

SoundBLASTER®

X3

HI-RES 7.1 SUPER X-FI® USB DAC WITH
HEADPHONE AMPLIFIER



EXPERIENCE GUIDE



INTRODUCING

SoundBLASTER®

X3

Introducing Sound Blaster's latest external sound card, Sound Blaster X3 is a high-resolution, 7.1 multi-channel DAC Amp with built-in Super X-Fi and 32-bit / 192 kHz playback capability. The DAC Amp also features customizable equalizers, Dolby Digital Live encoding, supports headphone impedance of up to 600Ω, and Audio Balance, our latest feature which allows users to attenuate volume between two audio sources by simply turning a knob.

In addition, with the award-winning Super X-Fi technology, which has bagged a total of 15 awards at CES 2019, capture the listening experience of a high-end multi-speaker system in a professional studio, and recreate the same expansive experience on headphones using complex algorithms and computationally intensive techniques to custom-fit audio for each individual, through a sophisticated Head and Ear-Mapping process. Super X-Fi has the ability to transform all movies and videos into full-fledged, cinematic audio experience, giving users the opportunity to experience the movie theater experience in the comfort of one's home.

Features and specifications aside, the X3 was designed and assembled with a large volume control knob, three distinctive physical buttons, and LED indicators to provide convenience, both visually and physically, as well as accessibility to end-users. The external sound card also features a microphone and headphone jack, plus an array of connectivity options on its back. Achieving pristine quality and an elevated audio experience has never been this easy.

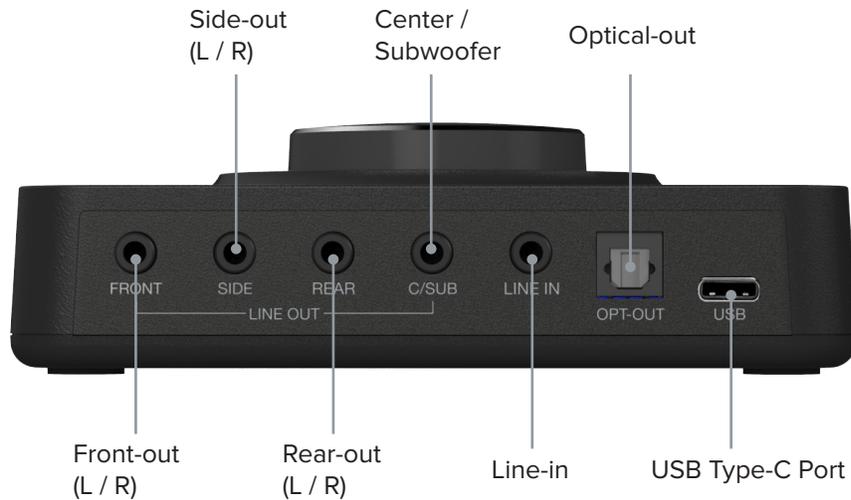
OVERVIEW

ARCHITECTURE, CONTROLS & CONNECTORS

i) FRONT



ii) BACK



SETTING UP YOUR PERSONALIZED SUPER X-FI PROFILE

Follow the steps below to set up a personalized Super X-Fi profile for a customized listening experience. This personalization needs to be done only once and can be completed in three simple steps.



STEP 1: DOWNLOAD SXFI APP

Download the SXFI App from the Google Play Store or App Store.



STEP 2: REGISTER AN ACCOUNT

Register your Super X-Fi account. This account can be used across all products with built-in Super X-Fi technology.

Note that this account is NOT your Creative Store account. It is a separate registration.



STEP 3: HEAD AND EAR-MAPPING

Go through a simple one-time capture of three pictures - right ear, face, and left ear.

Tips:

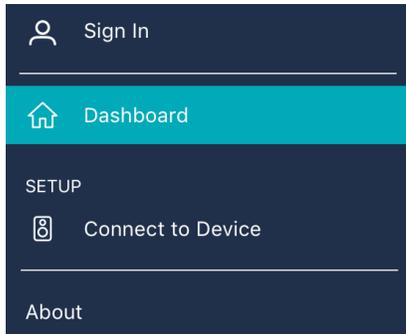
- Ask a friend to help capture the pictures!
- Also, be sure to hold your phone parallel to the ears when you capture the pictures (it should be held parallel to the ear as shown in the image above, not the head)

CONFIGURING SOUND BLASTER X3 WITH YOUR SUPER X-FI PROFILE

Transferring your personalized profile onto Sound Blaster X3 can be done effortlessly either through the Sound Blaster Command app on your mobile device or Sound Blaster Command, available for Windows / Mac.

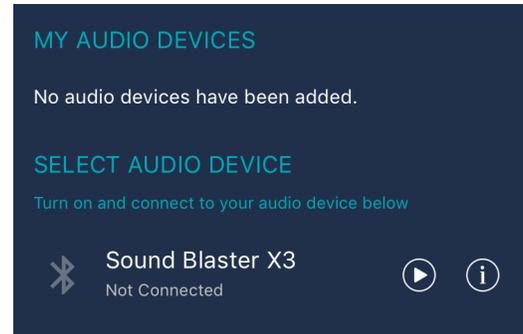
Follow the steps below to complete the setup guide to enjoy the magic of Headphone Holography.

FIRST-TIME USERS:



1. DOWNLOAD THE SOUND BLASTER COMMAND APP & ACCESS THE DASHBOARD

Launch the app and tap on the side menu located on the top left of the app. Tap on “Connect to Device” to configure your device. Alternatively, you may also tap on the blue bar at the bottom of the app to connect an Audio Device.



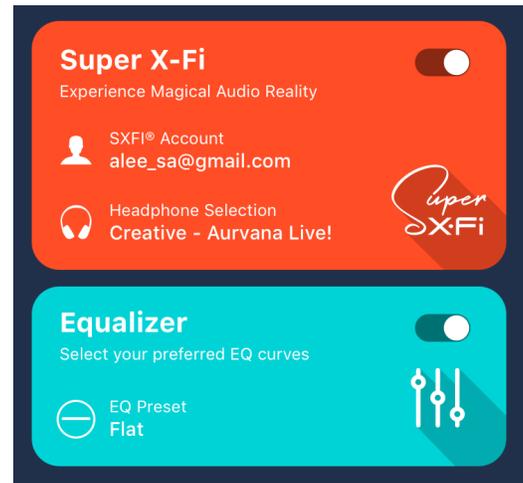
2. ADD AN AUDIO DEVICE BY PAIRING THE SOUND BLASTER X3

Turn your mobile device’s Bluetooth on and return to the app. Sound Blaster X3 will appear under the list of Audio Devices available. Tap on it to start pairing. A pop up will appear to confirm Application Pairing. Tap on “OK” to complete this step.



