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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Technical specifications

Data transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ PCI 2.1 bus
DSP (Digital Signal Processor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Cirrus Logic SoundFusion CS4624
Audio quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Full duplex ♦ CD and Pro Audio quality: 20-bit quad output and 18-bit dual stereo input codec ♦ Up to 48kHz sampling rate
Game compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sensaura based 3D positional audio with support for Microsoft DirectSound 3D, EAX 1.0, EAX 2.0, A3D 1.0, I3DL2, MacroFX, MultiDrive, ZoomFX and EnvironmentFX ♦ Sound Blaster
Audio compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Microsoft DirectSound and DirectMusic compatible ♦ Dolby Surround ♦ Dolby Digital ♦ Dolby Digital EX
Software wavetable synthesizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ DSP accelerated engine for unlimited number of voices (64-voice hardware) ♦ 8MB General MIDI/GS sample set ♦ DLS 1.0 compatible ♦ GM (General MIDI) and Yamaha XG compatible ♦ Yamaha S-YXG50: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 676 instrument sounds and 21 drum kits - Effects: reverb, chorus, variation...

1.2. System requirements

- Intel Pentium II or AMD-K6 and higher or compatible
- PCI 2.1 slot
- 64MB RAM
- CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive
- Microsoft Windows 98 SE, Millennium, 2000 or XP

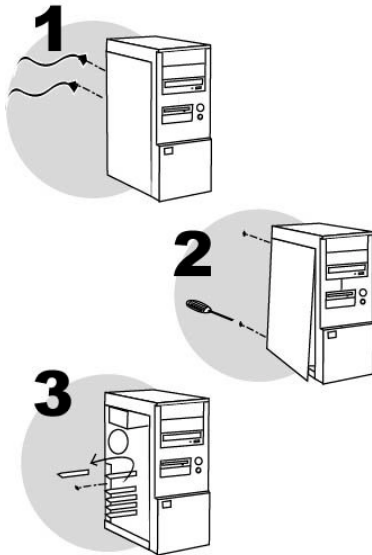
Log on now to our website (www.hercules.com) to download the latest drivers and software, consult the list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) relating to your sound card and take advantage of user manual updates. You can also have a look at the complete range of Hercules products and find out about forthcoming releases.

2. HARDWARE INSTALLATION

If your computer is already equipped with a sound card, you must remove all existing drivers to avoid any subsequent conflict between old and new drivers.



Some sound cards are integrated into your PC motherboard and cannot therefore be physically uninstalled. Contact your PC manufacturer for details on how to disable these chipsets.



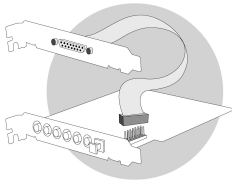
Switch off the PC and any peripherals such as the monitor or printer.

1. Unplug the power supply cable(s).
2. Remove the PC cover (for further information, consult your PC manual).
3. If a sound card has not been previously installed, unscrew the slot cover corresponding to the appropriate PCI slot and remove it.
If your PC already has a sound card, remove it, keeping the screw which attached the previous card.



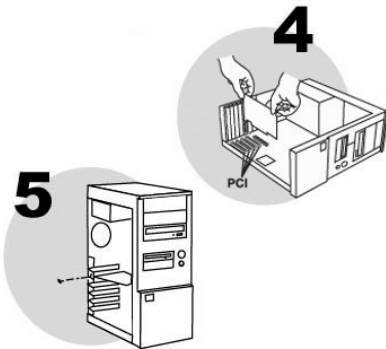
Static electricity can severely damage electronic components. Before removing the card from its plastic bag, touch the metallic back plate of your PC with your hand to discharge any static electricity from your body.

- Do not touch the printed circuits on the card.
- Do not let anybody else hold the card.
- Do not let your clothes touch any of the components.



If you wish to connect a MIDI device or a non USB games accessory:

Connect the MIDI /game port extension to the **JOYSTICK/MIDI** connector on your sound card.



4. Insert your sound card into its slot, pushing firmly on the card to make sure it is properly fixed in place.
5. Screw the card bracket into position on your computer chassis.
6. If you have connected the MIDI /game port extension to your sound card, screw the extension's metal bracket to the computer's frame.
7. Connect your CD-ROM / DVD-ROM drive to your sound card by connecting the audio cable (not included) to the **CD IN 1** input on your card. (If you do not connect the drive to the sound card, there will be no sound from your audio CDs!)

