Sweetwater®

creationstation™
PRO AUDIO COMPUTERS

Creation Station 450

Creation Station 400

Creation Station 250

Creation Station 100

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CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

You've chosen the best computer available for Windows music production — a Sweetwater Creation Station™. Whether yours is a Core i7 or Core i5 model, it's built on more than two decades of Sweetwater experience with audio computing. Your Creation Station combines the best-quality components, and it's audio-optimized and set up to be compatible with all Windows audio applications and hardware. Plus, you've gained access to Sweetwater's award-winning technical support and our exclusive TeamViewer SweetCare™ Remote service!

AURALEX CERTIFIED — THE QUIETEST MACHINES AVAILABLE

You'll be hard pressed to even hear your Creation Station in operation unless you've got your ear pressed against the enclosure. We've decoupled critical components from one another — hard drive from chassis, chassis from desktop, etc. — virtually eliminating any and all noise from component vibration. We've also employed special CPU and case cooling systems that are virtually silent*. In addition, our systems are certified "Whisper Quiet" by Auralex. We've collaborated with Auralex, the leading designer of studio acoustics, to bring you a Sweetwater exclusive: SheetBlok-Plus™, a vibration-dampening case lining that Auralex engineers have certified to make Creation Station PCs up to 28dB quieter than other audio machines on the market today. If you work in an environment that really needs a silent computer, then there is no better option than a Sweetwater Creation Station.

BUILT FOR SPEED

We selected the fastest, most stable components available to build your Creation Station. All models utilize the latest generation of Intel processors to deliver rock-solid performance. On all models, we've installed blazing-fast SATA hard drives. Then we tweaked the operating system to wring every last drop of performance out of the hardware. The result is a series of machines that give you optimum audio capability.

COMPATIBLE WITH VIRTUALLY ALL AUDIO APPLICATIONS

Your Sweetwater Creation Station has our assurance that it will work — and work well — with virtually every Windows audio application under the sun. We've installed thousands of audio systems and applications and are uniquely qualified to understand the latest hardware and software requirements. From Pro Tools|HD to SONAR, Cubase, Nuendo, Acid, and other programs, your software of choice will work on your Creation Station without a hitch.

GREAT SUPPORT AND TEAMVIEWER SWEETCARE™ REMOTE

Our technical support staff has won awards for providing clear, reliable information and assistance, free of charge, to Sweetwater customers. However, we've raised the bar for Creation Station service by providing TeamViewer SweetCare™ Remote, an exclusive feature that allows our expert technicians to log onto your machine remotely (with your permission, of course) and take you step by step through any application or configuration issue you may encounter. It's like having a tech support person sitting right beside you, showing you how to solve any technical issue that may arise! See page 13 for details.

* Creation Station 100 uses Intel reference cooler and does not include Auralex treatment.

WHAT'S INSIDE THE BOX

We've checked and double-checked your Sweetwater Creation Station™ package to make certain everything you need is inside. The first thing you should do is check the box contents and familiarize yourself with the included components.

Inside your Creation Station box, you will find the following:

- Creation Station computer
- Logitech® USB keyboard*
- Logitech® USB mouse*
- Power cord or adapter
- Case security keys (if applicable)
- Windows CD and manual
- Documentation and software for motherboard and other components as required

* Not included with Creation Station 100.

Note that any additional hardware or software you ordered might not be packed in the Creation Station box. Check your invoice to see how many boxes are included in your shipment.

IMPORTANT
We've already installed and tested the Windows operating system and all other necessary software on your computer. Keep these discs in a safe place in the rare case you might have to re-install something.

MOTHERBOARD

The motherboards we select for our Creation Station line are designed and tested to meet the demands of the Intel Core sixth-generation processors selected for your model. Please note all USB ports are backward compatible, so you can use them with your existing USB devices. We also include Wi-Fi adapters on all our Creation Station models.

We configure the BIOS to provide optimum performance for audio interfaces and applications. Consult the user guides included in your accessories box for further information on motherboard settings.

