User's Guide

Creative Video Blaster WebCam 3

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Creative European Help Line

Introduction

Video Blaster WebCam 3 is a 24-bit, 16.7-million-color digital video camera kit that gives you everything you need to capture still images and full-color video. Not only that, it also allows you to communicate face-to-face with others on the Internet!

Video Blaster WebCam 3 is bundled with the following software:

- **Video Blaster WebCam Control** — a comprehensive application that allows you to adjust camera settings, and to capture full-motion video and still images.
- **Creative WebCam Monitor** — a user-friendly control panel that lets you take snapshots automatically. Create an "intelligent spy cam" for home or office security, and use it in timed or motion detection mode.
- **Creative WebCam PhotoEditor™** — a one-stop application for editing and enhancing images captured on your WebCam. From WebCam PhotoEditor's generous store of templates, you can also create cards, calendars, videos or slide shows with your images. Then send your creations to friends and family through e-mail.
- **Microsoft® NetMeeting®** — a feature-rich voice communications system that offers you multi-user application sharing, Internet telephony and video conferencing.
- **Microsoft Internet Explorer** — a popular, full-service Internet browser.

Before You Begin

The README file on the CD-ROM contains information not available at the time of printing. Read the file before you continue. In addition, read the following:

- ❑ System Requirements
- ❑ Document Conventions

System Requirements

Minimum system requirements for the USB port version of Video Blaster WebCam 3:

- ❑ 200 MHz Pentium® or higher IBM® compatible PC
- ❑ 16 MB RAM on motherboard
- ❑ 70 MB free hard disk space (for installation of all software titles)
- ❑ Available USB port or self-powered USB hub
- ❑ Microsoft Windows® 98 (Windows 95 is not supported)
- ❑ Display adapter that supports16-bit color at a resolution of 640 x 480 pixels
- ❑ CD-ROM drive installed
- ❑ Sound Blaster® or other Windows-compatible sound card and microphone (required for videoconferencing)
- ❑ Modem or LAN access to the Internet (required for videoconferencing)

For optimum performance:

- ❑ Display adapter that supports 16-bit color at a resolution of 800 x 600 pixels
- ❑ Sound Blaster 16 or higher, or other Windows-compatible sound card with full-duplex support for simultaneous two-way conversations

Document Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this document:

Table i: Document conventions

This	Represents
bold	Text that must be entered exactly as it appears.
italic	Title of a book or a placeholder, which represents the information you must provide.
UPPERCASE	Directory name, file name, or acronym.
< >	Symbols, letters, and key names on the keyboard.
	This notepad icon indicates information that is of particular importance and should be considered before continuing.
	This alarm clock icon indicates that failure to adhere to directions may result in loss of data or damage to your system.
	The warning sign indicates that failure to adhere to directions may result in bodily harm or life-threatening situations.

1 Installing Video Blaster WebCam 3

In order to proceed with the installation you need:

- ❑ The Video Blaster WebCam3 USB Camera and USB cable
- ❑ The Video Blaster WebCam3 installation CD
- ❑ Your Windows 98 CD

This chapter tells you how to quickly install WebCam 3 and the software that comes with it.

About WebCam 3

Figure 1-1 highlights the features of WebCam 3.

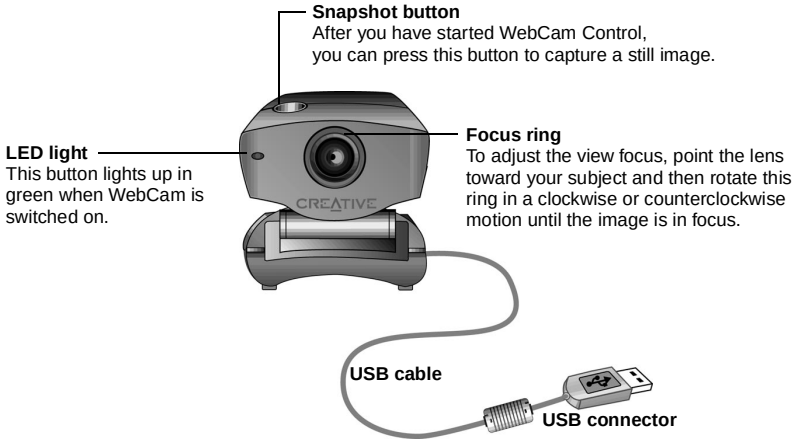

Figure 1-1: The WebCam 3 (USB model).

