CREATIVE®

EXPERIENCE GUIDE



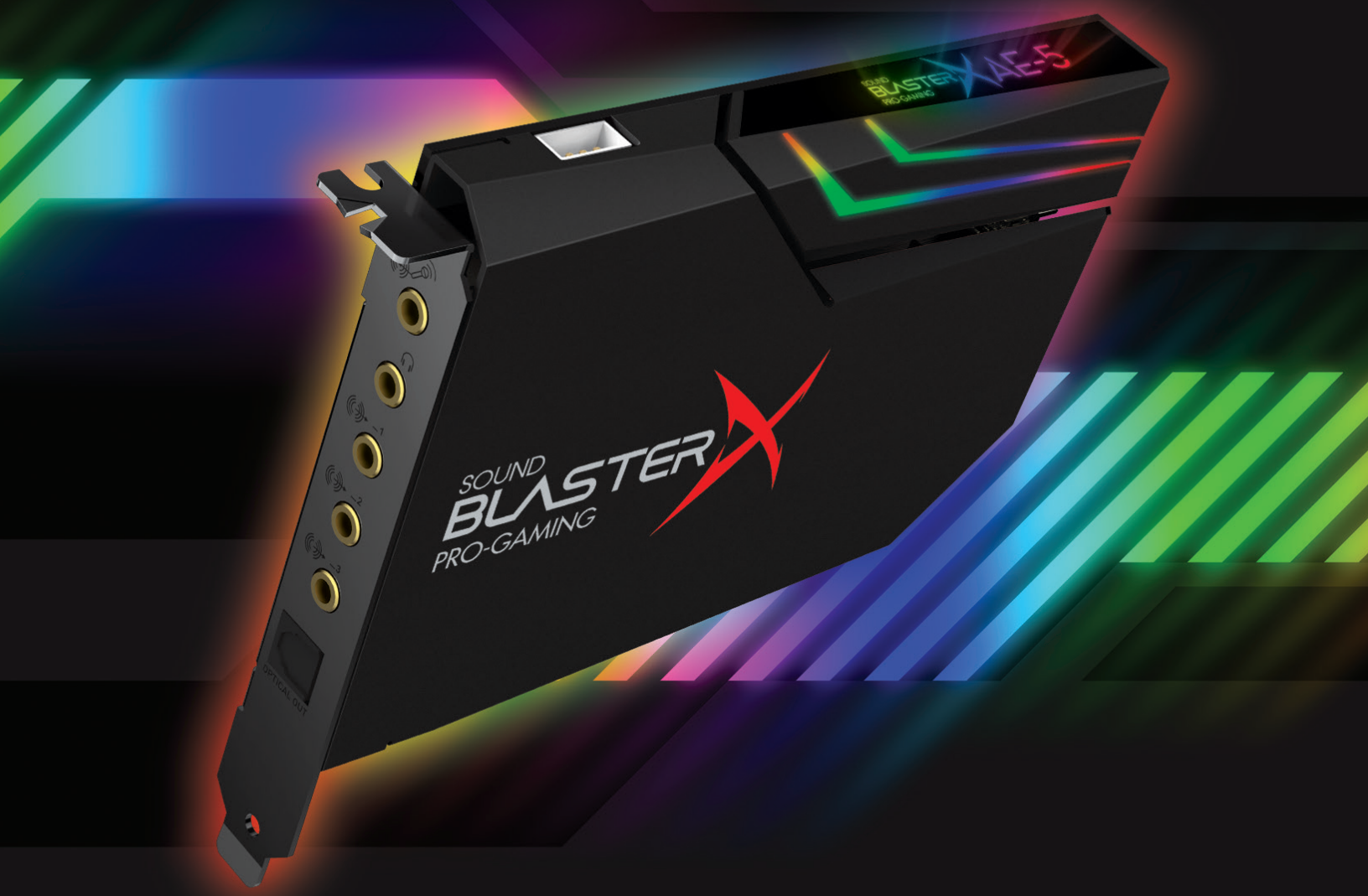
SOUND BLASTERX® AE-5

PCIe DAC WITH DISCRETE HEADPHONE AMP

INTRODUCING THE SOUND BLASTERX AE-5

Get the ultimate audio performance with the full force of a **122dB 32-bit/384kHz ESS Sabre™ DAC**, a kick-ass custom-designed **600Ω discrete headphone amp**, top-notch audiophile-grade components and proprietary Sound Blaster audio enhancement technologies.

