

This part of the guide will show you how to physically install the Soundblaster card into your computer .

Note:

Although the manual that comes with the Soundblaster card shows basic installation methods, and may seem straight-forward even without these instructions, this part of the guide will describe how to do so in a way that bypasses possible IRQ conflicts and interference to analog audio, causing noise.

I apologise for the poor quality of these images, but these are only to complement my guide and not to showcase. The images are low quality to reduce the file size and download times for users with slow connections.

This installation guide uses the Soundblaster Live! 5.1 soundcard as an example, and as I do not have add-ons such as the Live! Drive and Digital Daughter Card, I cannot provide instructions on how to install these, however, the instructions that come with the manual should be sufficient.



You will need a screwdriver.

[Checking BIOS for IRQ assignments](#)

[Installing the card in the PCI slot](#)

[Connecting in Speakers and Microphones, etc.](#)

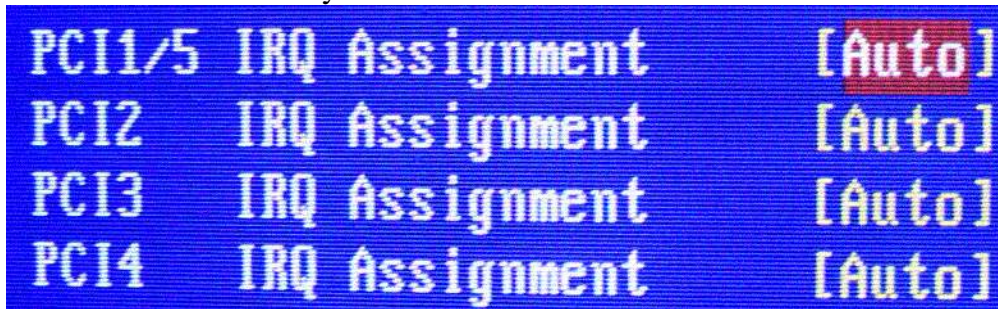
[Troubleshooting](#)

**Checking BIOS for IRQ assignments**

Note: Those with high-end graphics card where the cooling system takes up the first PCI slot, then this does

not concern you.

This step is important, as some motherboards may lock 2 PCI slots at the same IRQ, which if both slots are occupied and one of those slots is occupied by the Soundblaster card, it will cause a whole series of errors. You will need to check your motherboard's manual to find how to access the PCI IRQ assignments

A screenshot of a BIOS menu titled "PCI1/5 IRQ Assignment" with a red cursor on the word "Auto". Below it are three more entries: "PCI2 IRQ Assignment", "PCI3 IRQ Assignment", and "PCI4 IRQ Assignment", all with "[Auto]" as the selected option. The background is blue with yellow text.

PCI1/5	IRQ Assignment	[Auto]
PCI2	IRQ Assignment	[Auto]
PCI3	IRQ Assignment	[Auto]
PCI4	IRQ Assignment	[Auto]

As you can see here, with the menu item "PCI 1/5", PCI slots 1 and 5 are locked at the same IRQ, this means that you should not place the card in either of these slots unless both are unoccupied - but placing a card here makes more work when you need to add another PCI card into the board, you have to move the Soundblaster card away from these slots.