Installing Video Blaster WebCam 3

1. Position your computer so that its USB ports can be easily accessed.
2. Connect the WebCam's USB cable to an available USB port on your computer.
3. Place the WebCam on top of your computer monitor or another flat surface.

- You can safely install the WebCam with your computer turned on.
- The USB port(s) on your computer may be found on the front panel instead of the back panel.
- You can daisy-chain the WebCam through another USB device or attach the WebCam to a self-powered USB hub.
- If you have a microphone, connect it to your audio card. Most audio cards have an external microphone connector.
- Read your audio card's documentation for more information about using a microphone and adjusting volume.

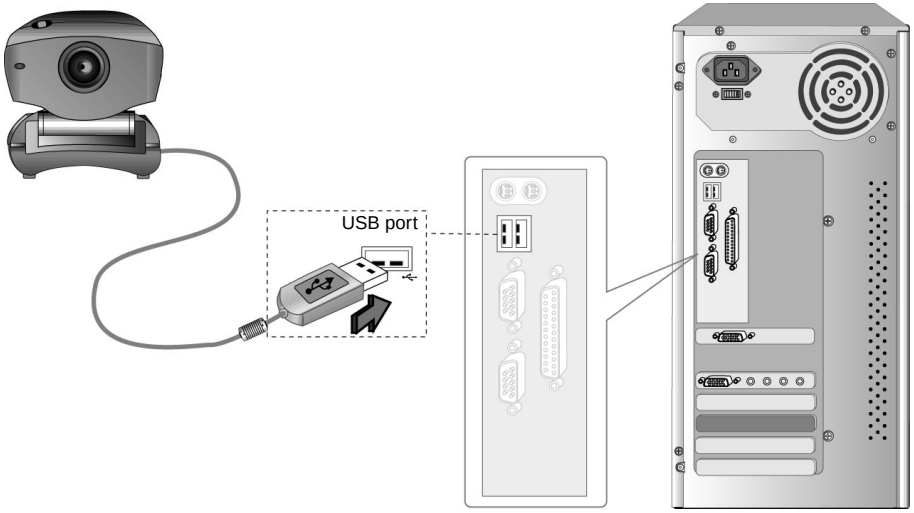

Figure 1-2: Connecting the WebCam 3 (USB model) to your computer.

Installing Software

Use the installation procedures for your operating system.

For users of Windows 98, see “In Windows 98” in the section that follows.
For users of Windows 2000, see “In Windows 2000” on page 1-6.

In Windows 98

1. After connecting Video Blaster WebCam 3 to your computer, turn on the system.
2. When the **Add New Hardware Wizard** dialog box appears, click the **Next** button. The dialog box in Figure 1-3 appears.

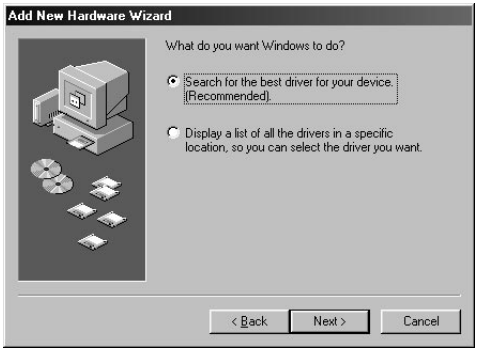

*Figure 1-3: The **Add New Hardware Wizard** dialog box.*

3. Click the **Search for the best driver for your device (Recommended)** option and then click the **Next** button. The dialog box in Figure 1-4 appears.