3. DOWNLOAD YOUR SUPER X-FI PROFILE TO THE SOUND BLASTER X3

1. Tap the button on screen to sign in to your Super X-Fi account. You may also complete this step later by tapping on the ‘Skip’ button.
2. A pop up will appear to prompt you to open the SXFI App. Tap on ‘OK’ to sign in to your profile. The SXFI App will then launch. Return to the Sound Blaster Command app after signing in to your account.
3. Your Super X-Fi profile will automatically download to the audio device. Upon completion, the pop up will close. Tap on the ‘Done’ button to complete the setup.
4. Your Super X-Fi profile has now been successfully downloaded onto the Sound Blaster X3.



4. ENHANCING SUPER X-FI EXPERIENCE ON THE SOUND BLASTER COMMAND APP

You may now remotely control the Sound Blaster X3 via your mobile device and further configure Super X-Fi by using the toggle buttons, update Super X-Fi profiles, or adjust the Equalizer settings on the dashboard to suit your audio needs.

KEY FEATURES

EXPERIENCING SUPER X-FI TECHNOLOGY

Imagine capturing the listening experience of a high-end multi-speaker system in a professional studio, and recreating the same expansive experience - with the original depth, detail, realism, and immersion – on headphones. By mapping the listener’s head and ear shapes, and transforming audio based on those parameters via Super X-Fi technology, users can now experience audio as though it is coming from outside the headphones.

Made possible with Super X-Fi computational audio, the technology uses complex algorithms and computationally intensive techniques to custom-fit audio, for every individual, through a sophisticated Head and Ear-Mapping process, and is achievable by simply taking three photos of the user’s face and ears with a mobile device. An Artificial Intelligence engine then uses complex algorithms to combine extracted head and ear features, the room’s acoustic map, and the targeted headphone dynamics for the optimal audio experience.

Since its debut, Super X-Fi technology has received rave reviews and has also garnered many awards, including 15 awards from CES 2019 alone.

MULTI-CHANNEL SURROUND SOUND

With Sound Blaster X3, experience greater surround sound envelopment, depth, immersion, and ambience effects with improved, realistic surround coverage within the room when you watch your favorite movies in the comfort of your own home. The external sound card offers discrete 7.1 channel output, which has the ability to deliver sharper spatial effects and impressive bass performance for a more realistic and engaging experience.

Enhancing more than just movies, the X3 also amply transforms the audio quality of music and games, bringing users the full circle of an augmented entertainment experience. The external sound card also integrates Dolby Digital Live encoding, presenting users the convenience of encoding any audio sources to multi-channel surround sound in real-time while transmitting data using only a single optical cable solution for decoding on a home theater system.



KEY FEATURES

AUDIO BALANCE AND REMOTE APP SUPPORT

Discover the sweet spot when striking a balance between two audio sources with the Audio Balance feature. Sound Blaster X3's Volume Control Knob allows users to attenuate the volume between SPDIF Interface and Line-out (Speaker), manage game audio / chat balance, as well as mix audio channels during conference calls while listening to audio tracks by simply turning the knob left to right, and vice versa. By default, the balance between both sources is set at 50% – SPDIF Interface and 50% – Line-out (Speaker). The balance can be reset easily by pressing the Volume Control Knob once, perfect for use during conference calls.

Also, Sound Blaster X3 has been given mobile app support, allowing users to download / manage SXFI profiles, customize EQs, remotely switch modes, perform software / firmware update, and more on the official **Sound Blaster Command** app. Skip the hassle of having to switch between PC and console, while managing the X3 on your mobile device through the use of Bluetooth Lower Energy (BLE). To download the app, visit the App Store for iOS devices or Google Play Store for Android devices.

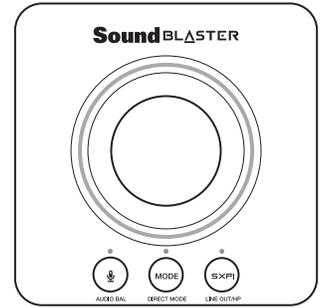
INDUSTRY-LEADING AUDIO PROCESSING

Developed and refined with over 30 years of experience in the audio processing & enhancement industry, Sound Blaster X3 incorporates the latest versions of our leading audio processing effects and algorithms to achieve crystal clear vocal reproduction and in-game voice communication enhancements for movies, music and games.

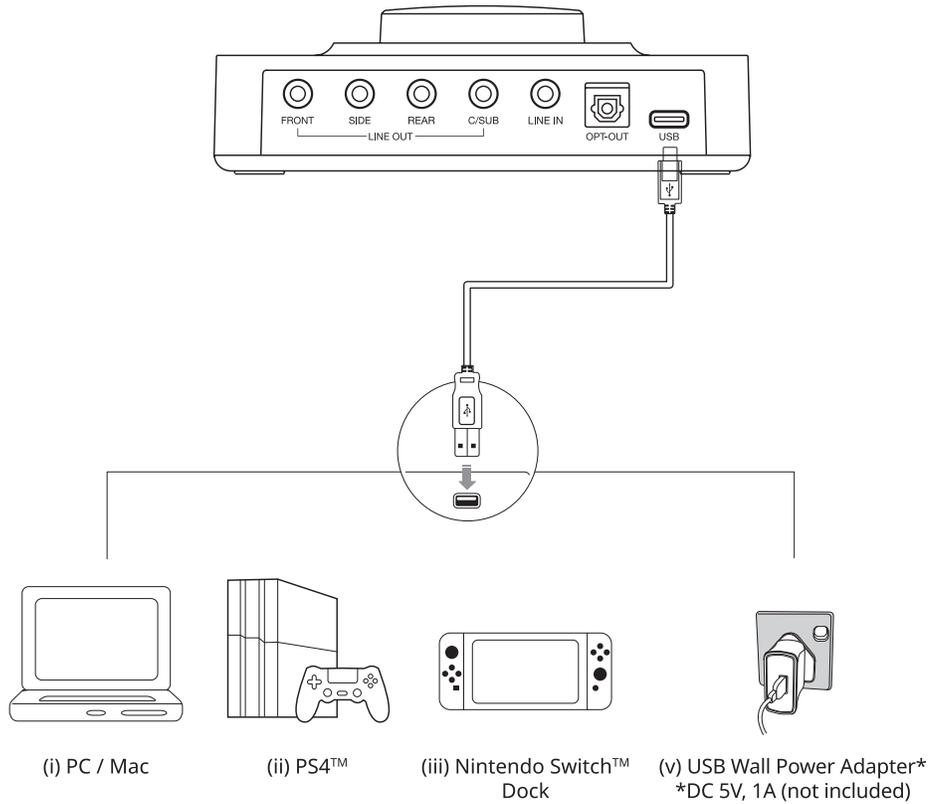
The sound card also includes Sound Blaster's Surround virtualization technology that can be fully customized entirely towards the needs of each user and three built-in EQ presets to enhance their audio experience. Additionally, users may also further customize and assign their personalized EQs to any of the built-in EQ slots through the Sound Blaster Command software or mobile app to better suit their preferences.

