



**OpenAL Programmer's Guide**  
OpenAL Versions 1.0 and 1.1



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**Acknowledgments**

Documentation written by Garin Hiebert. Additional input by Keith Charley, Peter Harrison, Jean-Marc Jot, Daniel Peacock, Jean-Michel Trivi, and Carlo Vogelsang.

**Revision History**

Revision 1.0	October 2005	Garin Hiebert
Revision 1.1	July 2006	Garin Hiebert
Revision 1.2	December 2006	Garin Hiebert
Revision 1.3	March 2007	Peter Harrison
Revision 1.4	June 2007	Peter Harrison
Revision 1.5	June 2007	Daniel Peacock

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## **About this Document**

### ***Introduction***

OpenAL is a cross-platform three-dimensional audio API. The API's primary purpose is to allow an application to position audio sources in a three-dimensional space around a listener, producing reasonable spatialization of the sources for the audio system (headphones, 2.1 speaker output, 5.1 speaker output, etc.) Through extensions, Creative Labs has also enhanced OpenAL with EAX and other capabilities. OpenAL is appropriate for many audio applications, but was designed to be most appropriate for gaming audio.

### ***Intended Audience***

This reference guide is most appropriate for a programmer. Experience with C or C++ is not required to learn the concepts in OpenAL, but will make understanding the OpenAL source as well as sample code easier. Since there are several sample applications included with the OpenAL SDKs as well as with the source distribution, it is recommended that interested programmers take advantage of those resources.

### ***Other OpenAL Resources***

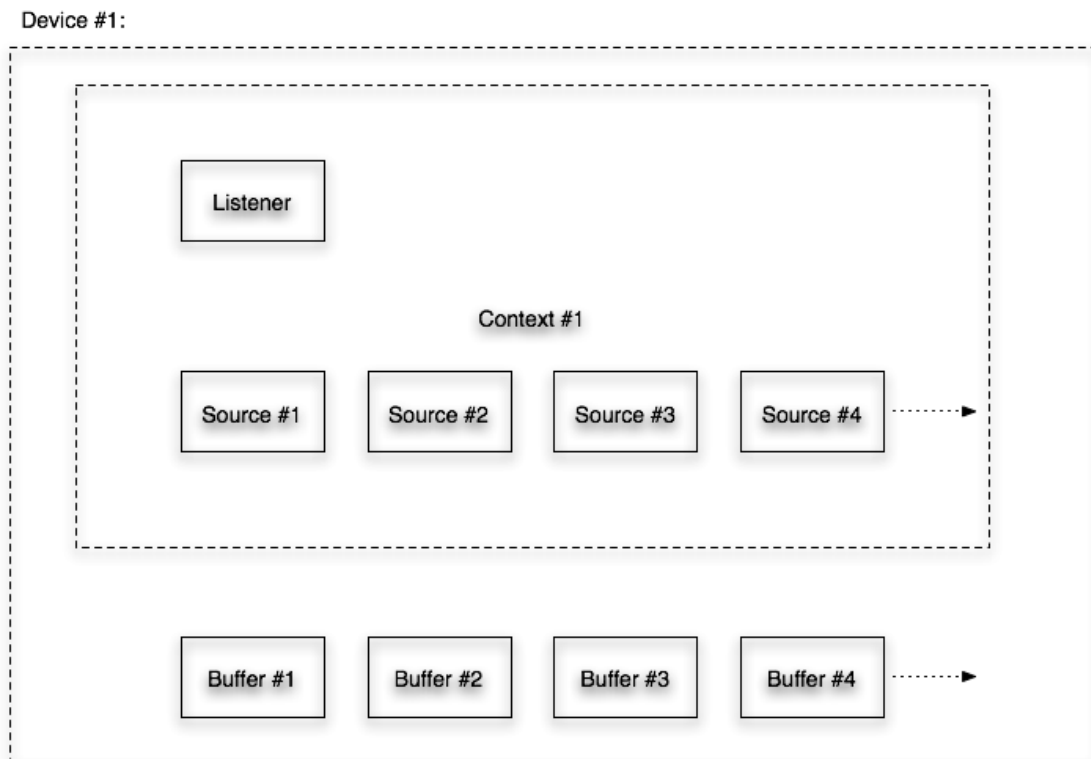
The two most important resources for additional information on OpenAL are the websites at [www.openal.org](http://www.openal.org) and <http://developer.creative.com>. The main OpenAL site hosts the specification, the open source implementations, and sample code. The Creative developer site has a section dedicated to OpenAL with SDKs showing how to use OpenAL as well as various extensions.

## Introduction to OpenAL

Use of OpenAL revolves around the use of three fundamental objects – Buffers, Sources, and a Listener. A buffer can be filled with audio data, and can then be attached to a source. The source can then be positioned and played. How the source is heard is determined by its position and orientation relative to the Listener object (there is only one Listener). Creating a number of sources and buffers and a single listener and then updating the positions and orientations of the sources and listener dynamically can present a convincing 3D audio world.