The Sound BlasterX AE-5 upgrades your rig with **true lossless sound** and **brilliant light show**. The world's first sound card with **integrated RGB controller** lets you not only enjoy immersive, rich, precise sound in games, music and movies but also gives you unique control over the lighting effects in your PC case.



OVERVIEW

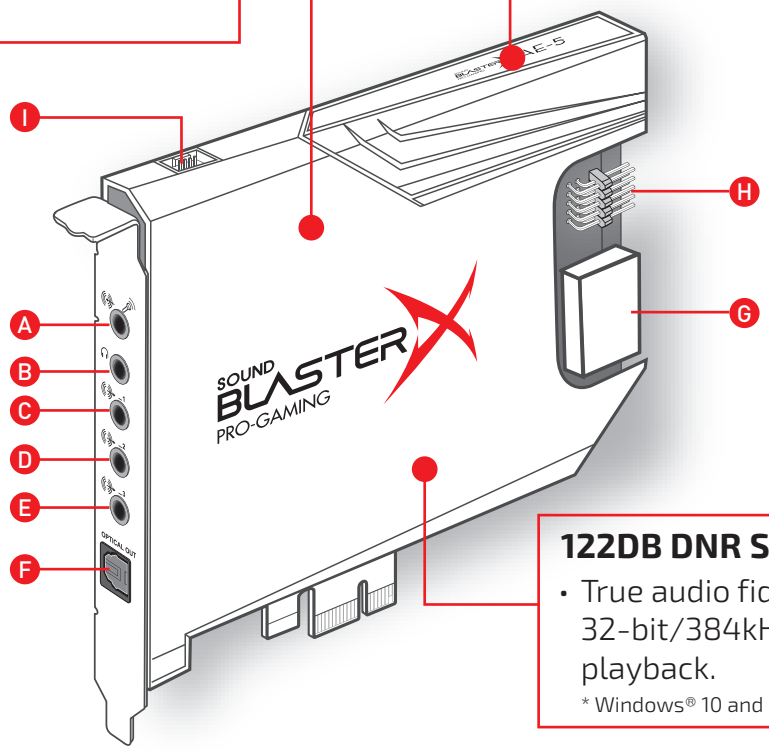
ARCHITECTURE & CONNECTORS

XAMP DISCRETE HEADPHONE AMP

- Discrete components in a dual-amp design amplify each audio channel individually for pristine audio
- Ultra low 1Ω output impedance drives 16-600 Ω headphones

AURORA REACTIVE LIGHTING SYSTEM

- Built-in RGB controller
- Fully programmable to create unique lighting effects up to 16.8 million colors



122DB DNR SABRE-CLASS DAC

- True audio fidelity with up to 32-bit/384kHz* hi-res lossless playback.

* Windows® 10 and above

A LINE IN / MIC IN
To a microphone, headset mic connector or line level audio source

B HEADPHONE
To a headphone/headset with 3-pole/4-pole plug

C FRONT (L/R)
To Front Left/Right inputs on powered analog speaker or AV receiver

D REAR (L/R)
To Rear Left/Right inputs on powered analog speakers or AV receiver

E CENTER / SUBWOOFER
To Center and Subwoofer inputs on powered analog speakers or AV receiver

F OPTICAL OUT
To recording device or amplifier with optical connectors

G POWER CONNECTOR
To peripheral power connector for RGB lighting

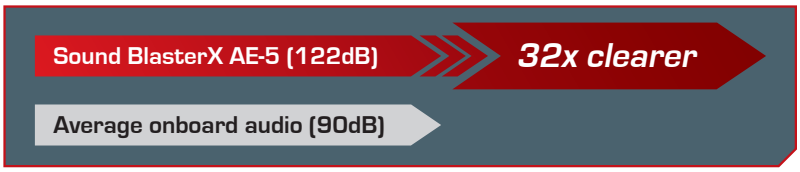
H FRONT PANEL HD AUDIO HEADER
To front panel Intel HD audio connector

I RGB HEADER
To LED strip via extension cable
Supports up to 4 LED strips

KEY FEATURES

122DB DNR SABRE-CLASS DAC

At the heart of the Sound BlasterX AE-5 sound card is a 122dB Sabre-Class DAC that instantly boosts regular motherboard audio with up to 32 times more clarity. This premium audiophile-grade component with its high dynamic range indulges users with up to 32-bit/384kHz* lossless playback and true audio fidelity for high-definition audio in games, movies and music.



