

Zen Blue 3 Bluetooth decoder with Bluetooth User Manual

Manualsum, simplified manuals

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Zen Blue 3 Bluetooth decoder with Bluetooth User Manual

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(2A5QJZENBLUE3)

ZEN Blue 3 User Manual_Ver1.0 ()

The logo consists of the lowercase letters 'i' and 'f' in a stylized, serif font. The 'i' is positioned to the left of the 'f', and both letters are rendered in a dark grey color.The logo features the word 'ZEN' in a bold, grey, sans-serif font, followed by the word 'Blue' in a lighter, greenish-grey, sans-serif font. The two words are positioned side-by-side.

FEATURES

Equipped with Qualcomm's flagship Bluetooth QCC5181 chip featuring Bluetooth 5.4, supports the latest aptX Lossless codec, capable of streaming lossless CD-quality audio without sacrificing quality

Supports lossless CD quality (44kHz/16bit) and Hi-Res (96kHz/24bit) Bluetooth playback (RX) and transmit (TX)

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Supports aptX Lossless, aptX Adaptive, aptX HD, aptX, LDAC, LHDC (HWA), AAC and SBC codecs

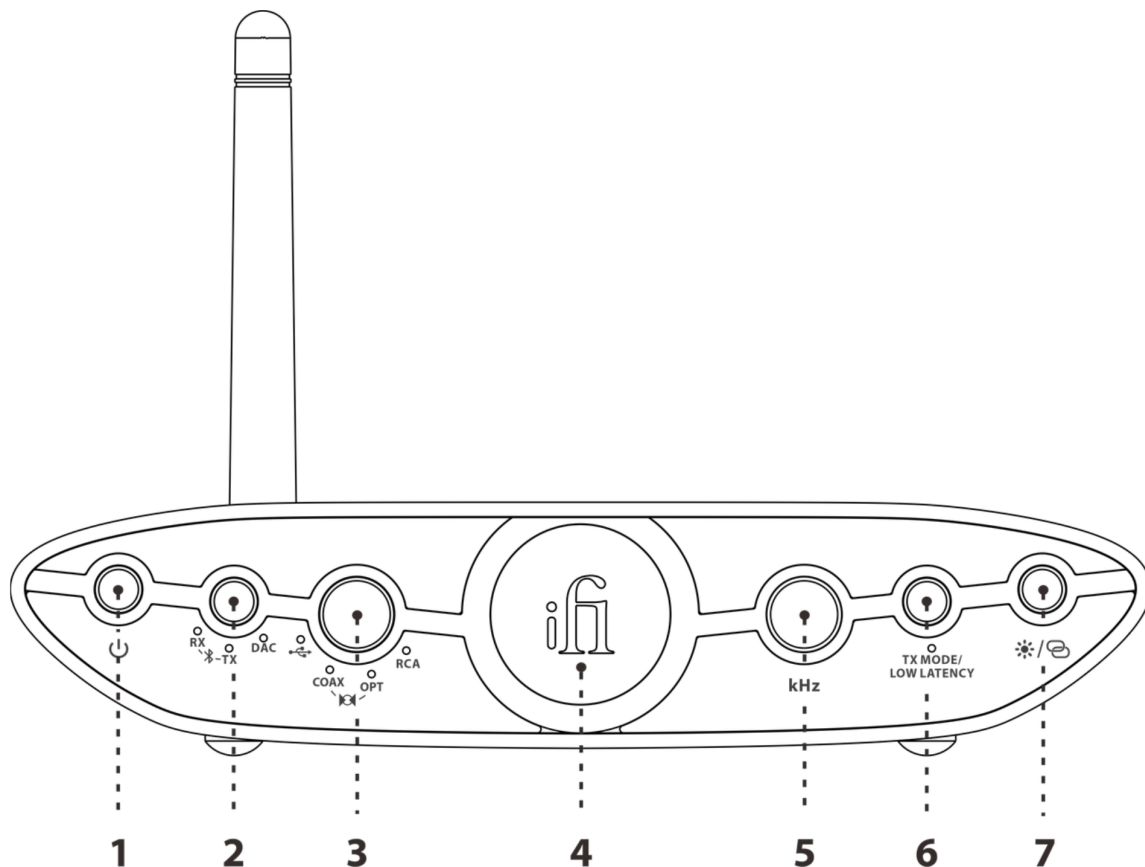
Three operation modes: Bluetooth RX; Bluetooth TX and USB/S-PDIF DAC mode