### Objects

Here is a diagram showing the fundamental OpenAL objects and their relationships to the context and device objects:



When initializing OpenAL, at least one device has to be opened. Within that device, at least one context will be created. Within that context, one listener object is implied, and a multitude of source objects can be created. Each source can have one or more buffers objects attached to it. Buffer objects are not part of a specific context – they are shared among all contexts on one device.

### Device Enumeration

The function call to open a device, [alcOpenDevice](#), takes a string as input. The string should contain either the name of a valid OpenAL rendering device, or NULL to request the default device.



On PC Systems, a number of different OpenAL rendering devices may co-exist. For example a “native” renderer specific to the user’s high-end soundcard, and a host-based software fallback renderer. On platforms where multiple renderers can be present, an OpenAL application may require the ability to identify the different devices available, in order to give the end-user a choice of device. OpenAL’s [Enumeration extension](#) makes this possible.

The Enumeration extension allows the programmer to retrieve a string listing the names of available devices. It can also provide the name of the default device. Use [alcGetString](#) with the device property set to NULL, and the enum property set to [ALC\\_DEVICE\\_SPECIFIER](#) to get the list of available devices. To get the default device name, pass in NULL and [ALC\\_DEFAULT\\_DEVICE\\_SPECIFIER](#) .

The Enumeration extension also works with capture devices – the equivalent values are [ALC\\_CAPTURE\\_DEVICE\\_SPECIFIER](#) and [ALC\\_CAPTURE\\_DEFAULT\\_DEVICE\\_SPECIFIER](#).

The programmer can find out more about the capabilities of each device by querying to see which extensions it supports using [alclsExtensionPresent](#) and [allsExtensionPresent](#).

### ***Initializing/Exiting***

As described above, the first step to initializing OpenAL is to open a device. Once that is successfully done, then a context is opened on that device. Now the fundamental OpenAL objects can be managed – the listener, various sources, and various buffers.

To generate a set of buffers for use, use [alGetError](#) to reset the error state, call [alGenBuffers](#) to generate the number of buffers desired, and then use [alGetError](#) again to detect if an error was generated.

Fill the buffers with PCM data using [alBufferData](#).

To generate a set of sources for use, use [alGetError](#) to reset the error state, call [alGenSources](#) to generate the number of sources desired, and then use [alGetError](#) again to detect if an error was generated.

Buffers are attached to sources using [alSourcei](#).

Once a buffer has been attached to a source, the source can play the buffer using [alSourcePlay](#).

Source and Listener properties can be updated dynamically using property set and get calls such as [alGetListenerfv](#), [alListener3f](#), [alSourcei](#), and [alGetSource3f](#).

Example:

```

// Initialization
Device = alcOpenDevice(NULL); // select the "preferred device"

if (Device) {
    Context=alcCreateContext(Device,NULL);
    alcMakeContextCurrent(Context);
}

// Check for EAX 2.0 support
g_bEAX = alIsExtensionPresent("EAX2.0");

// Generate Buffers
alGetError(); // clear error code

alGenBuffers(NUM_BUFFERS, g_Buffers);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alGenBuffers :", error);
    return;
}

// Load test.wav
loadWAVFile("test.wav",&format,&data,&size,&freq,&loop);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alutLoadWAVFile test.wav : ", error);
    alDeleteBuffers(NUM_BUFFERS, g_Buffers);
    return;
}

// Copy test.wav data into AL Buffer 0
alBufferData(g_Buffers[0],format,data,size,freq);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alBufferData buffer 0 : ", error);
    alDeleteBuffers(NUM_BUFFERS, g_Buffers);
    return;
}

// Unload test.wav
unloadWAV(format,data,size,freq);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alutUnloadWAV : ", error);
    alDeleteBuffers(NUM_BUFFERS, g_Buffers);
    return;
}

// Generate Sources
alGenSources(1,source);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alGenSources 1 : ", error);
    return;
}

// Attach buffer 0 to source

```

```

alSourcei(source[0], AL_BUFFER, g_Buffers[0]);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alSourcei AL_BUFFER 0 : ", error);
}

// Exit
Context=alcGetCurrentContext();
Device=alcGetContextsDevice(Context);
alcMakeContextCurrent(NULL);
alcDestroyContext(Context);
alcCloseDevice(Device);

```

### ***Listener Properties***

For every context, there is automatically one Listener object. The *alListener[f, 3f, fv, ij]* and *alGetListener[f, 3f, fv, ij]* families of functions can be used to set or retrieve the following listener properties:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Data Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL_GAIN	f, fv	"master gain" value should be positive
AL_POSITION	fv, 3f, iv, 3i	X, Y, Z position
AL_VELOCITY	fv, 3f, iv, 3i	velocity vector
AL_ORIENTATION	fv, iv	orientation expressed as "at" and "up" vectors

Example:

```
ALfloat listenerPos[]={0.0,0.0,0.0};
ALfloat listenerVel[]={0.0,0.0,0.0};
ALfloat listenerOri[]={0.0,0.0,-1.0, 0.0,1.0,0.0};

// Position ...
alListenerfv(AL_POSITION,listenerPos);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alListenerfv POSITION : ", error);
    return;
}

// Velocity ...
alListenerfv(AL_VELOCITY,listenerVel);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alListenerfv VELOCITY : ", error);
    return;
}

// Orientation ...
alListenerfv(AL_ORIENTATION,listenerOri);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alListenerfv ORIENTATION : ", error);
    return;
}
```