Asus Z170-A (Creation Station 450)*

A perfect fit for the Intel Core i7 processor, the Intel Z170-A supports up to 64GB dual-channel DDR4 2133 memory. This board features two USB 3.1 rear ports, four USB 2.0 ports (two front and two rear), and one 5 Gbit/s USB Type-C port, for connecting numerous external USB devices. There are six SATA 6 Gbit/s and one SATA 16 Gbit/s Express connectors, for adding additional hard drives.

There are plenty of expansion options:
3 PCIe 3.0/2.0 x 16
3 PCIe 3.0/2.0 x 1 (two available)
2 PCI Conventional

Asus H170 Pro (Creation Station 400)*

The high performance Asus H170 Pro supports your Intel Core i5 processor with up to 64GB dual-channel DDR4 2133 memory. The two USB 3.0 ports, four USB 2.0 ports, and one 5 Gbit/s USB Type-C port provide ample options for adding external USB devices. With six SATA 6 Gbit/s connectors and one SATA 16 Gbit/s Express port, adding additional hard drives is no problem.

There are plenty of expansion options:
2 PCIe 3.0/2.0 x 16
1 PCIe 2.0 x 16
2 PCIe 3.0/2.0 x 1 (two available)
2 PCI Conventional

Asus H170M-Plus (Creation Station 250)*†

This Asus board is perfect for your Intel i5 processor. It supports up to 64GB dual-channel DDR4 2133 memory. With two USB 3.0 ports, four USB 2.0 ports, and one 5 Gbit/s USB Type-C port, you will have lots of ports for adding external USB devices. Six SATA 6 Gbit/s connectors and one SATA 16 Gbit/s Express port make it easy to add additional hard drives.

There are plenty of expansion options:
2 PCIe 3.0/2.0 x 16
2 PCIe 3.0/2.0 x 1 (one available)

Intel NUC (Creation Station 100)*

The newest member of the Creation Station line comes with an Intel Core i5 processor and supports up to 32GB of DDR4 2133SO memory. In addition, there is an internal M.2 port that can be used to add an additional SSD hard drive. This model has four USB 3.0 ports (two front and two rear) to handle your existing USB devices.

* Please reference the user Product Manual included. We don't recommend installing any of the Bonus Application Software included on the DVD. We haven't tested these for compatibility/performance issues.

† The compact chassis design of the Creation Station 250 can accommodate only low-profile PCIe cards.

CPU & CHIPSET

The CPU is the brain of your PC; the chipset is its heart. The two work together to handle the billions of instructions per second that travel between the CPU and the system memory. All Sweetwater Creation Station™ PCs use genuine Intel processors to ensure fast, reliable audio performance

Intel Processors for Premium Audio
The Intel Core i7 and Core i5 in Creation Stations are among the fastest and most powerful CPUs made! These processors deliver performance where it really counts, including streaming of audio and video, effects processing, video content creation, multimedia, and multitasking environments.

All Creation Station PCs use genuine Intel chipsets to provide peak performance. Each chipset is matched to its Core i7 or Core i5 processor.

Creation Station 450
The Creation Station 450 comes with a four core/eight thread Core i7 processor. With power-optimized enabled 4-core technology, Turbo Boost clocking technology, and exceptional efficiency, the sixth-generation i7 processor excels at running intense applications.

Creation Station 400
The Creation Station 400 incorporates Intel's sixth-generation Core i5 processor for maximum audio performance. It blows through processor-intensive tasks in demanding multitasking environments, and it makes the most of highly threaded applications.

Creation Station 250
The Creation Station 250 uses Intel's sixth-generation Core i5 processor for incredible audio performance. The i5 processor excels at multimedia tasks for incredible performance with highly threaded applications.

Creation Station 100
The Creation Station 100 uses the sixth-generation Intel Core i5 processor. It gives you fast performance, reliability, and compatibility.

