Frequently Asked Questions about the Sound Blaster X7
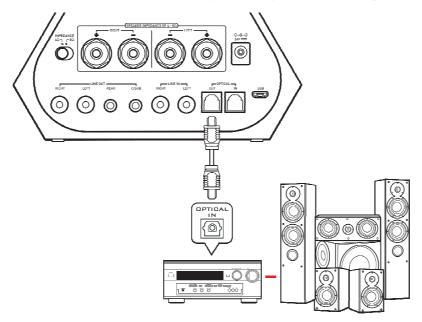
General

1. Why is the Sound Blaster X7 so light?
    The Sound Blaster X7 was designed with an external power adapter, as opposed to regular amplifiers with internal transformers, which greatly takes away the bulk and weight from the product itself. The combined weight of the Sound Blaster X7 unit together with the power adapter is approximately 1.1 kg. The Sound Blaster X7 was engineered and designed for power efficiency, heat management and component synergy, resulting in reduced overall weight. We also wanted to create a product with a small footprint that can easily placed next to a desktop computer or in a living room home audio setup.

2. How is heat being managed on the Sound Blaster X7?
    The Sound Blaster X7 uses an efficient power amplifier that only requires a small heat sink for heat dissipation. The Sound Blaster X7 also complies with ErP, the latest European Union Directive for energy management.

3. Do I need to upgrade to the **24V, 6A** high power adapter?
    The Sound Blaster X7 comes bundled with a **24V, 2.91A** power adapter, which should give you **20+20W – 27+27W** (into **8 ohms** speakers) and **35+35W – 38+38W** (into **4 ohms** speakers) in normal usage scenarios. Such output power is sufficient in an average room setup. You will only need an upgrade to the higher power adapter if you require more audio power.

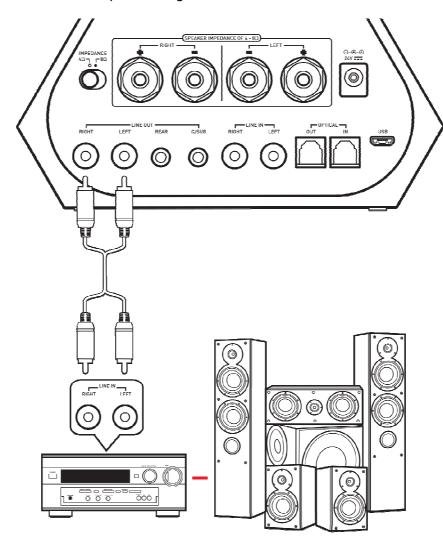## Connectivity to Audio/Video (AV) Systems

1. I currently have an AV system at home. How do I connect the Sound Blaster X7 to it?
    You can connect the Sound Blaster X7 to your home AV system via TOSLINK*. Connect one end of the TOSLINK cable to the "Optical Out" port of the Sound Blaster X7 and connect the other end to the "Optical In" port of the AV system.

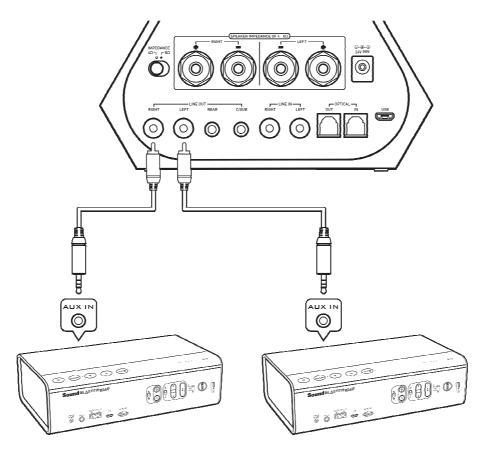   * The TOSLINK cable is available at AV outlets.

2. What if my current amplifier or AV system does not have an Optical-In, how do I connect the Sound Blaster X7 as a pre-amp?
You may connect the Sound Blaster X7 via the Front Left/Right RCA Line Out to the Aux-In/Line-In of the amplifier using an RCA-to-RCA stereo cable.

Connectivity to Speakers

1. Can I connect the Sound Blaster Roar to the Sound Blaster X7?
You may connect the Sound Blaster Roar to the Sound Blaster X7 by using an RCA-to-3.5mm stereo cable. Connect the RCA end to the Right & Left RCA Line-Out on the Sound Blaster X7, and then connect the 3.5mm stereo end to the "Aux In" jack on the Sound Blaster Roar.

