

DRIVER PACKAGE - Emotiva Unified Windows USB Drivers v1.11a

(current as of November 4, 2014)

THESE DRIVERS WORK WITH:

Emotiva XDA-2 (USB Input)
Emotiva XDA-2 Gen2 (USB Input)
Emotiva DC-1 (USB Input)
Emotiva XMC-1 (USB Stream Input)

THIS DRIVER PACKAGE INCLUDES DRIVERS FOR:

Windows XP
Windows Vista
Windows 7
Windows 8.0
Windows 8.1

The drivers in this package are the most current drivers from C-Media for the high-performance USB interface used in the Emotiva XMC-1, the Emotiva XDA-2, the Emotiva XDA-2 Gen2, and the Emotiva DC-1.

NOTE: Even drivers that have been thoroughly tested may offer slightly different options on different computers. Some factors that may affect this include: the specific version of Windows you are running, other programs and/or drivers installed on your computer, sound cards or other audio devices installed in your computer, other devices (especially DACs) that you have connected externally, and your computer hardware itself.

NOTE: The XDA-2, the DC-1, and the USB Stream Input on the XMC-1, all use the same drivers. If the USB drivers for any of these are already installed on your computer, they will work for all three devices. However, these (newest) drivers support both WASAPI Push and WASAPI Event with Windows 7, Windows 8.0, and Windows 8.1 .

IMPORTANT:

PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE INDIVIDUAL NOTES THAT GO WITH THE PARTICULAR OPERATING SYSTEM YOU ARE USING *BEFORE* INSTALLING THE DRIVERS.

Installing The Drivers

Installing the drivers is simple (but please read all the notes so you know what to expect):

1) UnZip the driver file into a folder using your favorite archiver program.

NOTE: You must extract the archive so that all of the files and folders inside the archive are extracted in their original form. This is the default for most archive programs, but with some you may have to select an option like “preserve directory structure” or “extract all sub-folders”.

2) Connect the XMC-1, XDA-2, or DC-1 to your computer.

NOTE: The driver installer routine checks that one of the devices that uses its drivers is connected to your computer before installing the drivers. Your Emotiva device must be connected to your computer and turned on in order to install the drivers. If the installer asks repeatedly, even though your Emotiva device is connected, you should try a different USB cable.

NOTE: The driver installation will also fail if you have an XMC-1 shipped before October 2014 which has NOT had the USB Stream Input firmware update installed. (If this happens, you should install the update, which is available from the Resources tab on the XMC-1 product page.)

3) Run SETUP.EXE in the main folder of the driver package.

4) Follow the on-screen prompts.

NOTE: Besides the SETUP.EXE located in the main folder, there are additional versions of SETUP.EXE located INSIDE each individual operating system folder inside that main folder; if you receive an error message about “operating system not supported” when you run the SETUP.EXE file located in the main folder, you should try using the version of SETUP.EXE located inside the folder containing the drivers for your particular operating system. (The folder names include a reference to the operating system they go with. For example, the folder named WIN8 contains the Windows 8 drivers.)

NOTE: You MAY install the drivers from a USB stick or shared network drive. However, you must EXTRACT the files and folders before installing the drivers (you cannot install them from INSIDE the ZIP archive).

NOTE: When you first connect your Emotiva device to your computer, Windows may attempt to install default drivers, and may even connect to the Internet (Microsoft Update) to do so. You may also see messages indicating that the process was NOT completed successfully; simply ignore them and close any dialog boxes that prompt for a response. You may allow this process to complete, but, even if it completes successfully, it does NOT eliminate the need to install the drivers in this package. DO NOT download or run any third party programs that promise to “get you the latest drivers”. (Some of these programs may infect your computer with a virus, while others may simply not work as claimed. The drivers we’re providing are the most current legitimate drivers for your Emotiva device.)

Emotiva Unified Windows USB Drivers: v1.11a

NOTE: In an ideal world, a computer used as an audio player would have a totally new copy of Windows installed on it, and no other software; this would ensure the fewest interactions, and the least processing delay, and so the best audio performance. (This isn't practical for most people, but the fewer other programs you have running, and the fewer other devices and drivers you use, the more likely you are to have good audio performance and avoid problems.) Likewise, there are whole websites dedicated just to the best way to optimize Windows for playing computer audio - and many others dedicated to choosing and configuring a player program.

NOTE: If your computer already has drivers installed for other non-Emotiva audio devices that use the C-Media CM6631 or CM6631a interface chips, those drivers may work with our products, or they may produce unpredictable results. We cannot provide support for issues you have with drivers not provided by Emotiva.