*Figure 1-4: The **Specify a location** check box.*

4. Insert the Video Blaster WebCam CD into your CD-ROM drive.
   Note: If the setup program runs automatically, exit from the program.
5. In the dialog box, select the **Specify a location** check box and type **D:\DRIVERS** (where D: represents your CD-ROM drive) in the box provided.
6. Click the **Next** button.
7. Click the **Next** button again.
   i. If you are prompted to insert the Windows 98 CD, proceed to step 7ii.
      Otherwise, skip to step 8.
   ii. In the CD-ROM drive, replace the Video Blaster WebCam CD with the Windows 98 CD.
   iii. In the **Insert Disk** dialog box, click the **OK** button.
   iv. In the **Copying Files** dialog box, click the **Browse** button.
      Locate and select the **Win98** folder within the Windows 98 CD.
      Click the **OK** button.
   v. Click the **OK** button again.
8. When the drivers are installed, click the **Finish** button.
9. Proceed to install the applications for WebCam 3.
   In the CD-ROM drive, insert the Video Blaster WebCam CD.
   You may have to remove the Windows 98 CD first.
   The setup program runs automatically and a dialog box listing the available applications appears.
10. Select **Video Blaster WebCam Control** and the other applications you want to install. Do **not**, however, select **Internet Explorer (IE) 5.0**.
    A check mark indicates that an application is selected.
    Note: If you want to install IE 5.0, do the following *after* Step 11 is completed: run **D:\CTRUN\CTRUN.EXE** and select only the IE 5.0 application.
11. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.
    You may be asked, after an application is installed, if you want to restart your computer.
    Select **No** until all the drivers and applications you selected are installed.
    Then restart your computer.

Verifying the installation in Windows 98

1. Right-click the **My Computer** icon on your desktop.
2. On the menu that appears, click **Properties**.
3. In the **System Properties** dialog box, click the **Device Manager** tab.
4. Click the plus (+) sign next to the **Imaging Device** icon.
   The entry "**Video Blaster WebCam 3 USB (WDM)**" should appear.

In Windows 2000

1. After connecting Video Blaster WebCam 3 to your computer, turn on the system. Windows 2000 automatically detects the camera.
2. When the **Found New Hardware Wizard** dialog box appears, click the **Next** button. The dialog box in Figure 1-5 appears.

*Figure 1-5: The **Found New Hardware Wizard** dialog box.*

3. Select the **Search for a suitable driver for my device (recommended)** option, and then click the **Next** button. The dialog box in Figure 1-6 appears.
4. Insert the Video Blaster WebCam CD into your CD-ROM drive.
5. In the dialog box, select the **Specify a location** check box, and then click the **Next** button. A dialog box prompts you for the location of the Windows 2000 drivers.
6. Click the **Browse** button. Locate and select **D:\DRIVERS** (where D: represents your CD-ROM drive) and then click the **Open** button.
7. Click the **OK** button. A dialog box showing the results of the drivers file search appears. Click the **Next** button. The **Digital Signature Not Found** dialog box (Figure 1-7) appears.
8. Ignore the message and click the **Yes** button.
   i. If you are prompted to overwrite some files, click the **No** button. Then proceed to Step 9.
   ii. If you are prompted to insert the Windows 2000 CD, replace the Video Blaster WebCam CD in the CD-ROM drive with the Windows 2000 CD. Then follow the instructions on the screen.

*Figure 1-6: The **Specify a location** check box.*

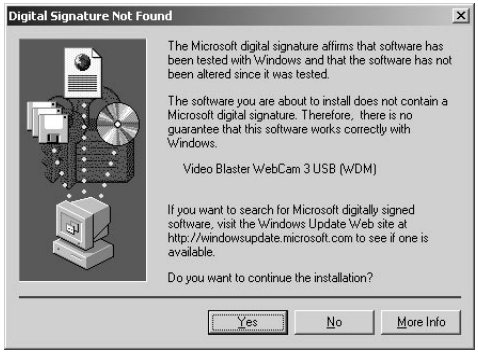

*Figure 1-7: The **Digital Signature Not Found** dialog box.*

9. When the drivers are installed, click the **Finish** button.
10. Proceed to install the applications for WebCam 3.
    In the CD-ROM drive, insert the Video Blaster WebCam CD.
    You may have to remove the Windows 2000 CD first.
    The setup program runs automatically and a dialog box listing the available applications appears.
11. Select **Video Blaster WebCam Control** and the other applications you want to install. Do **not**, however, select **Internet Explorer (IE) 5.0**.
    A check mark indicates that an application is selected.
    Note: If you want to install IE 5.0, do the following *after* Step 12 is completed: run **D:\CTRUN\CTRUN.EXE** and select only the IE 5.0 application.
12. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.
    You may be asked, after an application is installed, if you want to restart your computer.
    Select **No** until all the drivers and applications you selected are installed.
    Then restart your computer.

