

SONANCE

BLAZE BY SONANCE POWERZONE CONNECT AMPLIFIERS SETUP GUIDE

CONNECTING TO THE AMPLIFIER

WIRED CONNECTION

1. Access the amplifier configuration UI by either typing in the IP address of the amplifier or by downloading the PowerZone Control Center Software for either PC or Mac from sonance.com. The PowerZone Control Center Software will scan the local network and find all available Blaze by Sonance amplifiers. On current firmware (1.8.2 or newer), the amp will be set up for DHCP and will automatically take a DHCP address from your router. On older firmware, the amp is set up with a static IP address of 192.168.4.100 and a gateway address of 192.168.4.1. If connecting to an amp with older firmware, manually set your computer or device address to an IP in the same range, something like 192.168.4.10 and your gateway to 192.168.4.1 to be able to see the amplifier. Once connected, you can change the IP address under the SETTINGS>LAN tab to either DHCP or an IP address of your choosing.

WIRELESS CONNECTION

1. If you do not have a network setup to plug the amp into, you can connect to the amplifier by using the amp's built-in wireless access point. This is on by default and can be accessed by looking for a Wifi access point called Blaze PZCXXXXXXX where the X's represent the model and part of the serial number. When connecting to the access point, the default password is 'password' and the default IP address is 192.168.4.1. After connected and configured, disable or manage the amp's wireless settings.
2. Update to the most current firmware once connected. The best way to manage this is to use the PowerZone Control Center Software and go to the 'UPDATE' tab to download and install the most current firmware to all devices. Manually update by downloading the most current firmware at sonance.com. To apply, go to SETTINGS>DEVICE and select 'UPDATE'. Navigate to the firmware file previously downloaded (see Figure 1).

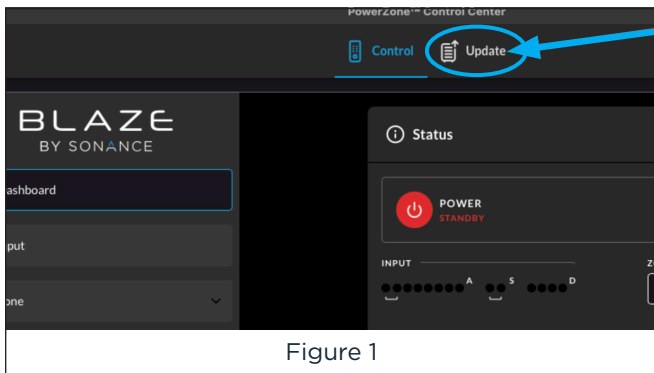


Figure 1

BASIC SETUP STEPS

1. The dashboard presents useful information about the amp. If there are several amps and you are not sure which one you are connected to, go to the SETTINGS TAB>DEVICE. Next, select 'FIND ME' and the lights on the front of the connected amplifier will cycle (see Figure 2).

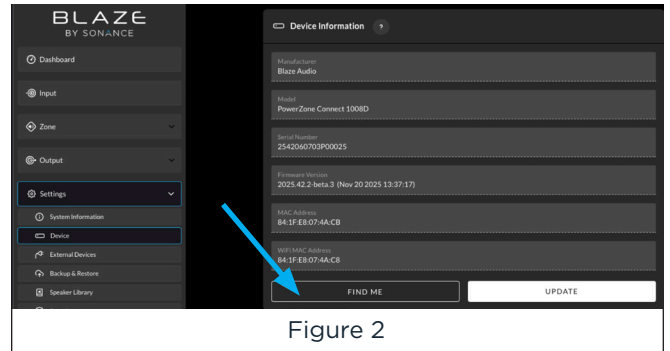


Figure 2

2. Once the amp has been identified, go to the SETTINGS TAB>SYSTEM INFORMATION and name the device (see Figure 3).

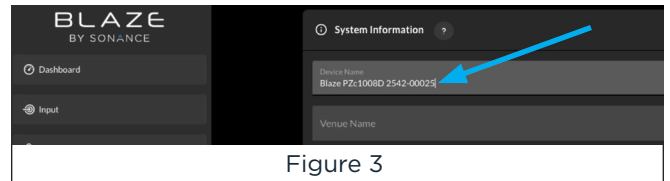


Figure 3

3. If using a third party control system, set a static IP address or create a DHCP reservation for the amplifier. The LAN settings can be accessed under the SETTINGS TAB>LAN (see Figure 4).

