iFi ZENCAN3

iFi Zen CAN 3 Headphone Amplifier User Manual

Model: ZENCAN3 | Brand: iFi

1. INTRODUCTION

The iFi Zen CAN 3 is a high-resolution analogue headphone amplifier designed to enhance your audio experience. It features pure analogue circuitry, ensuring a smooth and full sound free from digital signal processing artifacts. This amplifier is equipped with versatile output options and advanced EQ modes to tailor sound to your preferences, whether for music, gaming, or movies.

Key features include:

- **Output Versatility:** Features 4.4mm Balanced and 6.35mm Single-Ended headphone outputs, delivering up to 2,000mW of power for compatibility with a wide range of headphones and earphones.
- **xMEMS Technology Support:** Supports xMEMS micro-speaker technology, ensuring compatibility with future earphone models.
- **Pure Analogue Circuitry:** Delivers smoother and fuller sound without DSP.
- **Tailored EQ Modes:** Includes XBass+, XSpace, XBass+ and XSpace combined, Game, and Movie modes for optimized audio.

2. IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- Read all instructions before operating the device.
- Do not expose the device to water, moisture, or extreme temperatures.
- Ensure proper ventilation to prevent overheating.
- Use only the power adapter supplied or recommended by the manufacturer.
- Avoid listening at high volume levels for extended periods to prevent hearing damage.
- Do not attempt to disassemble or repair the unit yourself. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Please check that all items are present in your package:

- iFi Zen CAN 3 Headphone Amplifier
- Power Adapter (DC 5V)
- RCA Cable
- 3.5mm to 6.35mm Adapter
- User Manual (this document)

4. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

4.1 Front Panel

Figure 4.1: Front Panel Layout of the iFi Zen CAN 3

This image displays the front panel of the iFi Zen CAN 3. From left to right, it features a power button, input selection buttons (1, 2, 3), gain selection buttons (0dB, 6dB, 12dB, 18dB), a large volume control knob, a 6.35mm single-ended headphone output, a 4.4mm balanced headphone output, and buttons for XBass+, XSpace, Gaming, Movie, and xMEMS modes.

1. **Power Button:** Turns the unit on or off.
2. **Input Selection (1, 2, 3):** Selects the active audio input.
3. **Gain Selection (0dB, 6dB, 12dB, 18dB):** Adjusts the amplification level to match headphone sensitivity.
4. **Volume Control:** Rotary knob to adjust the output volume.
5. **6.35mm Single-Ended Headphone Output:** Standard headphone jack.
6. **4.4mm Balanced Headphone Output:** For balanced headphones, offering improved channel separation and power.
7. **XBass+ Button:** Engages the XBass+ mode for enhanced bass response.
8. **XSpace Button:** Engages the XSpace mode for a wider soundstage.
9. **Gaming Mode Button:** Activates EQ mode optimized for gaming sound effects.
10. **Movie Mode Button:** Activates EQ mode optimized for movie dialogue clarity.
11. **xMEMS Button:** Activates support for xMEMS micro-speaker technology.

4.2 Rear Panel

Figure 4.2: Rear Panel Layout of the iFi Zen CAN 3

This image shows the rear panel of the iFi Zen CAN 3. From left to right, it includes a 4.4mm balanced input, a 3.5mm single-ended input, RCA L/R single-ended inputs, a 4.4mm balanced output, and a DC 5V power input.

1. **Balanced Input (4.4mm):** For balanced audio sources. Corresponds to Input 3 on the front panel.
2. **Single-Ended Input (3.5mm):** For single-ended audio sources. Corresponds to Input 2 on the front panel.
3. **RCA L/R Inputs:** Standard RCA inputs for single-ended audio sources. Corresponds to Input 1 on the front panel.
4. **Balanced Output (4.4mm):** For connecting to other balanced audio equipment.
5. **DC 5V Power Input:** Connect the supplied power adapter here.

5. Setup Guide

Follow these steps to set up your iFi Zen CAN 3:

1. **Connect Audio Source:**

   - For RCA sources (e.g., DAC, CD player): Connect your source to the RCA L/R inputs on the rear panel. Select Input 1 on the front panel.
   - For 3.5mm sources (e.g., smartphone, DAP): Connect your source to the 3.5mm single-ended input on the rear panel. Select Input 2 on the front panel.
   - For 4.4mm balanced sources (e.g., balanced DAC): Connect your source to the 4.4mm balanced input on the rear panel. Select Input 3 on the front panel.

2. **Connect Headphones:**

   - For 6.35mm single-ended headphones: Plug your headphones into the 6.35mm output on the front panel.
   - For 4.4mm balanced headphones: Plug your headphones into the 4.4mm balanced output on the front panel.

3. **Connect Power:** Connect the supplied DC 5V power adapter to the DC 5V input on the rear panel, then plug the adapter into a wall outlet.

4. **Power On:** Press the power button on the front panel to turn on the iFi Zen CAN 3.