### **Buffer Properties**

Each buffer generated by [alGenBuffers](#) has properties which can be retrieved. The *alGetBuffer[f, i]* functions can be used to retrieve the following buffer properties:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Data Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL_FREQUENCY	i, iv	frequency of buffer in Hz
AL_BITS	i, iv	bit depth of buffer
AL_CHANNELS	i, iv	number of channels in buffer > 1 is valid, but buffer won't be positioned when played
AL_SIZE	i, iv	size of buffer in bytes
AL_DATA	i, iv	original location where data was copied from generally useless, as was probably freed after buffer creation

Example:

```
// Retrieve Buffer Frequency
alBufferi(g_Buffers[0], AL_FREQUENCY, iFreq);
```

### **Source Properties**

Each source generated by [alGenSources](#) has properties which can be set or retrieved. The *alSource[f, 3f, fv, i]* and *alGetSource[f, 3f, fv, i]* families of functions can be used to set or retrieve the following source properties:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Data Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL_PITCH	f, fv	pitch multiplier always positive
AL_GAIN	f, fv	source gain value should be positive
AL_MAX_DISTANCE	f, fv, i, iv	used with the Inverse Clamped Distance Model to set the distance where there will no longer be any attenuation of the source
AL_ROLLOFF_FACTOR	f, fv, i, iv	the rolloff rate for the source default is 1.0
AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE	f, fv, i, iv	the distance under which the volume for the source would normally drop by half (before being influenced by rolloff factor or AL_MAX_DISTANCE)
AL_MIN_GAIN	f, fv	the minimum gain for this source
AL_MAX_GAIN	f, fv	the maximum gain for this source
AL_CONE_OUTER_GAIN	f, fv	the gain when outside the oriented cone
AL_CONE_INNER_ANGLE	f, fv, i, iv	the gain when inside the oriented cone
AL_CONE_OUTER_ANGLE	f, fv, i, iv	outer angle of the sound cone, in degrees default is 360
AL_POSITION	fv, 3f	X, Y, Z position
AL_VELOCITY	fv, 3f	velocity vector
AL_DIRECTION	fv, 3f, iv, 3i	direction vector
AL_SOURCE_RELATIVE	i, iv	determines if the positions are relative to the listener default is AL_FALSE
AL_SOURCE_TYPE	i, iv	the source type – AL_UNDETERMINED, AL_STATIC, or AL_STREAMING
AL_LOOPING	i, iv	turns looping on (AL_TRUE) or off (AL_FALSE)
AL_BUFFER	i, iv	the ID of the attached buffer
AL_SOURCE_STATE	i, iv	the state of the source (AL_STOPPED, AL_PLAYING, ...)
AL_BUFFERS_QUEUED*	i, iv	the number of buffers queued on this source
AL_BUFFERS_PROCESSED*	i, iv	the number of buffers in the queue that have been processed
AL_SEC_OFFSET	f, fv, i, iv	the playback position, expressed in seconds
AL_SAMPLE_OFFSET	f, fv, i, iv	the playback position, expressed in samples
AL_BYTE_OFFSET	f, fv, i, iv	the playback position, expressed in bytes

\* Read Only (alGetSource*i*)

Example:

```

alGetError(); // clear error state
alSourcef(source[0],AL_PITCH,1.0f);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
    DisplayALError("alSourcef 0 AL_PITCH : \n", error);

alGetError(); // clear error state
alSourcef(source[0],AL_GAIN,1.0f);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
    DisplayALError("alSourcef 0 AL_GAIN : \n", error);

alGetError(); // clear error state
alSourcefv(source[0],AL_POSITION,source0Pos);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
    DisplayALError("alSourcefv 0 AL_POSITION : \n", error);

```

```

alGetError(); // clear error state
alSourcefv(source[0],AL_VELOCITY,source0Vel);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
    DisplayALError("alSourcefv 0 AL_VELOCITY : \n", error);

alGetError(); // clear error state
alSourcei(source[0],AL_LOOPING,AL_FALSE);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
    DisplayALError("alSourcei 0 AL_LOOPING true: \n", error);

```

## Queuing Buffers on a Source

To continuously stream audio from a source without interruption, buffer queuing is required. To use buffer queuing, the buffers and sources are generated in the normal way, but [alSourcei](#) is not used to attach the buffers to the source. Instead, the functions [alSourceQueueBuffers](#) and [alSourceUnqueueBuffers](#) are used. The program can attach a buffer or a set of buffers to a source using [alSourceQueueBuffers](#), and then call [alSourcePlay](#) on that source. While the source is playing, [alSourceUnqueueBuffers](#) can be called to remove buffers which have already played. Those buffers can then be filled with new data or discarded. New or refilled buffers can then be attached to the playing source using [alSourceQueueBuffers](#). As long as there is always a new buffer to play in the queue, the source will continue to play.

