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Creative SB1740

Creative Sound BlasterX AE-5 Plus Pure Edition Sound Card User Manual

Model: SB1740

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your Creative Sound BlasterX AE-5 Plus Pure Edition PCI-e Gaming Sound Card and DAC. This high-performance sound card is designed to deliver superior audio fidelity for gaming, music, and movies, featuring advanced audio processing, a discrete headphone amplifier, and customizable RGB lighting.



Image: The Creative Sound BlasterX AE-5 Plus Pure Edition sound card, showcasing its design and RGB lighting.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- Always disconnect power from your computer before installing or removing any internal components.
- Handle the sound card by its edges to avoid touching sensitive components.
- Ensure proper grounding to prevent electrostatic discharge (ESD) damage.
- Do not expose the device to moisture or extreme temperatures.
- Keep out of reach of children.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items are present in your package:

- Creative Sound BlasterX AE-5 Plus Pure Edition Sound Card
- Four RGB LED Strips
- Quick Start Guide (not included in this digital manual)

PRODUCT FEATURES

- **Dolby Digital and DTS Support:** Enjoy enhanced audio delivery to external devices with Dolby Digital Live and DTS Encoding. Supports 5.1 discrete and 7.1 virtual surround sound, along with Sound Blaster's Surround Virtualization technology.
- **Customizable RGB Lighting:** The AE-5 Plus Pure Edition features customizable RGB LEDs on its body and includes four RGB LED strips. Control 16.8 million colors and various patterns via the Sound Blaster Command software.
- **Xamp Discrete Headphone Bi-amp:** A custom-designed discrete headphone amplifier that bi-amplifies each earcup individually. It offers 1Ω output impedance and can drive studio-grade headphones up to 600Ω, including high-end planar-magnetic headphones.
- **SABRE32 Ultra-class PCI-e DAC:** Delivers high-resolution audio playback up to 32-bit / 384 kHz with a 122 dB DNR, ensuring ultra-low distortion and jitter for pristine audio quality.
- **Industry-Leading Audio Processing:** Utilizes Sound Blaster's audio processing and enhancement technologies, accessible through the Sound Blaster Command software. Features customizable audio processing for clearer vocals, accurate audio cues, and bass boost.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW VIDEO

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Video: An official overview of the Creative Sound BlasterX AE-5 Plus PCIe Gaming Sound Card, highlighting its key features and capabilities.

SETUP

1. Hardware Installation

1. **Power Off:** Shut down your computer completely and disconnect the power cable.
2. **Open Case:** Open your computer case to access the motherboard.
3. **Locate PCI-e Slot:** Find an available PCI Express x1 slot on your motherboard.
4. **Install Sound Card:** Carefully insert the Sound BlasterX AE-5 Plus Pure Edition into the PCI-e slot, ensuring it is seated firmly. Secure it with the case screw.

5. **Connect RGB Strips (Optional):** If using the included RGB LED strips, connect them to the dedicated RGB header on the sound card. Position the strips within your PC case as desired.
6. **Close Case:** Close your computer case and reconnect the power cable.

2. Software Installation

1. **Power On:** Start your computer.
2. **Download Drivers:** Visit the official Creative website and download the latest Sound Blaster Command software and drivers for the AE-5 Plus Pure Edition.
3. **Install Software:** Run the downloaded installer and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation. A system restart may be required.
4. **Configure Audio:** Once installed, launch the Sound Blaster Command application to configure your audio settings, including speaker/headphone output, surround sound, and other enhancements.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Sound Blaster Command Software

The Sound Blaster Command software is your central hub for controlling all features of the AE-5 Plus Pure Edition. It allows for detailed customization of audio profiles, equalizer settings, and lighting effects.

