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SteelSeries GameDAC Gen 2 (Xbox)

SteelSeries GameDAC Gen 2 Hi-Res Audio Amplifier User Manual

Model: GameDAC Gen 2 (Xbox)

1. Introduction

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the setup, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your SteelSeries GameDAC Gen 2 Hi-Res Audio Amplifier for Xbox. The GameDAC Gen 2 is designed to enhance your gaming audio experience with high-resolution sound and advanced features.

Figure 1.1: The SteelSeries GameDAC Gen 2 Hi-Res Audio Amplifier. This compact device serves as a central audio hub for your gaming setup, offering enhanced sound quality and multi-platform compatibility.

2. Product Features

- **Hi-Res Audio Amplifier:** Delivers a 78% purer signal compared to GameDAC Gen 1, supporting 96KHz/24-Bit resolution for highly detailed and rich audio.
- **Headset Compatibility:** Designed for the Arctis Nova Pro (sold separately) and compatible with any headset wired via a 3.5mm cable.
- **Multi-System Connect:** Allows simultaneous connection to two systems (e.g., PC, Xbox, PS, Switch) with easy switching via a button press.
- **AI Noise Cancellation (PC):** Utilizes ClearCast AI algorithms to eliminate background noise from your microphone and clean incoming chat audio.
- **360° Spatial Audio:** Provides immersive surround sound for enhanced positional awareness in games, compatible with Tempest 3D Audio for PS5 and Microsoft Spatial Sound.

Figure 2.1: Overview of the GameDAC Gen 2 highlighting its premium features, including its status as a top gaming headset brand and its innovative multi-system amplifier and DAC capabilities. It is designed for Xbox and supports Hi-Res Audio.

Figure 2.2: Diagram illustrating the ESS Sabre Quad-DAC chip, which is central to the GameDAC Gen 2's audio processing. This technology contributes to 78% purer sound quality compared to the GameDAC Gen 1.

3. Setup Guide

Follow these steps to connect your GameDAC Gen 2 to your gaming system.

3.1 Connecting to Xbox

1. Connect the USB-C cable from the GameDAC Gen 2's 'XBOX' port to an available USB port on your Xbox console.
2. Connect your gaming headset to the 3.5mm headset jack on the front of the GameDAC Gen 2.
3. Ensure your Xbox audio settings are configured to output audio through the USB device.

3.2 Connecting to PC

1. Connect the USB-C cable from the GameDAC Gen 2's 'USB' port to an available USB port on your PC.
2. Connect your gaming headset to the 3.5mm headset jack on the front of the GameDAC Gen 2.

3. Install the SteelSeries GG software on your PC to access full features, including AI Noise Cancellation and custom equalization.
4. Select the GameDAC Gen 2 as your default audio output and input device in your PC's sound settings.

Figure 3.1: The rear panel of the GameDAC Gen 2, displaying the 'XBOX' USB-C input, 'USB' input (for PC), 'LINE OUT', and 'LINE IN' ports. These connections facilitate multi-system compatibility and external audio integration.

Figure 3.2: A side view of the GameDAC Gen 2, clearly showing the 3.5mm headphone jack where your gaming headset connects. This port is essential for audio output to your headset.

Figure 3.3: An illustration of the GameDAC Gen 2 integrated into a multi-system setup, demonstrating its ability to connect to both PC and Xbox simultaneously. Users can swap between platforms with a simple button press.

4. Operating Instructions

Familiarize yourself with the controls and functions of your GameDAC Gen 2.

4.1 Device Controls

- **Control Wheel:** The large rotary dial on the top of the device is used for volume adjustment and navigating menus on the OLED screen. Pressing the wheel typically confirms selections.
- **OLED Screen:** Displays current settings, volume levels, input source, and menu options.
- **Function Button:** A smaller button near the OLED screen, used for specific functions or menu navigation, depending on the context.

