



SETUP AND CONFIGURATION GUIDE



SimVibe Setup Guide Version 2.0 | Copyright SimXperience 2018

System Requirements

- Quad Core (2.6Ghz or higher) processor
- Windows 7, 8 or 10
- 4gb RAM minimum
- One or two 5.1 PCI / PCI-E sound cards in addition to your primary sound source. (can utilize on-board sound card as well)
- One to eight bass transducers
- Amplifier(s) capable of one to eight Channels
- 3.5mm stereo male to 2-male RCA Adapter
- <u>Supported PC simulation game(s)</u>

Understanding SimVibe Setup Options

Before you begin the SimVibe software installation, you should understand the modes of SimVibe operation, determine which options you will utilize and prepare both Windows and your simulator for use with SimVibe.

SimVibe has two components / modes of operation:

Chassis (Multi-Dimensional)

The multi-dimensional chassis feature has been optimized for operation at all four corners of the simulator and provides for realistic vibration origination and resonation.

An optimal configuration will require a 5.1 sound card, four bass transducers and a four channel audio amplifier. It is however possible to utilize a 2-channel configuration (left / right) as SimVibe Chassis will honor the windows sound configuration settings.

SimVibe Extensions (Localized Feedback)

SimVibe Extensions allow for localized transducer placement. This mode of operation is not multidimensional but may be suitable for some simulator designs or as an addition to SimVibe chassis. You can however choose to locate your transducer anywhere you desire on your simulator.

Channel options include:

- Seat
- Pedals
- Shifter
- Wheel

An optimal configuration for this mode will require a 5.1 sound card, four bass transducers and a four channel amplifier. It is however possible to utilize only 1 channel and simply place a single bass transducer anywhere you desire.



You can choose one or both of these SimVibe modes.

For performance reasons and to enable future enhancements, **each SimVibe mode requires its own 5.1 sound card in addition to your PC's primary sound source**. For instance, if you want to run Chassis and Extensions mode, your PC will require a dedicated sound card for each. **Please note, if you are going to run chassis and extensions mode, you need to make sure the sounds cards are not from the same manufacturer or you will have a potential driver conflict.** If you are already utilizing your PCs onboard sound card, then you will need an additional PCI or PCIe sound card(s). There are many to choose from on the market starting at approximately \$30. **Due to potential latency issues, we do not recommend using an external USB sound card for either SimVibe mode.**

Also note, if you are utilizing a USB Sound card, USB headset, VR head mounted display or the audio from an HDMI connection to your monitor as your PCs primary sound source, **you can utilize the PCs onboard sound card for either of the SimVibe modes**.

If you need to install an additional sound card, make sure to also install the manufacturers current device drivers and follow their installation guide. It's best to have your sound card installed to begin the setup process.

Connecting to the Sound Card

In an effort to facilitate the ability to share "Sim Setups" with others, SimVibe specifies a fixed sound channel to SimVibe channel mapping as follows.

Chassis Mode (See image 1A below)

GREEN / FRONT – Front Left / Front Right BLACK / REAR– Rear Left / Rear Right

Extensions / Localized Feedback Mode (see image 1B below)

GREEN / FRONT – **Seat** (left channel), **Shifter** (right channel) BLACK / REAR – **Wheel** (left channel), **Pedals** (right channel)

- Some sounds cards are not color coded. Consult with your sound card documentation to identify which port is for front and rear.
- In extensions mode, "Seat, Shifter, Wheel and Pedals," are just labels and all offer the same effects to tune. If you want to use them in those specific locations, you will need to connect your amplifier to the specific channels listed.

Image 1A

Chassis Mode Diagram



Image 1B

Extensions Mode Diagram



Connecting to the Sound Card cont.