CPU AND CHASSIS COOLING SYSTEMS

We've optimized the fans inside your Sweetwater Creation Station™ for the best-possible balance between noise and cooling. We installed the most trusted names in cooling systems for our PCs: Intel Reference and Noctua. They provide "Whisper Quiet" operation while constantly monitoring the CPU and adjusting the fan's speed to protect against overheating.

Creation Station 400 and 450
With its exceptionally high airflow and pressure performance, the Noctua NF-B9 is ideally suited for keeping our Core i7 CPU running nice and cool. Beveled blade tips and Vortex-control notches as well as Noctua's SCD drive system and premium-grade SSO-Bearing guarantee outstanding quietness and long-term stability. For chassis cooling, the Creation Station 450 features two Noctua cooling fans — one 120mm (front-mounted) and one 80mm (rear-mounted).

Creation Station 250
We chose the low-profile Noctua NH-L12 CPU cooling fan for its reliability and efficiency. For chassis cooling, the Creation Station 250 utilizes two front-mounted Noctua 80mm cooling fans.

Creation Station 100
The Creation Station 100 uses the Intel Reference Cooler for CPU cooling.

HARD DRIVES

Your Sweetwater Creation Station™ is built with hard drives from Intel and Samsung, industry-leading manufacturers. That means your drives are the most stable and reliable hard drives made.

HARD DRIVES AND AUDIO RECORDING

We've already formatted and set up the hard drives in your Creation Station. On the Creation Station 450, 400, and 250 models, when you record audio, we recommend you always route audio data to the audio drive. Attempting to record audio to the same drive that contains your application and operating system could result in less than optimum performance. Also, if you're using Kontakt, Goliath, Vienna Symphonic Library, Superior Drummer, or another software sampler, you should store your samples on the audio drive. These settings are easy to make on nearly all software.

Your Sweetwater Creation Station™ 450's system drive is a Samsung 500GB M.2 SSD, featuring innovative 3D V-NAND technology, incredible read/write performance, and enhanced endurance and reliability. The Creation Station 450 will blaze through your most demanding audio applications and will handle intense multitasking needs. Couple that read performance with random writes up to 80,000 IOPS and sequential writes of 500 Mbit/s to unleash your applications.

The Creation Station 400 and 250 system drive is an Intel 240GB 545 series M.2 SSD. The Intel SSD 535 series combines quality, performance, and low power consumption for outstanding performance in a small form factor. With power-efficient performance and the 16M NAND technology, the Intel SSD 535 series is perfect for the demands of intense audio application.

HARD DRIVE CAPACITIES

CREATION STATION 450
500GB SSD M.2 550 system drive,
2TB (2,000GB) 6 Gbit/s SATA audio drive

CREATION STATION 400
240GB SSD M.2 550 system drive,
2TB (2,000GB) 6 Gbit/s SATA audio drive

CREATION STATION 250
240GB SSD M.2 550 system drive,
1TB (1,000GB) 6 Gbit/s SATA audio drive
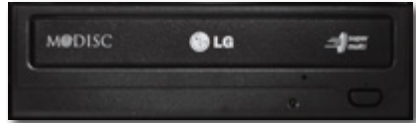
CREATION STATION 100
500GB Gbit/s SATA system drive

OPTICAL DRIVES

We searched worldwide for the fastest, quietest optical drives for your Creation Station™. The drives we chose employ a special vibration-absorption system and a balancing mechanism to ensure that you can burn DVDs and CDs as well as load files quickly and quietly. Your optical drive also has built-in SMART-Burn technology to monitor and adjust write speed to produce the most accurate disc, plus the SMART-X read-speed feature, which allows you to load audio data from CDs and DVDs quickly and accurately.

Optical Drive
Your Creation Station optical drive burns CD±R and CD±RW media. It also burns DVD±R and DVD±RW media. Plus, you can create archival discs with the built-in DVD-burning function.

MULTIMEDIA CARD READER (CREATION STATION 400 AND 450 ONLY)

The number of digital workstations and instruments that incorporate memory sticks and Flash media cards is steadily growing. For that reason, we've included a multimedia card reader that is compatible with all available formats. This allows you to store backup samples, programs, and MIDI data from your hardware instrument.