* On Windows 10 and above

XAMP DISCRETE HEADPHONE AMP: TWO IS BETTER THAN ONE

The on-board headphone amplifier is custom-built using discrete transistors and audiophile-grade WIMA® film/foil capacitors in a dual-amp design to satisfy the most demanding needs of today's intense games and high-resolution audio.

Experience the difference of a discrete dual-amp design as each audio channel is individually amplified to deliver pristine, uncompromised audio. Plus, the high heat resistance of the German-made WIMA capacitors greatly reduces noise and audio interference. The Xamp's ultra low 1Ω output impedance also makes it perfectly capable of driving studio-grade headphones as well as sensitive in-ear monitors from 16Ω to 600Ω.

WORLD'S FIRST SOUND CARD WITH INTEGRATED RGB CONTROLLER

The Sound BlasterX AE-5 card is the first sound card to feature a built-in RGB controller – saving valuable space within a desktop for other components.

The RGB controller, powered by Creative's very own Aurora Reactive Lighting System, not only lights up the card through the PCB, but also gives gamers the flexibility to build their dream gaming rig by connecting up to four LED strips to match the awesome sound with an awesome light show. The fully customizable Aurora Reactive Lighting System allows users to choose from multiple presets or program it with up to 16.8 million colors and various rhythms to choose from, using the Sound Blaster Connect PC software.



KEY FEATURES

INDUSTRY LEADING AUDIO PROCESSING

Updated, refined and perfected through years of being the clear leader in sound processing, the AE-5 is feature-packed with the latest and greatest version of our award-winning audio processing and algorithms that improve music, movie and gaming experiences.

The quad-core Sound Core3D audio DSP and the legendary Sound Blaster technologies provide fully customizable DSP-powered audio enhancements, crystal-clear vocal reproduction, in-game voice communication enhancements, 7.1 virtual surround sound and other advanced audio technologies.

ALL NEW SCOUT 2.0

Step up your game with the world's first smart gaming companion that enables you to visualize and pinpoint your enemy's position in FPS games via a dedicated Scout Radar display on your mobile device.

Coupled with Scout Mode that lets you hear your enemies before you see them, the all-new Scout 2.0 is sure to give you that added winning edge on the battlefield.