PRISTINE AND DETAILED AUDIO QUALITY

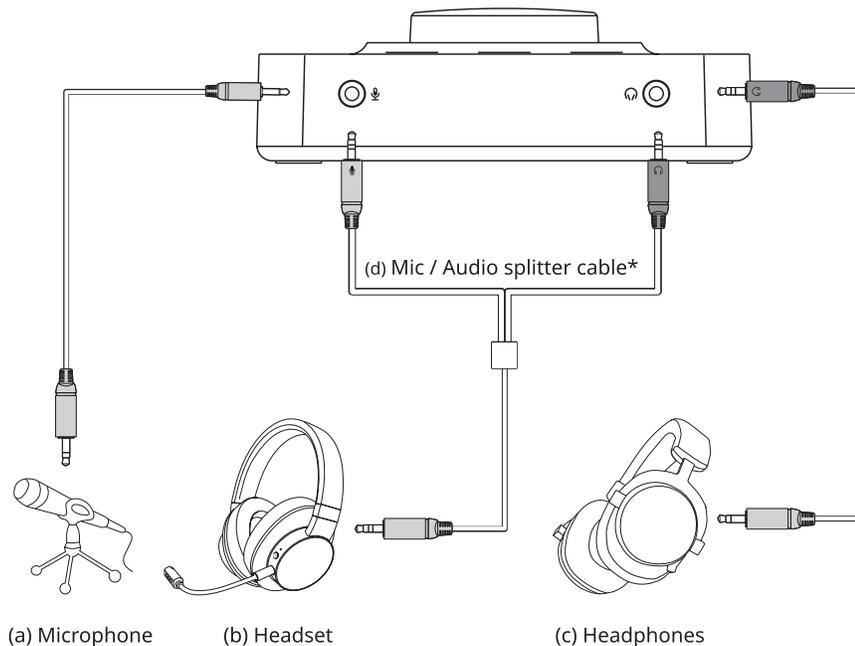
Sound Blaster X3 is not only the first Sound Blaster DAC Amp to incorporate Super X-Fi technology, but it also delivers pristine and detailed audio, offering users more than just a motherboard audio upgrade for desktops. The DAC Amp also provides audio enhancements for consoles, bringing users a richer movie, music, and gaming experience.



