

Wyred 4 Sound

μLINK & μDAC-HD



Owner's Manual

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v1.1

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Register Your Product!

It is very important to complete the warranty registration form located on our website. You **MUST** complete and submit the form within 30 days of purchase to activate your warranty. When you navigate to our website there is a tab called “Register Products” that will allow you to fill out and submit the form.

****Keep your packaging! It is custom made for your unit and will effectively protect it for possible future use****

Important

Please read the entire manual before connecting this product to any existing components or power. This manual contains detailed information regarding the design, operation and features of the Wyred 4 Sound μ LINK & μ DAC-HD. Damage due to misuse or improperly followed instructions will not be covered under warranty. See “Warranty” for an in depth understanding of the warranty restrictions regarding these products.

Unpack carefully

The packaging contains:

- 1 - μ LINK or μ DAC-HD
- 1 – PC Driver/User Manual Disc
- 1 - USB Cable
- DC Power supply (**μ DAC-HD Only**)

μ DAC-HD Introduction and Design Features

The μ DAC-HD is a compact USB DAC that streams files up to 24/192kHz resolution and performs very well. For only \$499, you can open the doors to high quality digital playback through any Hi-Fi system. We have created a simple to operate device so you can spend more time listening and less time reading the operations manual. The W4S logo on the top of the chassis functions as a signal lock light and will indicate when the device is recognized by your computer. Once the DAC is plugged into your computer you have the option to power the unit through the USB connection or by the 9VDC power supply that can be purchased separately. Outputs consist of both RCA as well as a ¼” headphone output which can be used simultaneously. It’s that simple!

USB Interface

Many DACs in the marketplace have various limitations when streaming music over a USB connection. These limitations may include limited support for different operating systems, poor performance, or an inability to play high resolution files. We have ensured that the μ DAC-HD is proficient in all of these areas without any sacrifices. Derived from the latest asynchronous XMOS design, the μ DAC-HD is certified USB 2.0 High Speed as well as Audio Class 2.0 compliant. A quick driver install is required for PC machines; however, it remains driverless for Mac (10.6.4 and above) and Linux systems. Audio grade clocks, incredibly low latency and asynchronous mode of operation help ensure brilliant music reproduction.

DAC

For an absolutely fresh start to the analog signal, we decided to convert the digital stream with the Sabre DAC once again! This chip is based on the same platform as the award winning DAC-2. The ESS patented Hyperstream™ and Time Domain Jitter Eliminator technology guarantees a jitter-free digital signal with any input and the sonic result is remarkable! We have carefully tweaked the output levels of the Sabre to lower noise and distortion. Having the option to drive the RCA's directly from the DAC chip would be too easy, so we take it to another level. To help boost the presence even further, we found the STP-SE line-stage topology to be a perfect fit for this assignment.

Headphone Amp

For amplified analog resolution, we opted to implement a discrete class A headphone amp driver. We set out to create a DAC that headphone enthusiasts can place on their desk taking up negligible space yet packing the power to drive any pair of headphones. Measuring down to 0.0008% THD+N (Total Harmonic Distortion) with loads at 32 ohms, driving the typical 300 ohm phones should be no sweat! Because of the purely Class A implementation, the USB connection cannot be used as the power source as it lacks sufficient current. To take advantage of the discrete circuitry, you will need to use the supplied 9VDC supply. The HD will activate the class A headphone stage when both DC power is used and the headphones are plugged in. When in USB powered mode, you can run headphones with an impedance of 300 ohms or higher with astonishing performance.

Overview

We have combined cutting edge USB DAC technology and a robust headphone amp in a chassis that will fit in the palm of your hand! Benefiting from advanced engineering technology, we have been able to design this compact unit without making any major sacrifices in performance. The landscape of digital music is constantly growing and evolving and this product is a perfect example of that! The μ DAC-HD will refine your casual music sources such, as Pandora and MOG, while feeling right at home with high-res files in critical listening sessions. With no more than a Netbook, the HD, and your favorite pair of headphones, you have a portable reference Hi-Fi system....Consider that!

