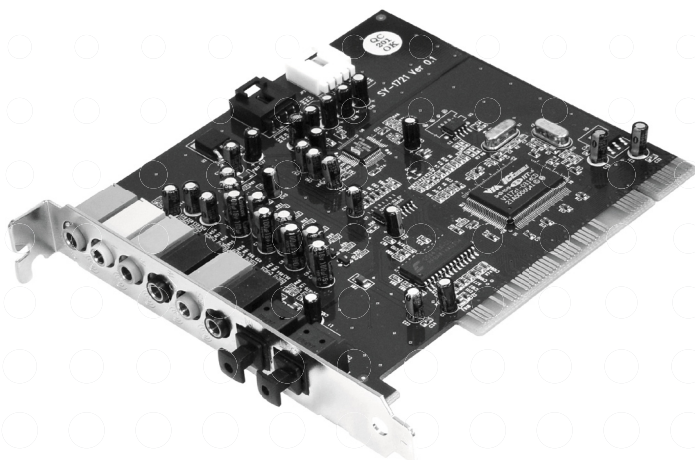


Sound *Image* Explorer 7.1

User's Manual



Version 1.0

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Welcome.

We are pleased that you have chosen a sound card from. We also congratulate you on your decision because the Explorer 7.1 represents our commitment to high-quality, state-of-the-art sound card technology. With this product you have acquired a power packed 3D audio accelerator that also knows where to “aim to please” when it comes to digital I/O’s.

We’re sure that your new is just the ticket to bring a whole new dimension of fun to your upcoming movie watching session, as well as offering comfortable and flexible functionality.

Features

Ultimate 8 channel audio acceleration and digital I/O.

Whatever you want, Surround-Sound on 2, 4, 6 (5.1), 8(7.1) loudspeakers made possible with the combination of Explorer 7.1 and DVD software. If you already have a digital decoder then the Explorer 7.1 awaits your command to send the digital signal over the optical digital output.

Listen! Wonder! Inspire!

For hardcore gamers the Explorer 7.1 offers A3D, EAX 1.0/2.0 and DirectSound, letting itself be heard over headphones or 2, 4 or 6 speakers. The Sensaura 3D Technology guarantees maximum sound from any loudspeaker configuration thanks to its state-of-the-art DSP routines. The Sensaura core technologies of Multidrive, MacroFX and EnviromentFX accelerate DirectSound3D, A3D and EAX 1.0/2.0 to supersonic speeds, allowing uncompromising gaming to become more than just a pipe-dream - your CPU will thank you. MacroFX, for instance, make sounds in their immediate surroundings more pronounced than has ever been possible before.

Digital. In. Out.

The optical digital input of the Explorer 7.1 can be synched to 32, 44.1, 48, 96KHz and automatically recognizes what’s up. The digital output remains connected to the outside world at 48kHz and lets you connect to DAT recorders, MiniDisc recorders and other equipment. Flexibility is shown when the AC3 stream (e.g. Dolby Digital) from DVD software is sent over the digital output unpunished. It was also support 192KHz sampling rate audio to external decoder.

Hardware DOWNMIX function

Downmix LEF/Center DAC to Front channels: The setting allows you mix LEF/Center Signal into front speakers. *(The function only works in 6-channel mode)*

Downmix Surround to Front channels: The setting allows you mix all of Surround Signal into front speakers. This function was design for only own 2-channel speaker system to enjoy multi-channel audio. *(The function only works in 6-channel mode).*

Control Panel. Software. Etc.

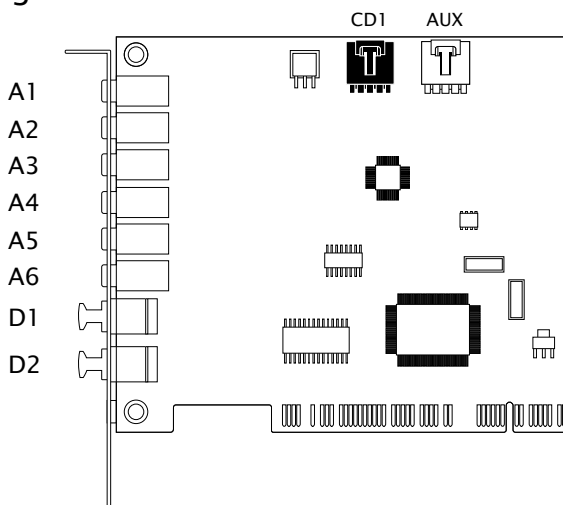
With the comprehensive, intuitive Control Panel we place the tool to hand that lets you configure the Explorer 7.1 just the way you wish - easily. Once you have chosen your

settings, you can save them readily and load them again easily when needed. With the supplied software you can get started immediately in a way that suits you and your interests. DVD software lets the movie theater atmosphere come home.