Although some 1.0 implementations of OpenAL may not enforce the following restrictions on queuing, it is recommended to observe the following additional rules, which do universally apply to 1.1 implementations:

- 1) A source that will be used for streaming should not have its first buffer attached using [alSourcei](#) – always use [alSourceQueueBuffers](#) to attach buffers to streaming sources. Any source can have all buffers detached from it using [alSourcei](#)(..., AL\_BUFFER, 0), and can then be used for either streaming or non-streaming buffers depending on how data is then attached to the source (with [alSourcei](#) or with [alSourceQueueBuffers](#)).
- 2) All buffers attached to a source using [alSourceQueueBuffers](#) should have the same audio format.

## Doppler Shift

The Doppler effect depends on the velocities of source and listener relative to the medium, and the propagation speed of sound in that medium. The application might want to emphasize or de-emphasize the Doppler effect as physically accurate calculation might not give the desired results. The amount of frequency shift (pitch change) is proportional to the speed of listener and source along their line of sight.

The Doppler effect as implemented by OpenAL is described by the formula below. Effects of the medium (air, water) moving with respect to listener and source are ignored.

SS: AL\_SPEED\_OF\_SOUND = speed of sound (default value 343.3)

DF: AL\_DOPPLER\_FACTOR = Doppler factor (default 1.0)

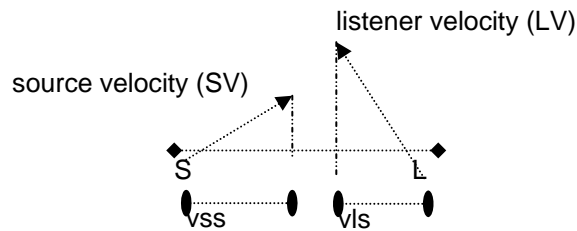
vls: Listener velocity scalar (scalar, projected on source-to-listener vector)

vss: Source velocity scalar (scalar, projected on source-to-listener vector)

f: Frequency of sample

f': effective Doppler shifted frequency

Graphic representation of vls and vss:



3D Mathematical representation of vls and vss:

$$\text{Mag}(\text{vector}) = \sqrt{\text{vector.x} * \text{vector.x} + \text{vector.y} * \text{vector.y} + \text{vector.z} * \text{vector.z}}$$

$$\text{DotProduct}(v1, v2) = (v1.x * v2.x + v1.y * v2.y + v1.z * v2.z)$$

SL = source to listener vector

SV = Source Velocity vector

LV = Listener Velocity vector

$$vls = \text{DotProduct}(\text{SL}, \text{LV}) / \text{Mag}(\text{SL})$$

$$vss = \text{DotProduct}(\text{SL}, \text{SV}) / \text{Mag}(\text{SL})$$

Dopper Calculation:

$$vss = \min(vss, \text{SS}/\text{DF})$$

$$vls = \min(vls, \text{SS}/\text{DF})$$

$$f' = f * (\text{SS} - \text{DF} * vls) / (\text{SS} - \text{DF} * vss)$$

There are two API calls global to the current context that provide control of the speed of sound and Doppler factor. `AL_DOPPLER_FACTOR` is a simple scaling of source and listener velocities to exaggerate or deemphasize the Doppler (pitch) shift resulting from the calculation.

`void alDopplerFactor(ALfloat dopplerFactor);`

A negative value will result in an `AL_INVALID_VALUE` error, the command is then ignored. The default value is 1. The current setting can be queried using `alGetFloat{v}` and `AL_DOPPLER_FACTOR`.

`AL_SPEED_OF_SOUND` allows the application to change the reference (propagation) speed used in the Doppler calculation. The source and listener velocities should be expressed in the same units as the speed of sound.

`void alSpeedOfSound(ALfloat speed);`

A negative or zero value will result in an `AL_INVALID_VALUE` error, and the command is ignored. The default value is 343.3 (appropriate for velocity units of meters and air as the propagation medium). The current setting can be queried using `alGetFloat{v}` and `AL_SPEED_OF_SOUND`.

Distance and velocity units are completely independent of one another (so you could use different units for each if desired). If an OpenAL application doesn't want to use Doppler effects, then leaving all velocities at zero will achieve that result.

## **Error Handling**

The error state of OpenAL can be retrieved at any time using [alGetError](#). [alGetError](#) clears the error state of OpenAL when it is called, so it is common for an OpenAL application to call [alGetError](#) at the beginning of a critical operation to clear the error state, perform the critical operation, and then use [alGetError](#) again to test whether or not an error occurred.

Error Codes:

<u>Error Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL_NO_ERROR	there is not currently an error
AL_INVALID_NAME	a bad name (ID) was passed to an OpenAL function
AL_INVALID_ENUM	an invalid enum value was passed to an OpenAL function
AL_INVALID_VALUE	an invalid value was passed to an OpenAL function
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	the requested operation is not valid
AL_OUT_OF_MEMORY	the requested operation resulted in OpenAL running out of memory

Example:

```
alGetError(); // Clear Error Code

// Generate Buffers
alGenBuffers(NUM_BUFFERS, g_Buffers);
if ((error = alGetError()) != AL_NO_ERROR)
{
    DisplayALError("alGenBuffers :", error);
    exit(-1);
}
```

## **Extensions**

OpenAL has an extension mechanism that can be used by OpenAL vendors to add new features to the API. Creative Labs have added a number of extensions including EAX, X-RAM, Multi-Channel Buffer playback, and most recently an Effect Extension (EFX). To determine if an extension is available the application can use either [alIsExtensionPresent](#) or [alGetExtensionPresent](#) depending on the type of extension. The Appendices contain more details about some of Creative's extensions to OpenAL.