NOTE: The C-Media driver installer may pause for a minute or two at various points during the install process, and may prompt you to reboot your computer as part of the install process. We therefore suggest that you close any other programs you may have running before installing the drivers.

NOTE: The C-Media driver installer usually requires that your Emotiva product be connected and turned on while the drivers are installed.

NOTE: If you are updating a previous version of the drivers, or if you have CM6631 drivers from another DAC already installed on your computer, the driver installer may prompt you to "Remove" them, and then reboot your computer. Do so when prompted, and then, after the old drivers are removed and your computer is rebooted, run the driver installer again to install your new drivers.

NOTE: If your installed drivers ever become corrupted or damaged for any reason, simply use the driver installer to remove and reinstall them. (We do NOT recommend using the "Remove Programs or Drivers" option in Windows because it may not remove all traces of the driver.)

NOTE ABOUT WASAPI: Windows XP does not support WASAPI mode. Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8.0, and Windows 8.1 support WASAPI mode, and the drivers in this package now support BOTH WASAPI Event AND WASAPI Push modes on Windows 7 and Windows 8.x (with Vista, only WASAPI Push is supported). Once you install these drivers, you may disregard any previous instructions about disabling WASAPI Event mode in your player programs.

If you have difficulty installing our drivers, we're always here to help. Simply e-mail our support staff, or call in and tell our receptionist that you need help with installing your USB drivers, and you'll be connected to a real live expert who'll be glad to help you figure it all out.

Notes: Windows 7

Windows 7 works well as an audio player, but is slightly more demanding in terms of your computer hardware. (If you play audio on a PC with Windows 7 and too little memory, or too little processing power, or too many other programs running, you may experience audio dropouts. This happens more with certain players than others, and is dependent on the specific combination of hardware and software in and on your PC, and on which output mode you choose.

In specific, WASAPI modes tend to require more resources, and so are more likely to have problems on older PCs. If your player program offers the option, you may be able to reduce or eliminate these problems by adjusting your buffer settings. (Neither lower or higher is necessarily “better”, so simply try until you find the one that works best on your computer.)

Different players also have wildly differing resource demands, so some players will work well on almost any machine, while some are very particular, and so difficult to get to run without problems.

NOTE: By default, Windows 7 will use Direct Sound mode (kernel streaming), which will re-sample any audio files you play to the default sample rate (as set under the Advanced Properties dialog under Sound Devices in Control Panel). In this case, your player program will display the sample rate of the actual file, but your XMC-1 or your Emotiva DAC will display the sample rate of the audio it receives (the two will be different since Windows is re-sampling the audio); both are correct. If you don't want Windows to re-sample your files, you must choose a player program that supports WASAPI or some other “bit-perfect” mode, and select it in your player's configuration. Certain of the C-Media drivers will offer ASIO mode on some computers; whether this works well on your computer will depend on your player software (the setup options are rather complicated, and you'll have to ask your player software vendor for details about how to configure them for optimum performance).

Notes: Windows 8.0

Windows 8.0 supports WASAPI mode; you can get to Control Panel to configure your sound options by selecting the little icon that looks like a gear on the Charm Bar, then selecting Control Panel.

IMPORTANT: There is a security feature called “driver signature enforcement” that is enabled by default on 64 bit versions of Windows 8.0 (but not on 32 bit versions); this feature prevents drivers from being installed unless they contain a signature hash that is recognized by Windows. If this feature is enabled on your computer, the drivers will not install properly, and you will get an ambiguous error message. BEFORE INSTALLING THE DRIVERS, YOU MUST DISABLE DRIVER SIGNATURE ENFORCEMENT.

Here’s how to disable driver signature enforcement in 64 bit versions of Windows 8.0 :

- 1) Mouse over to the right so you get the charm bar to pop up and select SETTINGS.
- 2) Click CHANGE PC SETTINGS.
- 3) Click GENERAL.
- 4) Scroll way down to the bottom and select RESTART NOW under ADVANCED STARTUP.
Now your computer will restart into a menu...

- 5) Select TROUBLESHOOT.
- 6) Then select ADVANCED OPTIONS.
- 7) Then select STARTUP OPTIONS.
- 8) Then select RESTART.
Now your computer will restart into another menu...

- 9) On this menu, select DISABLE DRIVER SIGNATURE ENFORCEMENT.
Your computer will reboot again.

NOW you can go ahead and install your Windows 8.0 drivers and everything will work fine.

