

ADDING AN EXTERNAL USB SOUND CARD TO REPAIR OR IMPROVE A COMPUTER

by Francis Chao

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Association of Technology
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SUMMARY

You can add external USB sound card to make a cost-effective temporary or permanent repair or improve to a computer

TOPICS

- External USB sound cards--A Useful Add-on
- Examples of USB sound cards
- Placing an external USB sound card into service

EXTERNAL USB SOUND CARDS

--A USEFUL ADD-ON

- You can add a USB 2-based sound controller to a computer. Some of them are called "USB audio adapters". Some of them are called "USB sound cards". Your "Windows.." computer will consider them to be "Playback" devices in the "Sound" applet.

EXTERNAL USB SOUND CARDS

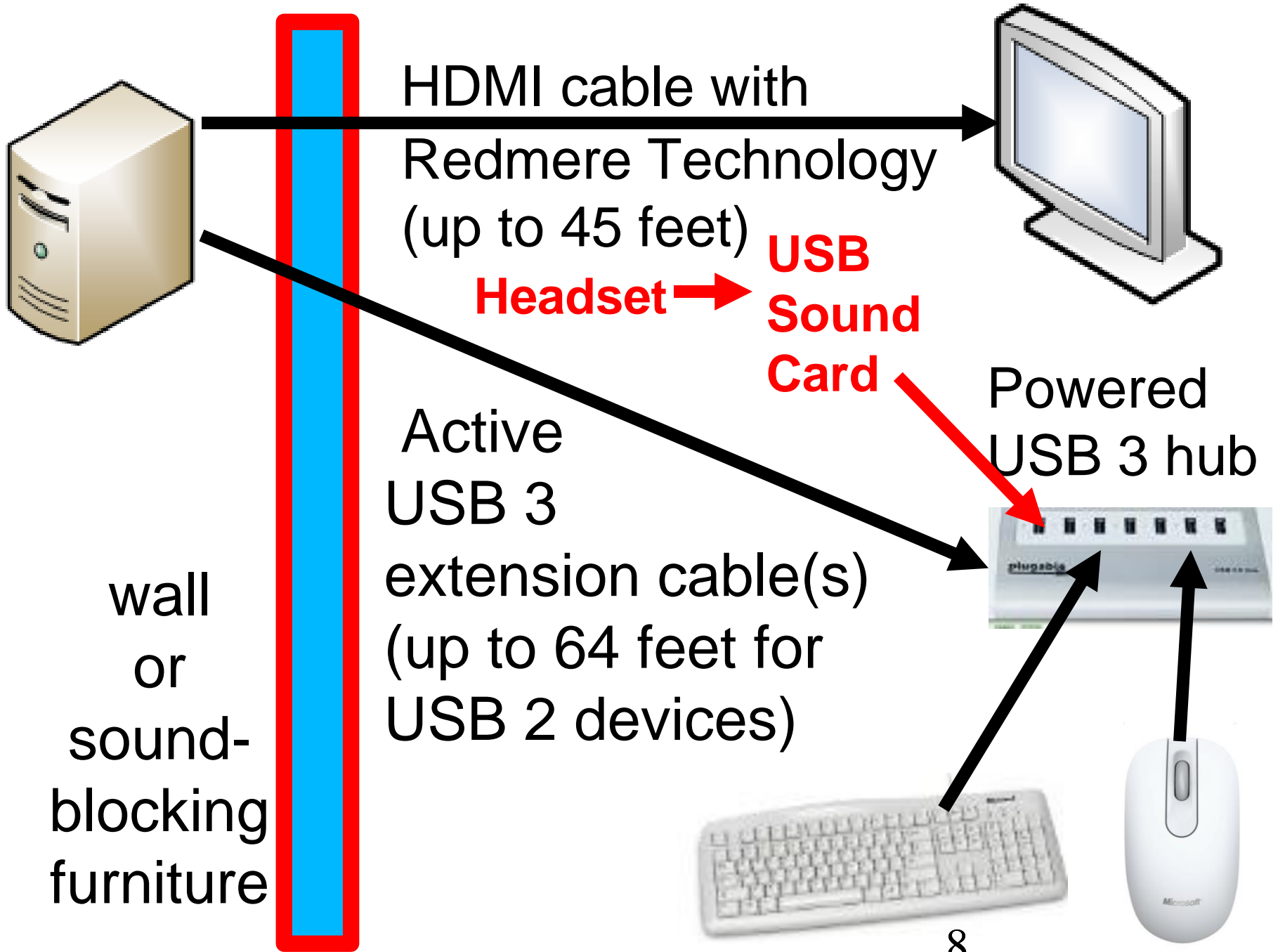
--A USEFUL ADD-ON (continued)