If you have a CD / DVD writer:

Connect your writer to your sound card by connecting the audio cable (not included) to the **CD IN 2** input on your card. (If you do not connect the writer to the sound card, there will be no sound from your audio CDs!)

8. Replace the PC cover and reconnect the power supply cable(s).

Note: the **CD IN 1** and **CD IN 2** inputs are analog inputs. If you wish, you can connect one of your drives to the numeric input (**S/PDIF IN**) on the Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1 card using a numeric audio cable (not supplied).

3. SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

Once your sound card has been installed, switch your PC back on. Because the configuration of the card is Plug and Play, Windows will automatically detect its presence.

N.B.: your installation screens and procedure may vary slightly from those described in this manual.



Because drivers are constantly being developed, the driver provided on your CD-ROM may not be the most recent version. You can visit the Hercules website (www.hercules.com) to verify this and, if necessary, download the very latest version.

3.1. Driver installation

3.1.1. Driver installation for Windows 98 SE / Millennium

Windows will display an **Add New Hardware Wizard** dialog box informing you that the system has found the following device: **PCI Multimedia Audio Device (Crystal SoundFusion (tm) under Windows Millennium).**

- Click on **Cancel** to install your optimized Hercules drivers.




- Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive.

The installation menu automatically appears, containing all the different options available.

If the installation menu is not launched automatically:

- Double-click on **My Computer**.

- Double-click on the  icon.

- Click on **Drivers**.

- Follow the on-screen instructions.

Windows will prompt you to reboot your computer.

- Click on **Finish**.

The drivers for your sound card will be automatically installed when Windows reboots. (Please have your Windows 98 SE CD-ROM handy before commencing installation. You may be prompted to insert it during driver installation.)

3.1.2. Driver installation for Windows 2000



When your computer starts up, Windows will automatically install the standard drivers for your Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1.

- Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive to install your optimized Hercules drivers.

The installation menu automatically appears, containing all the different options available.

- Click on **Drivers**.
- Follow the on-screen instructions.

Windows will now install the different elements of your Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1 sound card: **Hercules Gamesurround Fortissimo(tm) III 7.1, Hercules Gamesurround Fortissimo(tm) III 7.1 WDM Interface and Hercules(R) Game Port**. Windows may display the **Digital Signature Not Found** dialog box.

- Click on **Yes**.

3.1.3. Driver installation for Windows XP



When your computer starts up, Windows will automatically install the standard drivers for your Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1.

- Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive to install your optimized Hercules drivers.

The installation menu automatically appears, containing all the different options available.

- Click on **Drivers**.
- Follow the on-screen instructions.
- Click on **Finish**.

Windows will now install the different elements of your Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1 sound card: **Hercules Gamesurround Fortissimo(tm) III 7.1, Hercules Gamesurround Fortissimo(tm) III 7.1 WDM Interface and Hercules(R) Game Port**. Windows will display a **Found New Hardware Wizard** dialog box. The wizard will suggest that you **Install the software automatically (Recommended)**.

- Click on **Next**.

Windows may display a **Hardware Installation** warning.

- Click on **Continue anyway**.
- Click on **Finish** to complete the setup.


3.2. Applications installation



- Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive.


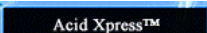
The installation menu automatically appears, containing all the different options available.

If the installation menu is not launched automatically:

- Double-click on **My Computer**.
- Double-click on the  icon.

- Simply select each element you wish to install and follow the on-screen instructions to install them.