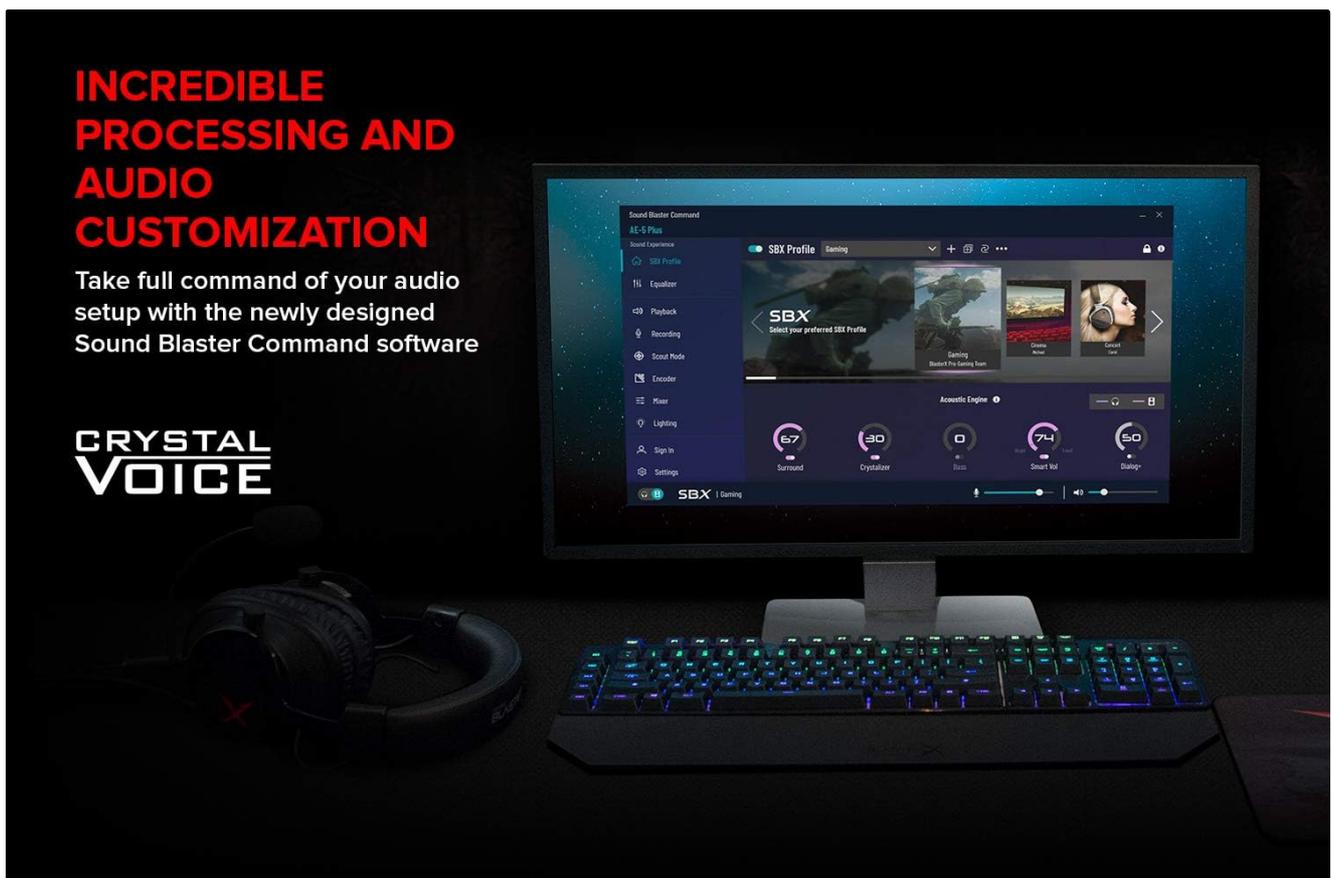


Image: The Sound Blaster Command software interface, showing various audio and lighting customization options.

Audio Output Configuration

- **Speaker/Headphone Switching:** Use the software to switch between speaker and headphone outputs. The card features a dedicated Xamp headphone amplifier for optimal headphone performance.
- **Surround Sound:** Enable Dolby Digital Live or DTS Encoding for external audio devices. Configure 5.1 discrete or 7.1 virtual surround sound for immersive audio experiences.
- **Direct Mode:** For the purest audio playback, activate Direct Mode. This bypasses all audio processing for

unadulterated 32-bit/384kHz playback. Note that some surround features may be unavailable in this mode.

Xamp Discrete Headphone Amplifier

The Xamp amplifier provides clean, powerful audio to each earcup of your headphones independently. This ensures precise audio reproduction and compatibility with a wide range of headphones, from 16Ω to 600Ω.