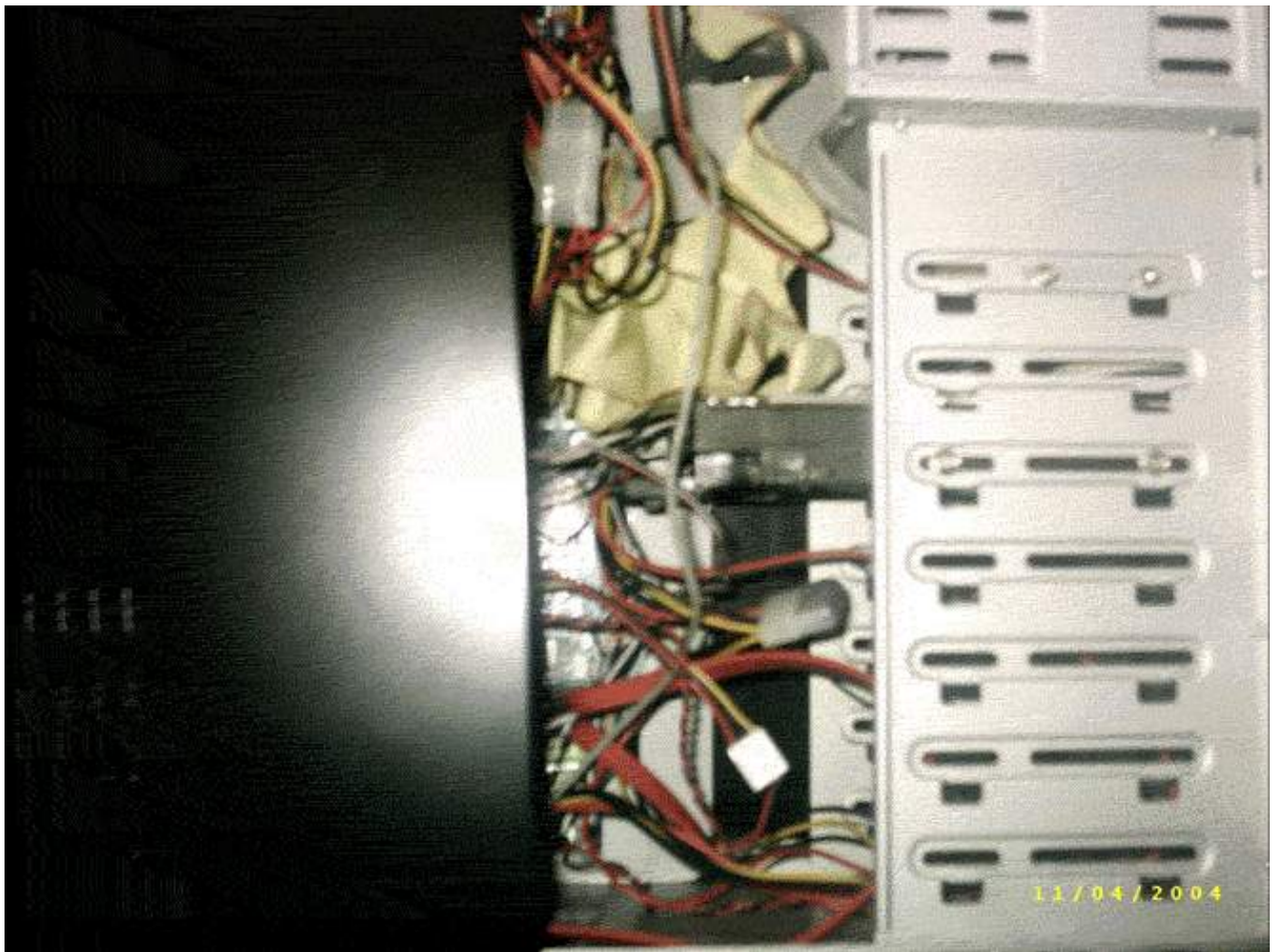
Installing into PCI slots 2, 3 or 4 will ensure that the card works perfectly, provided there are no conflicts due to other devices that may be built into the motherboard and attached to the PCI bus, such as RAID and SATA chips.