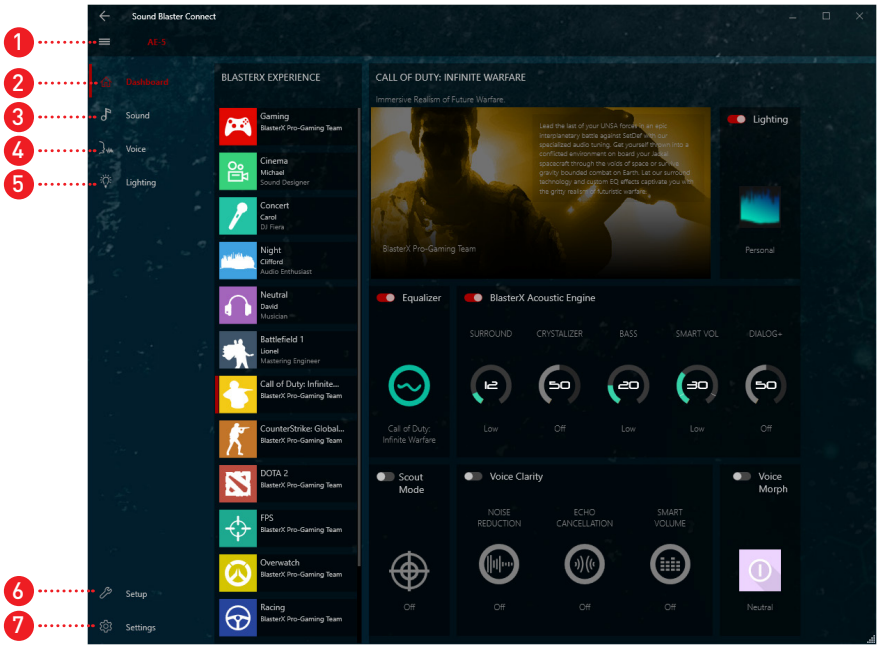
ENHANCING & CUSTOMIZING

SOUND BLASTER CONNECT FOR PC

Available for Windows®, the fully customizable Sound Blaster Connect software gives you complete control over your product. You can also tweak the lighting effects of your BlasterX product to create a neat gaming space.

Download at **www.creative.com/support/blasterx-ae5**.

OVERVIEW



1 OPEN/COLLAPSE MENU

Expand or minimize the side menu

2 DASHBOARD

Quick overview of audio and visual settings

3 SOUND

- Modify EQ setting
- Personalize audio settings
- Activate Scout Radar and Scout Mode

4 VOICE

- Improve voice clarity
- Have fun with voice morph

5 LIGHTING

- Choose or customize RGB lighting presets to match your mood and space

6 SETUP

- Select speaker configuration and type
- Calibrate speakers
- Enable playback/recording mixing

7 SETTINGS

- Change language settings
- Modify SB Connect settings
- Check for software updates
- Restore default setting

ENHANCING & CUSTOMIZING

DASHBOARD

An overview of all your audio and visual settings. View your current and frequently used settings, or quickly personalize them.

1 AUDIO/LIGHTING PROFILES

A selection of pre-configured audio/ lighting profiles optimized for most of your playback needs

2 CURRENT PROFILE

Current audio/lighting profile

3 LIGHTING SETTING

- Enable/disable lighting
- Modify lighting settings

4 EQ SETTING

- Enable/disable EQ
- Modify EQ settings

5 AUDIO SETTINGS

- Enable/disable audio enhancements
- Personalize audio settings

6 SCOUT MODE

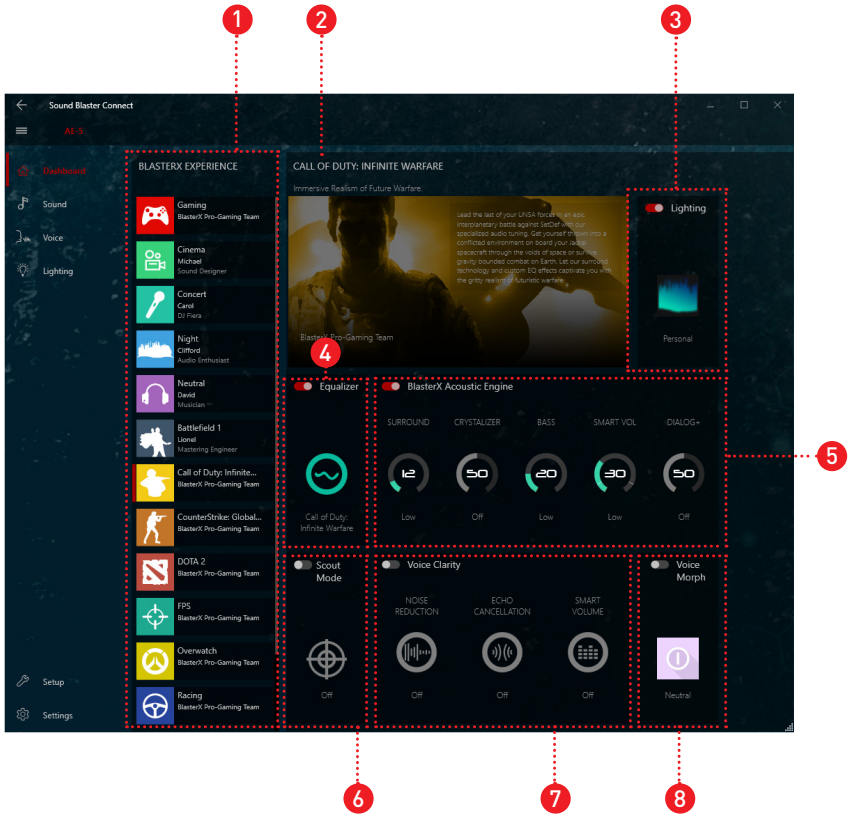
Enable/disable Scout Mode

7 VOICE CLARITY

- Enable/disable voice enhancements
- Modify voice settings

8 VOICE MORPH

- Enable/disable voice morph
- Select voice morph presets



ENHANCING & CUSTOMIZING

SOUND

Each preset profile can be further customized according to your acoustic preference for music, games a movies.