- Lets you install a working sound card when the existing sound card in your computer malfunctions
- Cuts down on mic and speaker hum and static
- Lets you add a separate, dedicated sound card to a virtual machine

EXTERNAL USB SOUND CARDS

--A USEFUL ADD-ON (continued)

- Cuts down on mic and speaker hum and static:
Long microphone and speaker lines--ones that are longer than about 20 feet in total length--pick up massive amounts of hum and static:



HDMI cable with Redmere Technology (up to 45 feet)

USB Headset → **USB Sound Card**

Active USB 3 extension cable(s) (up to 64 feet for USB 2 devices)

Powered USB 3 hub

wall or sound-blocking furniture

EXAMPLES OF USB SOUND CARDS

- The Griffin "iMic" is the best USB sound card:



Click to open expanded view

Griffin Technology

Griffin Technology iMic - The original USB Stereo Input and Output Audio Adapter



[131 customer reviews](#) | [39 answered questions](#)

Price: ~~\$39.99~~

Sale: **\$32.51 & FREE Shipping**

You Save: **\$7.48 (19%)**

In Stock.

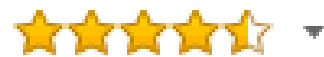
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Ships from and sold by [Griffin Tech.](#)

- High-quality audio input and output for desktops and laptops.
- No external power source needed.
- Provides amplified output for connecting powered speakers to your computer.
- Supports both mic-level and line level input.
- 3.5 mm (1/8") stereo IN and OUT jacks for connecting turntables, cassette decks, microphones, instruments, and powered speakers to your computer.



Griffin Technology iMic - The original USB Stereo Input and Output Audio Adapter



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EXAMPLES OF USB SOUND CARDS (continued)

- The "Creative Soundblaster X-Fi Go USB audio system" is not quite as good as the "Griffin iMic" in terms of speaker and microphone quality but it will usually outlast the Griffin "iMic" (The Griffin "iMic" will usually fail after 12 to 24 months of use):



Creative Sound Blaster X-Fi Go! Pro USB Audio System with SBX SB1290

by [Creative](#)



[394 customer reviews](#)

[85 answered questions](#)

Price: **\$38.07** & **FREE Shipping** on orders over \$49. [Details](#)

In Stock.

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- Small and power packed with SBX Pro Studio, delivering the fullest audio experience for music, movies and games
- SBX Pro Studio Surround expands the music away from your headphones, giving an exhilarating experience of being in a concert
- Small enough to fit into your pocket and experience on the go
- Creative Silencer removes ambient noise to make your voice clearer to the other party (Creative dual-microphone headset required for use of this feature)
- Easy to use, simply plug in for the Sound Blaster experience

[82 new](#) from **\$36.87** [1 used](#) from **\$71.91**

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Creative Sound Blaster X-Fi Go! Pro USB Audio System with SBX SB1290

by [Creative](#)

★★★★☆ ▾ [394 customer reviews](#) | [85 answered questions](#)

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EXAMPLES OF USB SOUND CARDS (continued)

- The "Turtle Beach Audio Advantage Amigo II USB sound card" is another great USB sound card to consider:



Turtle Beach Audio Advantage Amigo II USB Sound Card & Headset Adapter

by [Turtle Beach](#)

★★★★☆ ▾ [232 customer reviews](#) | [51 answered questions](#)

Price: **\$30.38** & **FREE Shipping** on orders over \$49. [Details](#)

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Want it tomorrow, Aug. 26? Order within **8 hrs 16 mins** and choose **One-Day Shipping** at checkout. [Details](#)

Sold by [Astronautical](#) and [Fulfilled by Amazon](#). Gift-wrap available.