SD Card must be inserted face down.

Plus, you can use the Media Reader to load and store photos and data from your digital camera, cell phone, or other compatible device.

REMOVABLE HARD DRIVE BAY (CREATION STATION 400 AND 450 ONLY)

Having the capability to carry raw data from one system to another is the key to high production speed. This need for speed is satisfied with a tray-less drive bay design that allows you to physically take out the data and plug it into other tray-less drive bays to populate the data previously recorded elsewhere.

The drive bay is protected by a key lock to keep the raw data safe so that the polished product can be shared in its full potential.

Key Lock ——

To use your removable drive, open the door and insert your SATA drive, label side up with drive connections to the back. Push drive back into the chassis until it stops. Closing the door of the drive bay will finish seating the drive.

WINDOWS 10 64-BIT OS

THE RIGHT OPERATING SYSTEM, OPTIMIZED FOR AUDIO

In keeping with our goal to create the most well-thought-out audio PC ever built, we ship all Creation Station PCs with the stable Windows 10 Home Premium 64-bit operating system. We've optimized it for audio and music production and tested it with all major software DAWs and hardware interfaces.

LEAN, MEAN, AND TROUBLE-FREE

The Windows 10 64-bit operating system offers simplicity and stability while effectively handling your audio applications, networking, and internet needs. It effortlessly runs every Windows audio application, from simple MIDI sequencers to Pro Tools|HD.

CUSTOM-OPTIMIZED BY SWEETWATER ENGINEERS

Our technicians put every PC through a 40-step optimization process that fine-tunes the Windows operating system and BIOS to perform at their best with audio applications. We've disabled unnecessary background operations, set buffers to the optimum level, ensured that the latest chipset drivers are loaded, and taken many other steps to make sure your Sweetwater Creation Station works right as soon as you power it up. Anything that could interfere with audio recording has been switched off or eliminated in advance.

KEYBOARD & MOUSE

Included FREE with each Creation Station workstation
are our Logitech® 110-key keyboard and mouse!*

USB Convenience
Both keyboard and mouse take advantage of the
onboard USB ports on the Creation Station PCs.

The Perfect Complement to Your Professional Studio
Slim and musician friendly, the Logitech® 110-key
keyboard offers a low-profile design and six hot keys
that allow you to control the volume of your system
from your keyboard! What's more, you can launch your
internet browser as well as do any number of things with
these hot keys! Robust enough to live in your studio, the Logitech® 110-key keyboard is feather light
and fashionably impressive. The Logitech® mouse delivers 3-button optical convenience and a scroll
wheel for both right-handed professionals as well as lefties.

* Not included with Creation Station 100.

SOUND-DAMPENING SYSTEM

A computer built for audio recording needs to be quiet enough to run unobtrusively in your studio. In order to prevent unwanted noise from interfering with the recording or mixing process, Sweetwater Creation Station™ PCs employ a number of innovative design features to ensure the quietest operation possible.
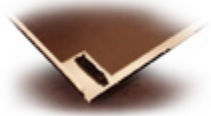
AcoustiFeet*
AcoustiFeet are made from a special proprietary visco-elastic polymer, which combines shock-absorption, vibration-isolation, and vibration-dampening characteristics to create the ideal acoustic damper and absorber. They have a very high dampening coefficient, thus reducing the transmission of computer vibration into whatever surface the computer is sitting on.

SheetBlok-Plus™*
SheetBlok-Plus Sound Isolation Barrier is a dense limp-mass vinyl material from Auralex. Auralex engineers have certified that SheetBlok-Plus helps to make Creation Station PCs up to 28dB quieter than other computers.

Clips for Extra Card Support†
You can install full-size PCI cards in this case with confidence. We include a special support bar with support brackets that keep your Pro Tools|HD or other full-size cards from vibrating, flexing, or coming unseated. We also install Cardkeepers on all video and FireWire cards.