Verifying the installation in Windows 2000

1. Right-click the **My Computer** icon on your desktop.
2. On the menu that appears, click **Properties**.
3. In the **System Properties** dialog box, click the **Hardware** tabbed page.
4. Click the **Device Manager** button. A window appears.
5. Click the plus (+) sign next to the **Imaging Device** icon.
   The entry "**Video Blaster WebCam 3 USB (WDM)**" should appear.

2

Using Video Blaster WebCam Control

This chapter tells you how to quickly set up and begin using Video Blaster WebCam Control, the main application you will use with your WebCam 3.

For detailed information about the application's features and settings, refer to its Help file (see "To start the Help file in WebCam Control" on page 2-3).

Starting WebCam Control

If Video Blaster WebCam Control does not recognize the camera correctly, see Appendix B, "Troubleshooting".

To start WebCam Control

- Click **Start** -> **Programs** -> **Creative** -> **Video Blaster WebCam** -> **WebCam Control**.

When you start WebCam Control for the first time, the **Insert Disk** dialog box may appear, prompting you for the Windows 98 CD-ROM. If this happens, do the following:

1. Insert the Windows 98 CD-ROM into the CD-ROM drive.
2. In the **Insert Disk** dialog box, locate and select the **Win98** folder. Click the **OK** button.
3. Click the **OK** button again.
   The required drivers are copied to your system.

Using WebCam Control

When you open WebCam Control, you immediately see the **Video Blaster WebCam Control** video window (see Figure 2-1), which gives you a preview of the images that you are capturing.

To set the view into focus

1. Point the lens toward your subject (for example, yourself, seated in front of your monitor).
2. Rotate the ring around the lens in a clockwise or counterclockwise motion until the view is in focus.

To select the video capture device

1. On the top panel of WebCam Control, click the **Settings** icon. The **Settings** dialog box appears.
2. Click the **General** tabbed page.
3. In the **Video capture device** list box, select the camera you want to use as the capture device.
4. Click the **OK** button.

*Figure 2-1: The **Video Blaster WebCam Control** screen.*

- The contents in the **Source** and **Format** icons on the top panel depend on the video capture device you select.
- The WDM driver gives better performance in terms of frame rate and is the recommended choice.
- The VFW driver is compatible with software that only supports Video For Windows.

To capture still images using the Snapshot button

1. Set the WebCam 3 view into focus.
2. Press the **Snapshot** button (see Figure 1-1 on page 1-2). WebCam Control captures the image, adds it to the album, and assigns it a file name.

To start the Help file in WebCam Control

1. Click the Creative logo at the top-left corner above WebCam Control's top panel.
2. On the WebCam Control menu, click **Help**.

Optimizing WebCam 3

You can change the properties in WebCam Control to achieve optimum performance from your WebCam 3 for different purposes. The following sections describe how to do this.

Setting frame rate

The **Frame Rate** option box is in **Format** -> **Stream Format** (see Figure 2-2). Select a higher frame rate for a superior preview quality.

This option refers to the *hardware* frame rate, the rate at which your WebCam 3 streams video frames to WebCam Control. This frame rate affects the preview quality in the WebCam Control screen.

This option is different from the *software* frame rate in **Settings** —> **General**, which refers to the rate at which video frames are recorded.

This option does not apply if your video capture device is VFW.

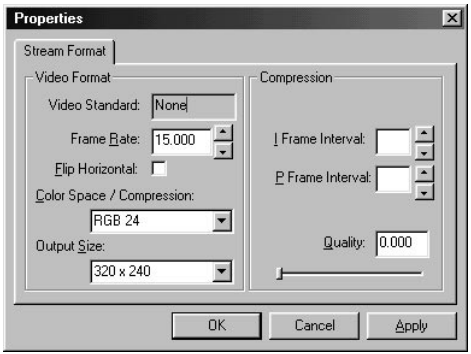

*Figure 2-2: The **Stream Format** tabbed page.*

The maximum level for both the preview and recording frame rates is determined by the *hardware* frame rate. A higher frame rate requires more intensive CPU utilization.

The default frame rate value is *30* frames per second.