<p style="text-align: center;">Manuals</p>	<p><i>Electronic documentation</i></p> <p>Install the electronic version of the Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1 manual on your PC, as well as the PowerDVD user manual.</p> <p>Once installed, access this manual by clicking on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start/Programs/Hercules/Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1/ User Manual. - Start/Programs/Hercules/PowerDVD/User Manual.
<p style="text-align: center;">PowerDVD™ Pro EX</p>	<p><i>PowerDVD Pro EX</i></p> <p>With Cyberlink PowerDVD Pro EX, the world acclaimed software DVD player, you will have the ultimate DVD solution to enjoy all the benefits DVD entertainment has to offer!</p> <p>With its high quality video and audio playback, as well as its low CPU consumption, PowerDVD is the number one choice for high quality DVD playback!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Yamaha XG</p>	<p><i>Yamaha XG Player</i></p> <p>The Yamaha XG Player allows playback of MIDI files (.mid, .rmi), audio files (.wav, .mp3), movie files (.avi, .mpg) and audio CDs all from a single application.</p> <p>With MIDI files you can mix, arrange (change voices/effects) and attach MIDI files to e-mail.</p> <p>Also, its links to various Internet services allow you to listen to music on web sites or to purchase music easily.</p> <p>Due to the high quality of the synthesizer incorporated into Yamaha XG Player, you are advised to enable the MIDI file association option during installation.</p>

	<p><i>Hercules MediaStation II</i></p> <p>Hercules MediaStation II is a multifunctional software package for easy playback of digital music, videos and pictures*.</p> <p>Hercules MediaStation II enables you to listen to songs and mix or record* different styles of music.</p> <p>With Hercules MediaStation II, the PC user can view digital videos and pictures. The extra option provides the facility to create slide shows using pictures you have just taken with your digital camera!</p> <p>Intuitive and sophisticated, Hercules MediaStation II is destined to become your favorite everyday software companion!</p> <p>*See your electronic documentation or options window for a list of supported formats.</p>
	<p><i>Acid Xpress</i></p> <p>Acid Xpress is Sonic Foundry's loop-based multi-track music creation tool. Make your own original music with the click of a mouse and a couple of paint strokes. Combine music and sound loops to create professional-quality music instantly (25 free loops included).</p>


Note: to install PowerDVD Pro EX, enter the code printed on the sheet that came with your CD. If you have lost this sheet you can find the code on the installation CD-ROM (in the **PDVD CD KEY.txt** file, located in the **About PowerDVD** folder).



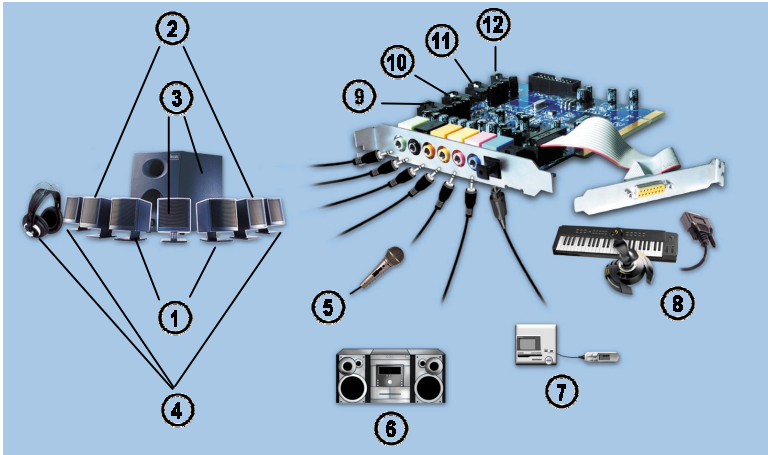
Make sure that you install Yamaha XG Player before installing Hercules MediaStation II. If you try to run Hercules MediaStation II before installing Yamaha XG Player, an error message will be displayed because certain files are common to both applications.

Right-click on the  icon on the taskbar to access the Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1 software suite supplied with your sound card.

If you have aborted the installation procedure, the following instructions will launch the installation menu again:

- Double-click on **My Computer**.
- Double-click on the  icon.