Installation.

The Explorer 7.1 installation should be no problem thanks to the newest PCI and Plug&Play technology. If you already have experience with installing hardware and software components in Windows, you can proceed with the installation of this card without any worries.

Card Diagram



- A1 Mic In
- A2 Line In
- A3 Front Out
- A4 Rear Out
- A5 Center/Sub-Woofer Out
- A6 Back Surrounds Out
- D1 Optical Digital In
- D2 Optical Digital Out
- CD1 Analog CD Audio In
- AUX Analog AUX Audio In

Installing the card.

Before installing the sound card, please take note of any special points pertaining to the configuration of your computer.

Also refer to the manual for your computer and other expansion cards for their settings.

Please observe the following instructions to ensure trouble-free installation.

First check to ensure that the package is complete.

The delivery includes at least:

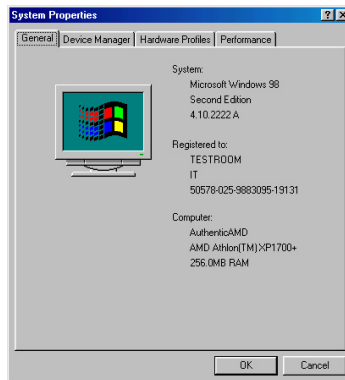
- 1 PCI Explorer 7.1 soundcard
- 1 installation & driver CD-ROM
- 1 Optical cable
- 1 Installation manual

And here's what to do, step by step:

- Switch off your PC and all connected peripheral devices, such as printer, monitor and so on. Leave the AC cord connected for the time being, so that your computer is still grounded.
- Touch the metal chassis at the rear of the PC to ground yourself and discharge static. Now unplug the cord from the AC mains socket.
- Remove the cover from the case of your PC.
- Search for a parallel free slots, where at least one is PCI format. Remove the screw that holds the slot cover in place and remove the cover. In order to ensure that your soundcard works optimally, choose, when possible, the slot that is not directly next to any other installed cards, as some cards like graphic cards can emit signals that could have a distorting effect on your soundcard.
- Carefully remove the sound card from its packaging and pick it up by the edges with one hand while your other hand is resting on the metal of the PC case. This will ensure that your body is completely discharged via your computer without affecting the sound card. Do not touch the components of the card under any circumstances.
- Align the holder at the rear of the sound card in the expansion slot in such a way that the card's gold-colored connectors are directly in line with the slot's socket.
- Carefully seat the card in the slot. You might have to press the card firmly into the slot to make a good contact. Take care to ensure that the contacts are precisely in line in order to avoid damaging the sound card or the motherboard in your PC.
- Insert and tighten the screw from the slot cover to secure the sound card in its slot.
- Then connect the analog CD Out/AUX from the CD-ROM drive(s;-) to the appropriate connector on the soundcard.
- Reinstall the cover of your PC case.
- Connect the speakers or your stereo system to the soundcard.
- Reconnect the mains and all other cables. Make sure that your speakers or hifi systems are set to a low volume.
- Start your computer.
- Then proceed to the section "The Driver Installation."

The Driver Installation.

The Explorer 7.1 is currently provided with drivers for the operating systems Windows 98SE, ME, Windows 2000 and Windows XP. Before installing, you must determine which operating system you are using. The operating system and version number can be found in the Control Panel under “System Properties”.



For example, this is how you recognize Windows98 SE.

In the following description of the driver installation <CD> stands for the drive letter that Windows has assigned your CD drive where the Explorer 7.1 CD is.

Installation under Windows 98 SE.