2. Can I connect two Sound Blaster Roars to the Sound Blaster X7 in a Left-Left and Right-Right configuration?
You may connect the Sound Blaster X7 to Sound Blaster Roars using the following setup:
   a. Connect the Right SB Roar using a RCA Mono-to-3.5mm Stereo cable* with the RCA connector connected to the RCA Right Line Out of the Sound Blaster X7 and the 3.5mm stereo cable to the Aux In of the Right SB Roar.
   b. Connect the Left SB Roar using another RCA Mono-to-3.5mm Stereo cable with the RCA connector connected to the RCA Left Line Out of the Sound Blaster X7 and the 3.5mm stereo cable to the Aux In of the Left SB Roar.
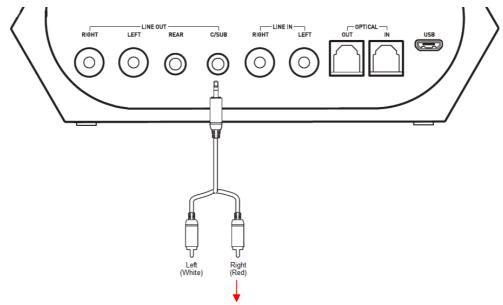
AUX IN

AUX IN

Sound BLASTER ROAR

Sound BLASTER ROAR

* The RCA Mono-to-3.5mm Stereo cable is available at AV outlets.

3.   If my speaker is rated 6 ohm, which impedance setting should I switch to?
We recommend switching to 4 ohm impedance for optimal performance.

4.   Which Creative speakers can be paired with the Sound Blaster X7?
There are various models of Creative speakers that are suitable for the Sound Blaster X7, depending on the needs of the user and their usage scenarios. For the best listening experience, we recommend top of the range Creative speakers to take advantage of the high SNR, Hi-Res audio capability of the Sound Blaster X7. The Sound Blaster X7 has a Line-Out and Optical-Out, therefore any speakers with these input ports will work with the Sound Blaster X7.

5.   Can I connect a passive subwoofer to the Sound Blaster X7?
No, the Sound Blaster X7 does not have a passive subwoofer output.

6.   Can I connect an active/powered subwoofer using the C/Sub line out on the Sound Blaster X7?
Yes, you may connect an active subwoofer to the Sound Blaster X7's C/Sub jack if your active subwoofer accepts line in subwoofer signal. Using a RCA-to-3.5mm stereo cable, connect the Stereo (3.5mm) end to the "C/Sub" jack at the back of the Sound Blaster X7, connect the Right (normally red) RCA cable to the RCA input on the subwoofer if it has one.
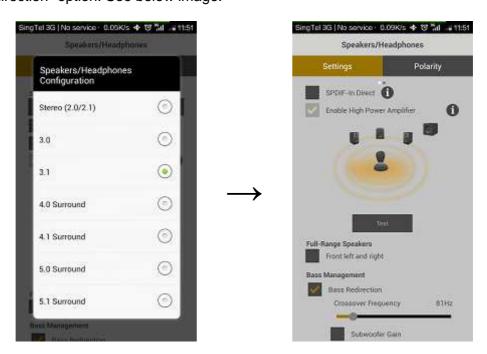
Subwoofers with non-RCA input will need additional adapters to complete the connection. These adapters are commonly available in most electrical/electronics stores.

Next, perform the following steps to redirect bass output to the subwoofer:

a. Launch the Sound Blaster X7 Control App (if Sound Blaster X7 is connected to mobile devices) or Sound Blaster X7 Control Panel software (if Sound Blaster X7 is connected to PC/Mac)

b. Go to "Speakers/Headphones" menu and change the "Speakers/Headphones Configuration" to "**3.1**".
After that, scroll down the Settings page and **uncheck** the "Front left and right" option under "Full-Range Speakers" and make sure to **check** the "Bass Redirection" option. See below image.

c. Once this is set, you should hear the bass coming out from the subwoofer.