μLINK Introduction and Design Features

The μLINK is the perfect match for your music server or computer streaming setup! It seamlessly interfaces with your music source by converting your USB connection to a low jitter S/PDIF signal your DAC will benefit from. This unit is very easy to use, compact, and affordable. We have even included a W4S logo on the top of the unit that functions as a lock light to indicate when the device is recognized by your computer. You have the option to power the unit through the USB connection or with the optional 9VDC power supply. At a square 3.5" and less than 1" tall, this piece is so compact that you can easily place it on top of your DAC. Understanding that one connection does not fit all needs, we have included Coaxial, Toslink, and BNC digital outputs for you to choose from. Having the outputs galvanically isolated from the USB source, we are able to eliminate noise from degrading the performance of your system. Additionally, all three of these digital outputs are active and independently buffered so they can be used at the same time if desired with no contamination between them.

USB Interface

Ultimately, you may be wondering how this nifty little unit can benefit you and your setup. In fact, this high performance converter may allow you to keep your current DAC for years to come! The reality is that many DACs in the marketplace have various limitations when streaming music over a USB connection. These limitations may include limited support for different operating systems, poor performance, or an inability to play high resolution files without down-converting. We made sure that the μLINK is proficient in all of these areas without any sacrifices. Developed from the latest asynchronous XMOS design, which is certified USB 2.0 High Speed and Audio Class 2.0 compliant, we are able to offer a driverless solution for Mac and Linux platforms. However, a quick driver install for PC machines is required. Incredibly low latency in conjunction with the asynchronous mode communication and ultra precise clocks permits exceptionally high quality digital streaming. You will be able to stream those hot new 24 bit 192kHz files from HD Tracks without missing a beat!

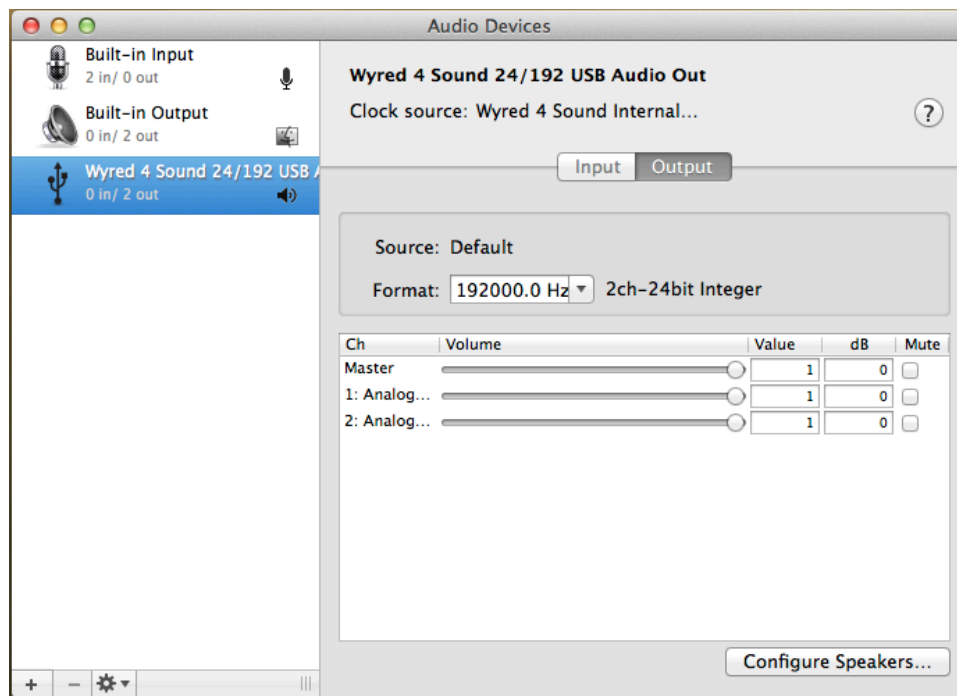
If you are completely happy with your current DAC aside from the fact that it won't support high resolution files or perhaps does not have a USB input at all, look no further than the Wyred 4 Sound μLINK!