1. Equalizer

Select from a plethora of Equalizer presets to match your audio, or enhance the bass or treble to your liking with our graphic equalizer.

1 EQ PRESETS

Tap to view a list of preset EQs.

2 GRAPHIC EQ

Simply draw your preferred EQ wave across the frequency bands or adjust each frequency filter by sliding the points.

3 BASS

Slide to adjust the enhancement of bass sounds. More harmonic tones will be added the higher you go.

4 TREBLE

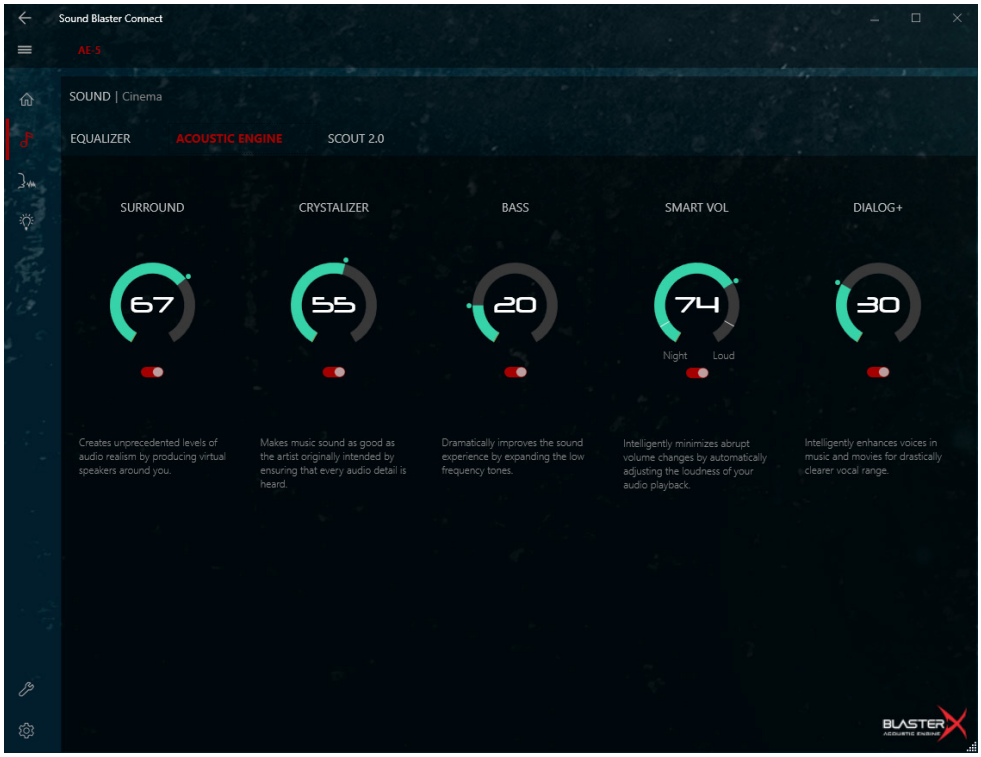
Slide to adjust the enhancement of high notes.



ENHANCING & CUSTOMIZING

2. Enhancement

Powered by BlasterX Acoustic Engine, enhance and tweak your auditory experience to perfection with intelligent controls.



Surround: Enjoy true-to-life audio with a natural sense of audio depth, spaciousness and surround effects from your content. Move the slider clockwise to widen the soundstage and increase immersion.

Crystalizer: Experience audio the way the artist intended by restoring audio details that were lost due to file compression. Move the slider clockwise to increase the amount of details restored.

Bass: Fill in low frequency tones for extra impact and a better entertainment experience. Move the slider to adjust the enhancement of bass sounds. More harmonic tones will be added the higher you go.