POWERING SOUND BLASTER X3

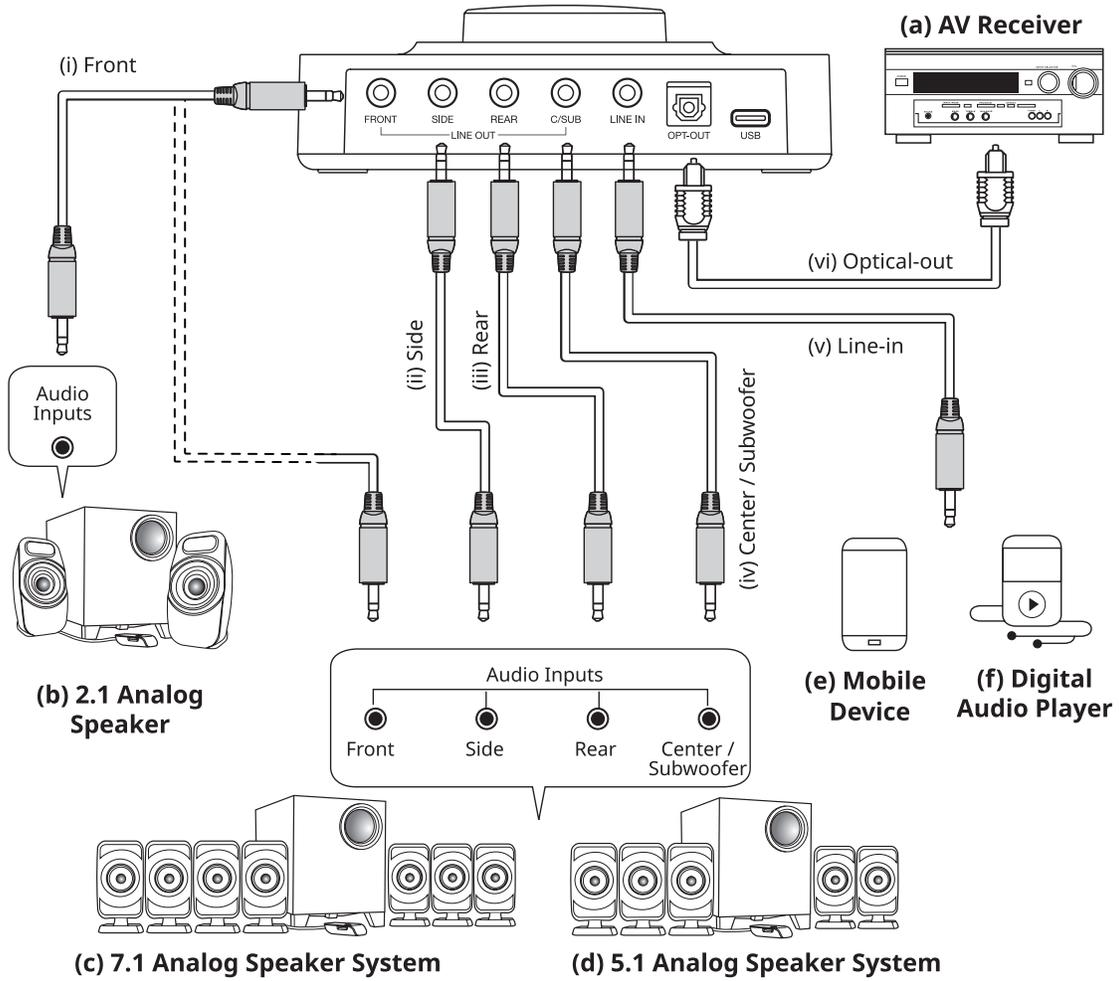


CONNECTING HEADPHONES, HEADSET AND MICROPHONE TO SOUND BLASTER X3



*Mic / Audio splitter cable not included

CONNECTING SPEAKERS AND OTHER PERIPHERALS TO SOUND BLASTER X3

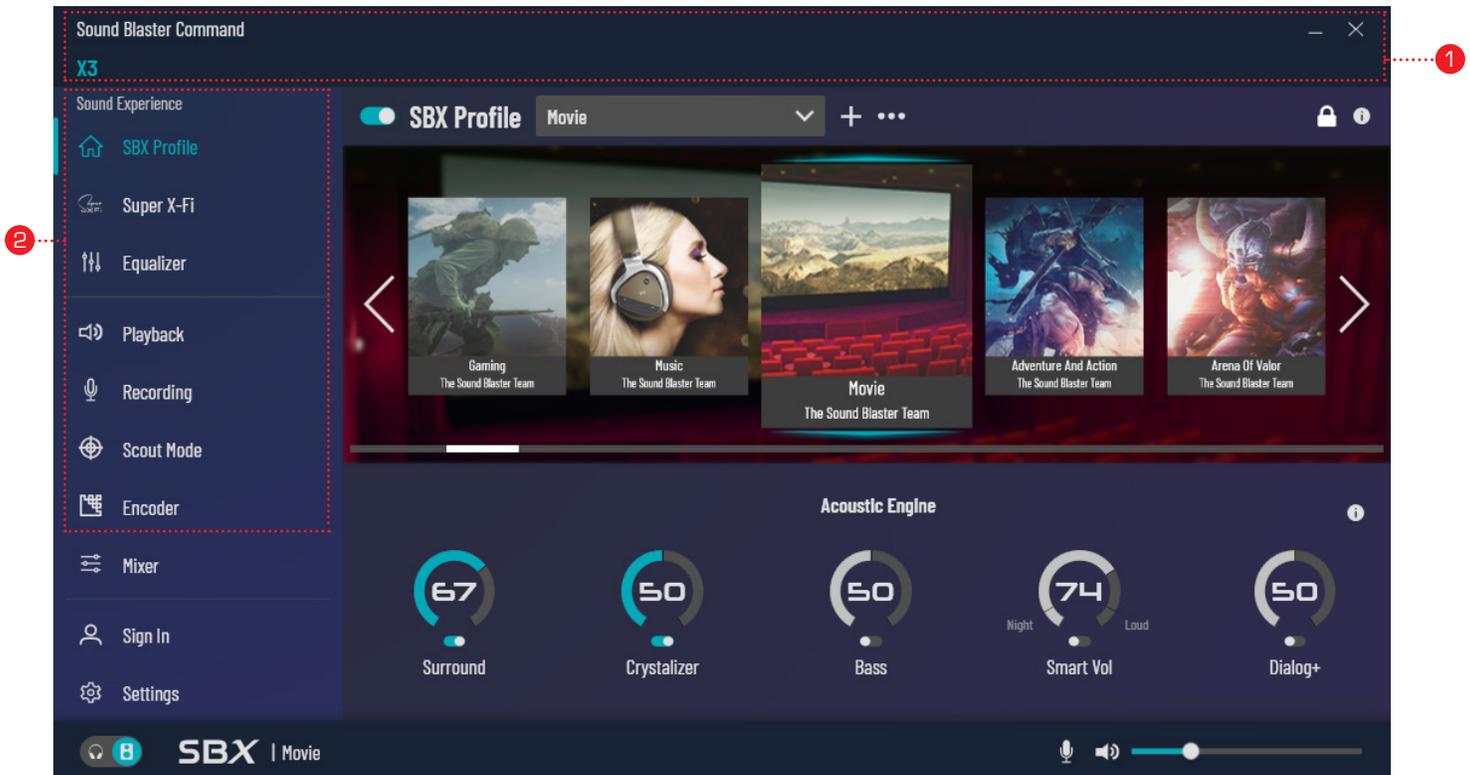


AUDIO ENHANCEMENT AND CUSTOMIZATION

SOUND BLASTER COMMAND FOR PC

Available for Windows®, the comprehensive and fully customizable **Sound Blaster Command** software offers users a complete control over their listening experience, from audio realism to immersive audio effects, all which will intelligently enhance how users perceive audio.

Visit creative.com/support/SBX3 to download.



1. Device Tab

Device(s) connected will be listed here. If there are multiple recognized devices connected, click on the tab to switch between devices for further customization and configuration.

2. Device's Dashboard Menu

The tabs displayed on the Dashboard Menu vary among devices. When switching between devices, the Dashboard Menu automatically updates to match the device's features and capabilities.

• SBX Profile

Switch between pre-tuned SBX audio profiles for your music, movies, and games or tweak EQ and Acoustic Engine effects such as Surround, Crystalizer, Bass, Smart Volume, and Dialog+ on this tab.

