

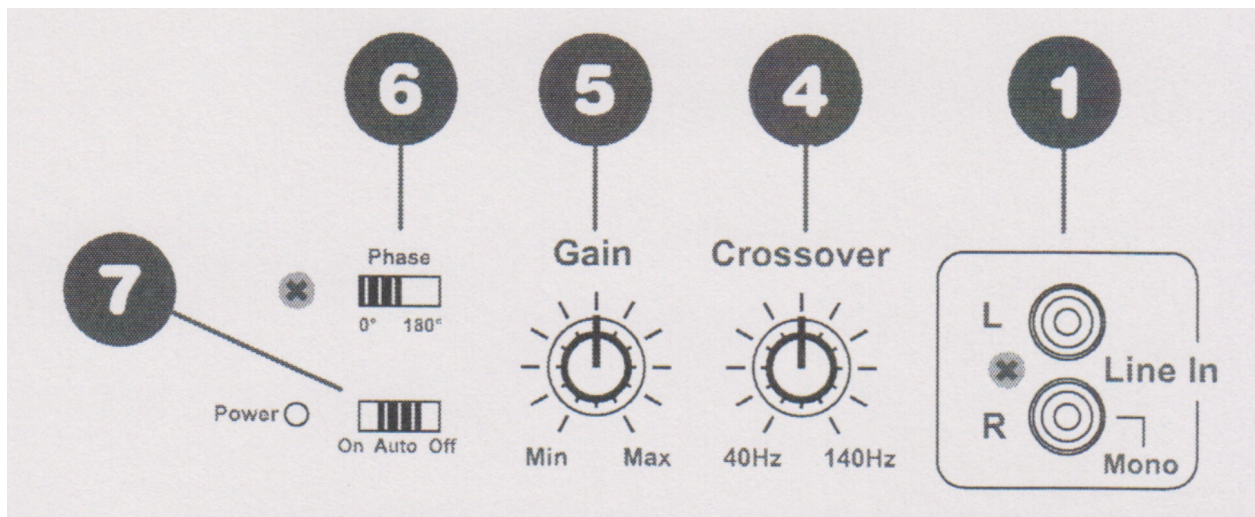
FIXING-THE-LFE

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It appears that many computer multi-channel sound cards do not output an LFE or subwoofer signal even when setup to multi-channel mode. From what I have been told, and read, this is intentional because how the LFE is implemented depends on what you are listening to.

For example, if you are listening to music, especially organ or concert, then all of the front-facing recording microphones should “hear” the low frequencies. On the other hand, with a game or movie multi-channel sound track, the predominant LFE may come from the sides or rear.

In either case, it’s not too difficult to add the missing LFE from other sound card outputs. Many self-powered subwoofers have a line-level stereo input, a built-in adjustable low-pass filter (the crossover) and a gain control as shown below.



A “Y” signal splitter, such as the one shown here, will help solve the problem.



For music, it's probably best to use a pair of splitters connected to your sound card's front left and right channels. One splitter output goes to the front power amplifiers in whatever arrangement you had before inserting the splitter. The other two splitter outputs go to the subwoofer line inputs, observing the same left and right as the front speakers. Depending on your subwoofer's cone size, set the crossover frequency dial to 60 to 100 Hz and the gain to what sounds good. Take a look at your subwoofer's User Manual for setup suggestions.

If you are primarily a gamer or movie fan, inserting the splitters in the surround or rear channels may work better. Actually, it's not too difficult to change the splitter locations as your listening changes.

(If your sound card has other than RCA output connectors, simply use an adapter or get splitters with the correct connectors. An online search for "audio Y splitters" should find whatever you are looking for.)