Smart Vol: Minimize abrupt volume changes. Choose to pump up the volume (Loud), or intelligently reduce loud burst of sounds for those late night sessions (Night). Move the slider to adjust the intensity.

Dialog+: Enhance voices in movies, music or games for clearer dialog. Hear the dialog over the rest of the soundtrack and ambient noise in your listening environment. Move the slider clockwise to add more focus on vocals.

ENHANCING & CUSTOMIZING

3. Scout 2.0

Visualize and pinpoint enemy's position via a dedicated **Scout Radar** display on your mobile device and hear your enemies before you see them with **Scout Mode**.

1 SCOUT RADAR

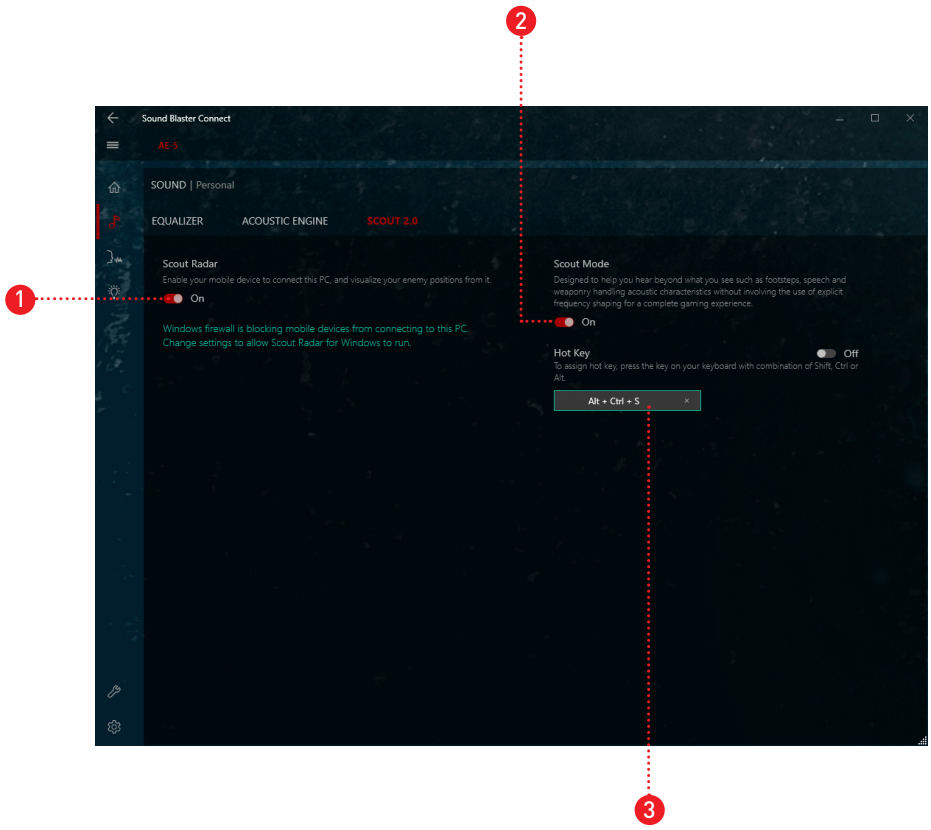
Enable Scout Radar

2 SCOUT MODE

Enable Scout Mode

3 SCOUT MODE

Configure hotkeys for turning on/off Scout Mode during game play



ENHANCING & CUSTOMIZING

VOICE

Improve your voice quality and inject fun into your in-game chats, broadcasts to Twitch, YouTube and other social media with voice enhancements.

1. Clarity

Powered by CrystalVoice, you can significantly reduce noise and echoes as you speak in real-time.