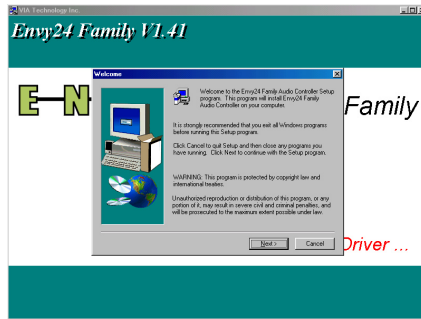
Once you have installed the Explorer 7.1 card in your PC, Windows 98SE recognizes the card as a new hardware component and displays the following screen.



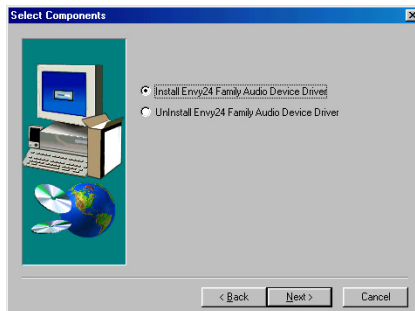
Click "Cancel".

Step 1. Start **AUTORUN.EXE** in the root directory of the Explorer 7.1-CD and choose the menu point “Install Driver”.

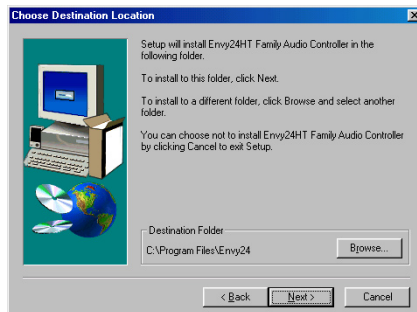
This will start the setup program.



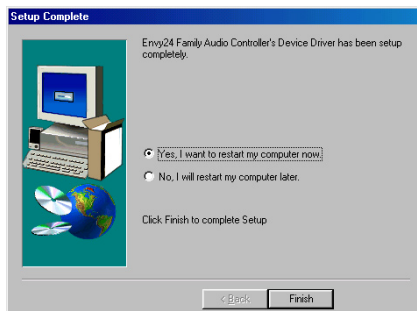
Click "Next".



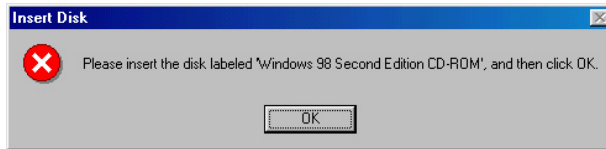
Select "Install Envy24 Family Audio Device Driver" and click "Next"



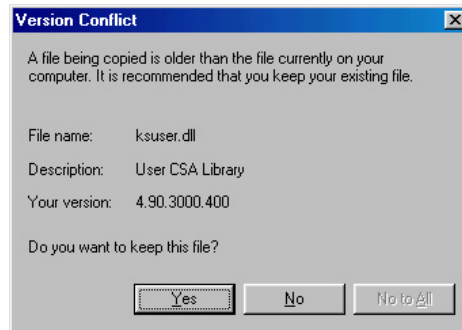
Click "Next"



To complete the installation, click "Finish". Windows will restart you computer.



2. After restart Windows, Windows will detect a driver named “Envy 24 Family Audio Control WDM” and install it’s needed files. If Windows requests a second driver file, it is also possible (e.g. if this is the first sound card installation in your system) that some additional Windows extensions have to be installed. Please have your Windows CD ready for this purpose.



3. Windows now installs the driver for you, documenting the process with several installation screens. At this point nothing else should occur. If during this process you are unexpectedly prompted to do something and you are unsure how to proceed, it is usually best to just press the Enter key.

4. Once the drivers have been installed successfully, install the bundled software via the autostarter.

Installation under Windows ME.

Once you have installed the Explorer 7.1 in your PC, Windows Me automatically detect a device named “PCI Multimedia Audio Device” for Explorer 7.1.



Select "Automatic search for a better driver "Recommended" than click "Next"



Windows will add the device name into your system. Please click "Finish".

Start **AUTORUN.EXE** in the root directory of the Explorer 7.1-CD and choose the menu point "Install Driver". This will start the setup program.

Follow up Step 1 of Windows 98 SE driver installation and complete it.