## Buffer Functions

### *Properties*

<u>Property</u>	<u>Data Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL_FREQUENCY	i, iv	frequency of buffer in Hz
AL_BITS	i, iv	bit depth of buffer
AL_CHANNELS	i, iv	number of channels in buffer > 1 is valid, but buffer won't be positioned when played
AL_SIZE	i, iv	size of buffer in bytes
AL_DATA	i, iv	original location where data was copied from generally useless, as was probably freed after buffer creation

### *Functions*

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## alGenBuffers

### Description

This function generates one or more buffers, which contain audio data (see [alBufferData](#)). References to buffers are ALuint values, which are used wherever a buffer reference is needed (in calls such as [alDeleteBuffers](#), [alSourcei](#), [alSourceQueueBuffers](#), and [alSourceUnqueueBuffers](#)).

```
void alGenBuffers(  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint *buffers  
);
```

### Parameters

*n* the number of buffers to be generated

*buffers* the pointer to an array of ALuint values which will store the names of new buffers

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The buffer array isn't large enough to hold the number of buffers requested.
AL_OUT_OF_MEMORY	There is not enough memory available to generate all the buffers requested.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

If the requested number of buffers cannot be created, an error will be generated which can be detected with [alGetError](#). If an error occurs, no buffers will be generated. If *n* equals zero, `alGenBuffers` does nothing and does not return an error.

### See Also

[alDeleteBuffers](#), [allsBuffer](#)

## alDeleteBuffers

### Description

This function deletes one or more buffers, freeing the resources used by the buffer. Buffers which are attached to a source can not be deleted. See [alSourcei](#) and [alSourceUnqueueBuffers](#) for information on how to detach a buffer from a source.

```
void alDeleteBuffers(  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint *buffers  
);
```

### Parameters

*n* the number of buffers to be deleted

*buffers* pointer to an array of buffer names identifying the buffers to be deleted

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	The buffer is still in use and can not be deleted.
AL_INVALID_NAME	A buffer name is invalid.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The requested number of buffers can not be deleted.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

If the requested number of buffers cannot be deleted, an error will be generated which can be detected with [alGetError](#). If an error occurs, no buffers will be deleted. If *n* equals zero, `alDeleteBuffers` does nothing and will not return an error.

### See Also

[alGenBuffers](#), [allsBuffer](#)

## alIsBuffer

### Description

This function tests if a buffer name is valid, returning AL\_TRUE if valid, AL\_FALSE if not.

```
ALboolean alIsBuffer(  
    ALuint buffer  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      a buffer name to be tested for validity

### Possible Error States

None

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The NULL buffer is always valid (see [alSourcei](#) for information on how the NULL buffer is used).

### See Also

[alGenBuffers](#), [alDeleteBuffers](#)

## alBufferData

### Description

This function fills a buffer with audio data. All the pre-defined formats are PCM data, but this function may be used by extensions to load other data types as well.

```
void alBufferData(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    AEnum format,  
    const ALvoid *data,  
    ALsizei size,  
    ALsizei freq  
);
```

### Parameters

<i>buffer</i>	buffer name to be filled with data
<i>format</i>	format type from among the following: AL_FORMAT_MONO8 AL_FORMAT_MONO16 AL_FORMAT_STEREO8 AL_FORMAT_STEREO16
<i>data</i>	pointer to the audio data
<i>size</i>	the size of the audio data in bytes
<i>freq</i>	the frequency of the audio data

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_OUT_OF_MEMORY	There is not enough memory available to create this buffer.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The size parameter is not valid for the format specified, the buffer is in use, or the data is a NULL pointer.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified format does not exist.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

8-bit PCM data is expressed as an unsigned value over the range 0 to 255, 128 being an audio output level of zero. 16-bit PCM data is expressed as a signed value over the range -32768 to 32767, 0 being an audio output level of zero. Stereo data is expressed in interleaved format, left channel first. Buffers containing more than one channel of data will be played without 3D spatialization.

## alBufferf

### Description

This function sets a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alBufferf(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    AEnum param,  
    ALfloat value  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param*                        the name of the attribute to be set

*value*                         the ALfloat value to be set

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be affected by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBuffer3f](#), [alBufferfv](#), [alGetBuffer](#), [alGetBuffer3f](#), [alGetBufferfv](#)

## alBuffer3f

### Description

This function sets a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alBuffer3f(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    ALenum param,  
    ALfloat v1,  
    ALfloat v2,  
    ALfloat v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param*                        the name of the attribute to be set

*v1, v2, v3*                    the ALfloat values to be set

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be affected by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBufferf](#), [alBufferfv](#), [alGetBufferf](#), [alGetBuffer3f](#), [alGetBufferfv](#)

## alBufferfv

### Description

This function sets a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alBufferfv(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    AEnum param,  
    ALfloat *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param*                        the name of the attribute to be set

*values*                        a pointer to the ALfloat values to be set

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be affected by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBufferf](#), [alBuffer3f](#), [alGetBufferf](#), [alGetBuffer3f](#), [alGetBufferfv](#)



## alBufferi

### Description

This function retrieves an integer property of a buffer.