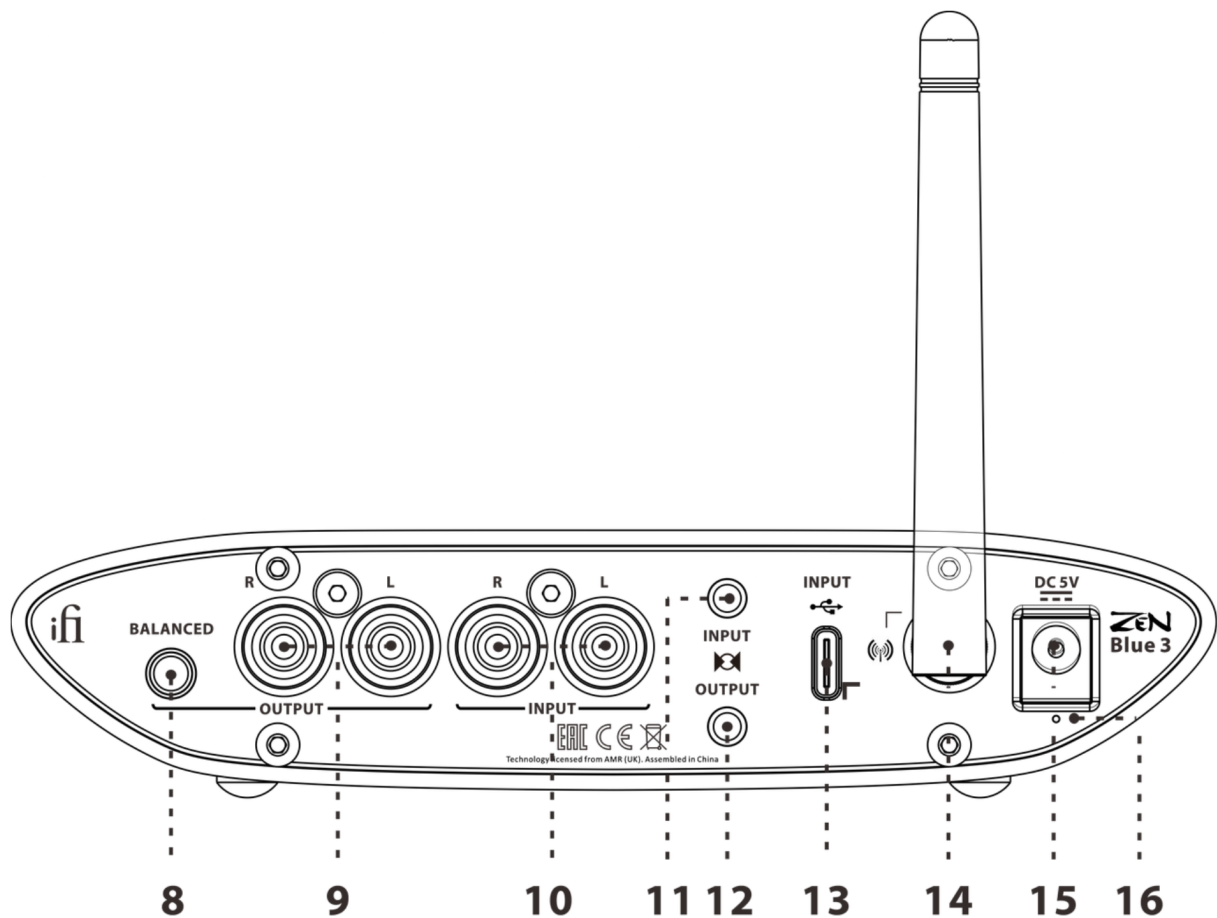
Quick-access button for aptX Low-Latency connection, ideal for gaming and video

