

Windows 7 ASIO USB audio set-up guide

ASIO (Audio Stream Input/Output) is another method of audio transport which is superior to WASAPI as it bypasses the Windows Kernel Mixer (and the distortion this adds). Just like WASAPI, to use ASIO the media player will normally require some kind of output plug in, but it is only possible to use ASIO in Class 2 USB Audio mode (which allows transmission of higher data rates), using a dedicated driver (such as the free Cambridge Audio USB 2.0 driver).

ASIO is preferable to all Kernel streaming audio transport methods (eg. WASAPI or DirectSound), as it delivers lower latency, lower jitter and no mixing of audio streams.

Using the free Cambridge Audio USB 2.0 audio driver allows access to ASIO, so therefore using the driver in conjunction with ASIO will give the best performance possible.

In order to run the Cambridge Audio driver and play 24-bit/192kHz content, the PC needs to have the following minimum spec;

- 1gb RAM
- 1.6GHz core2 or amd equivalent
- Made after 2006 (UHCI compliant chipset)
- XP/Vista/7 with latest service packs installed

The example below shows how to configure your Windows 7 PC for use with a Cambridge Audio USB product using ASIO as an output method. foobar2000 is the media player used in this example.

 Connect your Cambridge Audio USB product to your PC using a USB Type A to Type B cable. Switch on your Cambridge Audio USB product and ensure that it is set to USB Class 2 operation – see product user manual for details.

A message will appear at the bottom of your screen informing you that a new device has been discovered. Shortly afterwards, an error message will appear informing you that the device was not installed properly. This is because the free Cambridge Audio USB 2.0 driver is required but has not yet been installed.

2. Download, save and unzip the Cambridge Audio USB 2.0 driver from. www.cambridge-audio.com/DacMagicPlusSupport

The downloaded zip file must be unzipped and can be saved to a convenient location on your PC, such as the desktop. It can be deleted after the installation is complete.



3. Once the driver has downloaded been unzipped, open it and click on the setup.bat file Click Run when prompted

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Favorites Forwrites Forwri	Name CAUSE Copen File - Security Warning The publisher could not be verified run inis software? Name: C:\Users\benb\D Publisher: Unknown Publis Type: Windows Batch From: C:\Users\benb\D Wersybenb\D Wersybenb\D Type: Windows Batch From: C:\Users\benb\D Wersybenb\D Type: Windows Batch From: C:\Users\benb\D Type: Windows Batch From: C:\Users\benb\D From: C:\Us	Date modified 18/10/2011 09:29 18/10/2011 09:29 18/10/2011 09:29 d. Are you sure you wan esktop\CAUSB2v1.432B\set her File esktop\CAUSB2v1.432B\set Run Cause Run Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Cause Run Run Run Cause Run Ru	Type File folder Windows Batch File	Size 1 KB			
setup.bat Windows Batch	Date modified: 18/10/2011 09:29 File Size: 15 bytes	Date created: 26/09/2011	11:24				

Make sure that the Cambridge Audio USB product remains connected and switched on throughout the process





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Follow the prompts on screen to install the Cambridge Audio driver

🖭 Setup					23
Choose Install L	ocation	R Audio 2 Driver v1 4	2.0	ŝ	, P.
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C: Program F	lies (cambridge Audio (US)	3 Audio 2 Driver		browse	
Space required: 1	L.5MB				
Space available: 3	20.7GB				
		< Back	Install	Cano	:el

The installation may take a few minutes to load

Setup
Installing Please wait while CA USB Audio 2 Driver v1.43.0 is being installed.
This may take some time to complete. Please wait
Preparation.
Preparing installation. This may take some time to complete. Please wait
< Back Next > Cancel



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When preinstallation is complete a message will appear at the bottom right of the screen Click Next to continue



Click Finish to complete the installation of the Cambridge Audio driver





4. Enter your PC's Control Panel and select Sound to set the Cambridge Audio USB product as the default audio device.

Select the Cambridge Audio USB Audio product device and click Set Default. Click Apply and OK to exit.



Now, all audio output by the PC will be output via USB to the Cambridge Audio USB product.

5. Install foobar2000.

You then need to manually install the ASIO output support plugin. To do this, from the foobar2000 UI go to File > Preferences > Components > Get more components.





This takes you to an online download page where you can select and download the ASIO output support plugin which is a zip file that can be saved to your PC.

To install the ASIO component;

- Step 1: Once again, open the foobar2000 preferences page.
- Step 2: Go to the Components page (shown in step 5).

Step 3: Click the "Install..." button and select the plugin from the component archive.



Step 4: Press "Open", you will be prompted to 'Apply' and restart foobar2000 in order to load the newly installed component. When foobar2000 restarts, you will see the newly installed ASIO output support plugin listed in the components page.





Click Add New

6. Now you must select ASIO as the preferred output method. Go to the Preferences page once again and under Playback, select Output > ASIO Virtual Devices.

Configured Virtual ASIO Devices Configured Virtual ASIO Devices Media Library Album List Payback DSP Manager Output ASIO Virtual Devices Shell Integration Tools Advanced Configured Virtual ASIO Devices	Preferences: ASIO Virtual Devices		? ×
Add New Edit Remove Reset all Reset page OK Cancel Apply	Components Display Keyboard Shortcuts Media Library Album List Networking Playback DSP Manager Output ASIO Virtual Devices Shell Integration Tools Advanced	Configured Virtual ASIO Devices	move

Ensure that CA USB Audio 2 ASIO Driver is selected, and click OK.

Name: CAU	ISB Audio 2 ASIO	Driver	
Oriver: CAU	SB Audio 2 ASIO I	Driver 🔻	Configur
hannel Map (dick to e	dit)		
Device channel	Format	Mapping	
Analogue 1	32-bit	Left	
Analogue 2	32-bit	Right	



7. Once again, open the foobar2000 preferences page.

Under Output, select ASIO: CA USB Audio 2 ASIO Driver as the output Device

Preferences: Output	? ×
Components	Device
Monopole Shortcuts	ASIO : CA USB Audio 2 ASIO Driver
 Keyboard Shortcuts Media Library Album List Networking Playback DSP Manager Output ASIO Virtual Devices Shell Integration Tools Advanced 	ASIO : CA USB Audio 2 ASIO Driver
	Reset all Reset page OK Cancel Apply

Click Apply and then OK to exit the screen.

ASIO output is now enabled. Apart from the improved sound quality, you will know that this has worked because the volume slider in the PC's task tray has no effect on volume levels during playback.

The sample rate and bit depth will now be adjusted dynamically according to the audio being played using foobar2000. The receiving Cambridge Audio USB product will display the signal information accordingly.