
Subject: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 12:01:31 GMT

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Anyone have this sound card?

<http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16829102005>

Creative 7.1 Channels 24-bit 192KHz PCI Interface Sound Blaster X-Fi XtremeGamer Fatal1ty Professional Series?

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 12:16:42 GMT

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Yes I have that exact card

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 12:49:35 GMT

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Caveman wrote on Wed, 07 May 2008 07:16Yes I have that exact card

Awesome, can you please tell me what difference it has made on your computer, things like, fps increase in games, better audio in games, better pc over all performance and any problems you had with it, also have you noticed anything with the X-Ram, it seems to be just a gimmick as not many games have it supported.

I know there are vista driver issues for one and one last thing, what speaker set are you using?

Thinking of getting this since it's my birthday coming up this month.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Ryu](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 14:30:23 GMT

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IronWarrior wrote on Wed, 07 May 2008 13:49Caveman wrote on Wed, 07 May 2008 07:16Yes I have that exact card

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Unless you're using onboard audio that strains the processor to process the sound, You shouldn't notice any fps increase.

Anyway, \$130 for that? my card has almost got all them features and I got it for \$110 less.

pfft, day I fork out \$130 on a computer part is the day pigs fly, hell freezes over.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 14:35:12 GMT

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Ryu wrote on Wed, 07 May 2008 09:30IronWarrior wrote on Wed, 07 May 2008 13:49Caveman wrote on Wed, 07 May 2008 07:16Yes I have that exact card

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pfft, day I fork out \$130 on a computer part is the day pigs fly, hell freezes over.

Ah what sound card you using again?

Well my onboard video is kinda crapy, since my MB is a K7S41GX.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Ryu](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 14:39:03 GMT

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<http://www.dabs.com/ProductView.aspx?Quicklinx=3W44&CategorySelectedId=11140&PageMode=1&NavigationKey=11140&InMerch=1>

Some people might disagree with me but it's a great card in my opinion.

I'm happy with it.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 15:40:35 GMT

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Ah that one, that one is also on my could buy lists.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Dave Anderson](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 15:43:03 GMT

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I had that same sound card, but I gave it to my friend because my motherboard already has HD audio. Its a nice card for the money, the only beef I had with it was the driver setup. The drivers had some awkward settings and functionality. Just note that you will never get 7.1 quality, or even 5.1 quality if you don't have 5.1 or 7.1 digital speakers. You'll be limited by your 2.1 speakers if that's what you have, and the quality difference will be minimal.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [luv2pb](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 17:20:40 GMT

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I will never buy anything creative again. Be warned that unless you are running Vista your drivers will be gimped and you will not get what you paid for. Even you you are running Vista I still think they are over rated.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 18:41:05 GMT

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Yeah, am not very fond of them since the Vista driver bullshit, but there isn't much else.

There seems to be more information about creative cards then any other card, like asus.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [luv2pb](#) on Wed, 07 May 2008 20:30:30 GMT

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My last two computers have had built in sound. My last board was awesome, this one isn't bad but it could be better. I doubt I will ever buy a sound card again tbh.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 00:56:20 GMT

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Sorry for the late reply I kinda got hooked on oblivion...Anyways, I noticed a slight FPS increase due to I was using onboard sound before. I wouldn't buy this card just for the performance increase, however, the sound quality is that much better then what you would get from a cheap £20 card.

I've been using this card for about a year now and I haven't had any problems with installing drivers or anything of the like.

The speaker setup I have at the moment is 2.1. I am using my stereo as my sound system, but until not long ago I was using a 5.1 system and when you're playing a modern game like BF2 (modern-ish) you can really tell the difference.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Ryu](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 01:51:29 GMT

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The speaker setup I have at the moment is 2.1. I am using my stereo as my sound system, but until not long ago I was using a 5.1 system and when you're playing a modern game like BF2 (modern-ish) you can really tell the difference.