Control your music via Bluetooth with your favourite music app on smart devices or computers and relax

External antenna for enhanced connectivity and extended range

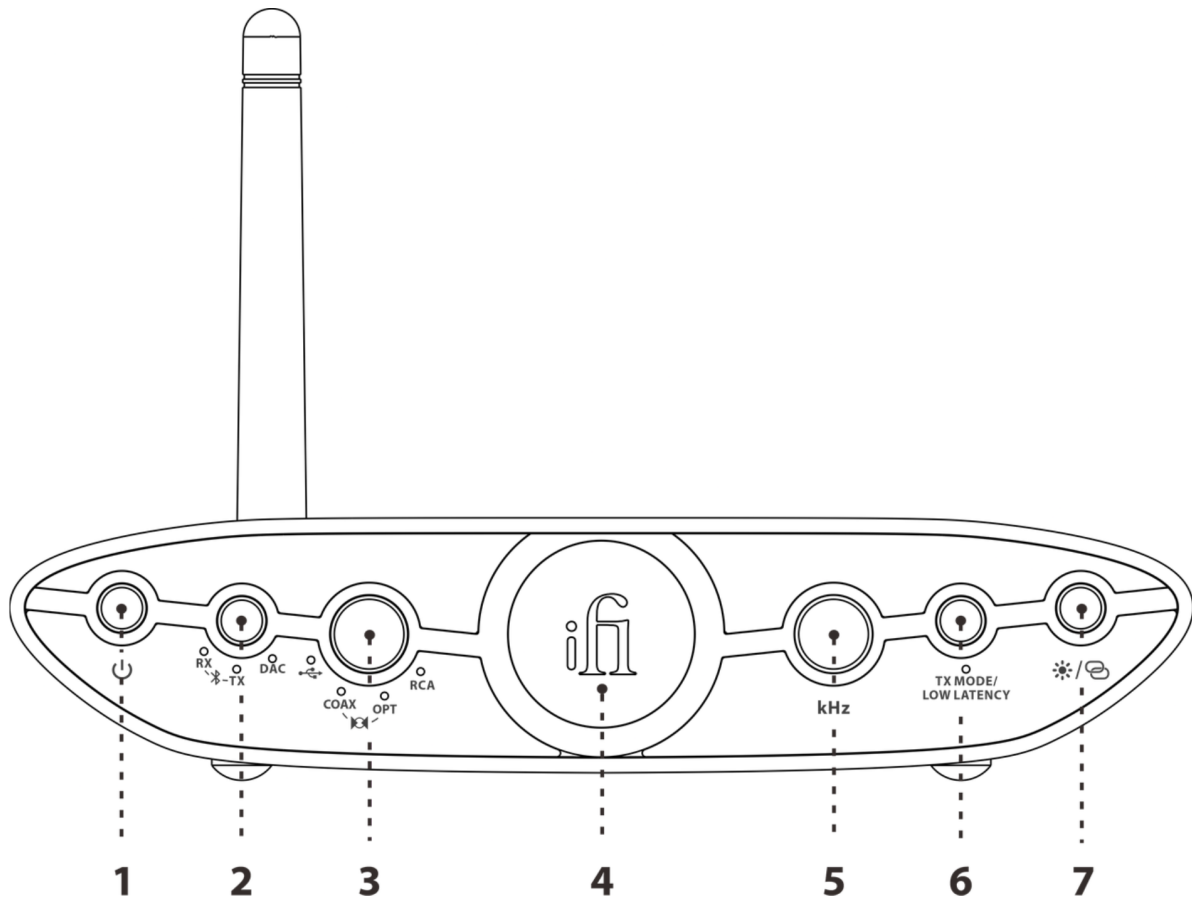
Balanced 4.4mm line output





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Power switch

Power switch, Long press >2S to switch on/off.