- You should utilize a 3.5mm stereo male to 2-male RCA Adapter (Image 1C) to connect your SimVibe sound card to your amplifier. Note that the White/Black RCA plug will always be the left channel and the Red RCA plug will be the right. Utilizing the correct channel (right / left) is imperative for proper extensions setup (see image 1C below)
- 2) Plug in one 3.5mm mini jack into your green or front channel of your sound card and if you are going to utilize the rear or black channel, plug that cable in as well. Then plug the left or right RCA plug into the input port(s) of your amplifier(s). Refer to the documentation on your amplifier for directions if you're not sure. (see image 1D below)
- 3) Turn on your amplifier(s) and PC.



Installing Sim Commander

Sim Commander is the SimXperience software suite that has SimVibe integrated into it. It also allows you to tune the SimXperience AccuForce Steering system and has the ability to analyze telemetry and create in game virtual gauges and buttons.

 After your purchase, you will be provided with a link to download Sim Commander and a license key to activate it. You can also click <u>HERE</u> to download the most current version. To access your license code, log into <u>www.SimXperience.com</u>, click on "Store," then go to "My Orders," "Order Details," and you will find it there. Please note, your license is limited to one activation. If you uninstall Sim Commander it will automatically reset

your license. If you fail to uninstall and run out of activations, contact Customer Support.

- 2) Once you download it, open or run it to start the installation process. Please note that Sim Commander will need some additional Windows applications to operate. If the install seems to hang, check your Windows task bar to see if something is waiting for you to advance the installation of one of these applications.
- 3) Once it's complete you will have the option to launch Sim Commander and then enter your license activation key. You will need to be connected to the internet and once the license is accepted, you will then begin the Sim Commander setup wizard. This



wizard will help you configure your simulator and games for use with Sim Commander 4.

- 4) Click Next to advance to the Game Auto Detection feature. It will only detect games that are installed in their default locations. If you have a game that is not installed in the default location, you can add it after the setup wizard is complete. Click Next to advance
- Next you will pick the simulator type. For SimVibe you will select "Motionless Simulator". Click Next to advance.
- 6) On the SimVibe Audio Configuration page (image right), you will need to select your sound card(s) for SimVibe. Select the mode(s) you will be using. Make sure to not utilize the same sound card if you plan to use both Chassis and Extensions mode. Once you've selected the mode, (Chassis, Extensions or both) the dropdown box will become active for you to choose the SimVibe sound card(s) you plan to use. If you are using both Chassis and Extensions mode, you will need to select both.
- 7) After selecting your mode(s) of SimVibe and assigning your sound card(s) you will need to configure them for use with SimVibe. At the bottom of the SimVibe Audio Configuration page you will see this button (image bottom right) that will open the Windows Sound Control Panel. Click on it.
- If needed, you can access the Sound Control Panel later by going to Windows Start > Sim Commander 4 Folder.

SimVibe Audio Configuration

Enable/Disable SimVibe Audio features for Bass Transducers (ButtK

If you have additional sounds cards (not used by your PC's Speal connected to the stransducers, you can enable one or more of the Features the read of the stransmum realism via physics based vibratory.



Sound Card For SimVibe Chassis



- 9) First thing you need to ensure is that your primary audio sound source is set to default. Your SimVibe specific sound card is NOT to be set as default. If you just installed a new sound card, Windows may have automatically configured it as your default device. If it is not set as default, Right click on the primary sound source you are using for your Windows and game sounds and then left click "Set as Default Device". Once you do that, you should have a green check next to it and it will be listed as "Default Device". (image top right)
- 10) A SimVibe sound card will be identified as "Speakers" and then below that should be the manufactures name, Asus, Realtek, etc. Right click on the sound card(s) you are using for SimVibe. Then left click on "Configure Speakers". (image middle right)
- 11) You will then have multiple choices (image below) and most sound cards will allow you to use "Quadraphonic" for your "Audio Channels".
 Quadraphonic is the preferred setting for SimVibe. Left click on it to select then click "Next". (skip to #13 for 5.1 configuration if Quadraphonic wasn't available)

Choose your configuration

Select the speaker setup below that is most like the configuration on your computer.



