connecting an external microphone.
- **Optical Line-In Port:** For receiving digital audio from compatible devices.
- **Volume Control Dial:** Adjusts overall audio volume.
- **GameVoice Mix Dial:** Balances game audio and voice chat volume.
- **Microphone Mute Switch:** Toggles microphone on/off.

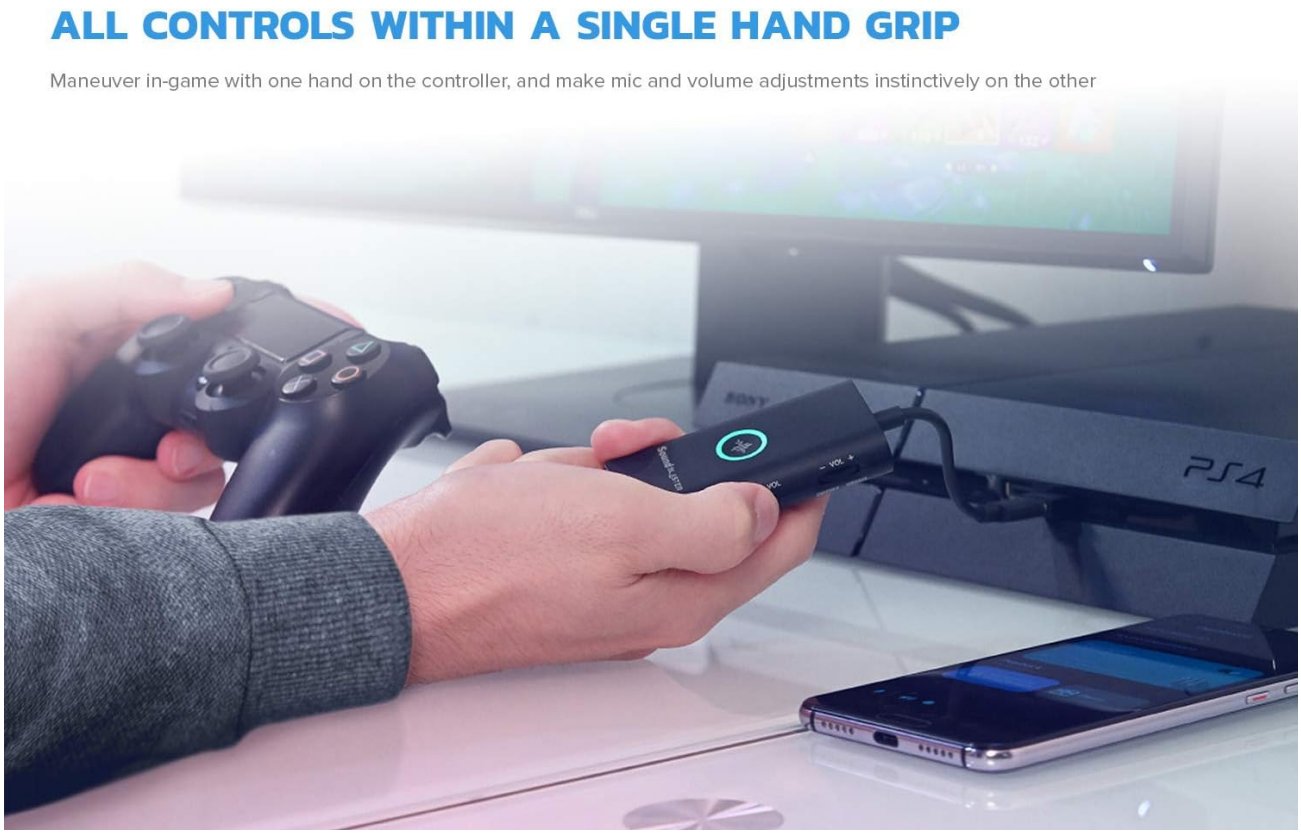

Image: Front and side view of the Sound Blaster G3 highlighting its controls and ports.

Setup Guide

This section provides instructions for connecting and configuring your Sound Blaster G3 with various platforms. For a visual guide, please refer to the setup video below.

Video: Official setup guide for the Creative Sound Blaster G3 on PS4, Nintendo Switch, and Windows PC. This video demonstrates the physical connections and software configurations required for each platform.

1. PlayStation 4 / PlayStation 4 Pro Setup

1. Connect the Sound Blaster G3 to your PS4 or PS4 Pro console via a USB port. Use the included USB Type-C to Type-A converter if necessary.
2. For GameVoice Mix functionality, connect the G3 to your PS4 via the optical cable (included). The PS4 and PS4 Pro have an optical output port.
3. Plug your headphones into the 3.5mm headphone port on the G3.
4. **PS4 Settings for GameVoice Mix:**
    - Navigate to **Settings > Sound and Screen > Audio Output Settings**

- Under **Primary Output Port**, select **DIGITAL OUT (OPTICAL)**.
- Under **Audio Format (Priority)**, select **Linear PCM**.
- Go to **Settings > Devices > Audio Devices**
- Under **Output to Headphones**, select **Chat Audio**.
- Ensure the G3's mixing switch is set to 'MIXING' mode.