Operating mode selector

This button cycles through 3 operating mode:

RX Mode > TX Mode > DAC Mode

RX Mode

In receive Bluetooth signal mode, the ZEN Blue 3 acts as a Bluetooth signal receiver/decoder only, allowing Bluetooth pairing with mobile phones or other devices to transmit audio signals in lossless CD sound quality.

Connection to back-end devices is possible via (8) Balanced 4.4mm, (9) RCA and (12) S/PDIF (Optical/Coaxial) (See item 8/9/12).

Note: ZEN Blue 3 supports aptX Lossless, aptX Adaptive, aptX HD, aptX, LDAC, LHDC/HWA, AAC and SBC to receive Bluetooth signals(See item 4).....

TX Mode

In DAC mode, the ZEN Blue 3 acts as a decoder only and can be output via (8) balanced 4.4mm and (9) RCA and (12) S/PDIF (optical/coaxial) (see item 8/9/12) when the input channels are (13) USB, (11) S/PDIF (optical/coaxial).

When the input channel is (10) RCA, outputs are available via (8) balanced 4.4mm and (12) S/PDIF (optical/coaxial) (see item 8/12).

Note: The Note: ZEN Blue 3 supports aptX Lossless, aptX Adaptive, aptX HD, aptX, LDAC and SBC emitting Bluetooth signals (See item 4).

Please adjust your Bluetooth receiving device to Bluetooth pairing mode and bring your device as close as possible to ZEN Blue 3 (avoid connecting to other Bluetooth products), ZEN Blue 3 will automatically pair and connect your Bluetooth product, if the connection fails, re-adjust ZEN Blue 3 and your Bluetooth product to Bluetooth pairing mode, you can connect it dynamically. (Remarks: The time of successful auto-pairing will be a little different each time).

If the connection keeps failing, please check if ZEN Blue 3 has been paired with other devices or select the reset setting in GAIA APP.

DAC Mode

In DAC mode, the ZEN Blue 3 acts as a D/A converter (when the input channels are (13) USB, (11) S/PDIF (Optical/Coaxial) and (10) RCA inputs) to connect via (8) Balanced 4.4mm and (9) RCA and (12) S/PDIF (Optical/Coaxial) (See item 8/9/12) Output.

Note: standard supports up to PCM Bluetooth 96kHz, S/PDIF (Optical/Coaxial) 192kHz, USB 96kHz.

Input channel selection

Use the button to choose between the following 4 input options:

- Input 1: USB (See item 13)
- Input 2: Coaxia (See item 11)
- Input 3: Optical (See item 11)
- Input 4: RAC (See item 10)

Bluetooth codec and PCM display

The colour of the 'iFi' logo in the centre of the front display represents the file format received:

RX Mode

LED Format

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Off	SBC
Yellow	AAC
Blue	aptX
Magenta	aptX HD
Green	aptX Adaptive
White	aptX Lossless
Cyan	LDAC
Red	LHDC/HWA

TX Mode

LED	Format
Off	SBC
Blue	aptX
Magenta	aptX HD
Green	aptX Adaptive
White	aptX Lossless
Cyan	LDAC

DAC Mode

LED	Format
White	PCM

Audio Format LED (kHz)

The LED colour scheme indicates the audio format and sampling frequency received by the ZEN Blue 3 from the music source.

LED Mode Indicator

Yellow	PCM 44.1/48kHz
White	PCM 88.2/96/176.4/192kHz

TX MODE/LOW LATENCY

RX MODE/DAC MODE:

tapping is invalid

TX MODE:

1. In this mode, tap this button to switch the Bluetooth format.
2. long press >2s to enter the low latency state of aptX Adaptive/Low Latency.