μLINK/μDAC-HD USB configuration (MAC)

Please follow these steps when connecting your new unit to a MAC computer. The USB interface is certified USB 2.0 High Speed and Audio Class 2.0 compliant meaning that no drivers are required for MAC systems 10.6.4 and later!

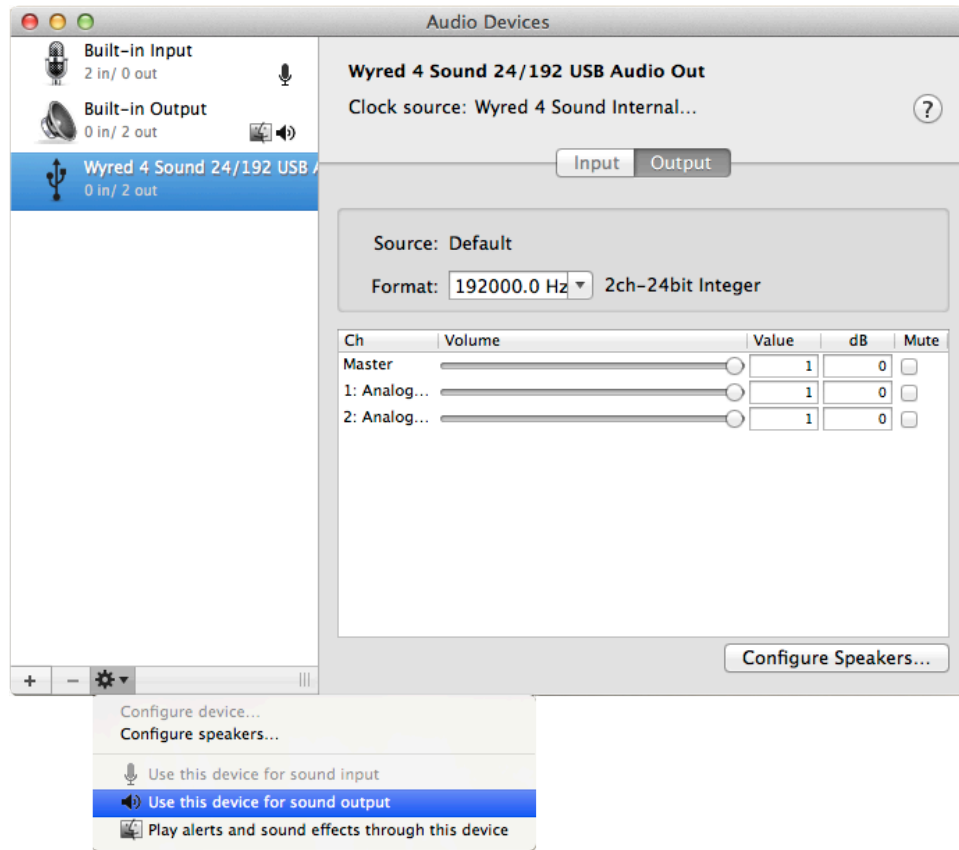
1. Connect a USB cable from the μLINK/μDAC-HD to the computer with the computer powered on.
(The type A to B USB cable is included with the unit)
2. **USB Power:** Turn the unit on by selecting **USB** on the **POWER SELECT** three position switch labeled **(DC-OFF-USB)**.
DC Power: Plug the DC power supply into the wall and then the DC jack on the unit. Power up the unit by selecting **DC** on the **POWER SELECT** three position switch labeled **(DC-OFF-USB)**.
(Please note that the μDAC-HD can be powered from a USB connection when using headphones but for best results DC power is recommended. The Class A headphone stage will become active when using DC power with headphones plugged in. We do not recommend rapidly switching between USB and DC power.)
3. Connect the outputs of the unit to the appropriate device. (EX:DAC, Head Phones, Pre-amp, etc)
4. It is now necessary to select the μLINK/μDAC-HD as the output device for your computer. Please locate the Audio Midi setup by following this directory: **Click On** Finder----> Applications--> Utilities----> Audio Midi setup.