[Top Index](#)

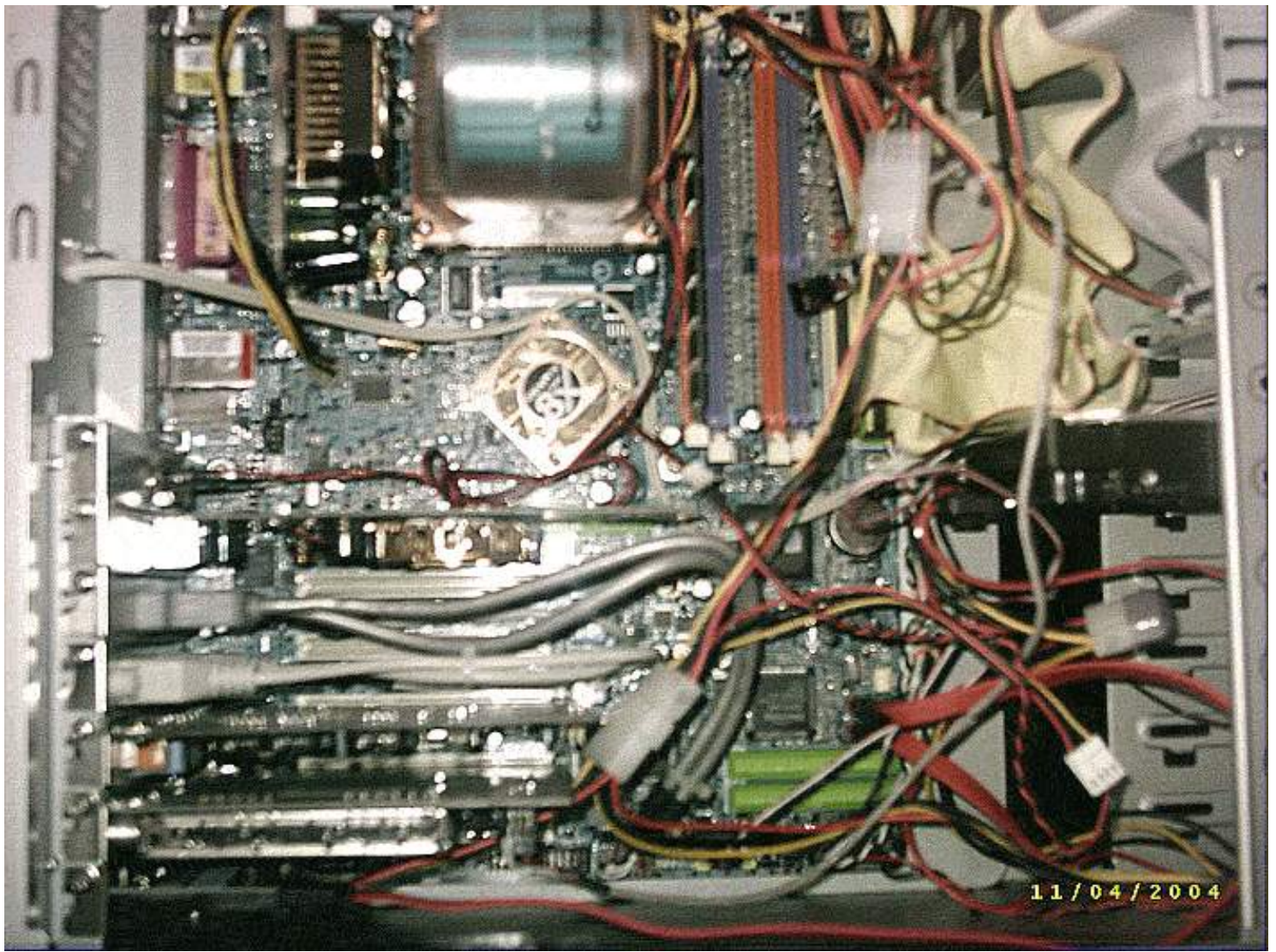
### **Installing the card in the PCI slot**

First touch an exposed metal part of your case to get rid of static electricity, then remove the power cord, and all other cables attached.