Bluetooth pairing/LED display ON/OFF

- Bluetooth pairing (long press >3s)
- LED display ON/OFF (Single tap)

Bluetooth Pairing

From switch on, the ZEN Blue 3 will blink blue as it searches for a previously paired device. If a stored device is not found, it will automatically enter pairing mode and blink blue/red.

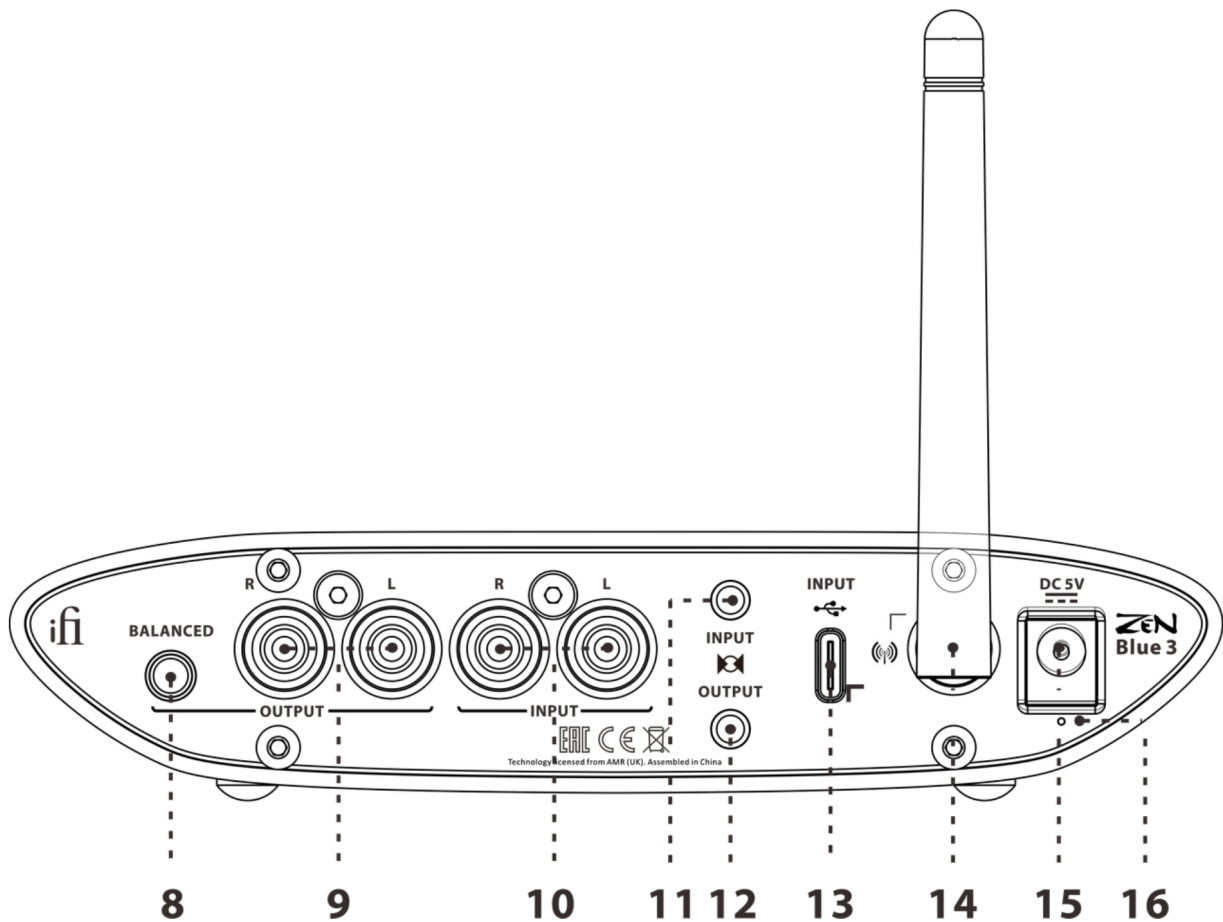
To enter pairing mode, press and hold the front leftmost button until the 'Bluetooth mode LED' is blinking blue/red. To pair, on your handset, look for 'iFi Lossless Audio' in the list of available Bluetooth devices.