4. CONNECTORS



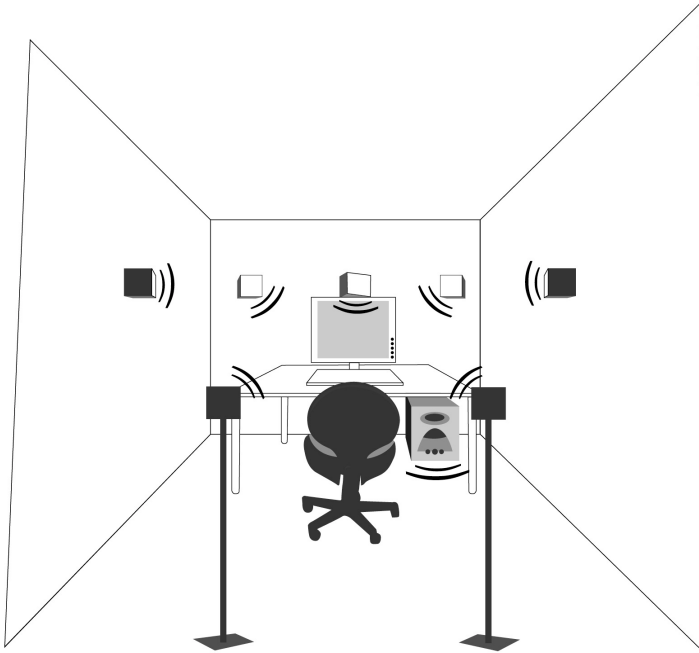
- ① Front speakers (pair of speakers or 2.1 system): connect to the **Front out** output
- ② Rear speakers (second pair of speakers): connect to the **Surround out** output
- ③ Center speaker and subwoofer: connect to the **Center/LFE** output
- ④ Center rear speakers (third pair of speakers) or headphones: connect to the **Headphone/7&8** output
- ⑤ Microphone: connect to the **Mic In** input
- ⑥ Hi-fi: connect to the **Line In** stereo input
- ⑦ Amplifier/decoder or MiniDisc player/recorder: connect to the **S/PDIF Out** digital optical output
- ⑧ Joystick, gamepad, wheel or MIDI keyboard: connect to the game / MIDI MPU-401 port
- ⑨ Internal **CD IN 1** connector (to CD-ROM / DVD-ROM drive)
- ⑩ Internal **CD IN 2** connector (connect to a CD / DVD writer or a second CD-ROM drive)
- ⑪ Internal **AUX IN** connector: similarly to the **CD IN 1** and **CD IN 2** connectors, this connector enables you to connect another audio device (e.g. a third CD-ROM drive).
- ⑫ Internal **S/PDIF IN** connector: this connector enables you to transfer sound from your CD-ROM / DVD-ROM drive via a digital audio cable (not supplied).

Note 1: connect additional peripherals (joystick / gamepad / wheel / MIDI keyboard) simultaneously to your card's game / MIDI port using a Y-cable (not supplied).

Note 2: thanks to the separate **Headphone/7&8** and **Front out** outputs, you don't have to unplug your front speakers in order to plug in a pair of headphones.

5. POSITIONING THE SPEAKERS

By connecting up to 8 speakers (a 7.1 system consisting of 7 speakers and a subwoofer) to your Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1 card, you can benefit from Dolby Digital EX sound, available on the latest DVDs. It is essential that you position the speakers correctly if you wish to fully benefit from this audio revolution.



Place both monitor speakers on either side of the monitor and position the central speaker on top of the monitor. If possible, these three speakers should be placed at the same level.

The position of the subwoofer is not as important; we simply recommend that you place it on the floor (for example underneath your desk) to enable a better bass frequency diffusion.


Place the rear speakers on either side of you (i.e. on either side of your chair) and slightly to the rear (but not behind you). Turn the speakers toward you, not towards the monitor. We also recommend that you position the rear speakers at about one meter above your head to create a real surround-sound effect.

Position the center rear speakers behind you, turned towards you and on the same level as the rear speakers.

6. SOUND CARD CONFIGURATION

6.1. The Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1 control panel

6.1.1. Introduction

Click on the  icon on the taskbar to launch the Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1 control panel.



The **Main** tab enables you to define the type of speakers connected to your card to optimize sound reproduction. You can also adjust the volume of each speaker and of the recording source.

The **Mixer** tab enables you to adjust the volume of the different audio sources.

The **EQ** tab enables you to apply different sound effects using the equalizer.

The **MIDI** tab enables you to configure the sample set included in your sound card. N.B.: the **MIDI** tab is unavailable with some driver versions.

The **Other** tab contains the card's various advanced configuration options.

For further information, click on the ? symbol in the upper right corner of the panel and a help menu will appear.

6.1.2. General points

First of all, define your audio system (**Main** tab, **Master Volume** drop-down list).

For example: if you are connecting a 2.1 system only, it is extremely important that you select **2.1 Speakers** if you wish to optimize the audio quality. This will send all the low frequencies to the subwoofer and the rest of the sound spectrum to the 2 speakers.