If Windows requests a second driver file, it is also possible (e.g. if this is the first sound card installation in your system) that some additional Windows extensions have to be installed. Please have your Windows CD ready for this purpose.

To complete the installation, please click "Finish". Windows will restart your computer.

After the driver has been successfully installed, it is easy to add the other bundle software via the autostarter.

<CD>: \ autorun.exe

Follow the instructions on the screen. There shouldn't be any problems.

Installation under Windows 2000.

Once you have installed the Explorer 7.1 in your PC, Windows 2000 automatically detect a device named "PCI Multimedia Audio Device" for the Explorer 7.1.

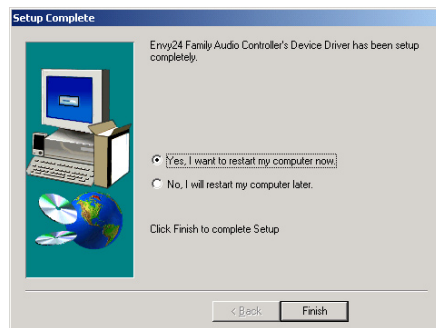


Follow up Step 1 of Windows 98 SE driver installation and complete it.

During the installation, the Windows 2000 hardware wizard has found the new hardware the following window is displayed.



Proceed with the installation by clicking "Yes".



To complete the installation, please click "Finish". Windows will restart you computer.

After the driver has been successfully installed, it is easy to add the other bundle software via the autostarter.

<CD>: \ autorun.exe

Installation under Windows XP.

Once you have installed the Explorer 7.1 in your PC, Windows XP automatically detects a device named "PCI Multimedia Audio Device".

Follow up Step 1 of Windows 98 SE driver installation and complete it. During the installation, the Windows XP hardware wizard has found the new hardware the following window is displayed.



Click "Continue Anyway"



Click "Finish" to restart your computer

After the driver has been successfully installed, it is easy to add the other bundle software via the autostarter.

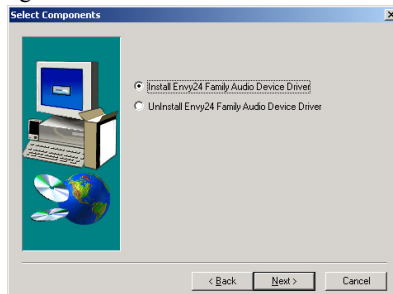
<CD>: \ autorun.exe

Uninstalling the driver or bundled software

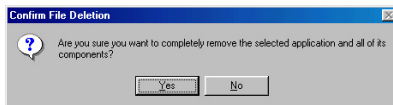
If you want to remove the driver from the system, it is best to do this before you remove the card using the setup program that you also used when installing the driver.

Start **AUTORUN.EXE** in the root directory of the Explorer 7.1 CD and choose the menu point "Install driver".

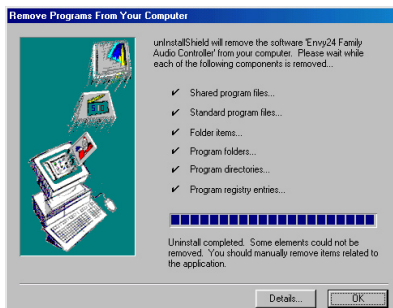
This will start the setup program.



Choose "Uninstall Envoy24 Family Audio Device Driver". Click "Next"



Select "Yes"



Click "OK"



Click "Finish" to complete uninstalling

Then you can remove the card when the PC is turned off or completely reinstall the driver if this were necessary.

The accompanying bundle software can be removed as simply as well. Call up "Add/Remove Programs" in the Windows Control Panel and locate the programs that are to be deleted. Select them one after the other and each time click "Add/Remove..."

The Card Connections and their Usage.

The connection possibilities of the Explorer 7.1 are plentiful. Nearly everything that can be used with a PC in respect to sound can be connected to the card and used without a problem. In the following section we would like to show all the options that allow you to correctly configure your Explorer 7.1 to accomplish the task at hand. You will also find tips for the frequently used applications.

The Line Outputs.

The line outs operate with a normal "HiFi signal" to connect your amplifier or your active speakers.

The Basics.