This card is awesome, cheap? yes, affective? fuck yes.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Goztow](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 06:42:47 GMT

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On board sound is a definite FPS hit. That's why I need to play on fucking mono sound (laptop). But you won't gain FPS between a 10 € dedicated soundcard and a 100 € one.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [CarrierII](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 15:10:06 GMT

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Naturally, those of you with quad cores can just relax.

Yeah, cheaper sound cards are fine.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 15:51:02 GMT

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So what are you really looking in specs wise for sound cards, the two that have been listed, one is said to be a gaming sound card and while the other is just basic, but they are both the same type, but one has something more than the other which costs a other 20 more.

Doesn't seem much difference.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Chuck Norris](#) on Sat, 10 May 2008 11:08:45 GMT

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Goztow wrote on Thu, 08 May 2008 01:42 But you won't gain FPS between a 10 € dedicated soundcard and a 100 € one. Not entirely true. It depends on if the sound card is hardware accelerated if it'll lighten the load on the CPU or not. If both cards are hardware accelerated, then yes it's mostly true that the more expensive one won't give much better results performance-wise, but if one is not hardware accelerated, it may as well not be there (since the workload is still on the CPU and not hardware accelerated on the card). Yes, cards do exist that aren't hardware accelerated. I'm not 100% positive, but I hear the Sound Blaster Live 24-bit (now known as the Audigy SE) isn't hardware accelerated (the original Sound Blaster Live cards were hardware accelerated though). Most cheap cards aren't hardware accelerated, or are very minimally.

Onboard sound these days is really good. Two to three years back and prior, a sound card was worth it, but it's less and less so these days. I used to swear by sound cards, but my new motherboard came with a sound card (which can be considered onboard probably since I doubt it's hardware accelerated) and after hearing it, I look at the price tag of a new X-Fi Gamer and say it probably isn't worth it.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sat, 10 May 2008 11:33:02 GMT

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Well, that's a other thing, I need to make sure that when I get a sound card that it has it's own CPU so it doesn't use my main and give me a fps hit.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [JPNOD](#) on Sat, 10 May 2008 13:01:38 GMT

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Chuck Norris wrote on Sat, 10 May 2008 07:08Goztow wrote on Thu, 08 May 2008 01:42But you won't gain FPS between a 10 € dedicated soundcard and a 100 € one. Not entirely true. It depends on if the sound card is hardware accelerated if it'll lighten the load on the CPU or not. If both cards are hardware accelerated, then yes it's mostly true that the more expensive one won't give much better results performance-wise, but if one is not hardware accelerated, it may as well not be there (since the workload is still on the CPU and not hardware accelerated on the card). Yes, cards do exist that aren't hardware accelerated. I'm not 100% positive, but I hear the Sound Blaster Live 24-bit (now known as the Audigy SE) isn't hardware accelerated (the original Sound Blaster Live cards were hardware accelerated though). Most cheap cards aren't hardware accelerated, or are very minimally.

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Indeed. There was actually a onboard soundcard known for good/better performance then dedicated PCI Sound cards.

At the time it was just as good as the dedicated Audigy if not better.

http://www.nvidia.com/object/feature_soundstorm.html

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 00:41:41 GMT

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IronWarrior wrote on Sat, 10 May 2008 12:33Well, that's a other thing, I need to make sure that when I get a sound card that it has it's own CPU so it doesn't use my main and give me a fps hit.

As I said before, if you get the card I have you will gain a performance increase as it doesn't use your CPU. However, the performance (FPS) increase isn't anything to brag about...

The sound quality from this card compared to my onboard AC'97 is amazing if you have the right setup...No point spending big money on a sound card if you only have 2 speakers or low quality speakers.. You know the 5.1 systems that cost like £25 just don't cut it...

Be wise and think whats best for you.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 01:28:50 GMT

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Well any FPS increase is worth it to me, I don't often get over 40 in games, in Renegade, it is normally 20 or so in combat, but in COD4, it's awesome, good steady FPS of 50 or so.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 10:57:25 GMT

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IronWarrior wrote on Sun, 11 May 2008 02:28Well any FPS increase is worth it to me, I don't often get over 40 in games, in Renegade, it is normally 20 or so in combat, but in COD4, it's awesome, good steady FPS of 50 or so.