```
void alBufferi(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint value  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param*                      the name of the attribute to be set

*value*                      a pointer to an ALint to hold the retrieved data

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be affected by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBuffer3i](#), [alBufferiv](#), [alGetBufferi](#), [alGetBuffer3i](#), [alGetBufferiv](#)

## alBuffer3i

### Description

This function sets a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alBuffer3i(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    ALenum param,  
    ALint v1,  
    ALint v2,  
    ALint v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param*                      the name of the attribute to be set

*v1, v2, v3*              the ALint values to be set

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be affected by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBufferi](#), [alBufferiv](#), [alGetBufferi](#), [alGetBuffer3i](#), [alGetBufferiv](#)

## alBufferiv

### Description

This function sets a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alBufferiv(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param*                        the name of the attribute to be set

*values*                        a pointer to the ALint values to be set

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be affected by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBufferi](#), [alBuffer3i](#), [alGetBufferi](#), [alGetBuffer3i](#), [alGetBufferiv](#)

## alGetBufferf

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alGetBufferf(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    AEnum pname,  
    ALfloat *value  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*pname*                        the name of the attribute to be retrieved

*value*                         a pointer to an ALfloat to hold the retrieved data

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified value pointer is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be retrieved by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBufferf](#), [alBuffer3f](#), [alBufferfv](#), [alGetBuffer3f](#), [alGetBufferfv](#)

## alGetBuffer3f

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alGetBuffer3f(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    ALenum pname,  
    ALfloat *v1,  
    ALfloat *v2,  
    ALfloat *v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*pname*                        the name of the attribute to be retrieved

*v1, v2, v3*                pointers to a ALfloat values to hold the retrieved data

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified value pointer is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be retrieved by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBufferf](#), [alBuffer3f](#), [alBufferfv](#), [alGetBufferf](#), [alGetBufferfv](#)

## alGetBufferfv

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alGetBufferfv(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    ALenum pname,  
    ALfloat *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*pname*                        the name of the attribute to be retrieved

*values*                        pointer to an ALfloat vector to hold the retrieved data

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified value pointer is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be retrieved by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBuffer](#), [alBuffer3f](#), [alBufferfv](#), [alGetBufferf](#), [alGetBuffer3f](#)

## alGetBufferi

### Description

This function retrieves an integer property of a buffer.

```
void alGetBufferi(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    AEnum pname,  
    ALint *value  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*pname*                      the name of the attribute to be retrieved:  
                                AL\_FREQUENCY  
                                AL\_BITS  
                                AL\_CHANNELS  
                                AL\_SIZE  
                                AL\_DATA

*value*                      a pointer to an ALint to hold the retrieved data

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified value pointer is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alBufferi](#), [alBuffer3i](#), [alBufferiv](#), [alGetBuffer3i](#), [alGetBufferiv](#)

## alGetBuffer3i

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alGetBuffer3i(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    ALenum pname,  
    ALint *v1,  
    ALint *v2,  
    ALint *v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*                      buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*pname*                      the name of the attribute to be retrieved

*v1, v2, v3*              pointers to ALint values to hold the retrieved data

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified value pointer is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

There are no relevant buffer properties defined in OpenAL 1.1 which can be retrieved by this call, but this function may be used by OpenAL extensions.

### See Also

[alBufferi](#), [alBuffer3i](#), [alBufferiv](#), [alGetBufferi](#), [alGetBufferiv](#)



## alGetBufferiv

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point property of a buffer.

```
void alGetBufferiv(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    ALEnum pname,  
    ALint *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer* buffer name whose attribute is being retrieved

*pname* the name of the attribute to be retrieved:  
AL\_FREQUENCY  
AL\_BITS  
AL\_CHANNELS  
AL\_SIZE  
AL\_DATA

*values* pointer to an ALint vector to hold the retrieved data

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified buffer doesn't have parameters (the NULL buffer), or doesn't exist.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified value pointer is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alBufferi](#), [alBuffer3i](#), [alBufferiv](#), [alGetBufferi](#), [alGetBuffer3i](#)