- Adds a stereo output and mic input to a Mac or PC and converts a standard headset into a USB headset
- Isolates the audio signal from the noisy electronics inside a PC or Notebook to provide higher quality sound
- Powered by USB - no power adapter needed
- Perfect for online game chat or VoIP software
- Compatible with Windows and Mac operating systems

[10 new](#) from **\$26.69** [3 used](#) from **\$22.32** [1 refurbished](#) from **\$13.98**

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Longer battery life, faster wake-up, and better performance. [Learn more](#)



Turtle Beach Audio Advantage Amigo II USB Sound Card & Headset Adapter

by [Turtle Beach](#)



[232 customer reviews](#) | [51 answered questions](#)

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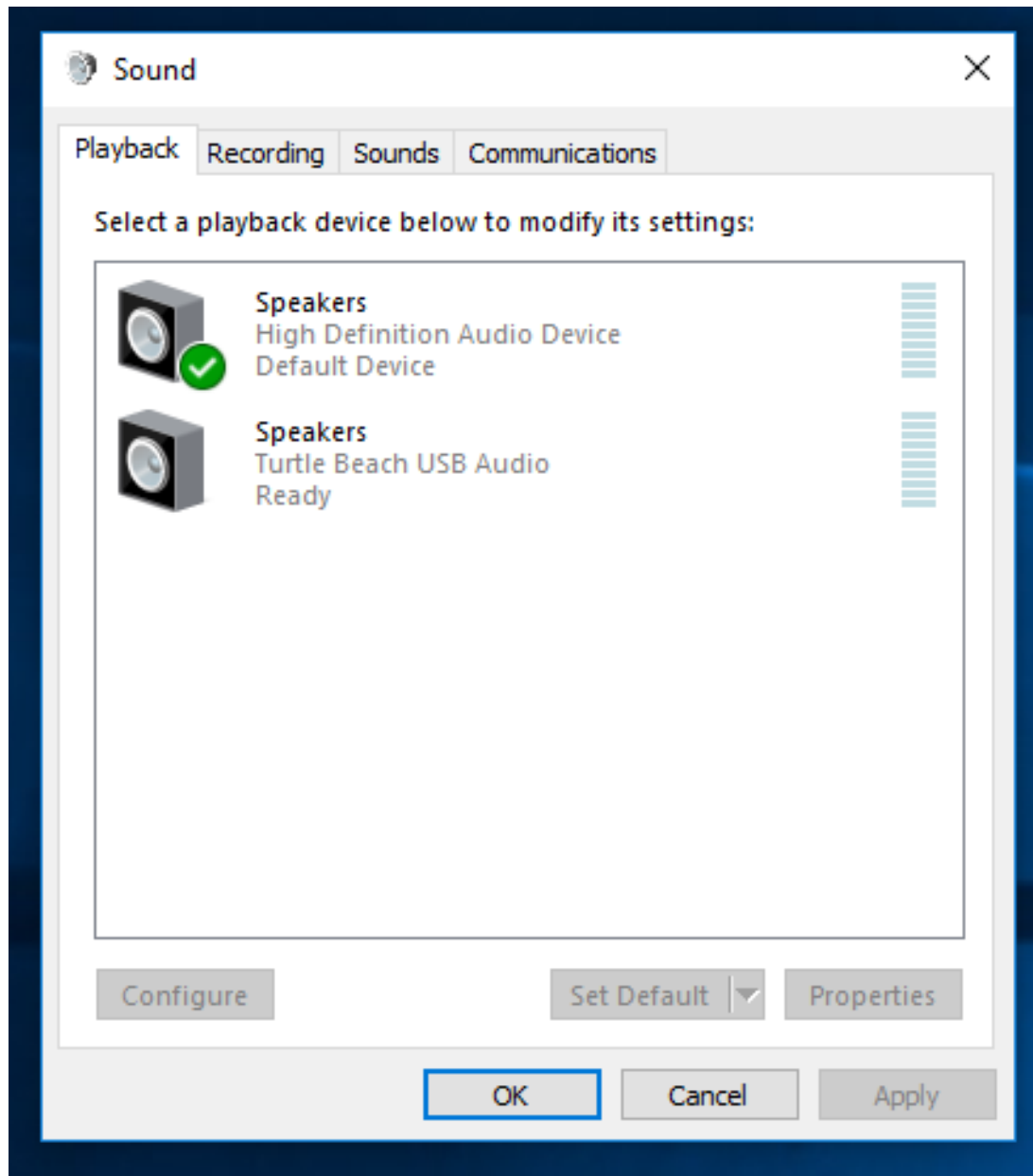
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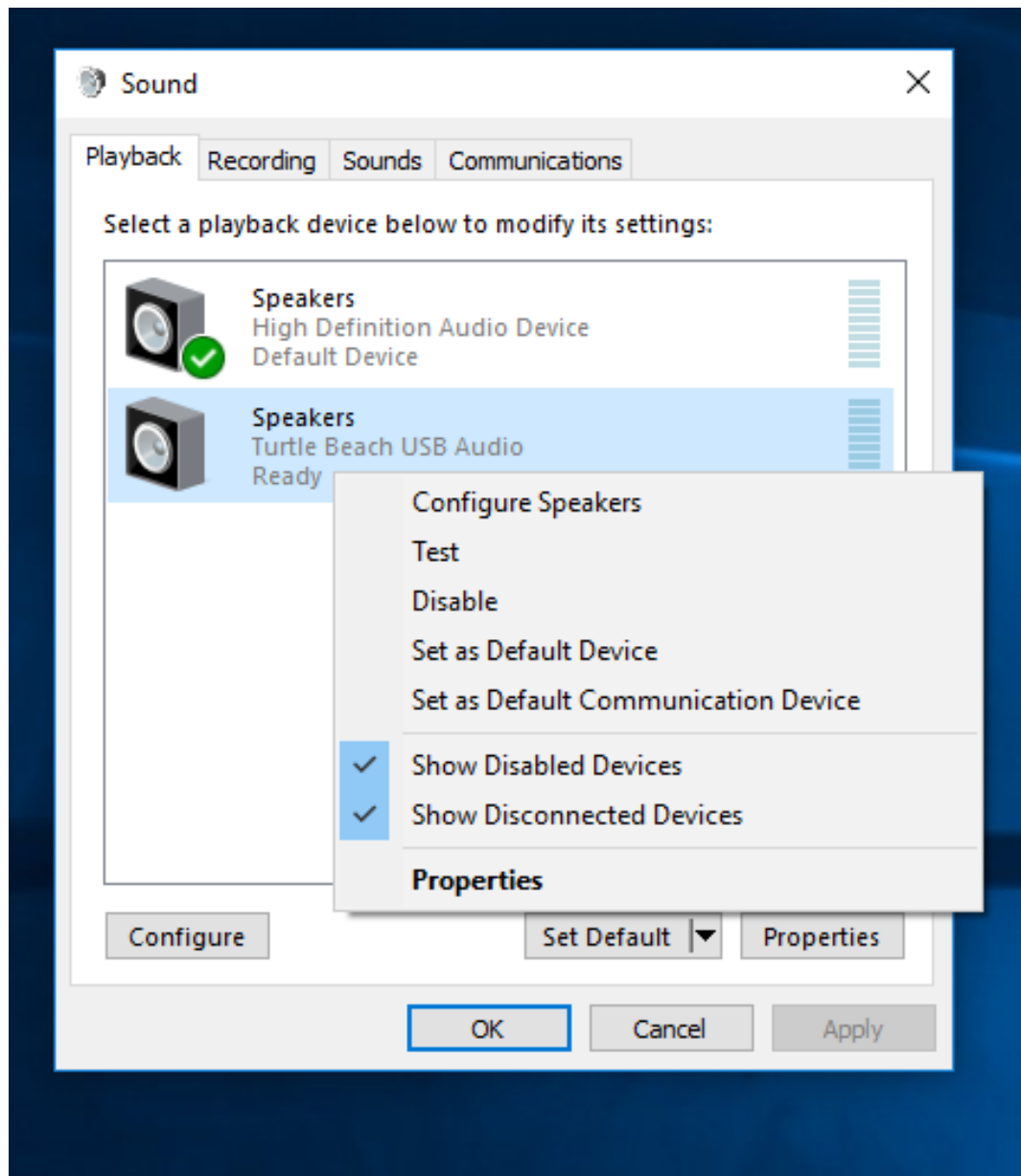
PLACING AN EXTERNAL USB SOUND CARD INTO SERVICE:

- You can add a USB 2-based sound controller to a computer.

Then go into the "Sound" in the "Control Panel".

For both the "Playback" and the "Recording" tabs, use the RIGHT mouse button to click on the USB 2-based sound controller and select "Set as Default Device" and/or "Set as Default Communications Device".