Choosing output size

If you are using WDM, see the **Output Size** option box in **Format** -> **Stream Format**.
If you are using VFW, see the **Resolution** option box in **Format** -> **Stream Settings**.

For *recording live video*, select one of these resolutions: 160 x 120, 176 x 144, 320 x 240, or 352 x 288. These lower resolutions will give you a higher frame rate.

For *capturing still images*, select larger resolutions. WebCam 3 can capture images of up to 640 x 480 pixels in size.

Note that while large images produce better images, they require more disk space. Large images also slow down the frame rate, and increase your transfer upload or download time on the Internet.

Choosing color depth

If you are using WDM, see the **Color Space/Compression** option box in **Format** -> **Stream Format**.
If you are using VFW, see the **Pixel Depth (bits) and Compression** option box in **Format** -> **Stream Settings**.

You have three color depth options:

- **RGB 24**, which is 24-bit RGB (16.7 million colors)
- **RGB 555**, which is 16-bit RGB (65K colors)
- **I420**, which is Intel Raw YUV (raw input).

Select **I420** mode for the best frame rate.

Improving video quality

If you choose to use a video compressor, you will have the option of adjusting the video quality.

Bear in mind, however, that better video quality means a lower frame rate, and a higher frame rate means poorer video quality.

For still images, opt for better video quality. For video recordings and videoconferencing, select a higher frame rate.

Adjusting other system components

The following will also help you to optimize the performance of your WebCam 3:

- ❑ Close all unnecessary applications.
- ❑ Before recording a video to an AVI file with Video Blaster WebCam Control, use the Windows Disk Defragmenter application to defragment your hard disk drive.
- ❑ If your WebCam 3 is daisy-chained with another USB device to the USB port or if it shares a USB hub with other devices, make sure that none of the other devices is active when you are capturing video. The total bandwidth of the USB port on your PC is shared by all the active USB devices, and operating WebCam 3 along with another USB device on the same port can lower the maximum possible frame rate.

3

Video Blaster WebCam 3 Applications

The Video Blaster WebCam 3 application CD includes the following:

- ❑ Video Blaster WebCam Control
- ❑ Creative WebCam Monitor
- ❑ Creative WebCam PhotoEditor
- ❑ Microsoft NetMeeting
- ❑ Microsoft Internet Explorer.

Video Blaster WebCam Control

This simple but powerful system application lets you take control of your camera with a click of the taskbar icon. Instantly capture still images or video clips for exporting to other programs or transporting through e-mail. You can adjust resolution and image quality, and even maintain a database of still images and video clips.

Creative WebCam Monitor

If you are thinking of going “live” on the Internet, Creative WebCam Monitor is the application to look at. Just point your camera at your subject and pick a time interval. WebCam Monitor does the rest, including uploading the snapshots to the Internet. WebCam Monitor also acts as a motion-detecting security system which automatically e-mails you when somebody comes near your PC while you are not present.

Creative WebCam PhotoEditor

Creative WebCam PhotoEditor is an image editing and enhancing application that complements your WebCam. Its many nifty features include a suite of special effects tools and a set of designer-look templates, useful for creating impressive personal greetings and presentations.

Creative WebCam PhotoEditor comes with its own online Help file.

Microsoft NetMeeting

Microsoft NetMeeting is a voice communications client that includes support for international conferencing standards. It also provides true multi-user application sharing and data conferencing capabilities.

With its one-way or two-way videoconferencing features, your friends can see you even if they do not have a camera. Audio-only conversations and text chats are also supported. Two or more users can collaborate on a document, doodle on a whiteboard, or even share any Windows application in real-time over the Internet or on a corporate intranet.

Microsoft Internet Explorer

Microsoft Internet Explorer is an Internet browser that features ActiveX technology, so web pages can combine interactive ActiveX Controls, Java applets, and more, to create interactive content. ActiveMovie technology allows you to view multimedia content on the web, including MPEG audio and video.