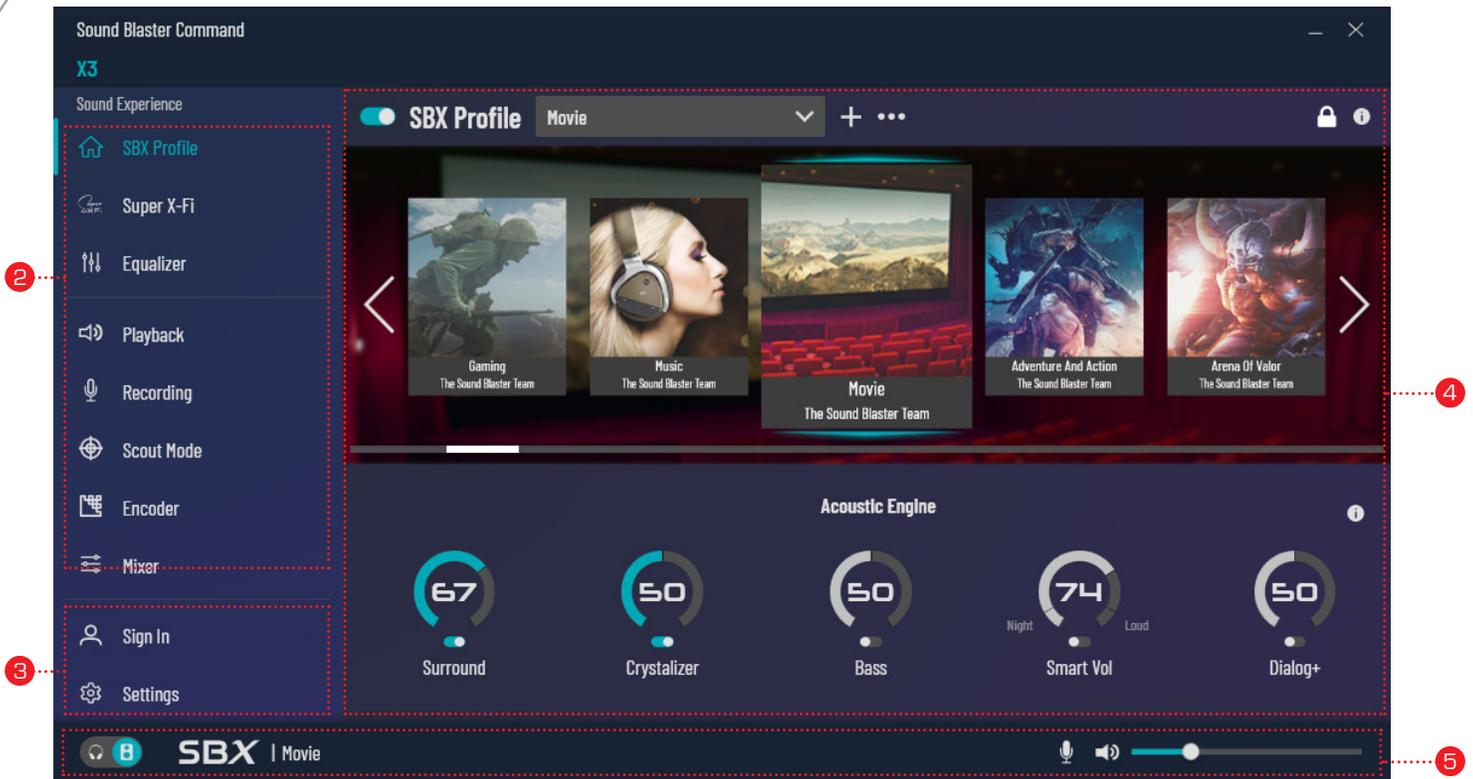
• Equalizer

Customize equalizer settings to fine-tune and personalize how audio sounds.

• Playback

Set up and configure your Speaker, Headphone, and Digital (SPDIF) outputs. Features such as playback resolution settings, switching between Direct Mode and DSP mode, calibration of speakers, selection of pre-tuned Headphone profiles, and testing of audio channels can be found here.

AUDIO ENHANCEMENT AND CUSTOMIZATION



• Recording

Set up and configure input sources such as Microphone, AUX-in, SPDIF-in, and What U Hear. Microphone-specific controls include Input Volume, Mic Boost, as well as CrystalVoice, which offers Noise Reduction, Acoustic Echo Cancellation, Smart Volume, Voice Morph, recording resolution, and Mic EQ that will help to improve Microphone recording quality.

• Scout Mode

Set up Scout Mode to enhance important in-game audio cues. Allows you to hear your opponents from a distance, giving you a distinct tactical advantage during combat.

• Encoder

Allow users to output audio stream in either Dolby Digital Live or DTS Connect encoded format through the Optical-out port.

• Mixer

Adjust settings for Playback, Recording, and control Audio Balance here.

3. User's Account and Software Settings

Users may sign in to their Creative Account to Register Products and view Warranty Status.