You will then see the screen below.



Once you have reached the Midi setup you will need to select the “Wyred 4 Sound 24/192 USB Audio Out” as the default output device and apply the setting.

5. To apply the setting click on “Wyred 4 Sound 24/192 USB Audio Out” and then click on the “gear” icon located at the bottom of the window.



When you click the gear icon a pop up window will be displayed, **click on** “Use this device for sound output” to properly apply the setting.

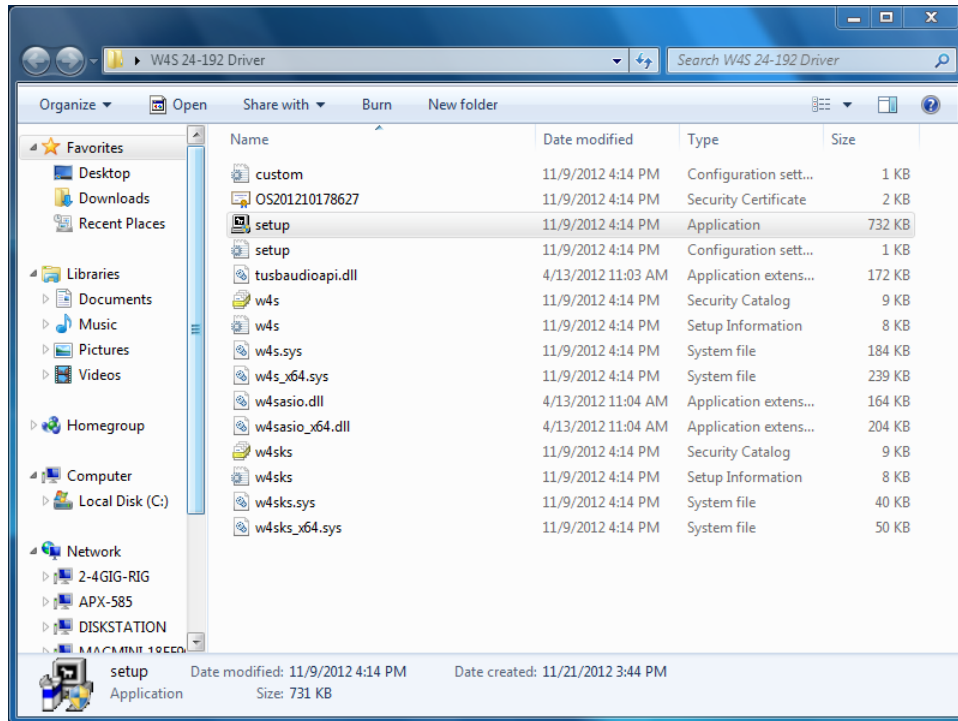
6. Now you can open your preferred music playback program and find the preferences or options tab. Once you locate the output device option, make sure the “Wyred 4 Sound 24/192 USB Audio Out” audio interface is selected. It is not necessary to select the μ LINK/ μ DAC-HD as the output device in iTunes and various other programs.
7. The last step is easy... Enjoy your music!

μDAC-HD/μLINK configuration (PC)

(The screenshots for this installation are from a Windows 7 machine)

Please follow these steps when connecting your new unit to a PC computer. Drivers are located on this disk and are also available for download on the Wyred 4 Sound website.

1. Open the folder titled “W4S 24-192 Driver” on the driver disk. Click on the file titled “setup” (It’s the one that looks like a computer icon) and click on it to begin installation.