Configure Speakers

Test

Disable

Set as Default Device

Set as Default Communication Device



Show Disabled Devices



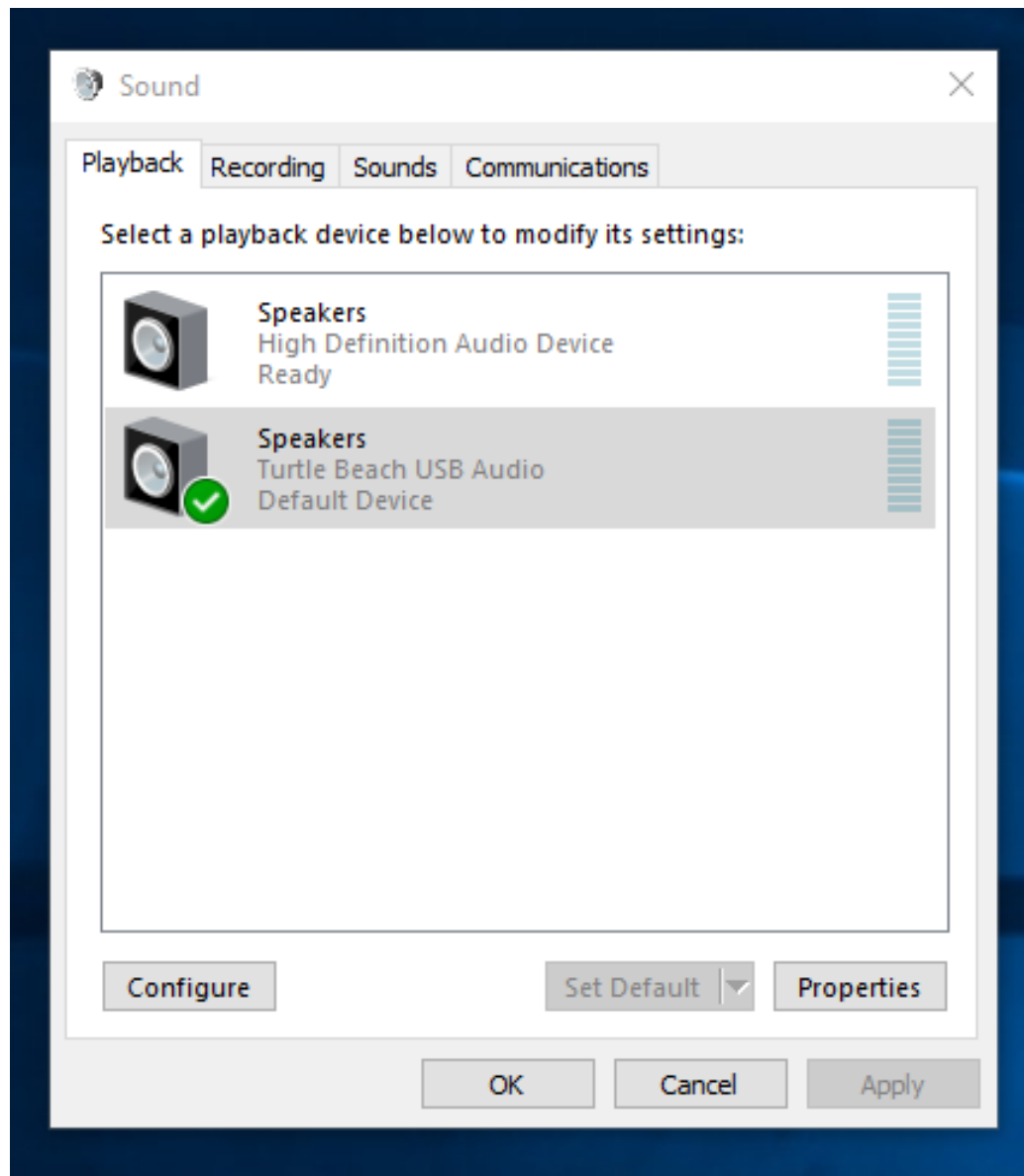
Show Disconnected Devices

Properties

Set Default



Properties



Select a playback device below to modify its settings:



Speakers
High Definition Audio Device
Ready



Speakers
Turtle Beach USB Audio
Default Device