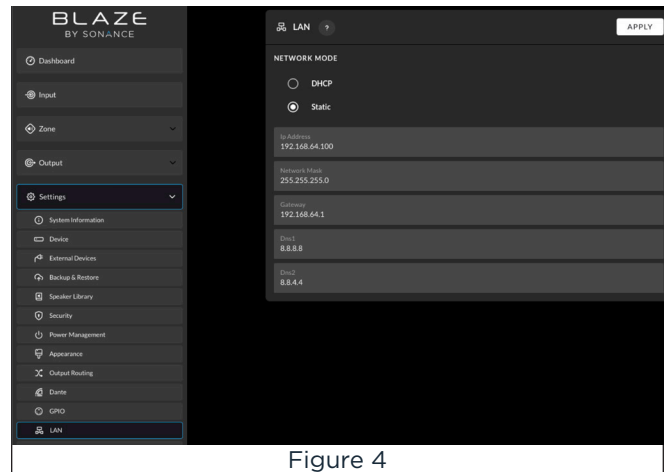


Figure 4

4. In the 'INPUTS' tab, all inputs are set to single channel mono by default. If using stereo inputs, click 'MONO' and the source input will take the first to input channels and group them as a stereo input. This will also change the name to 'STEREO'. The source name can also be adjusted for easy identification. Continue for all analog, digital, Dante, and mix inputs (see Figure 5).

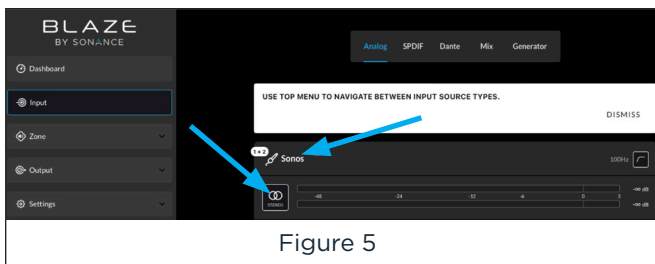


Figure 5

- If needed, adjust the sensitivity and gain for each input. It is unlikely that a different setting than the default +4dBu will be needed. If the signal is very loud or too quiet, move the sensitivity to -10dBu or MIC for low signals or to +14dBu for very high signals can normalize volumes. Use the Gain/Trim for fine tuning. There is also a five band parametric EQ for advanced tuning of source inputs (see Figure 6).

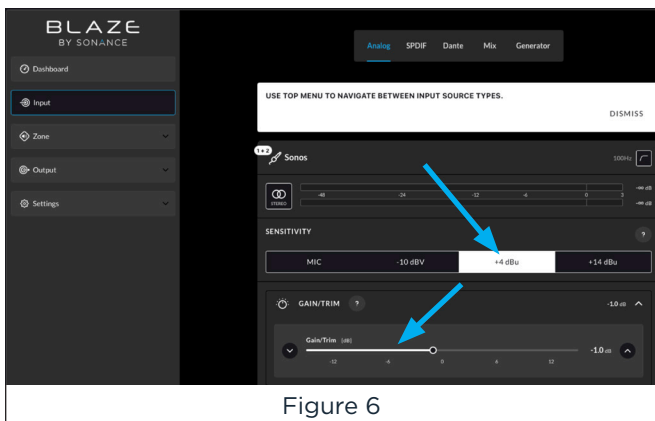


Figure 6

- In the 'ZONES' tab, all zones will be setup in single channel mono mode. If using the amp outputs as stereo zones, simply click on 'MONO' to change it to stereo and the zone will take the first two (A+B in this case) channels and group it as a stereo zone. Repeat this process for all other zones to group zones C-H (for an eight channel amp) into stereo zones. Click on the zone name and add a name to make zone identification easier (see Figure 7).

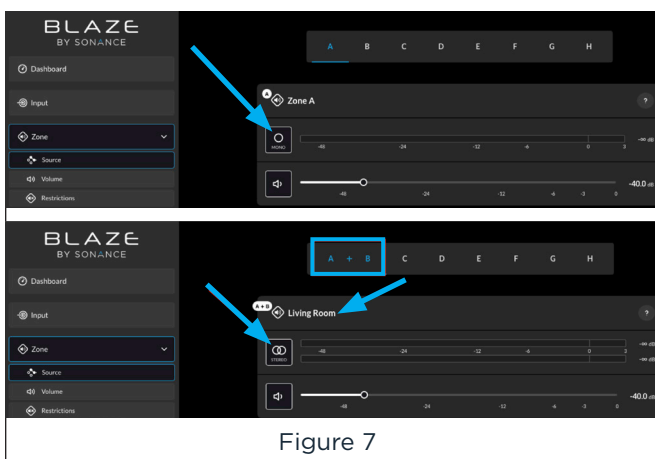


Figure 7

IMPORTANT: All zones are setup by default with inputs routed to outputs so that input one is routed to output one, input two is routed to output two, etc. This means that no source routing is required if you are using an audio matrix or other preamplifier to drive the amplifier.