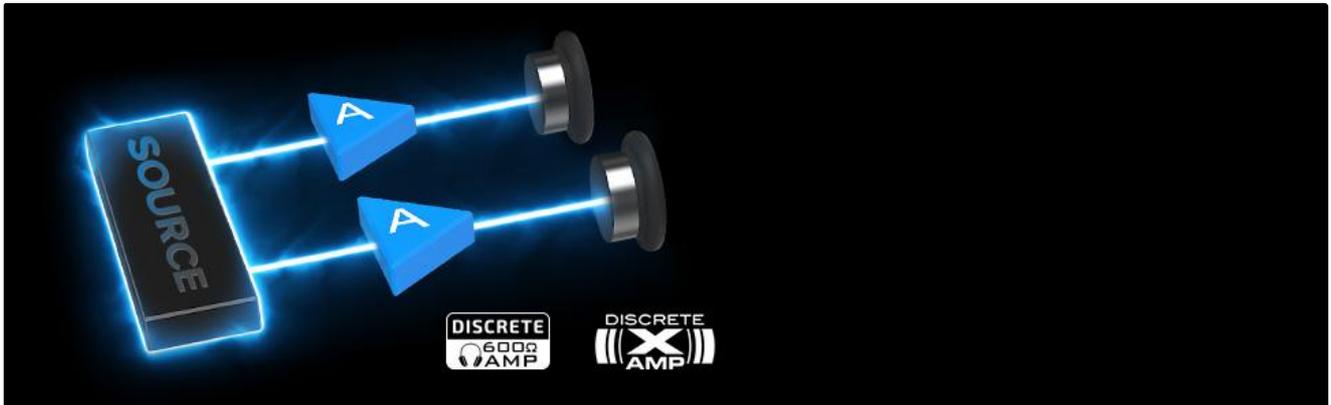


Image: A diagram showing how the Xamp discrete headphone bi-amp provides separate amplification for left and right headphone channels.

RGB Lighting Customization

Utilize the Sound Blaster Command software to personalize the RGB lighting on your sound card and connected LED strips. Choose from 16.8 million colors and various dynamic lighting effects to match your system's aesthetic.



Image: The Sound BlasterX AE-5 Plus Pure Edition sound card with its integrated RGB lighting and additional RGB LED strips.

Scout Mode

Scout Mode is a feature designed for competitive gaming. When activated, it enhances important in-game audio cues such as footsteps and weapon switching sounds, allowing you to detect opponents more easily.