NOTE: By default, Windows 8 will use Direct Sound mode (kernel streaming), which will re-sample any audio files you play to the default sample rate (as set under the Advanced Properties dialog under Sound Devices in Control Panel). In this case, your player program will display the sample rate of the actual file, but your XMC-1 or your Emotiva DAC will display the sample rate of the audio it receives (the two will be different since Windows is re-sampling the audio); both are correct. If you don’t want Windows to re-sample your files, you must choose a player program that supports WASAPI or some other “bit-perfect” mode, and select it in your player’s configuration. Certain of the C-Media drivers will offer ASIO mode on some computers; whether this works well on your computer will depend on your player software (the setup options are rather complicated, and you’ll have to ask your player software vendor for details about how to configure them for optimum performance).

Notes: Windows 8.1

Windows 8.1 supports WASAPI mode; you can get to Control Panel to configure your sound options by selecting the little icon that looks like a gear on the Charm Bar, then selecting Control Panel.

IMPORTANT: There is a security feature called “driver signature enforcement” that is enabled by default on 64 bit versions of Windows 8.1 (but not on 32 bit versions); this feature prevents drivers from being installed unless they contain a signature hash that is recognized by Windows. If this feature is enabled on your computer, the drivers will not install properly, and you will get an ambiguous error message. BEFORE INSTALLING THE DRIVERS, YOU MUST DISABLE DRIVER SIGNATURE ENFORCEMENT.

Here’s how to disable driver signature enforcement in 64 bit versions of Windows 8.1 : (this is slightly different than the procedure for Windows 8.0)

- 1) Mouse over to the right so you get the charm bar to pop up and select SETTINGS.
- 2) Click CHANGE PC SETTINGS.
- 3) Click UPDATE AND RECOVERY (on the left side).
- 4) Click RECOVERY (also on the left side).

Now an Advanced Startup section will appear on the right side.

- 5) Click RESTART NOW in the Advanced Startup section.
- Now your computer will restart into a menu...

- 6) When your computer pops back up, select TROUBLESHOOT.
- 6) Then select ADVANCED OPTIONS.
- 7) Then select STARTUP SETTINGS.
- 8) Then select RESTART.

Now your computer will restart into another menu...

- 9) On this menu, select DISABLE DRIVER SIGNATURE ENFORCEMENT.
- Your computer will reboot again.

NOW you can go ahead and install your Windows 8.1 drivers and everything will work fine.

NOTE: By default, Windows 8.1 will use Direct Sound mode (kernel streaming), which will re-sample any audio files you play to the default sample rate (as set under the Advanced Properties dialog under Sound Devices in Control Panel). In this case, your player program will display the sample rate of the actual file, but your XMC-1 or your Emotiva DAC will display the sample rate of the audio it receives (the two will be different since Windows is re-sampling the audio); both are correct. If you don’t want Windows to re-sample your files, you must choose a player program that supports WASAPI or some other “bit-perfect” mode, and select it in your player’s configuration. Certain of the C-Media drivers will offer ASIO mode on some computers; whether this works well on your computer will depend on your player software (the setup options are rather complicated, and you’ll have to ask your player software vendor for details about how to configure them for optimum performance).

Notes: Windows XP

Windows XP works well as an audio player, and may even give you satisfactory results on slow or underpowered computers. It does, however, have limited audio setup options.

NOTE: Windows XP does NOT support WASAPI mode. The sample rates that are available, and whether Windows XP will re-sample what it's playing or not, will depend on the player software you're using and your sound card hardware and drivers.

Notes: Windows Vista

The newest drivers from C-Media do not include drivers for Windows Vista; therefore this driver package includes the same Vista drivers as the previous Unified Drivers v1.01 package. We have heard from several customers who have installed and used the Vista drivers with no problems. However, there is an unusual option under Windows Update in some versions of Vista that reportedly causes some installs to attempt to automatically update drivers as well as programs, and which can cause Vista to “bump out” our drivers when it does a periodic update (this only happens on a few Vista machines).

If you successfully install our drivers on Windows Vista, and find that they stop working several days later, then work perfectly again after you reinstall them, you should try to find this option under Windows Update and disable it.

NOTE: We WERE able to install the 32 bit Vista drivers successfully using the version of SETUP.EXE in the VISTA folder, but the install failed when we used the copy of SETUP.EXE in the main folder.

NOTE: There is a security feature in 64 bit versions of Windows Vista called “driver signature enforcement” that may interfere with installing various drivers. If you have difficulties installing our drivers on a 64 bit version of Vista, you should consider disabling this feature. (We have not had an opportunity to test this.)

IMPORTANT: The Windows Vista drivers in this driver package support kernel streaming and WASAPI Push modes, but do NOT support WASAPI Event mode.