Chassis Fan*
The premium Noctua fans used in our Creation Station cases feature innovative blade and bearing technology to give you maximum performance with minimum noise. Noctua fans are quieter and more efficient than other fans, and they maintain optimum operating temperature.

Cases*
The case itself is precision-built to guarantee solid contact between cover and chassis, to nearly eliminate mechanical vibration. In addition, the interior is designed for maximum airflow, providing a clear convection-cooling path. This allows the internal fans to run more slowly and quietly.

* Creation Station 450, 400, and 250 only.
† Creation Station 450 and 400 only.

TEAMVIEWER SWEETCARE® REMOTE

This Sweetwater-exclusive service is available only to Creation Station™ users. It allows Sweetwater's expert technicians to remotely contact your computer to assist you with any configuration, operating system, or application issue you might have. TeamViewer SweetCare™ Remote connects directly to your computer and disconnects immediately after the session, so you can be assured that this service is secure and hacker-proof.

HOW TO USE TEAMVIEWER SWEETCARE™ REMOTE

To use TeamViewer SweetCare™ Remote, your computer needs to have a broadband internet connection. Cable modems, T1 lines, and fiber-optic connections are preferred for real-time screen updates. DSL and similar-speed connections may not always update quickly enough to provide a proper level of support. Dial-up connections are not supported.

To use TeamViewer SweetCare™ Remote, please contact our technical support department at (800) 222-4700 x6400, M–F 9AM to 6PM EST. Be sure to be in front of your computer when you call. The tech support staff will guide you through the process.

SWEETWATER CREATION STATION™ SOFTWARE PACKAGE

We built the Sweetwater Creation Station for you, the audio pro. Based on our years of experience in building turnkey computer systems, we have a unique understanding of what you need to get up and running in no time. To ensure this, we have included the following complimentary set of applications with your PC:

- Audacity
- Audio Test Files
- iTunes
- Java
- CyberLink Media Suite (only on CS250, 400, and 450)
- iLok License Manager
- Digital Track Sheet
- LibreOffice
- TeamViewer
- Studio One Artist (free download)

SYSTEM RECOVERY

We configure your Creation Station and optimize it for audio performance before we send it to you. Then, for your protection, we install a hard drive recovery application. So, in the rare case that you might have to restore your system, you can easily recover your Creation Station operating system, complete with all audio optimization settings exactly as they were when your computer left our shop. System recovery is just one more way we make sure you have a reliable PC. Of course, Sweetwater technical support is always here to guide you through this process.

To initiate system recovery:

Step 1. Power off.
Step 2. Restart (press power button).
Step 3. Press F11 key while system boots.
Step 4. Further instructions appear on screen.

WARRANTY STATEMENT

Your Creation Station is fully warrantied for parts and labor for two full years from the date of purchase. Also, Sweetwater supports all manufacturer warranties (some of which extend beyond two years).

GET IN TOUCH WITH SWEETWATER

Sweetwater Creation Station™ PCs are designed to be rock solid and reliable, with innovative features to guarantee minimal downtime. In the unlikely event that you require technical assistance, please feel free to contact us via the following:

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

TELEPHONE: (800) 222–4700 x6400
WEBSITE: Sweetwater.com/sweetcare

SALES

TELEPHONE: (800) 222–4700 x6030
EMAIL: sales@sweetwater.com
WEBSITE: Sweetwater.com

TEAMVIEWER SWEETCARE™ REMOTE DELIVERS ON-SITE SUPPORT

Our SweetCare website is the largest support site in the industry. It's loaded with an extensive Knowledge Base, technical tips, and user forums. Check it out at Sweetwater.com/sweetcare.

For Creation Station PCs, we've taken SweetCare a step further to ensure you have an exceptional audio-computing experience. TeamViewer SweetCare™ Remote is an exclusive service for Sweetwater PC owners. It enables a Sweetwater technician to log onto your PC directly to resolve any issue that may arise. See page 13 of this manual for details.

Sweetwater®

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