Figure 5.1: Example Setup with a Laptop

This image illustrates the iFi Zen CAN 3 connected to a laptop, with headphones plugged into the amplifier. This represents a common use case for the device, showing its compact size and integration into a desktop audio setup.

6. Operating Instructions

6.1 Basic Operation

- **Volume Adjustment:** Rotate the large central knob to adjust the listening volume. Start with a low volume and gradually increase it to a comfortable level.
- **Input Selection:** Press the 'Input' buttons (1, 2, or 3) to switch between your connected audio sources.
- **Gain Control:** Use the 'Gain' buttons (0dB, 6dB, 12dB, 18dB) to match the amplifier's output to your headphones' sensitivity. Higher gain settings are suitable for less sensitive headphones, while lower settings are for more sensitive headphones or IEMs.

6.2 EQ Modes

The Zen CAN 3 offers several analogue EQ modes to optimize your listening experience:

- **XBass+:** Activates an analogue bass correction circuit designed to restore lost bass response, particularly beneficial for open-back headphones.
- **XSpace:** Creates a wider, more spacious soundstage, simulating the experience of listening to speakers in a room rather than headphones.
- **XBass+ and XSpace Combined:** Engages both XBass+ and XSpace for a comprehensive audio enhancement.
- **Game Mode:** Specifically tuned to enhance low-level sound effects in games, such as footsteps and environmental nuances, providing a competitive edge.
- **Movie Mode:** Optimizes dialogue clarity and vocal presence range in movies, making speech clearer and more distinct.
- **xMEMS Mode:** Enables compatibility and optimized performance for headphones utilizing xMEMS micro-speaker technology.

To activate an EQ mode, simply press the corresponding button on the front panel. Press again to deactivate.

7. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosols.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the amplifier in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure the ventilation slots are not blocked to prevent overheating.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound output	Power off Incorrect input selected Headphones not connected properly Source device issue	Ensure unit is powered on. Verify correct input is selected on the front panel. Check headphone connection to the correct output. Ensure source device is playing audio and its volume is up.
Distorted sound	Volume too high Incorrect gain setting Poor cable connection	Reduce volume. Adjust gain setting to match headphone impedance/sensitivity. Check all audio cable connections.
Unit not powering on	Power adapter not connected Wall outlet issue	Ensure power adapter is securely connected to the unit and wall outlet. Try a different wall outlet.

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

9. SPECIFICATIONS

Serenity in Every Detail

Our new headphone amplifier, with its sleek design and unparalleled performance, immerses you in a world of pure harmony. Rediscover your music and experience true purity with the ZEN CAN 3.

Prodigious Power

ZEN CAN 3 with 2,000mW continuous output power – serious power for difficult to drive headphones. 0-18dB adjustable gain, with +6dB steps to perfectly match your headphones.

Figure 9.1: iFi Zen CAN 3 Dimensions

This image provides the physical dimensions of the iFi Zen CAN 3. The front view shows a height of 35mm, and the top view shows a width of 158mm and a depth of 115mm.

Feature	Detail
Model Number	ZENCAN3
Output Power	Up to 2,000mW (2W)
Headphone Outputs	4.4mm Balanced, 6.35mm Single-Ended
Analogue Inputs	4.4mm Balanced, 3.5mm Single-Ended, RCA L/R
Gain Settings	0dB, 6dB, 12dB, 18dB
EQ Modes	XBass+, XSpace, Gaming, Movie, xMEMS
Circuitry	Pure Analogue, Class A Discrete
Power Input	DC 5V
Package Dimensions	10.75 x 6.26 x 2.24 inches
Item Weight	1.9 pounds
Manufacturer	Abbingdon Music Research
Date First Available	June 21, 2024

10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The iFi Zen CAN 3 comes with a manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included in your product packaging or visit the official iFi website for detailed warranty terms and conditions specific to your region.

For technical support, troubleshooting assistance beyond this manual, or warranty claims, please contact iFi customer support through their official website or authorized service centers. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty validation.

Online Resources:

- iFi Official Website: ifi-audio.com

- iFi Support Page: (Check official website for specific support contact information)

Related Documents

	iFi ZEN CAN Studio Headphone Amplifier User Guide Comprehensive user guide for the iFi ZEN CAN Studio balanced headphone amplifier, detailing its features, connections, specifications, and operation.
	iFi ZEN DAC: Hi-Res DAC and Headphone Amplifier - Features & Specifications Discover the iFi ZEN DAC, an upgraded hi-res DAC and headphone amplifier offering exceptional audio quality, versatile connectivity, and advanced features like MQA decoding and TrueBass. Explore its specifications and benefits for music enthusiasts.
	iFi ZEN CAN Quick Start Guide: Setup and Features A concise guide to setting up and using the iFi ZEN CAN headphone amplifier, covering power, inputs, outputs, volume, gain, and EQ modes.
	iFi ZEN CAN Signature 6XX Headphone Amplifier User Manual Comprehensive user manual for the iFi ZEN CAN Signature 6XX balanced headphone amplifier, detailing features, connections, settings, and specifications.