7. Can I connect an active/powered subwoofer using the Left/Right line out on the Sound Blaster X7?
    Yes, you may connect an active subwoofer to the Sound Blaster X7's Front line out jack if your active subwoofer accepts line in signal and has a built-in cross over. Using a RCA-to-3.5mm stereo cable, connect the RCA end to the Left and Right RCA jacks at the back of the Sound Blaster X7, connect the 3.5mm stereo cable to the 3.5mm stereo input on the subwoofer. If the subwoofer has a RCA line input, use a RCA-to-RCA cable instead.

8. I have a 15 ohm speaker like the Rogers LS3/5A, can I connect it to the Sound Blaster X7 and will it have enough power?
    The Sound Blaster X7 supports 4-8 ohm passive speakers. Connecting a 15 ohm speaker will further reduce the power output of the Sound Blaster X7 by half. As such, it is not recommended to connect speakers that are of higher impedance than the supported 8 ohm specification.

9. Can I use the Optical-Out of the Sound Blaster X7 with the Creative T6 Series II?
    The Creative T6 Series II does not have an Optical input. As such, it cannot be used with the Optical Out of the Sound Blaster X7. However you can connect the Sound Blaster X7 to the T6 Series II using a standard RCA-to-3.5mm stereo cable via the Front Line-Out and Aux-In of the T6 Series II.

10. Can I connect more than 2 passive speakers to the Sound Blaster X7?
    The Sound Blaster X7 supports stereo, 2-channel audio output, and should only be connected to only 2 passive speakers at any one time.

11. Can I replace my current amplifier with the Sound Blaster X7 and use my existing speakers?
    There are a few factors to consider when replacing your existing amplifier with the Sound Blaster X7.
    i)   The current power output of your existing amplifier. Is it lower or higher than the Sound Blaster X7?
    ii) The purpose of replacing your current amp with the Sound Blaster X7.
    iii) The connectivity options of your current amplifier compared to the Sound Blaster X7.
    iv) Features that is available on Sound Blaster X7 but not available on your existing amplifier.

    We recommend that you contact our Customer Service for further enquiries.

Connectivity to Players

1. How do I connect my iPod to the Sound Blaster X7?
    There are 3 ways you can connect an iPod to the Sound Blaster X7. You can connect any iPod through the Line In on the Sound Blaster X7 using the included 3.5 mm stereo-to-RCA cable. For current generation iPods, you may connect via Bluetooth or the USB Host port using the lightning connector bundled with your iPod.

2. What devices can be played back via the USB Host?
    The Sound Blaster X7 USB Host works with:
    - iOS devices using Lightning connector (iPhone 6, iPhone 5S, iPhone 5C, iPhone 5, iPad Air, iPad mini with Retina display, iPad mini and iPod touch (5th generation), iPod nano (7th generation))

- Android devices (Samsung Galaxy S5, S4, Note 3, Note 2; Google Nexus 5, Nexus 7; Sony Xperia Z Ultra; Xiaomi Redmi, Redmi Note, Mi 3; LG G2)

Connectivity to Consoles

1. How do I connect gaming consoles such as PS4 and Xbox One to the Sound Blaster X7?
    You can connect gaming consoles to Sound Blaster X7 if your console has an optical out jack. Use an optical cable (available in AV outlets) to connect the optical out of the console to the optical in of the Sound Blaster X7.

2. How do I use my headset that is connected to a console through Sound Blaster X7?
    PS4 and XBox One are unable to use the Sound Blaster X7 through USB as our device topology is too complex for the console's USB audio driver. Since the USB path is not usable with consoles, the microphone input from the console cannot output through the Sound Blaster X7.

Format Support

1. Why is there no HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) support?
    Most HDMI-capable devices only have one HDMI output port for both audio and video. Using an optical connection for audio from these devices will be the best option to maintain compatibility and performance.

2. Does the Sound Blaster X7 support DTS decoding?
    The majority of modern content-centric devices such as TVs, Blu-Ray players, game consoles and power amplifiers already support DTS decoding. There is no DTS decoding support on the Sound Blaster X7 as such decoding is better handled by these devices.

Audio

1. Is the optical connection a pass-through, or can the Sound Blaster X7 still enhance the audio?
    No. The optical input on the Sound Blaster X7 allows for SBX processing through the SB-Axx1 DSP.