A

Technical Specifications

Construction	USB Port version: Remote camera head with a USB cable
Camera housing	Base and flip-top lens housing with manual vertical tilt of 90 degrees
Power	From a USB port or self-powered USB hub (powered by an external power source)
Sensor	CMOS image sensor
Resolution (for both Video mode and Still mode)	❑ 640 x 480 ❑ 352 x 288 ❑ 320 x 240 ❑ 176 x 144 ❑ 160 x 120
Sensitivity	6 lux
Video formats	❑ 24- and 16-bit RGB ❑ 4:2:0 YUV Planar
Exposure control	Automatic (optional manual control with software)

Color balance	Automatic (optional manual control with software)
Color matrix	Preset and integral to camera
Field-of-view	62 degrees (horizontal)
Depth-of-field	75 millimeters to infinity
Port compatibility	USB Port version: Universal Serial Bus port
Software compatibility	USB Port version: TWAIN, Video for Windows, DirectShow, and Still Image driver that run in Windows 98 and Windows 2000.

B

Troubleshooting

Problem Installing Software

The setup program for Video Blaster WebCam 3 does not run automatically after you insert the installation CD into the drive.

Cause The AutoPlay feature in your Windows system may not be enabled.

Solution To install the software from the CD:

1. Leave the installation CD in the CD-ROM drive.
2. Click **Start** -> **Run**.
3. In the **Run** dialog box, click **D:\WCCTRL\SETUP.EXE**
4. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the installation.

Problems Using Video Blaster WebCam 3

There is no USB port available to connect the USB cable.

Solution Do one of the following:

- ❑ Unplug the device currently connected.
- ❑ Add a self-powered USB hub.
- ❑ Add a PCI USB card.

An application reports that the video driver is already in use, or that the camera cannot be found.

Solution Do the following:

- ❑ The camera module is not properly connected. To resolve this problem, ensure that the camera's USB connector is inserted, and that the USB connector is enabled in the BIOS. Refer to your PC's documentation for information on the BIOS.
- ❑ Reinstall the video capture drivers and reboot.

The image is too bright.

Cause The amount of light entering the camera has exceeded the exposure control limit. There may be a very bright object in the camera's view.

Solution Avoid pointing the camera at very bright objects (for example, sunlight, lights, or highly reflective surfaces).

Insufficient system resources reserved for the USB port, causing the system to be unable to function.

Cause There are too many devices in the system, causing IRQ problems with the system's USB controller.

Solution Do the following:

1. Remove some devices from the system.
2. Restart the system.
   The system will automatically rearrange the resources.

C

Note on USB Compatibility

In our testing on a wide variety of PC motherboards with integrated Universal Serial Bus (USB) ports, we have encountered a small number of motherboards with USB ports that do not meet the USB specification exactly. Unfortunately, the Video Blaster WebCam 3 *may* not operate correctly with these systems.

When you run the setup program from the Video Blaster WebCam 3 installation CD, the setup program automatically checks your motherboard model and revision. If your motherboard is among those that have failed our test procedure, the setup program will display a warning message. However, due to the numerous brands of motherboards in the market, our test procedure is not exhaustive. So, there may be some non-USB-compliant motherboards that will not trigger the display of the warning message.

So far, for some of the non-USB-compliant motherboards that we have tested, the motherboard manufacturers have released new versions of motherboards or BIOS to address the problem.

If the setup program warns you that your motherboard's USB port is incompatible, or if the camera does not work on your system and you suspect that the problem may be related to your PC's USB port, the following is a list of available options:

1. Contact your PC vendor.
   Your PC vendor may be able to upgrade your motherboard or its BIOS to a newer version that addresses USB incompatibilities.
2. Use a PCI host adapter which provides USB connectors.
   If you are not able to upgrade your motherboard or its BIOS, we recommend this approach.
3. Attach the Video Blaster WebCam 3 to a powered USB hub.
   Some USB devices (such as monitors) also operate as powered USB hubs; you can also buy dedicated powered USB hubs which are to be attached to your PC's USB port. However, in some cases, attaching a powered USB hub to a non-USB-compliant USB motherboard connector will not solve the problem.

To look for a USB compatible product, you can visit the product search page at the official USB Web site: **http://www.usb.org/app/search/products**.

D

Technical Support

We are committed to giving you the best product as well as the best technical support.

For fast and efficient Technical Support solutions, please use the Creative Web Support services in the first instance. If your Creative product was pre-installed in your computer, your primary source of technical support is the Personal Computer supplier who provided the system.

