

Sound Blaster X-Fi - Using Mode Switcher

Keywords / Key Phrases: Sound Blaster X-Fi mode switcher, Sound Blaster X-Fi audio console, differences between X-Fi Entertainment/Audio Creation/Game modes

Summary:

- ✓ Sound Blaster X-Fi provides 3 different modes of operation: **Entertainment**, **Audio Creation** and **Gaming**, so that different types of user have access to the full power of the audio processor. Each mode focuses the power of the audio processor for that operation and optimizes the audio processor features for the best possible experience.
- ✓ The Audio Creation and Gaming mode is not available for the **Sound Blaster X-Fi Notebook**. It only has the Entertainment mode.

Note:

To see which mode you are in click on the **X-Fi icon** on the bottom right corner of the screen



or open the **Mode Switcher** or **Audio Console** application



The modes are not exclusive to one type of operation. For example, you will still be able to play games in the other modes, but you will not get the full benefits of the card when the best mode is not selected for that usage.

For a summary of software features available in these modes, please see below.

- Select **Game Mode** when you require the full power of the audio processor for the best gaming experience.
- Select **Audio Creation Mode** when you want to record audio with **full fidelity ASIO support**.
- Select **Entertainment Mode** for optimized movie soundtrack and music playback.

You may notice that there is a "**click**" **sound** when you switch modes or restore the mode settings to their factory default. The sound comes from the relays of your uniquely designed **Sound Blaster X-Fi audio card**.

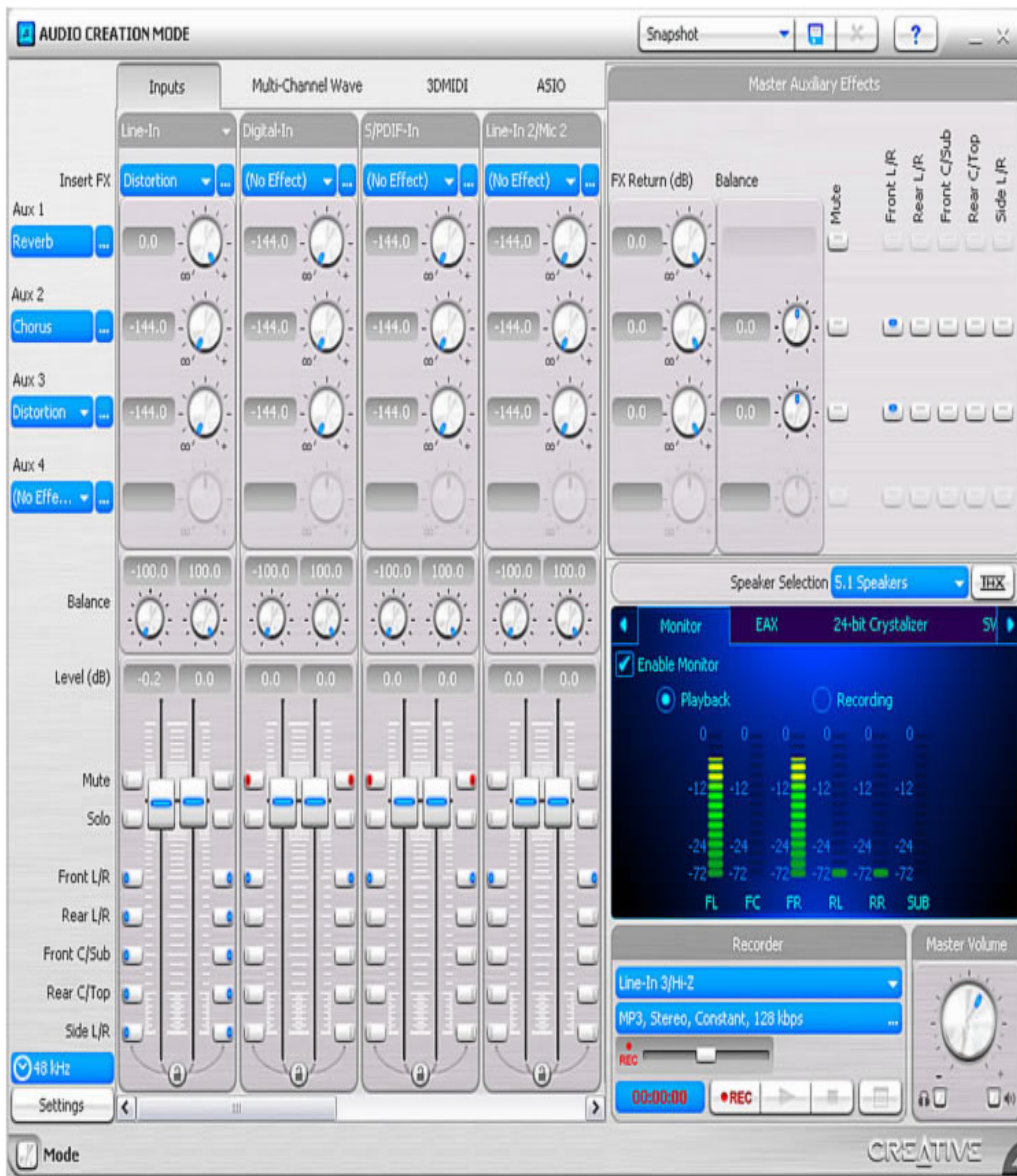
A. Entertainment Mode:



In **Entertainment Mode**, your audio device is optimized for movie soundtrack and music playback. With the **Entertainment Mode console**, you can:

- Adjust master volume, bass and treble levels.
- Adjust volume mixer settings.
- Configure playback settings for your speakers or headphones.
- Adjust equalizer settings.
- Enable environment effects.
- Enable multichannel upmixing.
- Enable virtual surround sound.
- Enhance detail and impact of audio with 24-bit Crystalizer.
- Configure Dolby and DTS decoding settings.