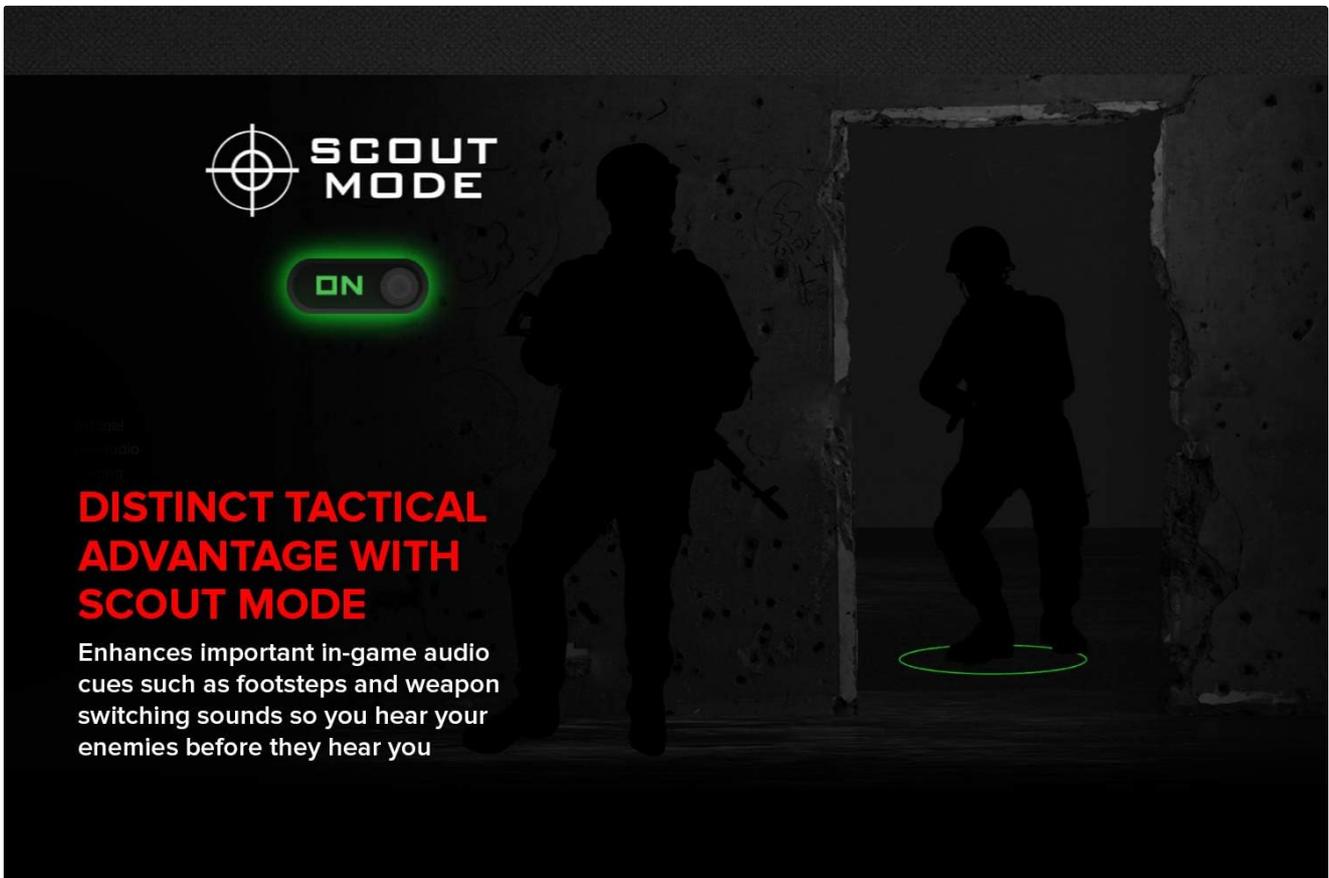


Image: A visual representation of Scout Mode in action, emphasizing enhanced audio cues for tactical advantage.

Crystal Voice

Crystal Voice technology provides clear voice communication by reducing background noise and enhancing vocal clarity during online gaming or communication applications.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Periodically clean the sound card and surrounding areas inside your PC case with compressed air to remove dust buildup. Ensure the computer is powered off and unplugged before cleaning.
- **Software Updates:** Regularly check the Creative website for updated drivers and Sound Blaster Command software to ensure optimal performance and access to new features.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Operate the sound card within recommended temperature and humidity ranges to prolong its lifespan.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Solution
No sound output	<p>Ensure the sound card is properly seated in the PCI-e slot.</p> <p>Verify that the correct audio output device is selected in your operating system's sound settings and in the Sound Blaster Command software.</p> <p>Check speaker/headphone connections and volume levels.</p> <p>Reinstall the latest drivers from the Creative website.</p>

Problem	Possible Solution
RGB lighting not working	<p>Ensure the RGB LED strips are securely connected to the sound card.</p> <p>Check RGB settings within the Sound Blaster Command software.</p> <p>Verify that the sound card is receiving sufficient power (if applicable, check auxiliary power connections).</p>
Audio distortion or crackling	<p>Update sound card drivers.</p> <p>Try a different PCI-e slot if available.</p> <p>Disable other audio enhancements or software that might conflict.</p> <p>Check for electrical interference from other components.</p>

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	SB1740
Audio Processor	Sound Core3D
DAC	SABRE32 Ultra-class PCI-e DAC
Playback Resolution	Up to 32-bit / 384 kHz
Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR)	122 dB
Headphone Amplifier	Xamp Discrete Headphone Bi-amp (1Ω output impedance, supports 16-600Ω headphones)
Surround Sound Support	Dolby Digital Live, DTS Encoding, 5.1 Discrete, 7.1 Virtual
Interface	PCI Express x1
RGB Lighting	Aurora Reactive Lighting System (16.8 million colors), includes 4 RGB LED strips
Operating System Compatibility	Windows 7, Windows 8 (and likely newer Windows versions with updated drivers)
Dimensions (LxWxH)	5.71 x 0.79 x 5.04 inches
Weight	1.21 pounds

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Creative products typically come with a limited hardware warranty. For specific warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Creative support website. Proof of purchase is generally required for warranty claims.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or to download the latest drivers and software, please visit the official Creative support website:

[Creative Support Website](#)

You may also find helpful resources and community forums on the Creative website.