IMPORTANT: The amplifier will ship with all zone volumes set to -40dB. This is to make sure that when turned on, a very loud source does not overdrive any speakers connected. If you are planning to

control the amplifier volume as the primary volume control with either a Blaze M1 wall control or with a third party control system, leave this as is. If you will be driving the amp inputs with an external preamplifier like an audio matrix or a Sonos player where the preamplifier will be acting as the volume control, you will want to adjust the volume for each zone to a higher level. We recommend starting out at -5dB (see Figure 8).



Figure 8

- In the 'OUTPUT' tab, under the 'ROUTING' setting make any needed adjustments to which channels you would like to have be part of the zones you have created. By default, each mono zone will be assigned to its paired channel (Zone A routes to channel one, Zone B routes to channel two, etc). When creating a stereo zone, the first two channels are routed as left and right for that zone. Clicking on each channel across the top of the page will verify routing as needed. This tab also allows larger groups of channels to create a zone with many speakers. Channels can be named here for easy identification (see Figure 9).

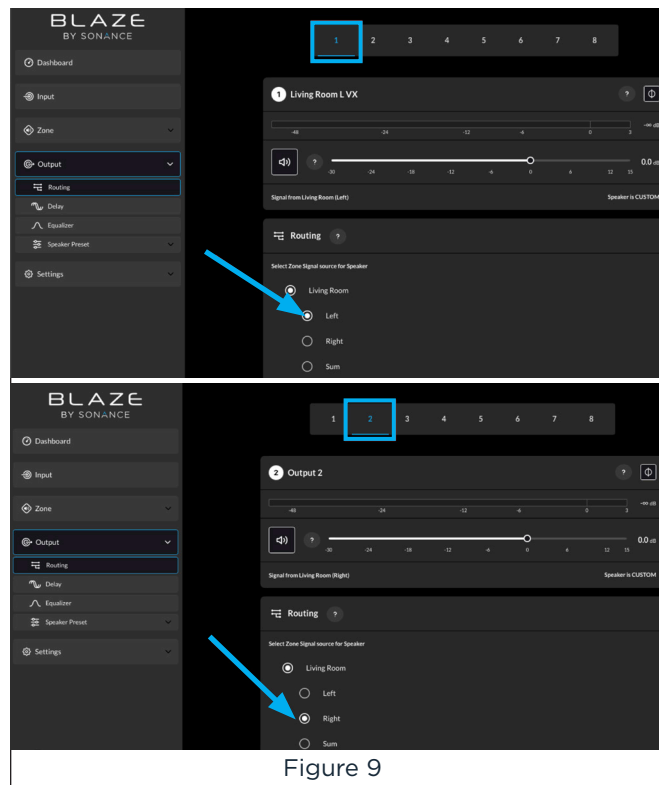


Figure 9

- The 'OUTPUT' tab is where adjustments to individual channel gain. This might be to balance a stereo signal where one speaker is further than the other in the primary listening area of we are trying to blend a subwoofer that is part of the same group. Slowly add or remove gain to balance the sound (see Figure 10).



Figure 10

- The 'OUTPUT' tab has settings for adding delays. Delays can be useful if speakers are spread apart significant distances and are placed in a sloped ceiling. Adding a small delay to the closest or lowest speakers can help make sure that the audio signal arrives at the same time, reducing or eliminating a potential echo effect. The easiest way to measure delay is in feet or meters, measuring how far each speaker is away from the primary listening area. This is done for each channel (see Figure 11).

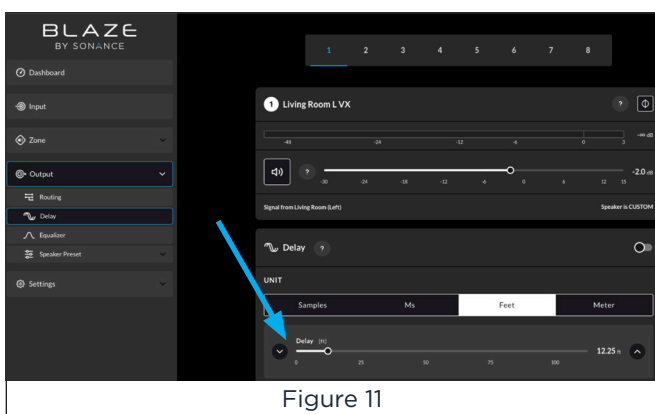


Figure 11

- In the 'OUTPUT' tab and the 'SPEAKER PRESET SETTING', add the speaker EQ preset for each speaker connected to the amp. When in the main speaker preset window, select 'FROM LIBRARY'. This will bring up a window with all loaded speaker presets, select the preset for the Sonance or James speakers connected to the channel. Repeat for all channels. If no presets are loaded, you can download the full EQ preset file from the product page at sonance.com (see Figure 12).