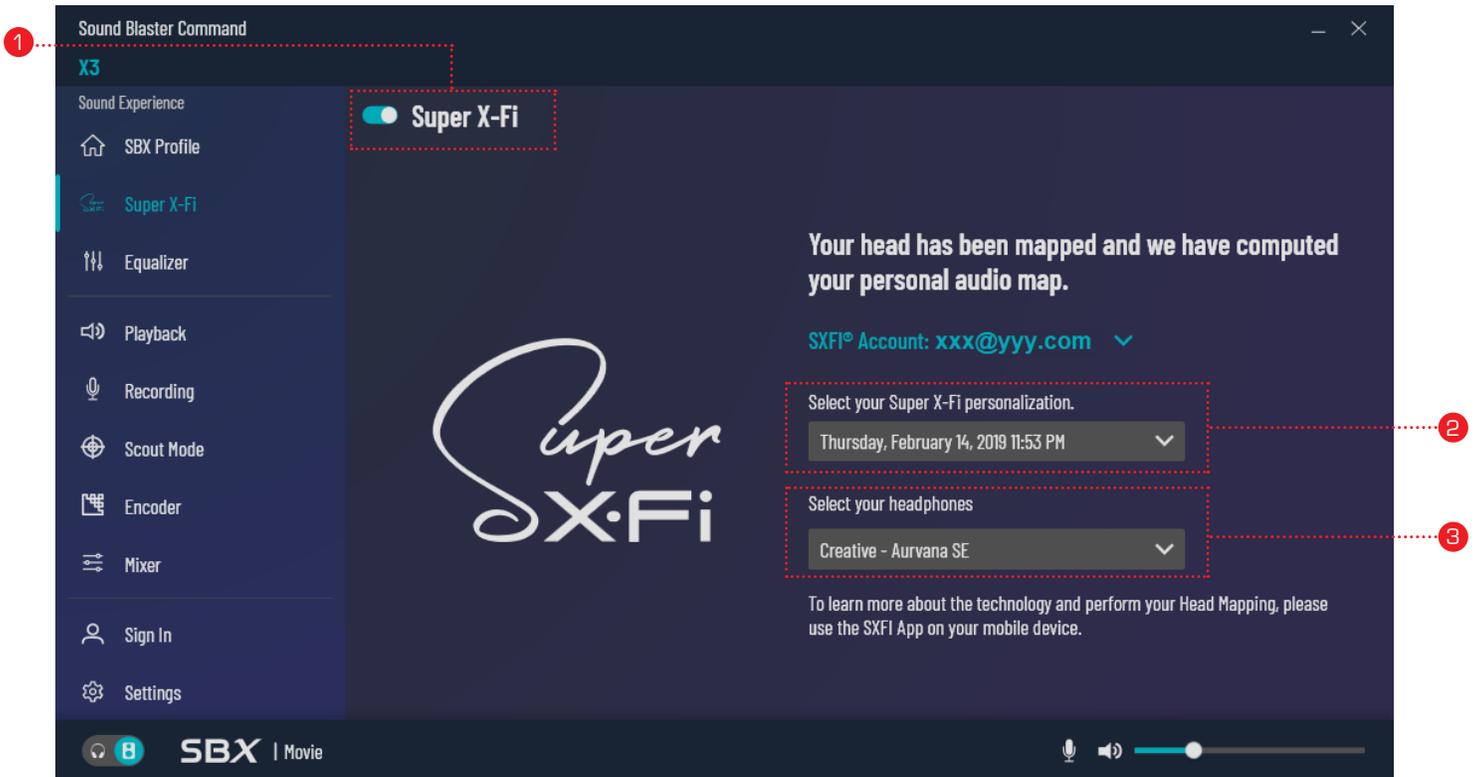
4. Dashboard

The dashboard displays a selection of SBX Profiles that can be accessed either by clicking on the drop-down menu or by leafing through. Further tuning, adjustments and customizations can also be conveniently accessed on the dashboard.

5. Device Status

This is the information bar that display the status of the device. Information such as output path (Headphone or Speaker), SBX status, Dolby Audio, or DTS Connect output, Microphone status and Speaker / Headphone Volume are displayed here. Click on the output switch to toggle between Speakers and Headphones. The highlighted icon, e.g. SBX Profile, demonstrates the current device's status. Users may also mute / unmute recording volume on a microphone as well as audio playback volume on the available slider bar.

SUPER X-Fi



1. Super X-Fi Toggle Button

Enable / disable Super X-Fi technology by clicking the toggle button.

2. Super X-Fi Profile Selection

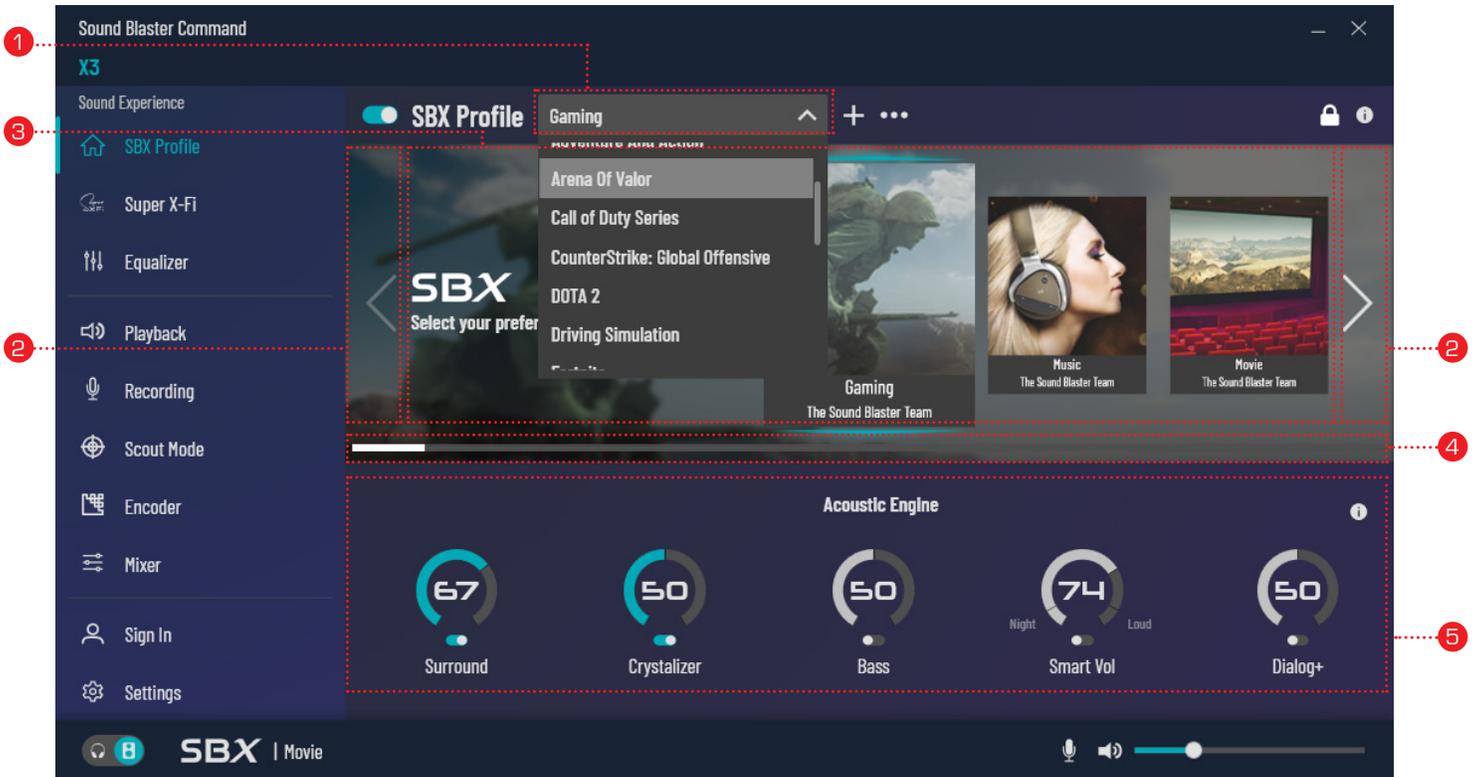
If more than one profile is tagged to your registered account, click on the drop-down menu to select your preferred choice of personalized profile.

3. Headphones Selection

Click on the drop-down menu to access a list of headphones certified for use with Super X-Fi. Select the brand and model of headphones in use, if available, for the optimal Super X-Fi experience.