The most important connection option for a sound card - the experts all agree on this - is the playback system. The Explorer 7.1 offers you four such outputs, for example to position the sound in a 7.1 loudspeaker system. The connectors are four mini-jack plugs (3,5mm stereo), whereby at least the first out should be connected to a HiFi amplifier or active loudspeakers.

The Line In.

The Basics.

Recording from audio sources like cassette players, video recorders, or record players can be routed through the port Explorer 7.1 labeled Line In.

Line In

The port format is mini-jack (3,5mm stereo), which can, for example, be connected to the TAPE deck RECORD output on your amplifier or with the AUX SEND port of a mixer.

To record go to the Explorer 7.1 Control Panel under "Record" and choose the source "Line

In”.

Safety Instructions

Please remember to switch off all (analog) devices before connecting them. This is to avoid the danger of an electric shock - even a weak one- it also protects your speaker membranes and your hearing from sudden signal spikes.

The Microphone Input.

The MIC In is for connecting a normal condenser Mic (with or without a battery).

The Basics.

Microphone recordings, for example for voice recognition or Internet telephony, can be made through the port marked Mic In on your Explorer 7.1. Use a standard microphone or headset with a mono mini-jack (3,5 mm mini-jack).

Mic In

The sensitivity can be regulated in the Control Panel of the Explorer 7.1. A switch for the Mic input amplifier is also included. The function marked “ **Enhance Mic Recording Sensitivity** “ strengthens the input signal by about +20dB, but of course also raises the background noise level as well.

Safety Instructions

When using the microphone, unpleasant feedback can occur suddenly (loud whistling) which can be bad for your speakers as well as your hearing. Always reduce the volume when first using a microphone and increase the volume carefully if necessary.

The Digital Output.

The digital output supplies a standard S/PDIF signal at 48 kHz for consumer devices. These include, for example, digital amplifiers, MiniDisc recorders or DAT recorders. It also support 96KHz and 192KHz sample rate for Hi-quality audio output.

The Basics.

If you want to digitally send music from your PC to another device you will want to use the optical digital output (often called TOS-Link).

Digital Out

In the Control Panel under “SPDIF” > “Enable Digital Output” there are four different modes for the digital transfer over the digital output at your disposal.

Tip.

Devices like MiniDisc recorders work with a sample rate of 44.1kHz. The digital Out on the Explorer 7.1 with the setting “AC3 or PCM with auto Selection” or “PCM Only” functions at 48kHz, however. In order to obtain a “Drop Out” free recording your MiniDisc device must have its own sample rate converter (SRC- Sample Rate Conversion).

The volume for the digital signal can be regulated using the appropriately marked slider in the “SPDIF” menu of the Control Panel – when you want to adjust the Wave playback volume use the Master Volume slider. Note that this controller not only audibly affects the playback volume (in monitoring), it also changes the digital signal.

The Digital In.

The Basics.

The Explorer 7.1 offers you Optical digital inputs.

The External Optical Digital In

The digital input can receive standard S/PDIF signals at 32/44.1/48/96KHz from normal consumer devices. CD players, MiniDisc or DAT players fall into this category.

The Basics.

If you want to digitally receive music from another device to your PC, you will want to use the optical digital input (often called TOS-Link).

General Information to the Digital Inputs

The digital interface on the Explorer 7.1 works with all standard frequencies with 24Bit resolution, i.e. 32, 44.1, 48 and 96KHz. To be able to work with the digital input, you should first ensure that this has also been activated.

The Analog CD Audio Connectors.

The Explorer 7.1 offers separate connectors for the analog output of your CD drive(s). In the Explorer 7.1 Control Panel the controller is marked “CD Player”.

The Basics.

A particularly nice feature of the Explorer 7.1 is the possibility to connect CD drives (e.g. your CD ROM drive and a Burner) to the card without any loss in the signal strength. The inputs CD1 is electrically separated from one another and combined in the mixer. The volume control for it is labeled “CD Player” of Windows Mixer.

When recording from a CD drive, select the “CD Player” setting in the ControlPanel under “Record”.

The connector jacks are compatible with the widely available MPC3 standard. The pin configuration of the signal and ground circuit is shown in the following:

Appropriate cables can normally be found included with your CD drive or in a PC shop.

