

MUSIC LISTENING

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Listening to Music Your Way

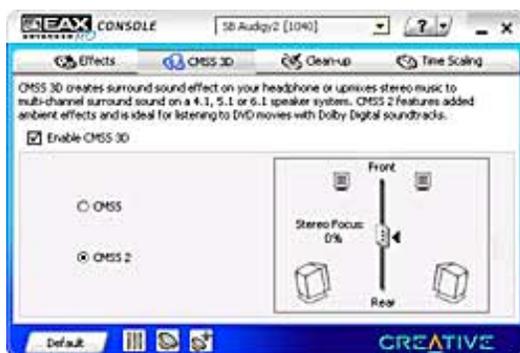
In every Sound Blaster Audigy 2, there lies an amazing toolbox full of goodies for customizing your music experience. The EAX Advanced HD control panel offers up a myriad of buttons and sliders, for tweaking environments, EQ's, and custom effects. Inside, you'll also find helpful tools such as CMSS, Audio Clean-up and Time Scaling.



The EAX Advanced HD Environment and EQ presets have been crafted to add a greater sense of realism and depth to music. Go ahead, set the Jazz EQ and fire up your favorite Bill Evans CD. Notice the detail in the brush kit as the percussionist glides his brush against the snare drum. Now set the Garage environment and put on some Blink 182. Couldn't this be your garage? Tight sound, and snappy reflections of the bass and vocals may have you thinking so.

New to the Sound Blaster Audigy 2 is the addition of Karaoke and Studio presets. Adjust your music to match your voice, or add a fun effect instead. Studio presets allow you to add effects like wah-wah, distortion, and delay to guitar or voice inputs.

More powerful than the presets themselves, are the included tools to customize presets to your liking. Don't like the stock delay? Change it! Think the Concert Hall should sound more like Carnegie Hall? Change it! You are the ultimate source for making your music sound better.



Going beyond the environment presets, there lies Creative's Multi Speaker Surround 3D technology option (also known as CMSS 3D). CMSS 3D is perfect for up-mixing stereo content such as CD, Wave, MP3, and WMA files into full, immersive 6.1 surround.

Can't wait for a multi-channel mix of Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to heaven"? Simply enable the CMSS 3D feature and create your own. CMSS 3D works by reading specific bands of frequencies from your music and placing them into unique speaker positions. That's how average stereo audio gets a modern, multi-channel treatment.

CMSS 3D comes in 2 modes: CMSS and CMSS 2. The original CMSS was designed to bring staid, static stereo content into the 5.1 realm. Exclusive to the Sound Blaster Audigy 2, CMSS 2, the new addition to CMSS 3D, goes above and beyond that basic 3D up-mix technology and introduces a few new features. For starters, only CMSS 2 takes advantage of the rear center channel for stereo to 6.1 up-mixes of CD, Wave, MP3, and WMA files. CMSS 2 also has a sophisticated DVD/Multi-channel wave playback mode created just for headphones and two channel speaker systems. This mode allows for a wide, virtualized surround sensation from multi-channel sources like DVD movies without the burden of a 5.1 speaker set-up. To sweeten the effect, a touch of room ambience is added in the rear virtual speakers simulating a larger listening environment. It's unlike anything you've ever heard!



So now your music is organized, stylized, and virtualized into an amazing surround array. With all this clarity, it's painfully obvious that your music needs a little cleaning-up. The Audio Clean-up feature of the Sound Blaster Audigy 2 is perfect for removing imperfections in real-time from media files such as WMA, MP3, and wave files. A noise meter lets you see the amount of unwanted material being filtered from your media.

You can also use the same feature to clean-up incoming audio from the line in or microphone of your sound card. With separate controls for removing clicks/pops and noise, Audio Clean-up makes easy work of archiving your library of LP's and cassettes into a more usable, digital form. Simply connect a cassette deck or record player to your sound card. With Audio Clean-up enabled, use the bundled Creative recording software to transfer those old analog recordings into the digital realm free of their pops, clicks, and noise.

For the budding musicians in the audience, the Sound Blaster Audigy 2 also includes an advanced Time Scaling feature as part of the EAX Advanced HD toolbox. If you've ever tried to figure out how to play a song by ear, you'll be especially grateful. How Time Scaling works is by slowing down a song's speed while *not* affecting the pitch. It does this in a quality manner, never leaving the music garbled or unintelligible. You're able to learn a song at your own pace but always in the right key. Now that's technology you can use!

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