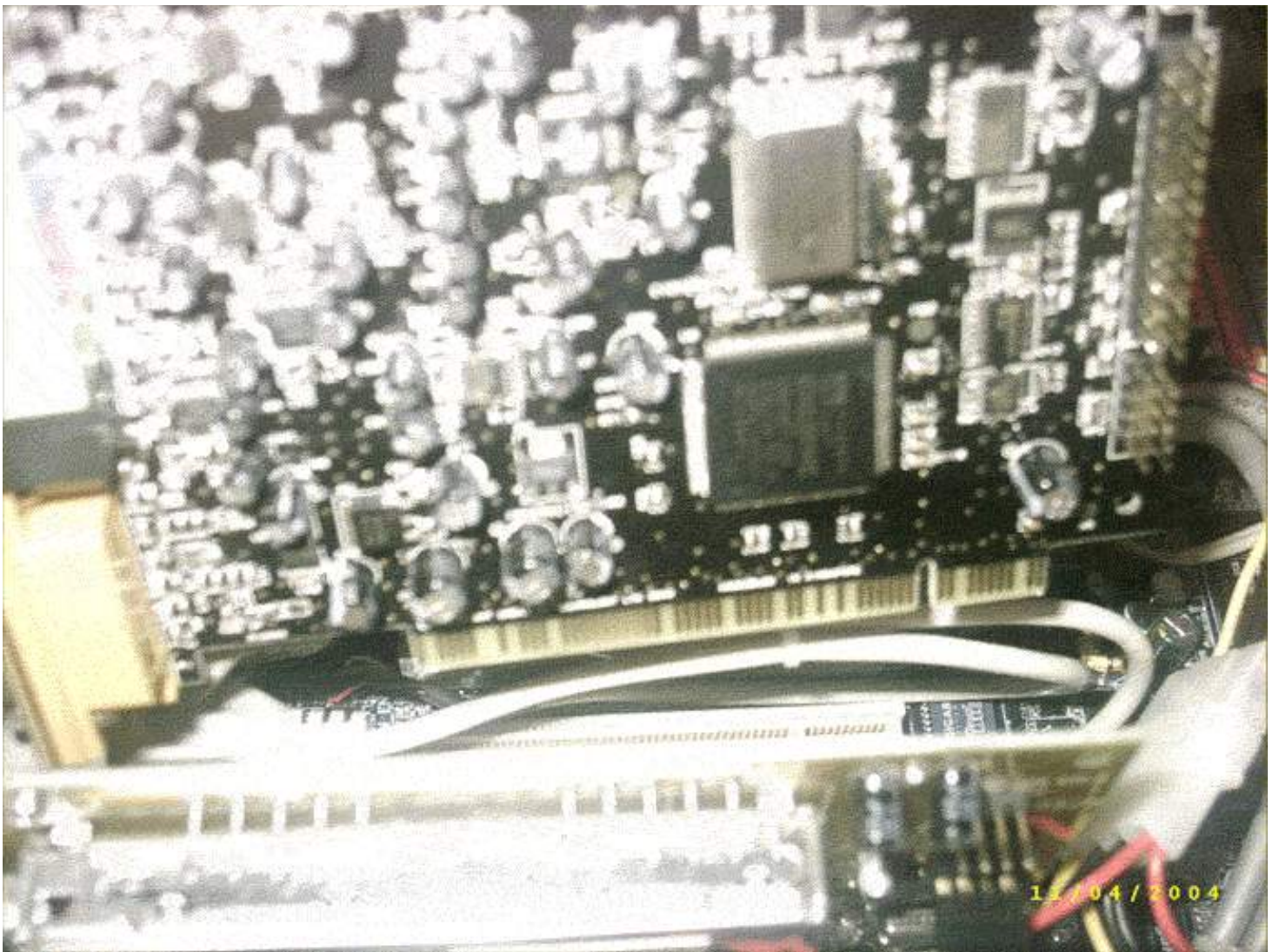


Remove the side cover to your computer.  
You may need the screwdriver for this.



Lay the case flat, with the AGP/PCI expansion cards vertical.