1 NOISE REDUCTION

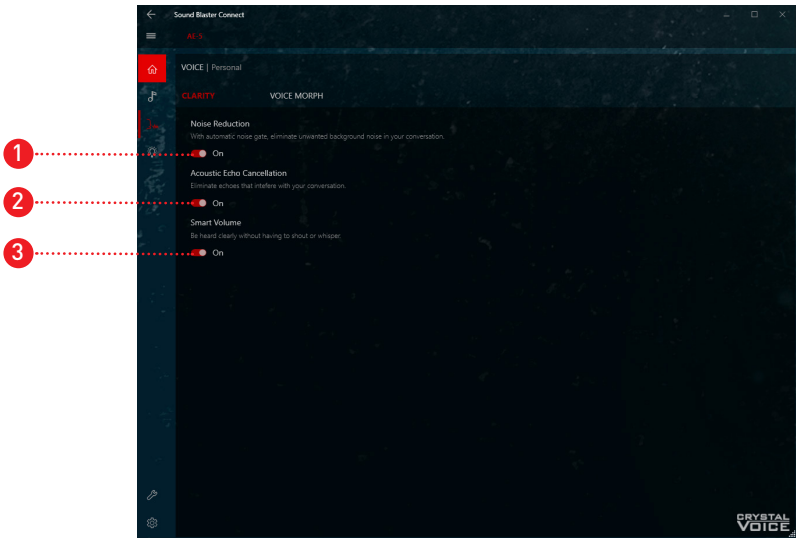
Eliminate unwanted background noise in conversations

2 ACOUSTIC ECHO CANCELLATION

Reduce echo to hear the other party clearly

3 SMART VOLUME

Turn on Smart Volume so you don't have to shout to be heard

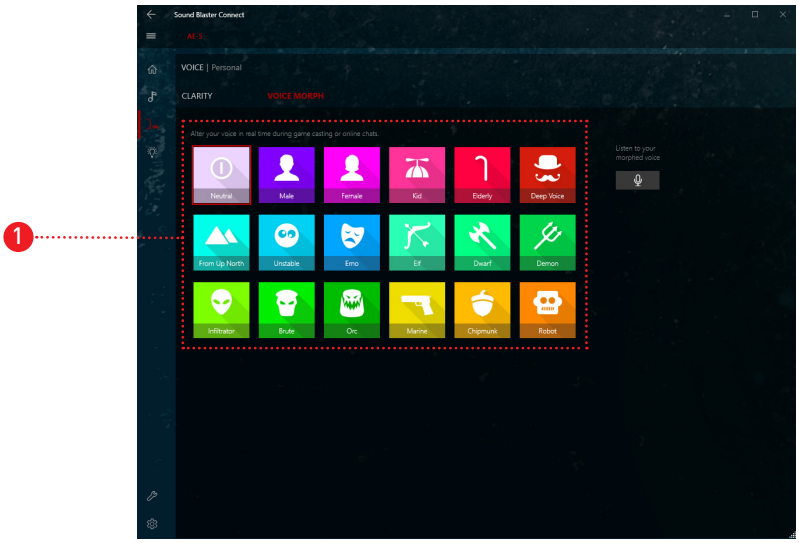


2. Voice Morph

Have fun changing your voice to different characters during game play, game casting or recordings.

1 VOICE MORPH PRESETS

Select one of the many Voice Morph options to enhance your tone or create interesting accents and sound like a completely different person



ENHANCING & CUSTOMIZING

LIGHTING

Choose or customize RGB lighting presets to match your mood and space.

1 LIGHTING PRESETS

Select a lighting preset. They have been specially tuned to match the equivalent audio presets

2 LOCATION

Enable/disable lighting on the AE-5 card logo or LED strip

3 NUMBER OF LEDS

Key in the total number of LEDs on the connected strip(s)