2. Can I by pass additional audio processing for my high quality lossless files?
    Yes. You have to enable the Direct Mode option under the "Speakers/Headphones" menu on the Sound Blaster X7 Control Panel software or Sound Blaster X7 Control app.

3. What is SBX Pro Studio?
    SBX Pro Studio is a suite of audio enhancement technologies powered by the SB-Axx1 multi-core audio processor. It offers a range of audio processing capabilities such as the Surround, Crystalizer, Bass, Smart Volume and Dialog Plus features which help restore lost details in lossy compressed audio and enhance game and movie experience.

4. When should I turn on SBX Pro Studio?

It is purely a personal preference. In the case of lossless audio for music, there is no loss of details and therefore no need for SBX Pro Studio enhancements. Purist audiophiles usually do not like additional audio processing (or coloration) and prefer to listen to their lossless high-resolution audio raw and unprocessed.

However, SBX Pro Studio can still be customized to enhance audio to suit individual tastes. SBX Pro Studio is great for enhancing your experience for movies and games.

5.   What happens if I play all my audio sources together - like TV source (via Optical-in, PC/Mac via USB, Smartphone via Bluetooth), will the Sound Blaster X7 output everything simultaneously?
Yes. The Sound Blaster X7 will output any source that is connected to it for ease of use. In a common usage scenario, users would typically play and listen from a single source. If there is a need to play from multiple sources, sound will still be played from these sources without the need for additional mixing. Users can choose to mute individual sources using the Sound Blaster X7 Control Panel software or the Sound Blaster X7 Control app under the "Mixer" menu.

6.   I use Tidal and high quality music streaming services. How can I best use it on Sound Blaster X7?
Tidal is a software solution for mobile, tablet, desktop and network players. For the best high resolution audio experience through the Sound Blaster X7, run Tidal on your PC/Mac via USB or on your smartphones/tablets via USB Host.

Headphones

1.   Can the Sound Blaster X7 support low impedance headphones that are <32 ohms?
The output impedance of the Sound Blaster X7 is 2.2 ohms. As a rule of thumb, to maintain the damping factor of 8, it will have no problems supporting headphones with impedance of 16 ohms or higher. For headphones below 16 ohms, it is recommended that you test it out with the Sound Blaster X7 to assess suitability as all headphones perform differently.

2.   What happens if I connect two headphones with different impedance to the Sound Blaster X7?
We do not recommend connecting two headphones with a wide impedance difference as they might not achieve the optimal output levels.

3.   What happens when I plug in my headphones, will the speakers be muted? Can the Sound Blaster X7 output to both speakers and headphones simultaneously?
Yes, the speakers will be muted. Manually connecting headphones will give it priority over speaker output. However, we offer the convenience and flexibility for users to switch between headphones and speaker output on the Sound Blaster X7 Control Panel software without unplugging the headphone.

No, headphones and speakers cannot output audio simultaneously through the Sound Blaster X7.

Microphones

1. Can I connect a microphone to the Sound Blaster X7 and use it for Karaoke?
   Yes, you can. There is a dedicated 3.5 mm mono microphone jack on the front of the Sound Blaster X7 for connecting dynamic microphones using a XLR-to-3.5 mm cable. Stream your audio from a computer, smart device, or media player and sing along!

Operational Amplifiers (Op-amps)

1. How do I replace the op-amps on the Sound Blaster X7?
   The Sound Blaster X7 comes with 2 pairs of swappable op-amps, which can be found at the bottom of the Sound Blaster X7 upon opening the op-amp compartment cover.

   The stock op-amps on the Sound Blaster X7 gives the most balanced performance in our objective and subjective tests, across a wide variety of music genres, and pairs very well with the superior Burr-Brown DAC (PCM1794). Although we do not see the mass need for users to change these op-amps, some may wish to experiment and swap the stock op-amps to suit their personal tastes.

   For more details, refer to http://bit.ly/1vUZ6Wt.

Remote control

1. How do I control the volume of the Sound Blaster X7 using my phone as a remote?
   You can control the Sound Blaster X7 volume on iOS and Android devices. Simply install the Sound Blaster X7 Control app and pair/connect your device with the Sound Blaster X7 via Bluetooth/USB Host. Adjust the Sound Blaster X7 volume from the dropdown menu.