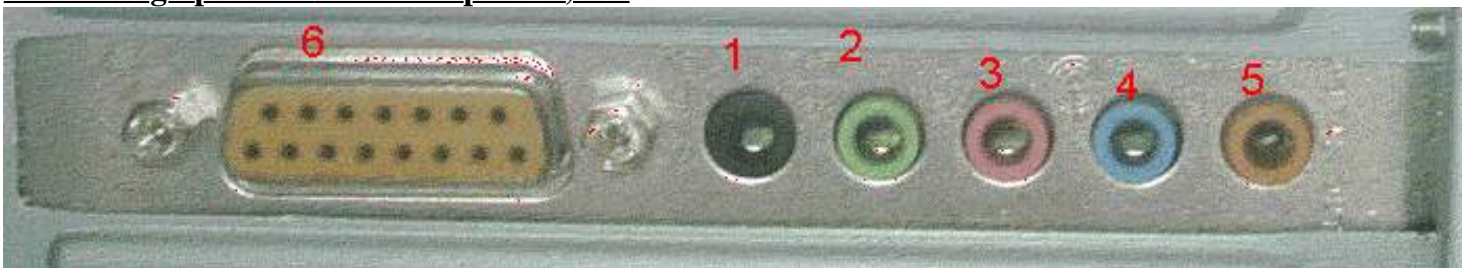




Install the live card into PCI slot 2,3 or 4 (or one that does not have a shared IRQ)  
 Secure the card to the case with a screw  
 Connect any add-on cards as instructed in the manual.

[Top Index](#)

### **Connecting Speakers and Microphones, etc.**



1. Connect the Front Speakers to the black\* (rear) port.
2. Connect the rear speakers to the green\* (front) port. (reason for this swap is explained [here](#)).
3. Connect microphone to the pink\* port.
4. Connect the line in to the blue\* port.
- 5^ . Connect the centre/LFE OR connect digital speaker to the orange\* (centre/LFE/digital) port.
- 6^ . Connect joystick/game pad or Midi converter cable to the UART

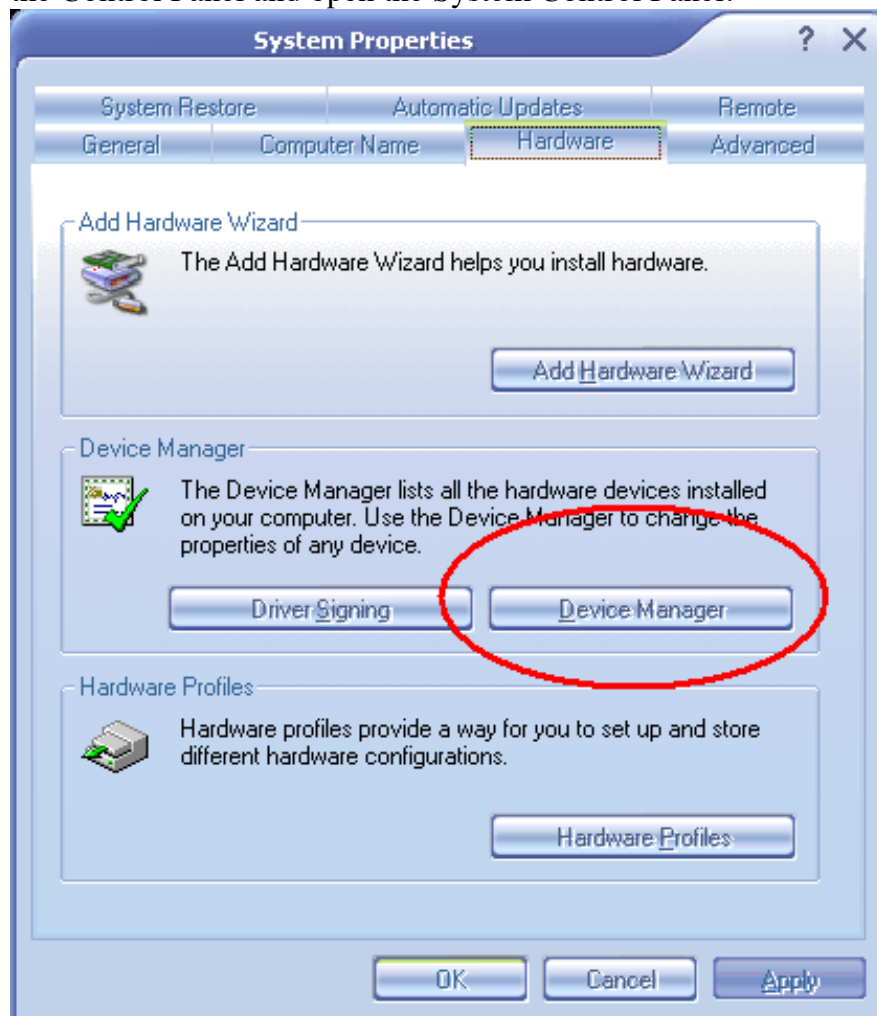
^Note: Some cards may not have these connectors, or may have different connectors. Check your manual to find out which connectors you have.

