

## How to Identify Sound Blaster Accessories

Keywords / Key Phrases: Sound Blaster, accessory, accessories, I/O drive, Digital I/O module, IR Remote control, SPDIF, optical, coaxial, RCA, TOSLINK, stereo plug, 3.5mm audio plug, Type A USB, mini-USB, micro-USB, MIDI cable, AD\_EXT cable, AD\_LINK cable, Molex power cable, stereo array microphone, computer microphone

### Summary:

- ✓ **Applicable To:** All Soundblaster products
- ✓ This article shows you how to identify both standard and proprietary accessories available for the Sound Blaster. **Standard** accessories can be acquired from any electronics/AV store while **Proprietary** accessories can only be acquired through Creative.
- ✓ \* - Denotes EOSL (End of Service Life) accessories

### 1/4 inch or 6.5mm and 3.5mm stereo audio jack (**Standard**):

The 6.5mm Jack is normally used in AV equipment, while the 3.5mm is normally used in sound card via the Line-In or Speaker Out.



### RCA Audio cable (**Standard**):

RCA is normally found in standard TV and AV equipment. If the Sound Blaster offers an RCA connection, it can be connected directly by using the standard RCA male plugs at both ends. If the Sound Blaster offers a 3.5mm audio connector, you can use a split Y-cable (3.5mm-to RCA stereo plugs). For a 3.5mm female connector, you will need an additional 3.5mm stereo cable connected to it.



**MIDI cable (Standard):**

This connector is designed to connect to MIDI devices, such as MIDI keyboards and audio synthesizers.



**SPDIF Optical (Standard):**

This cable carries optical light to transmit signals. It is commonly found in AV equipment, gaming consoles and some Sound Blaster models. It is used for digital speakers or as a transmission medium for Dolby or DTS signal decoding. An Optical connector comes in either a TOSLINK (square-shaped) or plug version.

**SPDIF Coaxial (Standard):**

The purpose of the coaxial connector is similar to the optical connector, except it carries electrical signals instead of optical light. This connector can be found in Sound Blaster card that comes with an I/O drive.



**USB Cable (Standard):**

The USB cable is found in external Sound Blaster that uses a USB connection. Newer models use the micro-USB and mini-USB version, while older models use the Type-B USB.



Mini-USB to Type A



Micro-USB to Type A



Type-B USB to Type-A

**Molex power cable (Standard):**

This is commonly found in a computer's Power Supply unit. The Molex power connector resembles the one that connects to the floppy drive, and is used to power up the internal I/O drive of some Sound Blaster models. The Molex power is not applicable to the X-Fi Titanium and Recon3D PCIe series.



**Computer microphone (Standard):**

This is a standard non-powered computer microphone that is commonly used with the Sound Blaster's Mic-In, which offers a 3.5mm connection.



**Stereo Array microphone (Proprietary):**

The Sound Blaster beamforming microphone is a stereo array microphone with an omni-directional microphone located on each side. These two combined omni-directional mics are able to capture a wider audio range and stereo mode. The 1.8m long cable is flexible for most computer configuration and placement.



**Internal I/O drive (Proprietary):**

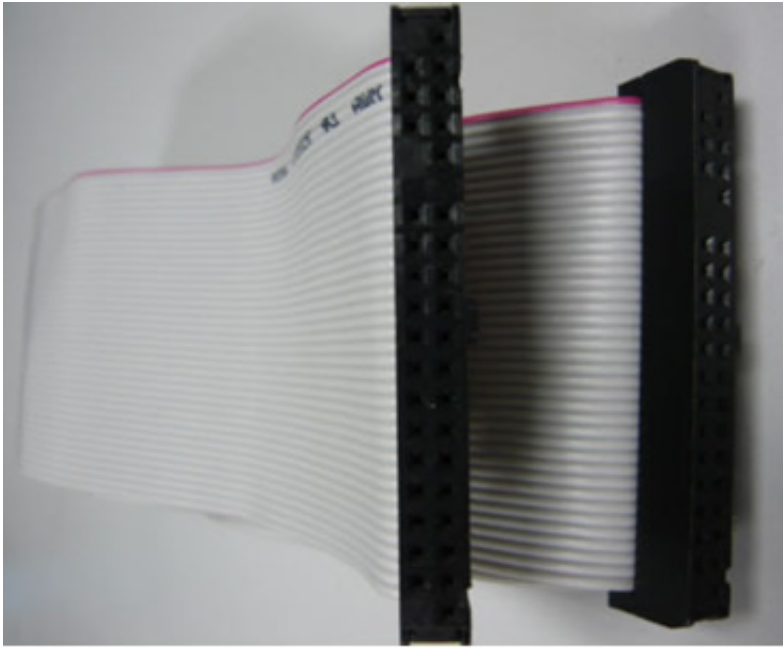
The internal I/O drive is installed into the drive bay of a computer. It expands audio connectivity and provides convenient front-panel controls. Each I/O drive is unique and it can only be used with specific Sound Blaster models.



**\* AD\_EXT extension cable (Proprietary):**

This ribbon cable is used in older models of Sound Blaster with an internal I/O drive. It is connected from the AD\_EXT connector of an internal sound card to the internal I/O drive.





**Analog and Digital Cable extension (Proprietary):**

In the Recon3D and X-Fi Titanium I/O drives, the AND\_EXT (Analog extension cable) and DID\_EXT (Digital extension cable) are used to connect an internal I/O drive from the sound card.



Analog extension cable



Digital extension cable

**\* External I/O Console (Proprietary):**

The external I/O drive is connected to a sound card via a proprietary AD\_LINK cable. For computers that do not have sufficient drive bays available, the external I/O console

is an option. Note: The external I/O console cannot work as a standalone.



\* **AD\_LINK cable** (Proprietary):

This AD\_LINK cable connects an external I/O console to a sound card. Each external I/O console is compatible with a specific Sound Blaster model.



\* **Digital I/O module** (Proprietary):

The Digital I/O module provides SPDIF optical and coaxial connections to a sound card with a Digital I/O port. This module works with older Sound Blaster card models.





**\* IR Remote control (Proprietary):**

The IR Remote control is normally bundled with the USB Sound Blaster or Sound Blaster with I/O drives. The battery used in the remote control is a standard Lithium cell which can be easily purchased.



**Tactic Link card (Proprietary):**

The Tactic Link card enables the proprietary wireless audio link between the USB Recon3D and the Tactic3D Omega headset unit. The Tactic Link card is then inserted into the Recon3D device.



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