## Source Functions

### Properties

<u>Property</u>	<u>Data Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL_PITCH	f, fv	pitch multiplier always positive
AL_GAIN	f, fv	source gain value should be positive
AL_MAX_DISTANCE	f, fv, i, iv	used with the Inverse Clamped Distance Model to set the distance where there will no longer be any attenuation of the source
AL_ROLLOFF_FACTOR	f, fv, i, iv	the rolloff rate for the source default is 1.0
AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE	f, fv, i, iv	the distance under which the volume for the source would normally drop by half (before being influenced by rolloff factor or AL_MAX_DISTANCE)
AL_MIN_GAIN	f, fv	the minimum gain for this source
AL_MAX_GAIN	f, fv	the maximum gain for this source
AL_CONE_OUTER_GAIN	f, fv	the gain when outside the oriented cone
AL_CONE_INNER_ANGLE	f, fv, i, iv	the gain when inside the oriented cone
AL_CONE_OUTER_ANGLE	f, fv, i, iv	outer angle of the sound cone, in degrees default is 360
AL_POSITION	fv, 3f	X, Y, Z position
AL_VELOCITY	fv, 3f	velocity vector
AL_DIRECTION	fv, 3f, iv, 3i	direction vector
AL_SOURCE_RELATIVE	i, iv	determines if the positions are relative to the listener default is AL_FALSE
AL_SOURCE_TYPE	i, iv	the source type – AL_UNDETERMINED, AL_STATIC, or AL_STREAMING
AL_LOOPING	i, iv	turns looping on (AL_TRUE) or off (AL_FALSE)
AL_BUFFER	i, iv	the ID of the attached buffer
AL_SOURCE_STATE	i, iv	the state of the source (AL_STOPPED, AL_PLAYING, ...)
AL_BUFFERS_QUEUED*	i, iv	the number of buffers queued on this source
AL_BUFFERS_PROCESSED*	i, iv	the number of buffers in the queue that have been processed
AL_SEC_OFFSET	f, fv, i, iv	the playback position, expressed in seconds
AL_SAMPLE_OFFSET	f, fv, i, iv	the playback position, expressed in samples
AL_BYTE_OFFSET	f, fv, i, iv	the playback position, expressed in bytes

### Functions

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[alDeleteSources](#)  
[alIsSource](#)  
[alSourcef](#)  
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[alSourceRewindv](#)  
[alSourceQueueBuffers](#)  
[alSourceUnqueueBuffers](#)

## alGenSources

### Description

This function generates one or more sources. References to sources are ALuint values, which are used wherever a source reference is needed (in calls such as [alDeleteSources](#) and [alSourcei](#)).

```
void alGenSources(  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint *sources  
);
```

### Parameters

*n* the number of sources to be generated

*sources* the pointer to an array of ALuint values which will store the names of new sources

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_OUT_OF_MEMORY	There is not enough memory to generate all the requested sources.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	There are not enough non-memory resources to create all the requested sources, or the array pointer is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no context to create sources in.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

If the requested number of sources cannot be created, an error will be generated which can be detected with [alGetError](#). If an error occurs, no sources will be generated. If *n* equals zero, `alGenSources` does nothing and does not return an error.

### See Also

[alDeleteSources](#), [alSource](#)

## alDeleteSources

### Description

This function deletes one or more sources.

```
void alDeleteSources(  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint *sources  
);
```

### Parameters

*n* the number of sources to be deleted

*sources* pointer to an array of source names identifying the sources to be deleted

### Possible Error States

<i>State</i>	<i>Description</i>
AL_INVALID_NAME	At least one specified source is not valid, or an attempt is being made to delete more sources than exist.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

If the requested number of sources cannot be deleted, an error will be generated which can be detected with [alGetError](#). If an error occurs, no sources will be deleted. If *n* equals zero, `alDeleteSources` does nothing and will not return an error.

A playing source can be deleted – the source will be stopped and then deleted.

### See Also

[alGenSources](#), [allsSource](#)

## alIsSource

### Description

This function tests if a source name is valid, returning AL\_TRUE if valid and AL\_FALSE if not.

```
boolean alIsSource(  
    ALuint source  
);
```

### Parameters

*source*                      a source name to be tested for validity

### Possible Error States

<b><i>State</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alGenSources](#), [alDeleteSources](#)

## alSourcef

### Description

This function sets a floating point property of a source.

```
void alSourcef(  
    ALuint source,  
    ALenum param,  
    ALfloat value  
);
```

### Parameters

*source* source name whose attribute is being set

*param* the name of the attribute to set:  
AL\_PITCH  
AL\_GAIN  
AL\_MIN\_GAIN  
AL\_MAX\_GAIN  
AL\_MAX\_DISTANCE  
AL\_ROLLOFF\_FACTOR  
AL\_CONE\_OUTER\_GAIN  
AL\_CONE\_INNER\_ANGLE  
AL\_CONE\_OUTER\_ANGLE  
AL\_REFERENCE\_DISTANCE

*value* the value to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is out of range.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSource3f](#), [alSourcefv](#), [alGetSourcef](#), [alGetSource3f](#), [alGetSourcefv](#)

## alSource3f

### Description

This function sets a source property requiring three floating point values.

```
void alSource3f(  
    ALuint source,  
    ALenum param,  
    ALfloat v1,  
    ALfloat v2,  
    ALfloat v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*source*                      source name whose attribute is being set

*param*                      the name of the attribute to set:  
                                AL\_POSITION  
                                AL\_VELOCITY  
                                AL\_DIRECTION

*v1, v2, v3*                the three ALfloat values which the attribute will be set to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is out of range.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

This function is an alternative to [alSourcefv](#).

### See Also

[alSourcef](#), [alSourcefv](#), [alGetSourcef](#), [alGetSource3f](#), [alGetSourcefv](#)



## alSourcefv

### Description

This function sets a floating point-vector property of a source.