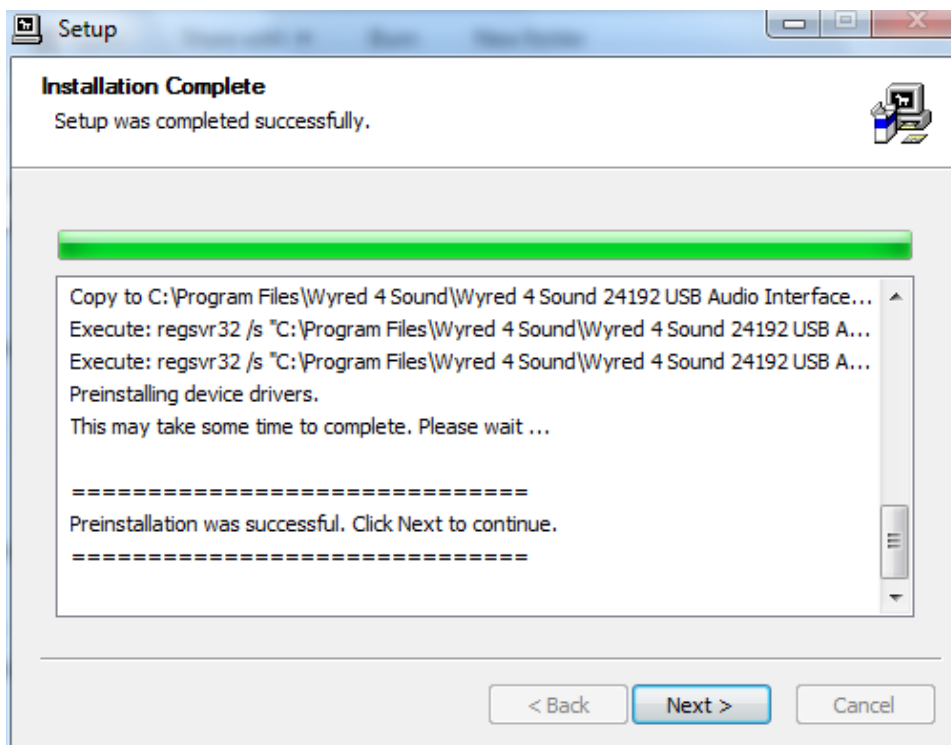


2. Click “Yes” when asked if you want to allow USB Audio 2.0 Class Driver Setup to make changes on your computer.

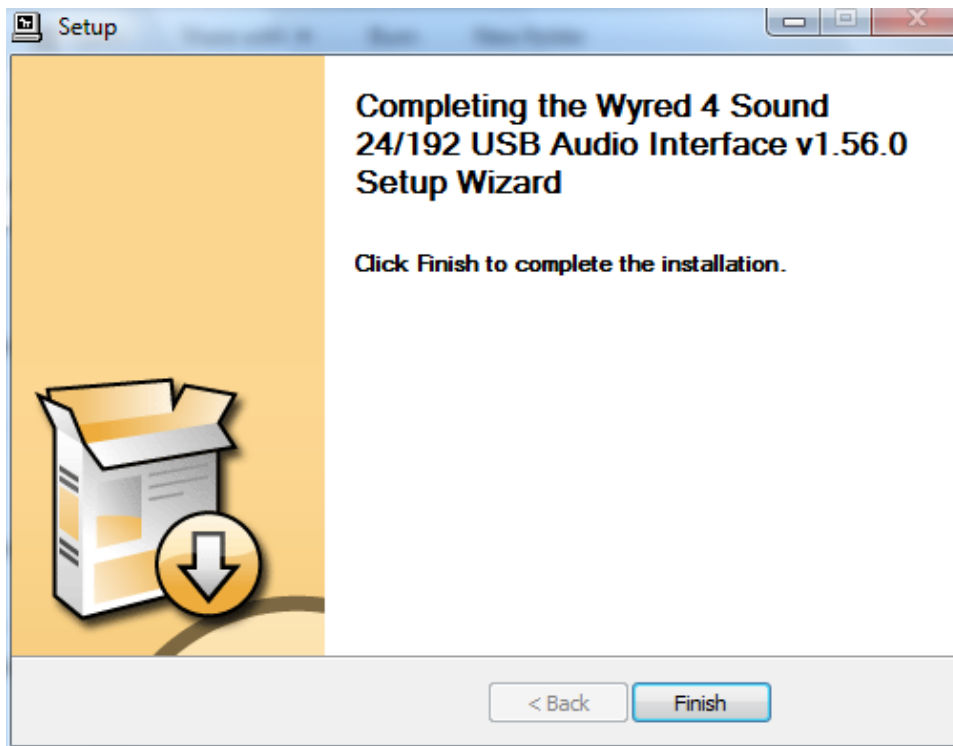
3. Click "Next" to proceed with installation.