- 12) Next you will be able to "Select Full Range Speakers". You will check the box for Front Left and Right as well as Surround Speakers. After you do so, click Next and then Finish.
- 13) If Quadraphonic wasn't available, select 5.1 Surround. And then click Next.
- 14) For optional speakers, uncheck "Center" and "Subwoofer". Make sure "Rear pair" is checked. (Image bottom right)
- 15) Next you will be able to "Select Full Range Speakers". You will check the box for Front Left and Right as well as Surround Speakers. After you do so, click Next and then Finish.

Full-range speakers: Front left and right Surround speakers







16) Now that you have your sound card(s) configured for SimVibe, you can run the Windows test tone to see if they have been configured properly. In the Sound Control Panel, Right click on the sound card you are using for SimVibe. Now left click on "Configure Speakers". You can either click the "Test" button which will cycle through the available channels and play a chime in each transducer, or you can click on the individual

Choose your configuration

Select the speaker setup below that is most like the configuration on your computer.





Click any speaker above to test it.

speakers and that transducer will play the chime. Please note, the chime you hear will be very faint since a transducer isn't an actual speaker. You will also be able to test them inside Sim Commander once you install and configure it.

If your sound card offers 3D enhancements, you should disable them to achieve maximum realism and accuracy. By default, they should be turned off. To verify this, highlight your SimVibe sound in the Sound Control Panel and click Properties. Then go to enhancements and make sure that none are enabled.

- 17) Close the "Sound Control Panel" and Click Next
- 18) The next page allows you to enable AccuForce steering system support if you own one. If you do check the box to enable support in Sim Commander. Once complete, click Next.
- 19) The next page is for SimXperience Owners Club collaboration. By enabling this you will be able to participate in the Owners Club and help us improve our software by submitting automated error reports, share and download other members sim setups, etc. Once SimXperience Install-N-Drive Auto Detection complete, click next
- 20) The next page is for Install N Drive auto detection. This will install and configure Sim Commander based on the type of simulator you are running. It will also auto detect your Steam folder if it's in the default location. If you have Steam installed in a non-default folder, you can navigate to and select it. Once you do, click the "Auto Detect" button. Then you will be notified of how many Sim Setup Buttons were created. You also have the option on this page to "Not Auto Detect" which will then force you to manually configure and we don't recommend this. Click Next to continue.
- 21) On the next page, you select how you want to view the telemetry that Sim Commander is collecting. You can choose from metric or standard telemetry data. Select your preference and click Next. You

Press the 'Auto Detect' button to to automatically install and configure Sim Setups and Motion for each installed game, mod and vehicle. Steam was not found in it's default location. If you have installed Steam in a non-default folder, please specify the folder before pressing auto-detect. If you do not have any Steam based games, please press Auto Detect to continue. Auto Detect Do Not Auto Detect and Configure Manually (Not Recommended) Cancel Back Next

will then be met a page congratulating you and you're one step closer to racing with SimVibe. Click Finish to launch Sim Commander.

22) Once you launch Sim Commander, you will be met with the primary user interface and it will ask you if you want to log in. It's highly recommend that you log in to download current updates. The same user name and password you created to purchase SimVibe from the SimXperience website will be used here for you to log in. If you click the "remember me" check box, it will automatically log you in every time you launch Sim Commander and check for an update and download it. If there is an update available, you will see a



notification at the bottom of the main Sim Commander 4 interface "Updates are Ready". Click on it to install.



23) Getting to know the Sim Commander main user interface



F: Search Sim Setup Buttons for specific Game / Vehicle / Track
G: Change default language of Sim Commander
H: Navigate to the Sim Commander Control Center
I: Adjust music volume of Sim Commander user interface

24) To verify the configuration and test SimVibe, from the main Sim Commander interface, Click on "Control Center" then go to the "Settings" tab. Next open the "Sim Device Manager" drop down and you will see "SimVibe Chassis" and "SimVibe Extensions" listed on the left. **The SimVibe mode(s) you chose will be checked**. (see Image 2A below)

