

DTS In A Tube

This little thing holds a whole cinema in it



AUDIO DONGLE

aim AS301DTS USB Audio Dongle

Price	RM165
Contact	Integrity Micro Distributors Sdn Bhd
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Info	www.aimpro21.com

Specifications

Output: 3.5mm microphone-in, microphone out
Playback: Windows 7 Home Premium 64-bit
Recording: 14-inch HD LED Glare 1366 x 768
Connectivity: Mini USB
Dimensions: 23 x 45mm
Weight: 1.25g (4-cell battery)



DTS 5.1 Surround is one of the greatest innovations that changed the movie industry, taking immersion to another level by letting sounds breathe and flow around us. Granted, unless you invest the significant amount of money to get a home theatre system, a DTS 5.1 Surround setup isn't easy nor space saving. This is where the aim AS301DTS comes along.

This little USB audio dongle works by simulating a DTS 5.1 Surround system in a pair of headphones. Now, before you wonder how it's actually possible, let us assure you first-hand that it

works. Wonderfully.

It's easy to geek out on the design, for starters. It sports a vacuum tube design; audiophiles will know how it signifies audio quality, but it's truthfully just for show. It's roughly as small as a Mentos Mini tube, and will glow blue when plugged.

On the device is two 3.5mm hacks for both the headphones and microphone. You will need to install the drivers and the accompanying application for it to work, which provides a menu with three audio setups: neoMusic, neoMovies and LFE Mixing. You also get to control the voice clarity and the bass for each setup. LFE only works for media sources that is greater than 5.1.

To test, we used a regular stereo headset along with our Alienware TactX headphones and fired it up with a movie. The results are immediately noticeable. Cranking the voice clarity and bass up to maximum, we were constantly forgetting that we were on headphones. The simulation does a

great job of encircling the audio, giving that DTS feel authentic.

While it performs fabulously on movies, the music setup falters slightly in that it scrambles certain music pieces, particularly orchestral ones, making them less comfortable to listen.

CHIP CONCLUDE : Anyone with a penchant for DTS 5.1 Surround, especially on their headphones, will do well getting this lightweight device. For what it's supposed to do, it does it wonderfully, even if it falters slightly in the musical department.



The 3.5mm audio and microphone ports

RATINGS

Performance	4/5
Features	4/5
Design	4/5
Value	4/5

- +** Small form factor
Nice vacuum-tube design
Adds kick to audio
- Sometimes scrambles up music



Reviewed by Tan Jee Yee