Similarly, if you are using headphones, select **Headphones** from the drop-down list to prevent sound from playing out over the connected speakers.

If you wish to record an audio signal, you must define it in the **Record Source** drop-down list. Use a software program (such as Hercules MediaStation II) to record the audio signal.

6.1.3. The optical digital output

You can configure the optical digital output (**S/PDIF Out** connector) in the **Other** tab.

If you wish to transfer data onto a MiniDisc:

- Enable the **MiniDisc® Optimal Mode** option.

This option enables you to optimize the quality of the signal by reducing the breath like effect.

If you wish to transmit the audio signal from the PowerDVD software:

- Enable the **PowerDVD™ software player** option.

*This option is useful if you have connected an amplifier/decoder + speakers to the **S/PDIF Out**. PowerDVD will then transmit the audio signal, which will be decoded externally.*

If you wish to transmit the audio signal from the internal S/PDIF IN connector:

- Enable the **Digital audio source** option.

6.2. Audio CD playback

If your CD-ROM / DVD-ROM drive does not automatically play your audio CD when you insert it under Windows 98 SE / Millennium, enable the **Auto insert notification** option. To do this:

- Click on **Start/Settings/Control Panel**. (Under Windows Millennium, click on **View all Control Panel options** if necessary.)
- Double-click on the **System** icon.
- Select the **Device Manager** tab.
- Select your CD-ROM / DVD-ROM drive in the **CD-ROM** section.
- Click on **Properties**.
- Select the **Settings** tab.
- Enable the **Auto insert notification** option.
- Click on **OK/Close** and reboot your computer.

Note: this option is automatically configured under Windows 2000 / XP.

7. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Before you contact us (*), please have the following information/items ready:

- Product name,
- Date of purchase of your product,
- Your full system configuration details: processor type, memory, operating system,
- Pen and paper.

Please have your computer switched on and ready at the point where you have encountered a problem.

7.1. If you need to return a product

Hercules offers a standard 3 year parts & service warranty (2 years in OEM version).

1. To return a product for factory service, contact a Hercules technical support representative at the phone number corresponding to the country you live in (*).
 - **In the United Kingdom:** before taking any action please contact our Technical Support Dept. on **020 7216 0047** or by email at **hercules.uk@guillemotsupport.com** who will be able to advise you as to the best possible solution.
 - **In Continental Europe, Australia and New Zealand:** after receiving confirmation from our technical support service (*) that your product is defective, please follow the instructions we provide to have your product replaced.
 - **In the USA and Canada:** refund policies apply to products purchased directly from Hercules (30 days).
2. When returning the product, be sure to include all materials, such as the manual(s), connection cable(s), installation CD(s) and the product packaging box. **Note: only packages that have been assigned an RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization) number by a technical support agent will be accepted.**

(*) Hotline details are listed at the end of this manual.

7.2. Save time by registering your product online!

Insert the installation CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive and click on **Register**. Registering with us in this way will simplify the process if you ever need to contact our technical support team. If you wish, you can also be added to our priority mailing list to receive information about our new Hercules products and our latest special offers.

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Declaration of conformity

EC COMPLIANCE NOTICE: this equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits of the Council Directive 89/336/EEC of 3 May 1989 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility, amended by Directive 93/68/EEC. The audio translator has been tested and found to comply with EN 50081-1 /1992: EN50222, EN 50082-1 /1997: EN61000-4-2/-3/-8, EN 50204. In a domestic environment this product may cause radio interference in which case the user may be required to take adequate measures.

CANADIAN COMPLIANCE NOTICE: this Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.

USA COMPLIANCE NOTICE: this equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and
- (2) This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment on and off, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures: reorient or relocate the receiving antenna, increase the separation between the equipment and receiver, connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected, consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

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End-user software license Agreement

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Warranty

Gamesurround Fortissimo III 7.1 comes with a standard 3 year parts and labor warranty from the date of purchase (2 years in OEM version). Guillemot Corporation S.A.'s entire liability and your exclusive remedy is limited to the replacement of defective products. In no event shall Guillemot Corporation S.A. be liable to you or to any third party for direct or indirect consequential, incidental or special damages which you may incur as a result of using the aforementioned products and/or Software subject to the End-user software license Agreement contained in this document, including, but not limited to, loss of data, or information of any kind.