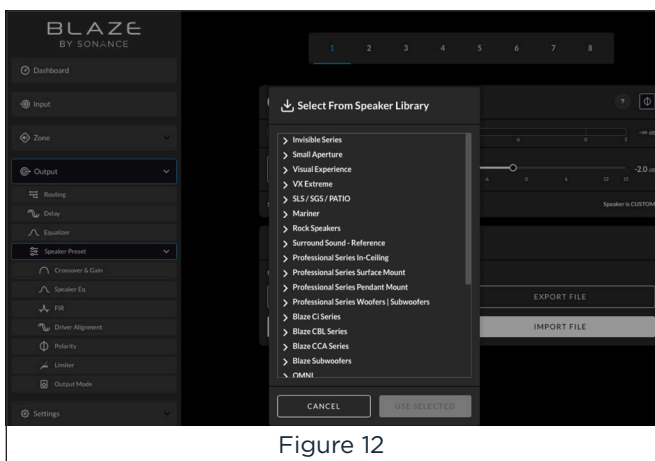


Figure 12

- Fine tuning of the room can be performed by going to the 'OUTPUT' tab and selecting the 'EQUALIZER'. This is a good place to do advanced audio calibration using a tool like Room EQ Wizard or adding customer preferences for things like bass or treble. This tab includes a full ten band Parametric EQ per channel for powerful customization and calibration (see Figure 13).

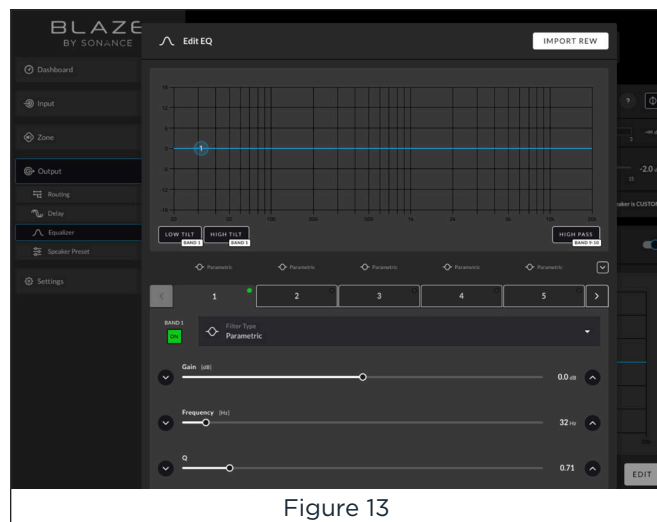


Figure 13

IMPORTANT: The amplifier ships in Audio Sense Mode. This is appropriate for most use cases and the amp will wake up if any audio signal is present. If needed, you can change the power on method from the **SETTINGS TAB>POWER MANAGEMENT**. This allow you to change the sleep time once no audio is present, or change to voltage trigger mode using pin six on the GPIO connections, or change to network only mode if you only want the amp to respond to IP commands from a third party control system.

NOTE: The ECO modes will put the amp in a very low power state when not on, but will disable the LAN and Wifi connections. If controlling the amplifier via IP commands, do not use the ECO modes.

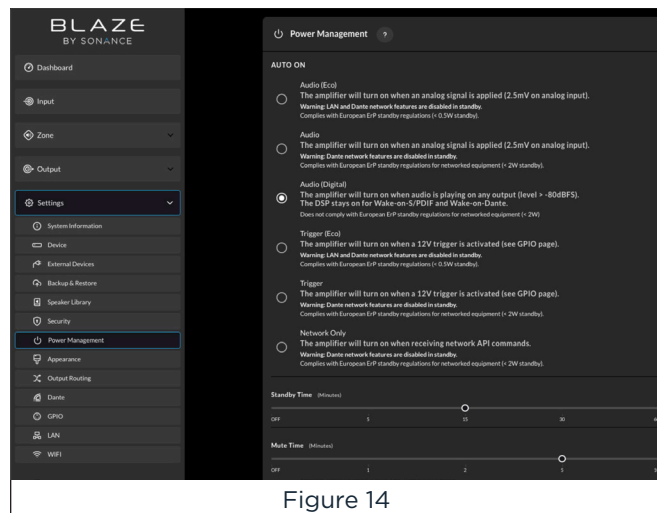


Figure 14

Visit sonance.com for manuals, videos, and tech notes.