To record from both of these sources choose the setting “Stereo Mixer” in the Explorer 7.1 Control Panel under “Record”.

The AUX In.

The Explorer 7.1 is equipped with an internal audio input e.g. for video cards. You could also connect a CD drive here. In the Explorer 7.1 Control Panel there is an AUX controller.

The Basics.

The Explorer 7.1 has another input for extra PC devices. A video/grabber card or the analog audio output of a DVD card can be connected at the internal AUX input, for example. The volume can be controlled in the Explorer 7.1 Control Panel using the slider marked “AUX”.

When recording, select the setting “AUX” under “Record”.

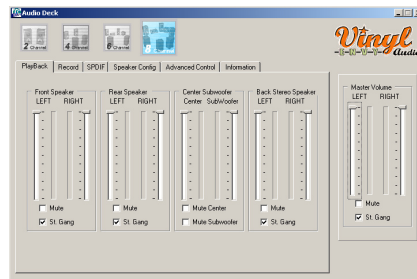
Appropriate cables can normally be found included with your product or in a PC shop.

The Explorer 7.1 Control Panel.

The description of the Explorer 7.1 Control Panel applies to the Control Panel that is installed under Windows 98SE, Windows ME, Windows 2000 and Windows XP.

The Playback Window.

Here you can set the volume for the various speakers. This is pretty self-explanatory – the front slider is the one that usually wears out the fastest from being used so much. All speakers can be muted immediately by clicking on the MUTE option. You can select different channel mode to match your speaker setting. (8 channel mode only support by Windows XP)

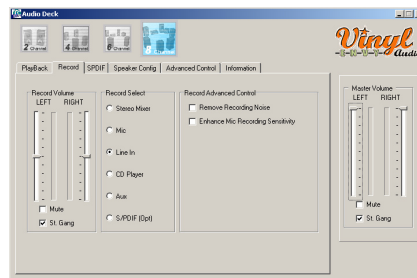


The Record Menu.

In the Record menu you can choose which source the Explorer 7.1 recording driver will be recorded in an application. The microphone input has two other additional functions:

Remove Recording Noise: It can remove the noise during you recording.

Enhance Mic Recording Sensitivity: activating the function, which raises the signal level +20dB, can raise a weak signal level.

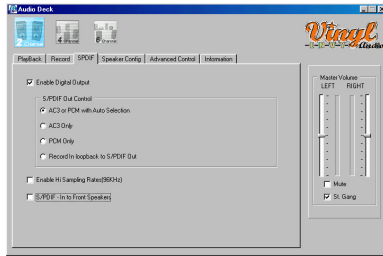


The SPDIF Menu.

In the digital menu you can set the parameters for the digital In and Out.

To be able to work with the digital output, you should first ensure that this has also been activated.

In the field “Enable Digital Output” choose either:



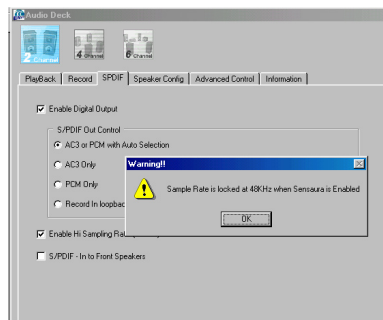
“AC3 or PCM with Auto Selection” –with this setting all the digital sources (Wave, MIDI, Digital In) are played over the digital output. This setting is also used when you want to send encoded AC3 streams to an external decoder—please pay attention that the DVD software documentation should clearly state its compatibility to the Explorer 7.1.

“AC3 Only”–This setting is only used when you want to send encoded AC3 streams to an external decoder.

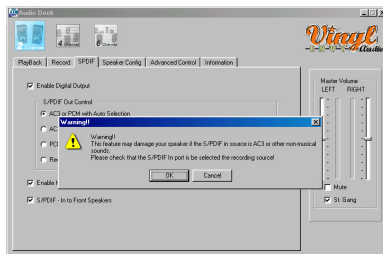
“PCM Only”–This setting is only used when you want to send the digital sources (Wave, MIDI, Digital In) are played over the digital output.

“Record In loopback to S/PDIF Out”–This setting allows you output all of record in sources to digital out directly.