Note: Some of the higher end cards in each series feature Gold Plated Connectors, and you need to be careful which port you are using.

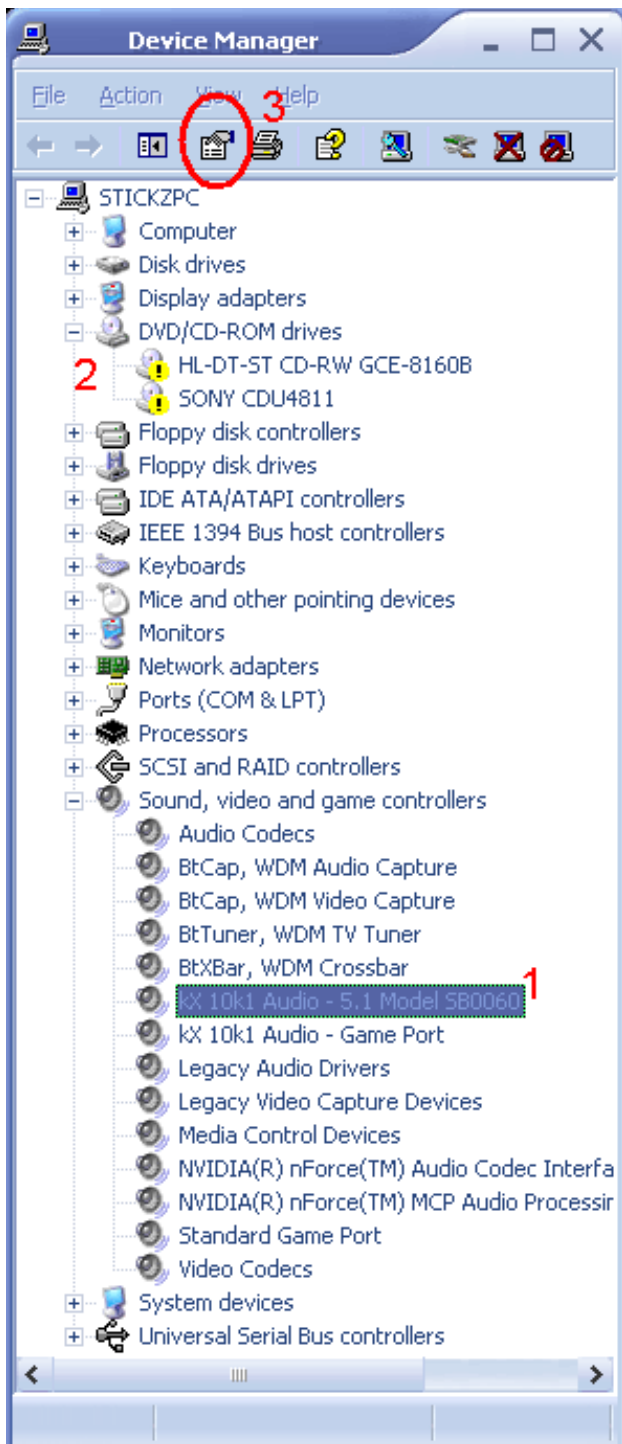
## **Troubleshooting**

Note: This step requires you have installed the kX Project Drivers.