Figure 4.1: A detailed view of the GameDAC Gen 2, labeling its key components: the Control Wheel, Dual USB-C inputs, ClearCast AI Noise Cancellation for Mic/Chat (PC), Hi-Res Audio 96KHz/24-Bit with ESS Sabre Quad-DAC, and the OLED Screen. It also indicates compatibility with all 3.5mm headphones.

4.2 Audio Settings

- **Volume Control:** Rotate the control wheel to adjust the master volume of your headset.
- **Input Switching:** Use the menu on the OLED screen to switch between connected PC and Xbox inputs.
- **Equalizer (EQ):** Access the Parametric EQ settings via the OLED screen to customize your audio profile. Pre-set profiles may be available, or you can create your own.
- **AI Noise Cancellation (PC Only):** When connected to PC, enable and configure ClearCast AI noise cancellation through the SteelSeries GG software for your microphone and incoming chat.
- **Spatial Audio:** The GameDAC Gen 2 supports 360° Spatial Audio. Ensure this feature is enabled in your console or PC settings for an immersive sound experience.

Figure 4.2: A visual representation of a gamer immersed in 360° Spatial Audio, indicated by glowing rings around their head. This feature transports users into the gaming world, allowing them to hear critical in-game sounds with enhanced positional accuracy.

Figure 4.3: A close-up of the GameDAC Gen 2's OLED screen displaying the Parametric EQ settings. This feature allows users to fine-tune audio frequencies, providing an advantage by enhancing specific sounds like footsteps in competitive games.

5. Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your GameDAC Gen 2, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the device. Avoid using abrasive cleaners or solvents, which can damage the surface.
- **Storage:** Store the GameDAC Gen 2 in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures when not in use.
- **Cable Care:** Handle cables gently. Avoid sharp bends or excessive pulling, which can damage the connectors or internal wiring.
- **Firmware Updates:** Periodically check the SteelSeries website or SteelSeries GG software for firmware updates. Keeping your device's firmware up-to-date ensures the best performance and access to new features.

6. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your GameDAC Gen 2, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Solution
No audio output	• Ensure all cables are securely connected. • Verify the GameDAC Gen 2 is selected as the default audio device in your system's sound settings. • Check the volume level on the GameDAC Gen 2 and your system. • Try restarting your console/PC and the GameDAC Gen 2.
Microphone not working (PC)	• Confirm the headset's microphone is properly connected to the GameDAC Gen 2. • Ensure the GameDAC Gen 2 is selected as the default input device in your PC's sound settings and communication applications. • Check microphone privacy settings in Windows. • Update SteelSeries GG software and GameDAC firmware.
Static or distorted audio	• Check for loose cable connections. • Ensure the audio source is not overdriven (e.g., volume too high on the source device). • Try a different USB port on your console/PC. • Update GameDAC firmware.
Cannot switch between systems	• Ensure both systems are properly connected to their respective USB-C ports on the GameDAC Gen 2. • Use the control wheel and OLED screen to navigate to the input selection menu and confirm your choice.

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

7. Specifications

- **ASIN:** B0C3P5CG4F
- **Release Date:** April 23, 2023
- **Product Dimensions:** 1.69 x 4.53 x 3.25 inches
- **Item Weight:** 9.7 ounces
- **Manufacturer:** SteelSeries
- **Language:** English
- **Audio Resolution:** Up to 96KHz/24-Bit
- **DAC Type:** ESS Sabre Quad-DAC
- **Compatibility:** PC, Xbox, PS5, PS4, Switch (via USB-C)

8. Warranty and Support

For information regarding product warranty, technical support, and service, please visit the official SteelSeries support website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.
Online Support: steelseries.com/support

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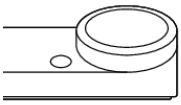
steelseries  GAMEDAC GEN 2 PRODUCT INFORMATION GUIDE	SteelSeries GameDAC Gen 2 Product Information Guide Comprehensive guide for the SteelSeries GameDAC Gen 2, covering setup, operation, audio options, and system compatibility for gaming and audio enthusiasts.
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