4 MOTION

Select a motion sequence for the lighting effect

5 DIRECTION

Select the direction of the light movement

6 SPEED

Slide to adjust the speed of light movement

7 COLOR

Select your favorite colors to match your gaming space



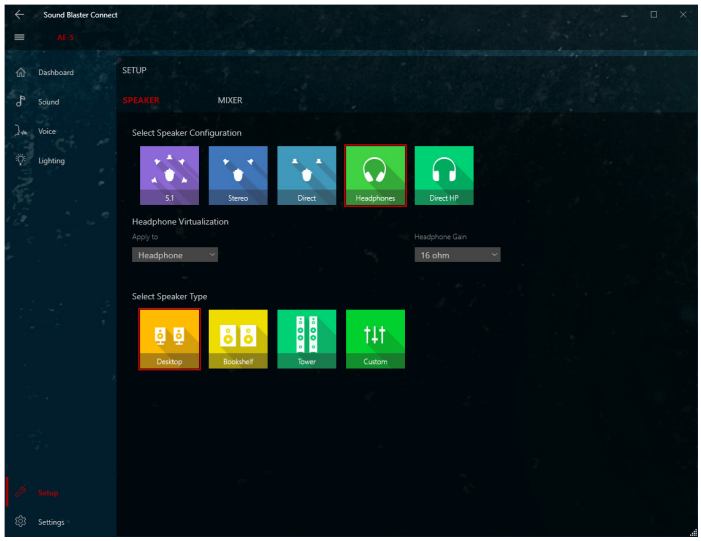
ENHANCING & CUSTOMIZING

SETUP

For the best listening experience, you can optimize the audio output to work with your audio device.

1. Speaker

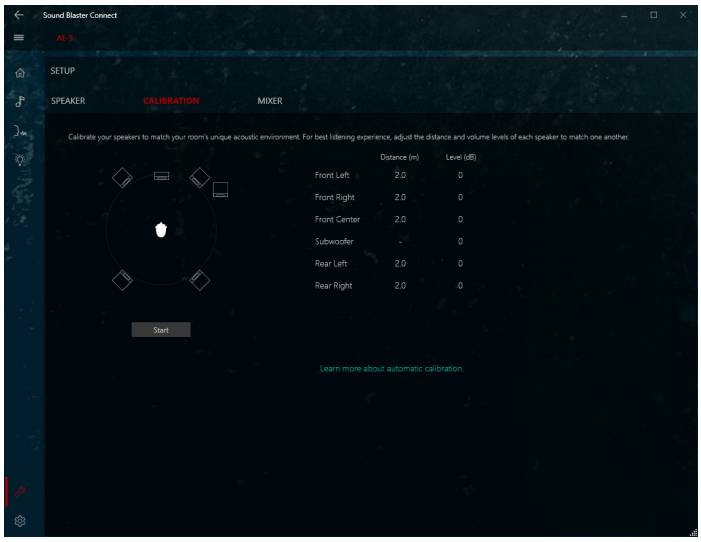
Set the audio output according to your connected speakers/headphones configuration and type. You can also set headphone or line out virtualization and headphone gain level.



2. Calibration

Because no two rooms are the same, Sound Blaster Connect can help you calibrate your speakers to match the unique acoustics of your room, so you always get the best audio possible.

For the best listening experience, adjust the distance and volume levels of each speaker to match one another.

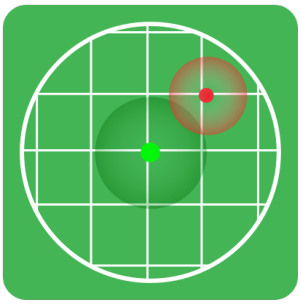


ENHANCING & CUSTOMIZING

SCOUT RADAR APP

Scout Radar transforms your mobile device into a radar display that reveals your enemy's location in real time. Now, besides hearing your enemies, you can actually visualize and pinpoint your enemy's position.

Install the free Scout Radar companion mobile app from the App Store® or Google Play™.





SPECIFICATIONS

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Audio/DSP Processor	Sound Core3D
Channels	5.1 discrete speaker out 7.1 virtual headphone surround
Interface	PCIe
DAC	ESS ES9016K2M SABRE^{32} Ultra DAC
• Max Playback Resolution	32-bit/384kHz
• DNR	122 dB
• THD + N	0.00032%
ADC	Sound Core3D
• Max Recording Resolution	24-bit/96kHz
Headphone Amp (600Ω)	Custom-designed discrete headphone amp (Xamp)
• SNR	116dB
• THD + N	0.0009%
• Output Impedance	1 Ω
• Headphone Impedance Range	16 – 600Ω
Connectivity	3 x 3.5mm Line Out (Front, Rear, Center/Sub)
	1 x TOSLINK Optical Out
	1 x 3.5mm Headphone Out
	1 x 3.5mm Mic/Line In
	1 x Intel HD Audio Front Panel



SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Intel® Core™ i3 or AMD® equivalent processor
- Intel, AMD or compatible motherboard
- Microsoft® Windows 7 and above
- 1GB RAM
- >600 MB of free hard disk space
- Available PCIe slot

Find out more
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