The European support area on our web site at **www.creative.com** is continuously updated and contains the following:

FAQ:	Access the latest information on Creative products with advice on how to resolve commonly asked questions
Solve Your Own Problem:	Enter keywords to search the comprehensive library of product and technical information
Download Drivers:	Quick access to the latest Creative drivers
Library:	Find the documents for a wide range of Creative products

Before contacting "European Help Line", please ensure that you have read the 'Troubleshooting' Appendix. The Creative web site at www.creative.com gives you access to the latest drivers and troubleshooting tips.

Email Your Problem:	Complete the technical support web form and submit for a response
Telephone Support:	European Telephone Support contact details. See also European Helpline section in manual for contact details.

If You Have a Problem

Please retain all contents including packaging and proof of purchase until you are fully satisfied with product.

If you have a problem installing or using your Creative product, please use the Creative Web Support and/or Telephone Support services for assistance. Note the following information for reference should you require technical assistance:

- ❑ The model and serial number of your Creative product
- ❑ Error information on the screen and how it came about
- ❑ Information on the adapter cards which may be causing a conflict
- ❑ Hardware configuration information such as the base I/O address, IRQ line, DMA channels used
- ❑ Motherboard information: BIOS manufacturer/version and chipset manufacturer
- ❑ Type and version of your operating system, e.g., DOS 6.0, Windows 3.1x, Windows 95, Windows 98 or Windows NT

If, after using the Creative support services, you believe your Creative product to be defective, you should verify the purchase date and the take the appropriate action as detailed below:

Less than 30 days since date of purchase	Should your store receipt indicate that the product is less than 30 days old, you have the option of returning the full product to the dealer/retailer for a replacement or credit. The 30-day time period may not apply in all instances, so please check the seller's replacement/credit terms.
More than 30 days since date of purchase	Contact European Technical Support to clarify the nature of the problem and to obtain details of our repair returns procedure. Creative Labs requires that all returns for repair/ replacement must first be issued with an authorisation number.

Returning a product for repair

- ❑ Contact Technical Support to receive your authorisation number for repair/replacement of product.
- ❑ Technical Support will communicate how to return the product in question for repair/replacement.
- ❑ You should only return the hardware item in question and return it to the address detailed by Technical Support. Please retain all software, accessories and the original packaging.
- ❑ Please quote the authorisation number clearly on the outside of the packaging in which you return the hardware item in question.
- ❑ Upon receipt of the faulty item, Creative Labs will process your request and arrange a return or replacement.

Creative may replace or repair the product with new or re-conditioned parts, and the faulty parts will become the property of Creative. The warranty period for your repaired/replacement item is 90 days from the date of shipment from Creative, or what is left on the original item's warranty, whichever is longer.

To avoid tariffs when shipping a product to Creative Labs from outside the E.U., you must complete the relevant customs documentation before shipping the product (please allow 30 days).

Limited Warranty

Creative Labs (Ireland) Limited (“Creative”) warrants to you, the original purchaser only, that the hardware product will be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of two years after the date of purchase, or such other period as may be expressly specified by Creative or required by applicable law (“Warranty Period”).

Creative’s entire liability and your remedy will be, at Creative’s sole discretion, the repair or replacement (with the same or similar model) of any hardware or accompanying item(s) not meeting the “Limited Warranty” explained above that is returned to Creative’s authorised distributor or dealer during the Warranty Period with a copy of your receipt.

What this warranty does not cover

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, Creative disclaims all other warranties and conditions, expressed or implied, including the conditions of quality, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose with respect to the use of this product. Creative also disclaims any obligation to support products for all operating environments - for example, by ensuring interoperability with future versions of software or hardware. In no event shall Creative or its licensors be liable for any indirect, incidental, special or consequential loss or for any lost profits, savings or data arising from or relating to the use of this product, even if Creative or its licensors have been advised of the possibility of such loss.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have other rights which vary from country to country. Certain limitations in this warranty are not permitted by the jurisdiction of some countries, so some limitations here may not apply to you.

Specifically, this warranty does not cover failures of the product which result from accident, abuse, misuse, alterations (by persons other than Creative or its authorized repair agents), moisture, corrosive environments, shipping, high voltage surges, or abnormal working conditions. This warranty does not cover normal wear and tear. You are specifically advised to take a backup copy of any software provided with the Creative product for security purposes.

Creative European Help Line

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