AUDIO ENHANCEMENT AND CUSTOMIZATION

SBX PROFILE



1. SBX Profile Drop-down Menu

On the SBX Profile tab, click on SBX Profile's drop-down menu to access a list of available SBX profiles to apply to your device:

- To create a new profile, click on the + button
- To revert / rename / delete new profiles made, click on the ... button

Note: Pre-tuned SBX profiles, with their respective Equalizer and Acoustic Engine settings, cannot be deleted and can only be reverted back to default settings.

2. Profile Scrolling

Users may select a different profile by clicking the left / right arrow to select previous / next profile.

3. SBX Profiles

A total of **five** illustrated profiles will be shown on the dashboard each time for ease of accessibility. Selected SBX profile will be highlighted and displayed in the middle. The highlighted profile will then be applied to the device in use.

4. Scroll Bar

Users may click and drag on the Scroll Bar to fast scroll between SBX profiles.

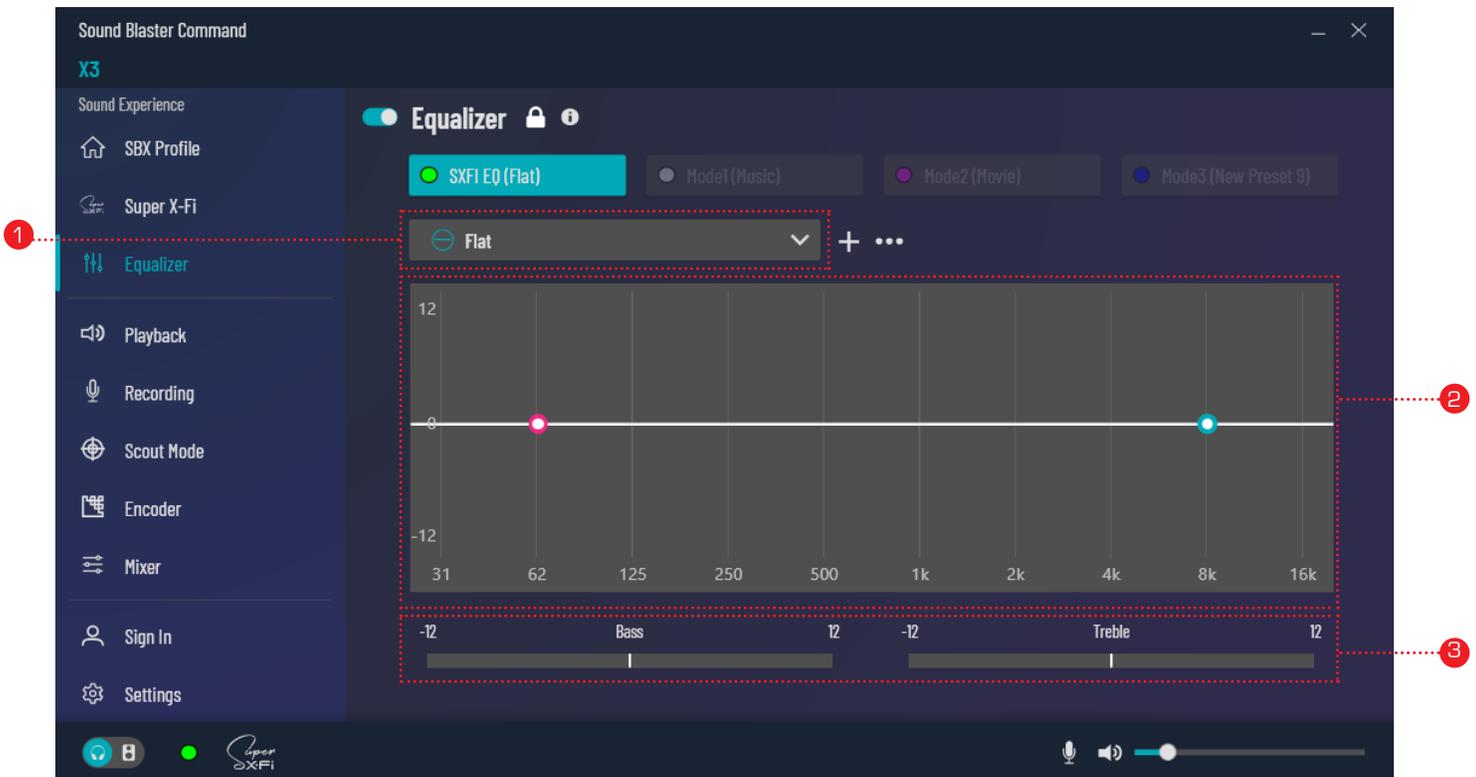
5. Acoustic Engine

Click on the toggle button to turn on / off each of the Acoustic Engine parameters such as Surround, Crystalizer, Bass, Smart Vol and Dialog+. Users may click and drag on the dial to change each parameter's values individually. Users may also click on the (i) button for more info.

Bass is only available when in Stereo Speaker or Headphone-out mode. Additionally, users may also set Bass Redirection and Crossover Frequency under Speaker Configuration window while in 5.1 Speaker configuration.

AUDIO ENHANCEMENT AND CUSTOMIZATION

EQUALIZER



Users may change, edit and / or customize the balance of frequencies by clicking on the Equalizer tab.

1. **Equalizer Preset Selection:** Click on the drop-down menu to switch between available equalizer presets. To create a new Equalizer preset, click on the + button. To revert/rename/delete new profiles made, click on the ... button.

Note: Default profiles that have their Equalizer settings edited cannot be deleted and can only be reverted back to default settings. Presets created by users can only be renamed or deleted.