4. Click "Install" to proceed with installation. It is not necessary to change the destination folder.
5. Once you are prompted that pre-installation is complete click "Next".

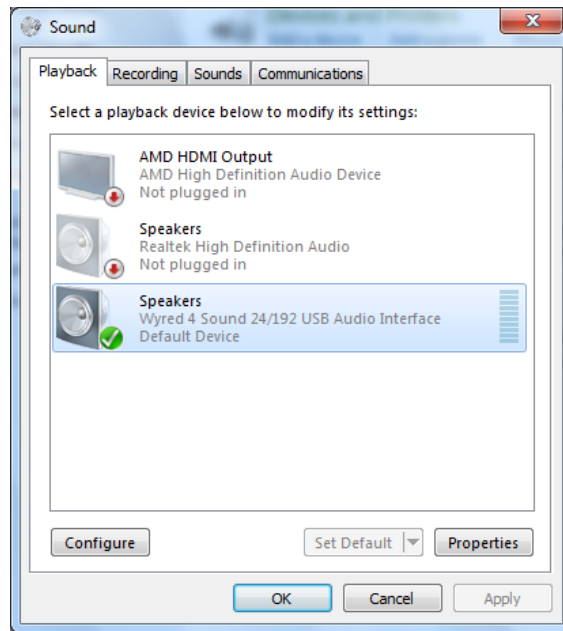


6. You will be prompted that installation is complete, now click “Finish”.



If you are installing on a windows XP machine you may be prompted by the “Found new Hardware Wizard”. Proceed with installing the Hardware automatically to complete installation.

7. After the drivers are completely installed you will need to select the unit as the default output device for your computer. The easiest way to get to the device selection screen is by selecting “Start” and then typing “Manage Audio Devices” in the **search programs and files** box. Click on “Manage Audio Devices” and select “Wyred 4 Sound 24/192 USB Audio Interface”. You may need to use the “Set Default” drop down menu located at the bottom of the window.



Troubleshooting

If you have your input source and Pre-amp/DAC connected to the unit, and you can't get music to play, check the following. Feel free to test for output at any time during this process if you find and correct a potential problem.

Always check the position of the volume control in your system before starting to play music.

Damage to any equipment due to the volume being set to high is not covered under warranty.

1. Verify that the **POWER SELECT** switch is in the correct position.
2. Check that the unit is powered on and recognized by the computer. This is indicated by the logo being illuminated on top of the unit.
3. Please be sure that you have installed drivers and properly selected the device for sound output. (See USB Configuration above)
4. Please be sure that all connections are plugged firmly into the unit.
5. Verify that your source is in fact playing music. (Indicated by a track timer, or countdown, etc.)
6. Take moment to confirm that your pre-amp or DAC has the proper input selected and that the cables are plugged firmly into that input.
7. Check the level of your pre-amp to be sure that the setting is sufficient for music to be audible in your system.
8. If possible try testing the RCA interconnects and digital cables in a configuration that you know works properly.

If you are still experiencing problems and have exhausted your available resources and time please contact the dealer/distributor that you purchased the product from for further assistance.