2. PlayStation 4 Slim Setup

1. Connect the Sound Blaster G3 to your PS4 Slim via a USB port. Use the included USB Type-C to Type-A converter.
2. The PS4 Slim does not have an optical output. To use GameVoice Mix, you must connect your TV/monitor to the G3's optical line-in port. This requires your TV/monitor to have an optical output or RCA/3.5mm audio output.
3. Plug your headphones into the 3.5mm headphone port on the G3.
4. **PS4 Slim Settings for GameVoice Mix:**
    - Ensure the G3's mixing switch is set to 'MIXING' mode.
    - Navigate to **Settings > Devices > Audio Devices**
    - Under **Output to Headphones**, select **Chat Audio**.

3. Nintendo Switch Setup

The Sound Blaster G3 supports both docked (TV) and handheld modes for Nintendo Switch. Note that GameVoice Mix is not available on Nintendo Switch as the console does not have built-in voice chat features.

1. **Docked (TV) Mode:** Plug the Sound Blaster G3 into the Nintendo Switch dock via a USB port. Use the included USB Type-C to Type-A converter if needed.
2. **Handheld Mode:** Plug the Sound Blaster G3 directly into the USB-C port at the bottom of the Nintendo Switch console.
3. Plug your headphones into the 3.5mm headphone port on the G3.

4. Windows PC Setup

1. Connect the G3 to your PC or laptop via USB. Use the included USB Type-C to Type-A converter if your PC only has Type-A ports.
2. Plug your headphones into the 3.5mm headphone port on the G3.
3. **PC Settings for GameVoice Mix:**
    - Ensure the G3's mixing switch is set to 'MIXING' mode.
    - Open **Control Panel > Hardware and Sound > Sound** (or right-click the volume icon in the system tray and select **Playback devices**).
    - In the **Playback** tab, right-click **Speakers (Sound Blaster G3)** and select **Set as Default Device**.
    - Right-click **Headset (Sound Blaster G3)** and select **Set as Default Communication Device**.
    - In the **Recording** tab, right-click **Microphone (Sound Blaster G3)** and select **Set as Default Device**.

5. macOS Setup

1. Connect the G3 to your Mac computer or laptop via USB-C or USB-A (using the included converter if needed).
2. Plug your headphones into the 3.5mm headphone port on the G3.

3. **macOS Settings:**
    - Go to **System Preferences > Sound**.
    - In the **Output** tab, select **Sound Blaster G3**.
    - In the **Input** tab, select **Sound Blaster G3**.

Operating Instructions

GameVoice Mix

The GameVoice Mix feature allows you to adjust the balance between game audio and voice chat volume on the fly. This is particularly useful during multiplayer gaming sessions where you might need to prioritize hearing teammates or game sounds.

- Ensure the G3's mixing switch is set to 'MIXING' mode.
- Rotate the **GameVoice Mix dial** on the side of the G3:
    - Turn towards 'VOICE' to increase chat volume and decrease game volume.
    - Turn towards 'GAME' to increase game volume and decrease chat volume.



Image: Illustration of the GameVoice Mix feature, demonstrating the balance between game audio and chat audio.

Mic Monitoring and Mobile App Control

The Sound Blaster G3 offers mic monitoring and advanced audio adjustments through a dedicated mobile application (Creative App for iOS and Android).

- **Mic Monitoring:** Access the mic-monitoring feature via the mobile app to control how loud your own voice is heard in your headphones.
- **On-The-Fly Audio Adjustments:** Pair the G3 to your mobile phone to adjust volume, microphone controls, and Equalizer (EQ) settings without interrupting your game. This includes features like 'Footsteps Enhancer EQ mode'.



Image: A mobile phone displaying the Creative App interface, showing options for Equalizer, Mixer, and GameVoice Mix settings for the Sound Blaster G3.

Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Sound Blaster G3, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- Keep the device clean by wiping it with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- Store the device in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- Avoid exposing the device to water or excessive moisture.
- Handle cables and connectors gently to prevent damage.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Sound Blaster G3, try the following basic troubleshooting steps:

- **No Audio Output:**
  - Ensure all cables are securely connected.
  - Verify that the correct audio output device is selected in your console or computer's sound settings.
  - Check the volume levels on both the G3 and your connected device.
  - Test with different headphones to rule out headphone issues.
- **Microphone Not Working:**
  - Ensure the microphone mute switch on the G3 is not engaged.
  - Verify that the correct microphone input device is selected in your console or computer's sound settings.
  - Check the microphone level in your device's settings.
  - Test with a different microphone if possible.
- **GameVoice Mix Not Functioning (PS4/PC):**
  - Confirm that the G3's mixing switch is set to 'MIXING' mode.
  - For PS4/PS4 Pro, ensure the optical cable is connected and audio output settings are configured as described in the setup section.
  - For PS4 Slim, ensure your TV/monitor is connected to the G3's optical line-in.
  - For PC, verify that the default playback and communication devices are correctly set in Windows Sound settings.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Product Dimensions	5.12 x 0.98 x 5.51 inches
Item Weight	3.53 ounces
Item Model Number	SB-G3
Compatible Devices	Personal Computer, Gaming Console, Smartphone, Tablet
Brand	Creative
Hardware Interface	USB
Audio Output Mode	Surround
Platform Compatibility	Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, Windows
Manufacturer	Creative Labs



Image: A table detailing the technical specifications of the Sound Blaster G3.

Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Creative website or the documentation included with your product. You can also visit the Creative Store on Amazon for additional resources.

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Details

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