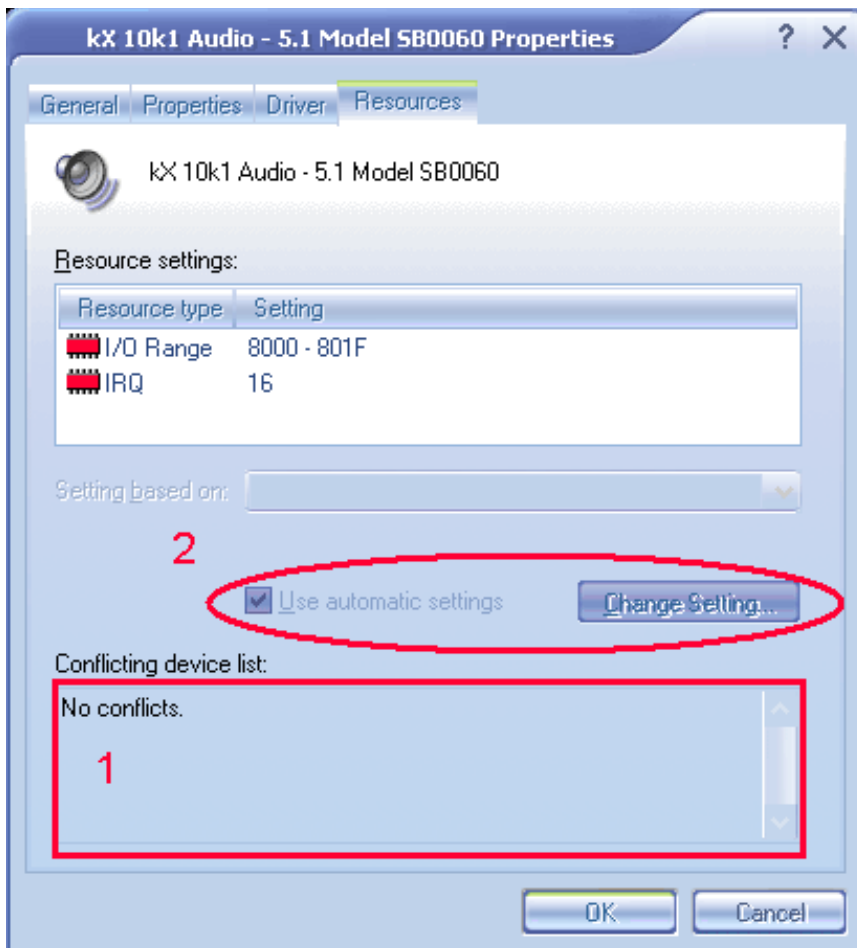
If the kX Mixer fails to load on start up and an error message appears, or sound does not play correctly, open the Control Panel and open the System Control Panel.



Click the "Hardware" tab and then click the "Device Manager" tab.  
(On earlier Windows versions simply click the "Device Manager" tab.)



If the kX Audio device(1) shows an error symbol, like the ones on the CD drives(2), select the kX Audio device and click the properties button(3).



If the Conflicting Device list(1) shows conflicts, attempt to change the settings(2) (It is currently disable on my system)

If this is impossible it may be due to the shared PCI IRQ issue mentioned earlier on this page, move the Soundblaster card to another PCI slot and test.

If you still cannot get the card to work, search the [kX Forums](#).

[Top Index](#)