Warranty coverage

Wyred 4 Sound's warranty obligations are limited to the terms set forth below:

Wyred 4 Sound, as defined below, warrants this Wyred 4 Sound-branded hardware product against defects in materials and workmanship under normal use for a period of FIVE (5) YEARS from the date of retail purchase by the original end user purchaser ("Warranty Period"). If the product has been transferred from the original owner to a second hand owner it has a ONE (1) YEAR warranty, valid from the original date of purchase by the original owner. If a hardware defect arises and a valid claim is received within the Warranty Period, at its option, Wyred 4 Sound will either (1) repair the hardware defect at no charge, using new or refurbished replacement parts, or (2) exchange the product with a product that is new or which has been manufactured from new or serviceable used parts and is at least functionally equivalent to the original product. Wyred 4 Sound may option that you replace defective parts with new or refurbished user-installable parts that Wyred 4 Sound provides in fulfillment of its warranty obligation. A replacement product or part, including a user-installable part that has been installed in accordance with instructions provided by Wyred 4 Sound, assumes the remaining warranty of the original product or ninety (90) days from the date of replacement or repair, whichever provides longer coverage for you. When a product or part is exchanged, any replacement item becomes your property and the replaced item becomes Wyred 4 Sound's property. Parts provided by Wyred 4 Sound in fulfillment of its warranty obligation must be used in products for which warranty service is claimed. When a refund is given, the product for which the refund is provided must be returned to Wyred 4 Sound and becomes Wyred 4 Sound's property.

EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Wyred 4 Sound does not warrant that the operation of the product will be uninterrupted or error-free. Wyred 4 Sound is not responsible for damage arising from failure to follow instructions relating to the product's use. This warranty does not apply: (a) to damage caused by use with non-Wyred 4 Sound products; (b) to damage caused by accident, abuse, misuse, flood, fire, earthquake or other external causes; (c) to damage caused by operating the product outside the permitted or intended uses described by Wyred 4 Sound; (d) to damage caused by service (including upgrades and expansions) performed by anyone who is not a representative of Wyred 4 Sound or a Wyred 4 Sound Authorized Service Provider; (e) to a product or part that has been modified to significantly alter functionality or capability without the written permission of Wyred 4 Sound; (f) if any Wyred 4 Sound serial number has been removed or defaced.

TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THIS WARRANTY AND REMEDIES SET FORTH ABOVE ARE EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, REMEDIES AND CONDITIONS, WHETHER ORAL OR WRITTEN, STATUTORY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. AS PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, WYRED 4 SOUND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL STATUTORY OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, AND WITHOUT LIMITATION, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND WARRANTIES AGAINST HIDDEN OR LATENT DEFECTS. IF WYRED 4 SOUND CANNOT LAWFULLY DISCLAIM STATUTORY OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES THEN TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, ALL SUCH WARRANTIES SHALL BE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE DURATION OF THIS EXPRESS WARRANTY AND TO REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT SERVICE AS DETERMINED BY WYRED 4 SOUND IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS WARRANTY AND TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, WYRED 4 SOUND IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM ANY BREACH OF WARRANTY OR CONDITION, OR UNDER ANY OTHER LEGAL THEORY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOSS OF USE; LOSS OF REVENUE; LOSS OF ACTUAL OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS ON CONTRACTS); LOSS OF THE USE OF MONEY; LOSS OF ANTICIPATED SAVINGS; LOSS OF BUSINESS; LOSS OF OPPORTUNITY; LOSS OF GOODWILL; LOSS OF REPUTATION; LOSS OF, DAMAGE TO OR CORRUPTION OF DATA; OR ANY INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE HOWSOEVER CAUSED INCLUDING THE REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY, ANY COSTS OF RECOVERING, PROGRAMMING, OR REPRODUCING ANY PROGRAM OR DATA STORED OR USED WITH WYRED 4 SOUND PRODUCTS AND ANY FAILURE TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA STORED ON THE PRODUCT. THE FOREGOING LIMITATION SHALL NOT APPLY TO DEATH OR PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS. WYRED 4 SOUND DISCLAIMS ANY REPRESENTATION THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO REPAIR ANY PRODUCT UNDER THIS WARRANTY.