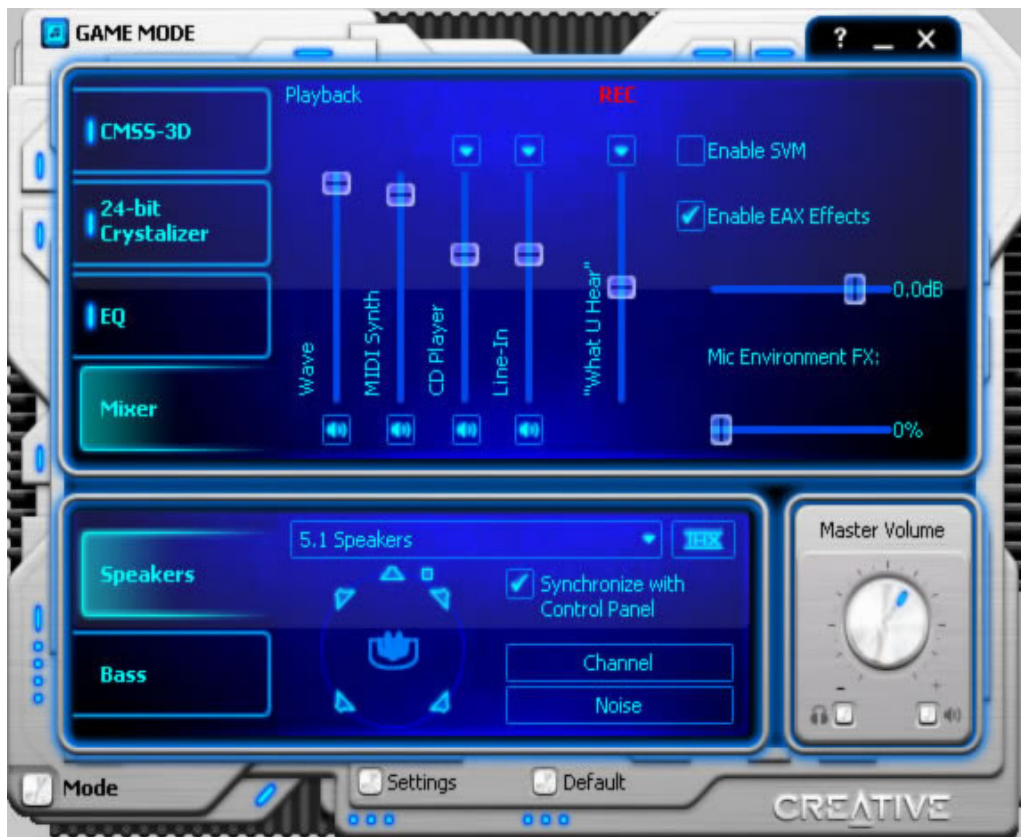
B. Audio Creation Mode:



In **Audio Creation Mode**, your audio device is optimized to handle sophisticated audio operations such as bus routing, multichannel wave recording and stereo balancing. With the **Audio Creation Mode console**, you can:

- Mix and record multiple audio sources.
- Route audio to specific bus destinations.
- Apply studio-quality effects to all sources.
- Position MIDI output in three-dimensional space.
- Enhance detail and impact of audio with 24-bit Crystalizer.

C. Gaming Mode:



In **Game Mode**, your audio device is optimized for 3D audio and EAX performance in games. With the **Game Mode console**, you can:

- Adjust the master volume or mute all audio.
- Configure playback settings for your speakers or headphones.
- Adjust the Bass Boost and Bass Management settings.
- Enable multichannel upmixing.
- Enable virtual surround sound.
- Enhance detail and impact of audio with 24-bit Crystalizer.
- Adjust equalizer settings.
- Adjust basic controls for common mixer sources.

D. Summary of software features in different modes:

	Entertainment	Audio Creation	Game
3DMIDI Playback	Yes	Yes	Yes
3DMIDI Interaction	No	Yes	No
EAX ADVANCED HD 5.0	Limited	Limited	Yes
EAX ADVANCED HD 4.0	Limited	Limited	Yes
EAX ADVANCED HD 3.0	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of Auxiliary Effects	2	4	4
Maximum Number of Reverbs	1	2	4
Insert Effects	No	4	No

ASIO Out Channels: Dry	1 Pair	5 Pairs	1 Pair
ASIO Out Channels: FX	No	4 Pairs	No
ASIO In Channels: WUH	8	8	8
ASIO In Channels: Basic	2 (1 Pair)	2 (1 Pair)	2 (1 Pair)
ASIO 2.0 Support	Limited	Yes	Limited
ASIO 2.0 Direct Monitoring	0	12 (6 pairs)	0
Bit-Matched Playback	No	Yes	No
Bit-Matched Recording	No	Yes	No
CMSS-3DSurround	Yes	No	Yes
CMSS-3DHeadphone	Yes	No	Yes
CMSS-3DVirtual (2 Speakers)	Yes	No	Yes
CMSS-3DVirtual (4 Speakers)	No	No	Yes
CMSS-3DInteractive	Yes	Yes	Yes
24-bit Crystalizer	Yes	Yes	Yes
Graphic EQ	10 Bands	10 Bands	10 Bands
Smart Volume Management	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bass Management	Advanced	No	Advanced

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