Manage Sim Setup Buttons	ि Visual Lap Analyzer 🛛 🏕 Setting	gs		
Appearance				
Skin Theme		Skin Overrides		
		Background Image	C:\Program Files (x86)\SimXperience\Sim C Default	
Skin Default	<u>•</u>	Destances differente		
		Background Music		
Miscellaneous Appearance Se	ttings			
Show Control Center at Star	tup Main window is alv	vays on top		
🖌 Run Dashbrad In Control (Center Settings window is	always on top		
🖌 Use Met 🛛 💈	Use Imperial Units	5		
Games				
Cameo				
Sim Device Manager				
Sim Device Manager				
Sim Device Manager Output Devices Input Device	s Community Devices Other	Settings		
Sim Device Manager Output Devices Input Device SimVibe Chassis	Selected Devices Other	Settings		
Sim Device Manager Output Devices Input Device Implement SimVibe Chassis SimVibe Extensions Implement	SinVibe Settings	Settings		
Sim Device Manager Output Devices Input Device SimVibe Chassis SimVibe Extensions AccuForce Steering System	Selected Devices Other	Settings		
Sim Device Manager Output Devices Input Device ✓ SimVibe Chassis ✓ ✓ SimVibe Extensions ✓ AccuForce Steering System SimWind DIV	Selected Devices Other	Settings SimVibe Sound Card		
Sim Device Manager Output Devices Input Device ✓ SimVibe Chassis ✓ SimVibe Extensions AccuForce Steering System SimWind Dfy	Selected Devices Other	Settings SimVibe Sound Card		
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Chassis Mode Settings

 Notice on the left in Image 2A that "SimVibe Chassis" is highlighted by default. To the right, you will see "Selected Device" and below that "SimVibe Settings". In the SimVibe Settings window you can change the sound card, test tone duration and the tone itself. You may need to scroll down and you will see the full diagram of an open wheel car (image right) with speakers on each of the four wheels. Clicking on any of the four wheels should fire that transducer.



Extensions Mode Settings

1) Notice on the left in Image 2A that imVibe Settings "SimVibe Extensions" is not highlighted SimVibe Sound Card Speakers (Realtek High Definition Audio) by default. Click on it to change it to the Test Tone Duration 55 milliseconds "Selected Device". To the right, you will see "Selected Device" and below that Test Tone "SimVibe Settings". In the SimVibe Settings window you can change the sound card, test tone duration and the tone itself. 2) The default channel is Seat and if that's e Offsel the channel you are using, go to step 4. If you installed more than one Volume Offset transducer, select the additional Extensions by clicking on the check box next to "Enable Pedals, Enable Shifter or Enable Wheel". 3) To populate your Sim Setup Buttons with default Extension settings for your additional channels, Uncheck the box next to "SimVibe Extensions" in the "Output Devices" Tab. You will Output Devices then see a "Devices Changed" dialogue box. Click YES. Now enable Input Devices SimVibe Extensions by clicking on the check box and the same dialogue ✓ SimVibe Chassis box will appear, click Yes again. Now you your Sim Setup Buttons SimVibe Extensions "Output Mixer" will be populated with all the channels for you to tune and have default settings. 4) Assuming you connected your amplifier to the green / front **Devices Changed** left channel, the "Seat" transducer will emit a test tone / Do you want the Sim Commander to synchronize your sim setup thump when clicking the speaker Ŵ next to "Enable Seat". profiles with the currently available devices? This can NOT be undone! The other three Extensions will emit the test tone if a Yes No transducer is connected and you have enabled it per step 2.

SimVibe Is Ready to Race!

You are now ready to drive with your new SimVibe setup and we hope you enjoy it! Return to the main user interface and double click on the Sim Setup Button to launch the racing title of your choice to feel what you've been missing.

For more on how to tune SimVibe effects, check out our setup guide here: http://simxperience.com/Portals/0/Files/SimVibe/SimVibe%20Tuning%20Guide.pdf

To watch a video version of this guide, go here: https://youtu.be/2Xzv1ZoQQwE