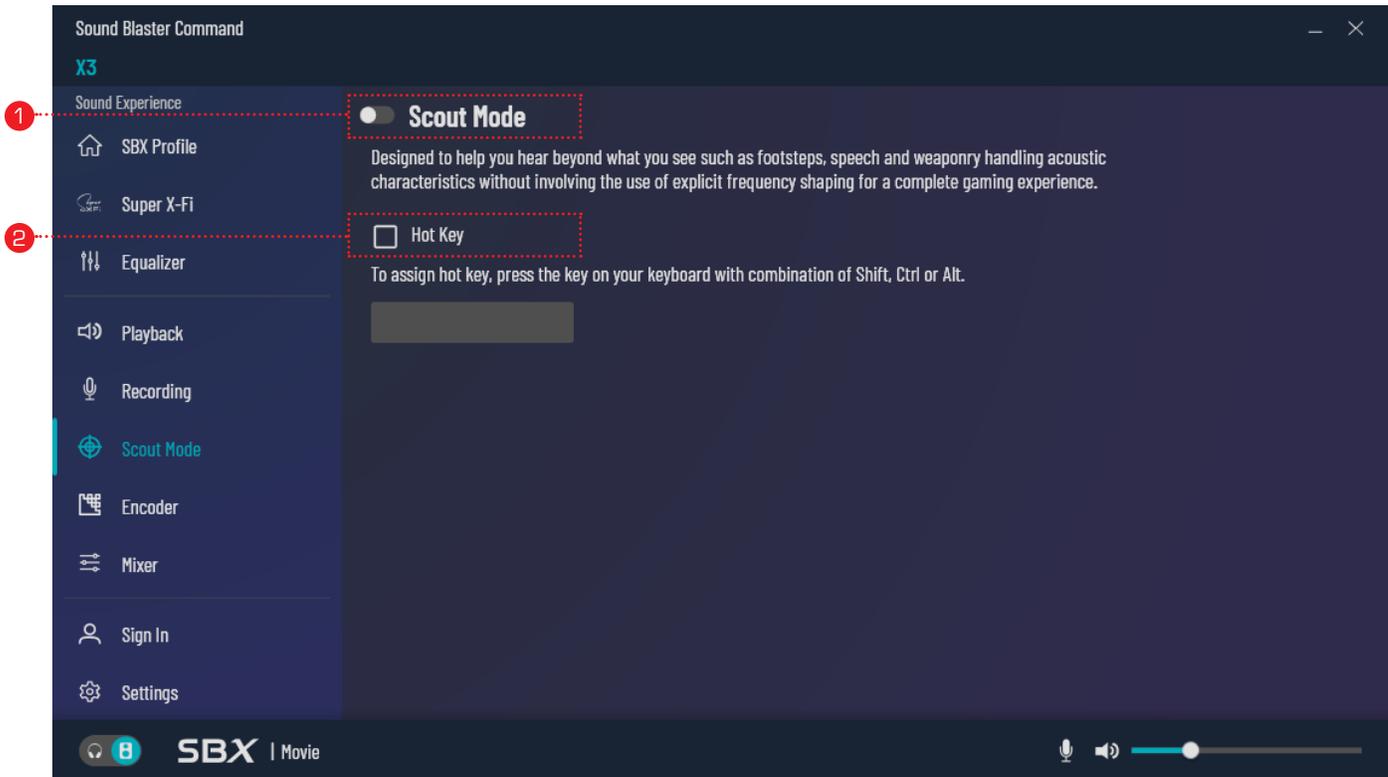
2. **Graphic EQ:** When hovering over the EQ's canvas, the cursor will switch to a pen. Click and draw across the EQ canvas to create a new EQ effect. To fine-tune the effect, simply drag the cursor up / down on each band.
3. **Bass & Treble Slider:** Users may adjust the bass and treble level by clicking and dragging on the respective bars. Any changes made to the Bass / Treble values will be reflected on the EQ's pop-up window as shown in the illustration above.

EQ effects are applied to the device in use, in real-time. Users may click on the close button at top right of the EQ window to close the pop-up.

AUDIO ENHANCEMENT AND CUSTOMIZATION

SCOUT MODE

Scout Mode enhances important in-game audio cues – such as footsteps and weapon switching sounds – allowing you to quickly and accurately pinpoint your opponent’s location, giving you a distinct tactical advantage during combat.



1. Turn on / off Scout Mode by clicking the toggle button. Turning on / off Scout Mode by using Hot Key is also supported.
2. Click on the check box to activate /deactivate the use of Hot Key for Scout Mode. Thereafter, click on the key assignment field and press your desired key on the keyboard (accompanied with "Alt", "Ctrl" or "Shift") to assign a Hot Key for Scout Mode.

SOUND BLASTER X3 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Model	Sound Blaster X3
GENERAL	
Audio Processor	Super X-Fi UltraDSP
Connectivity	1 x 1/8" Front-out Jack 1 x 1/8" Rear-out Jack 1 x 1/8" Center / Subwoofer-out 1 x 1/8" Side-out Jack 1 x TOSLINK Optical-out 1 x 1/8" Headphone Jack 1 x 1/8" Ext. Mic-in Jack 1 x 1/8" Line-in Jack 1 x USB Type-C port for PC / Mac
SNR for Playback	115 dB
Maximum Playback Quality	32-bit / 192 kHz
Headphones Supported	32 – 600Ω
Key Features	Super X-Fi Technology, 115 dB DNR / SNR, 32-bit / 192 kHz Hi-res DAC, 7.1 Discrete Channel Output, Dolby Digital Live Encoding, Sound Blaster Acoustic Engine, Audio Balance
SOFTWARE	
Downloadable Software	Sound Blaster Command (For Windows®)
Audio Enhancement	Sound Blaster Acoustic Engine, Scout Mode, CrystalVoice, Virtual 7.1 Surround

MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Windows® OS

- Intel® Core™ i3 or AMD® equivalent processor
- Intel, AMD, or 100% compatible motherboard
- Microsoft® Windows 10 32 / 64-bit, Windows 8.1 / 8.0 32 / 64-bit, Windows 7 32 / 64-bit
- 1 GB RAM
- > 600 MB of free hard disk space
- USB 2.0 / USB 3.0 port

Mac® OS

- Mac OS X® 10.9 or higher
- 1 GB RAM
- USB 2.0 / USB 3.0 port

PS4

- Firmware Version 5.0 or later
- Available USB port
- Available Optical Out port (for Dolby Digital decoding)

Nintendo Switch

- Switch OS 5.0 or later
- Available 3.5 mm headphone port
- Available USB port (in docking mode)
- External USB Power (not included)
- Voice communications is title dependent

Android[^]

- Android OS Version 7.0 or later
- Device must have built-in Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) support

iOS[^]

- iOS Version 11.0 or later
- Device must have built-in Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) support

[^] Used as a remote control for Sound Blaster X3 when connected to a PS4 / Nintendo Switch only. Does not support audio streaming via Bluetooth

Find out more: www.creative.com/SBX3