But it is worth paying like £80 for 5-10FPS?

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Goztow](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 12:53:05 GMT

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For those 80 £ u could prolly get an upgrade that will help you gain more FPS.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 15:24:44 GMT

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Yes, to fully upgrade my PC, I would need a new motherboard, memory, graphic card and maybe a new psu, would work out to just under 200 pounds or above it infact, I plan on building a new PC at the end of the year.

But I can get a good sound card now and just move it over to the new PC at a later date.

I can't upgrade anything else on my PC, am already using the second best graphic card I can get for my AGP socket, CPU is a A-Socket, so can't really upgrade that.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 19:03:36 GMT

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IronWarrior wrote on Sun, 11 May 2008 16:24 Yes, to fully upgrade my PC, I would need a new motherboard, memory, graphic card and maybe a new psu, would work out to just under 200 pounds or above it infact, I plan on building a new PC at the end of the year.

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Save your birthday money put it towards a complete upgrade.

If you're using Socket A then you really do need to upgrade your PC . It is not worth spending all that money on that sound card for 10FPS.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [IronWarrior](#) on Sun, 11 May 2008 19:11:29 GMT

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I can afford the sound card and speakers now and these can be moved to the new PC end of the year, so in a sense, am starting to build the new PC now, but for a whole new machine, I can't, well, I could do a basic upgrade package for 200 or so, but I might as well, just save so I can afford the best parts, which is gonna cost 500 or more quid.

I'm no rush, my PC serves me very well, even through it is a A socket, it is very fast in booting and stable, am able to play any game, including crysis.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Mon, 12 May 2008 11:07:59 GMT

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IronWarrior wrote on Sun, 11 May 2008 20:11Caveman wrote on Sun, 11 May 2008 12:03IronWarrior wrote on Sun, 11 May 2008 16:24Yes, to fully upgrade my PC, I would need a new motherboard, memory, graphic card and maybe a new psu, would work out to just under 200 pounds or above it infact, I plan on building a new PC at the end of the year.

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Well just after last christmas I built a barebones system for £192. I already had a GPU and SC. With the £192 I bought (With special next day delivery); (Please no oh you should have got this cpu and that ram..This isn't a discussion on what he should buy just stating what I did.)

AMD Athlon 64 X2 6000+ , Windsor Core, Dual Core 3.0GHz, 1MB Cache, Retail (£97.50)

-
FoxConn N570SM2AA-8EKRS2H (£49.00)

-
2GB (2x1GB) Corsair TwinX XMS2, DDR2 PC2-6400 (800), 240 Pins, Non-ECC Unbuffered, CAS 4-4-4-12, DHX (£39.50)

That was 5 months or so now you could probably get the same system cheaper... Have a look on here and see what you can find.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Zion](#) on Mon, 12 May 2008 22:34:22 GMT

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Caveman wrote on Mon, 12 May 2008 12:07: quotesnipQuote:Text/quotesnip

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Scan FTW!

Also, Crucial.com is good for cheap RAM too.

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Ryu](#) on Tue, 13 May 2008 00:50:14 GMT

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Caveman wrote on Mon, 12 May 2008 12:07IronWarrior wrote on Sun, 11 May 2008 20:11Caveman wrote on Sun, 11 May 2008 12:03IronWarrior wrote on Sun, 11 May 2008 16:24Yes, to fully upgrade my PC, I would need a new motherboard, memory, graphic card and maybe a new psu, would work out to just under 200 pounds or above it infact, I plan on building a new PC at the end of the year.

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Is that processor good quality? also what socket? AM2 or AM2+ ?

Subject: Re: Sound Cards.

Posted by [Caveman](#) on Tue, 13 May 2008 08:37:40 GMT

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Define quality...

Its not the best CPU around and it wasn't the best CPU around when I bought it, most of the Duo CPUs would beat it in benchmark tests however it was the best AMD had to offer and it was under £100.

Its AM2.. AM2+ is for the newer Trips and Quads.