The ZEN Blue 3 is able to store up to 8 paired Bluetooth devices. When the 9th device is paired, the initially paired Bluetooth device will be removed from the pairing list and you may still need to manually reconnect it when using it.

LED display ON/OFF

Single tap to switch off (4) Bluetooth codec and PCM display and (5) Sampling frequency

LED (kHz) LED.



Balanced 4.4mm analogue line output

This is an analogue output via 4.4mm > XLR or other balanced interconnects. You can use this to connect to active speakers or amplifiers that have a volume control.

RCA analogue line output

This is an analogue output via RCA > RCA or other single-ended interconnects. You can use this to connect to active speakers or amplifiers that have a volume control.

RCA analogue line input

This is an analogue input. Connect an analogue RCA interconnects to an RCA Line output.

S/PDIF (Optical/Coaxial) input

Connect an S/PDIF source such as Apple TV, Google Chromecast, PS5, Xbox, a high-end CD transport, etc.

S/PDIF (Optical/Coaxial) output

Connect to the DAC or amplifier' s S/PDIF input.

USB-C audio and power input

This is a USB-C input. It connects ZEN Blue 3 to the computer audio source and provides the power supply.

Antenna

Please attach the enclosed antenna for maximum reception quality.

DC 5V Power Supply Connection

ZEN Blue 3 is powered by 5 volts, either via the enclosed USB-A to USB-C cable (for connection to laptop or PC) or DC power supply (not included).

DC 5V Power LED

The LED lights up when powered from a DC 5V supply.

SPECIFICATIONS:

DAC Chipset:			
Qualcomm QCC518x Series	DSP (CT5302)	DAC (ES9023)	AMP (MAX97220)
Input	RX MODE	TX MODE	DAC MODE
Digital	Bluetooth 5.4 (aptX Lossless, aptX Adaptive, aptX HD, aptX, LDAC, LHDC(HWA), AAC and SBC)	USB,	USB,
Analogue		Optical, Coaxial,	Optical, Coaxial,
		RCA L/R	RCA L/R
Output	RX MODE	TX MODE	DAC MODE
Digital	Optical, Coaxial	Bluetooth 5.4 (aptX Lossless, aptX Adaptive, aptX HD, aptX, LDAC, LHDC(HWA), AAC and SBC)	Optical, Coaxial
Analogue	RCA L/R, Balanced 4.4		RCA L/R, Balanced 4.4
Maximum supported sampling rate	96kHz/24Bit	96kHz/24Bit	Optical/Coaxial 192kHz/24Bit, USB 96kHz/24Bit

Line Output:	
Output Voltage	
Balanced 4.4mm	4.1Vrms (0dBFS@1kHz)
Single-Ended RCA	2.05Vrms (0dBFS@1kHz)
Output Impedance:	
Balanced 4.4mm	$\leq 102\Omega$

SNR:	109dB
DNR:	109dB (0dBFS @ 1kHz) +A
THD + N:	< 0.005% (10K Load)@(20-20kHz)
Frequency Response:	
Power supply requirement:	USB-C or DC 5V/≥0.5A (centre +ve)
Power consumption:	< 1W
Dimensions:	158 x 115 x 35 mm (6.2" x 4.5" x 1.4")
Net Weight:	447 g (0.99 lbs)
Limited Warranty:	12 months*
<i>*12 months typical or as permitted/required by local reseller laws.</i>	
<i>**Specifications are subject to change without notice.</i>	
<i>^See FAQ at ifi-audio.com for more information.</i>	