Obtaining warranty service

Please access and review the resources referred to in the documentation accompanying this hardware product before requesting warranty service. If the product is still not functioning properly after making use of these resources, please contact the Wyred 4 Sound representatives or, if applicable, a Wyred 4 Sound Authorized Service Provider/dealer using the information provided on the Wyred 4 Sound website. A Wyred 4 Sound representative or Wyred 4 Sound Authorized Service Provider will help determine whether your product requires service, and if it does will inform you how Wyred 4 Sound will provide it. Wyred 4 Sound or its Wyred 4 Sound Authorized Service Providers will provide warranty service on products that are tendered or presented for service during the Warranty Period, as permitted by law. **Wyred 4 Sound is not responsible for freight charges to our facility for warranty repairs. We will cover return freight charges (domestic only) if the unit is found to be faulty and still within the warranty coverage period. You will be responsible for delivery and return shipping and handling charges if the product cannot be serviced in the country it is in.** In accordance with applicable law, Wyred 4 Sound may require that you furnish proof of purchase details and/or comply with registration requirements before receiving warranty service. Please refer to the Service page on the Wyred 4 Sound website. For more details on this and other matters on obtaining warranty service contact your dealer. Recovery and reinstallation of system and application software and user data are not covered under this Limited Warranty.

Service

In the unlikely event there is a problem with your Wyred 4 Sound component, please contact your dealer, distributor, or Wyred 4 Sound to discuss the problem before you return the component to our manufacturing facility for repair. Products shipped to the factory will be refused and returned freight collect if not accompanied by a Wyred 4 Sound Service Department issued return authorization number (RA Number). Return authorization numbers must be prominently displayed on the outside of the box and an accompanying letter describing the problem and re-listing the RA number must be inside the box to qualify for service.

To contact the Wyred 4 Sound Service Department:

Telephone: 805-466-9973

Hours: M/TH 7:00 am to 4:30 pm; Friday 7:00am to 11:00am PST

Fax: 805-462-8962

Email: support@wyred4sound.com

Website: <http://www.wyred4sound.com>

If you are located in the United States and purchased direct use the following procedure:

1. Fill out the Service form at the following address:
<http://www.wyred4sound.com/Service.html>
2. If service is approved we will issue a Return Authorization Number (R/A number) from the Wyred 4 Sound Service Department. Be sure to confirm the current shipping address.

3. Insure and accept all liability for loss or damage to the product during shipment to the W4S facility and ensure all freight (shipping) charges are prepaid.

The product may also be hand delivered to the California facility if arrangements with the Service Department have been made in advance. Proof of purchase from an authorized Wyred 4 Sound dealer, distributor or agent will be required for warranty validation at the time of hand delivery. Use the original packaging to ensure the safe transit of the product to the factory, dealer, or distributor. **Wyred 4 Sound may, at its discretion, return a product in new packaging and bill the owner for such packaging if the product received by Wyred 4 Sound was boxed in nonstandard packaging or if the original packaging was so damaged to the point it was unusable.** If Wyred 4 Sound determines that new packaging is required, the owner will be notified before the product is returned. To purchase additional packaging, please contact your authorized Wyred 4 Sound dealer, distributor, or the Wyred 4 Sound Service Department for assistance.

If you did not purchase the product directly from us and require service please contact your dealer or distributors' service department for information regarding service.

If you feel your authorized dealer or distributor is either unwilling or unable to service your Wyred 4 Sound products, please contact our service department by emailing support@wyred4sound.com or the above phone number to discuss and resolve the situation.

Wyred 4 Sound

PH: 805-466-9973

Fx: 805-462-8962

Email: support@wyred4sound.com