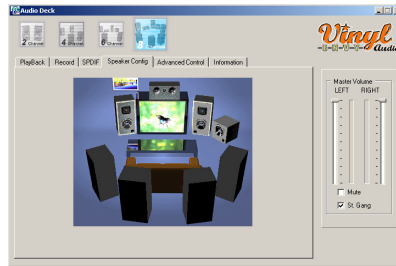
“Enable Hi Sampling Rates (96KHz)”–This setting allows you output over 96KHz sample rate audio to S/PDIF out. Before you use the setting, you must disable Sensaura function in Advanced Control setting. **(Speaker mode must set in 2-channel).**



“S/PDIF-In to Front Speakers”–This setting allows you hear the S/PDIF In source from front speaker. Before you use this setting, please make sure the S/PDIF In source non-musical or AC3 format first. Because it may damage your speaker. **(Speaker mode must set in 2-channel)**



The Speaker Config Menu.



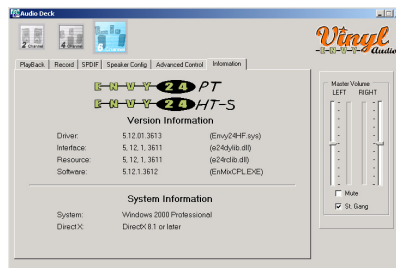
In this setting page, you can click speaker icon with mouse to check your speaker position. After you click the speaker icon, you can hear a short voice and the speaker icon become yellow.

Downmix LEF/Center DAC to Front channels: The setting allows you mix LEF/Center Signal into front speaker.

(The function only works in 6-channel mode)

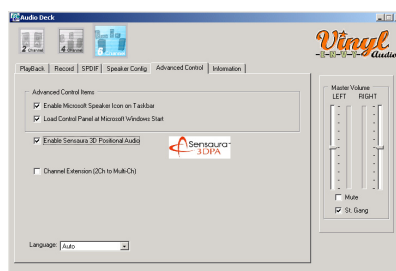
Downmix Surround to Front channels: The setting allows you mix all of Surround Signal into front speaker. This function was design for only own 2 channel speaker system to enjoy multi-channel audio. *(The function only works in 6-channel mode)*

The Information Menu.



Under “Information,” You can see all of version information of Explorer 7.1. By the way, we show your Windows version and DirectX version at the same time.

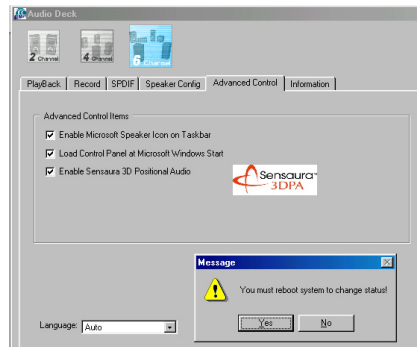
The Advanced Control Menu.



In the Advanced Control menu you can set the parameters for the Explorer 7.1 control panel.
Enable Microsoft Speaker Icon on Taskbar: If you enable the option, you can see the Microsoft speaker icon show on the taskbar.

Load Control Panel at Microsoft Windows Start: You can load the control panel at Microsoft Windows start.

Enable Sensaura 3D Positional audio: The function offer the 3D audio for computer games or musical-playback in multi-channel mode. (Windows will ask you restart Windows after you enable the function.)



The Bundle Software.

You can find it form autostarter CD menu, select “Install Software”. There are including two-bundle applications for you.

Intervideo WinDVD

Intervideo WinRip

Intervideo WinDVD.

This application is a further highlight in the package. Use it with your DVD ROM drive to play DVD movies and send multi-channel audio (e.g. Dolby Digital) to the analog outputs of your Explorer 7.1

Intervideo WinRip.

It's a easy to use for playback/recording software. You can playback wav, mp3 and wma format audio. WinRip support wav, wma and mp3 for recording.

The HOTSTUFF Directory.

On the CD-ROM for the Explorer 7.1 we have collected together a large number of other programs, tools and files. It's

well worth a look. You can find in “HotStuff” folder of Explorer 7.1 CD-ROM.

Many of the programs we present here are shareware. Please support the shareware principle and pay the amount that the authors ask if you like the programs. Thank you!