```
void alSourcefv(  
    ALuint source,  
    ALenum param,  
    ALfloat *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*source* source name whose attribute is being set

*param* the name of the attribute being set:  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY  
AL\_DIRECTION

*values* a pointer to the vector to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is out of range.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

This function is an alternative to [alSource3f](#).

### See Also

[alSourcef](#), [alSource3f](#), [alGetSourcef](#), [alGetSource3f](#), [alGetSourcefv](#)

## alSourcei

### Description

This function sets an integer property of a source.

```
void alSourcei(  
    ALuint source,  
    ALenum param,  
    ALint value  
);
```

### Parameters

<i>source</i>	source name whose attribute is being set
<i>param</i>	the name of the attribute to set: AL_SOURCE_RELATIVE AL_CONE_INNER_ANGLE AL_CONE_OUTER_ANGLE AL_LOOPING AL_BUFFER AL_SOURCE_STATE
<i>value</i>	the value to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is out of range.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The buffer name zero is reserved as a "NULL Buffer" and is accepted by *alSourcei(..., AL\_BUFFER, ...)* as a valid buffer of zero length. The NULL Buffer is extremely useful for detaching buffers from a source which were attached using this call or with [alSourceQueueBuffers](#).

### See Also

[alSource3i](#), [alSourceiv](#), [alGetSourcei](#), [alGetSource3i](#), [alGetSourceiv](#)

## alSource3i

### Description

This function sets an integer property of a source.

```
void alSourcei(  
    ALuint source,  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint v1,  
    ALint v2,  
    ALint v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*source* source name whose attribute is being set

*param* the name of the attribute to set:  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY  
AL\_DIRECTION

*v1, v2, v3* the values to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is out of range.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourcei](#), [alSourceiv](#), [alGetSourcei](#), [alGetSource3i](#), [alGetSourceiv](#)

## alSourceiv

### Description

This function sets an integer property of a source.

```
void alSourceiv(  
    ALuint source,  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*source* source name whose attribute is being set

*param* the name of the attribute to set:  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY  
AL\_DIRECTION

*values* the values to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is out of range.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourcei](#), [alSource3i](#), [alGetSourcei](#), [alGetSource3i](#), [alGetSourceiv](#)

## alGetSourcef

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point property of a source.

```
void alGetSourcef(  
    ALuint source,  
    ALenum param,  
    ALfloat *value  
);
```

### Parameters

*source* source name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param* the name of the attribute to retrieve:  
AL\_PITCH  
AL\_GAIN  
AL\_MIN\_GAIN  
AL\_MAX\_GAIN  
AL\_MAX\_DISTANCE  
AL\_ROLLOFF\_FACTOR  
AL\_CONE\_OUTER\_GAIN  
AL\_CONE\_INNER\_ANGLE  
AL\_CONE\_OUTER\_ANGLE  
AL\_REFERENCE\_DISTANCE

*value* a pointer to the floating point value being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourcef](#), [alSource3f](#), [alSourcefv](#), [alGetSource3f](#), [alGetSourcefv](#)

## alGetSource3f

### Description

This function retrieves three floating point values representing a property of a source.

```
void alGetSource3f(  
    ALuint source,  
    ALenum param,  
    ALfloat *v1,  
    ALfloat *v2,  
    ALfloat *v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*source*                      source name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param*                      the name of the attribute being retrieved:  
                                AL\_POSITION  
                                AL\_VELOCITY  
                                AL\_DIRECTION

*v1, v2, v3*                  pointers to the values to retrieve

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourcef](#), [alSource3f](#), [alSourcefv](#), [alGetSourcef](#), [alGetSourcefv](#)

## alGetSourcefv

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point-vector property of a source.

```
void alGetSourcefv(  
    ALuint source,  
    ALenum param,  
    ALfloat *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*source*                      source name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param*                        the name of the attribute being retrieved:  
                                AL\_POSITION  
                                AL\_VELOCITY  
                                AL\_DIRECTION

*values*                        a pointer to the vector to retrieve

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourcef](#), [alSource3f](#), [alSourcefv](#), [alGetSourcef](#), [alGetSource3f](#)

## alGetSourceci

### Description

This function retrieves an integer property of a source.

```
void alGetSourceci(  
    ALuint source,  
    AEnum pname,  
    ALint *value  
);
```

### Parameters

*source* source name whose attribute is being retrieved

*pname* the name of the attribute to retrieve:  
AL\_SOURCE\_RELATIVE  
AL\_BUFFER  
AL\_SOURCE\_STATE  
AL\_BUFFERS\_QUEUED  
AL\_BUFFERS\_PROCESSED

*value* a pointer to the integer value being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourceci](#), [alSource3i](#), [alSourceci](#), [alGetSource3i](#), [alGetSourceci](#)



## alGetSource3i

### Description

This function retrieves an integer property of a source.

```
void alGetSource3i(  
    ALuint source,  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint *v1,  
    ALint *v2,  
    ALint *v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*source* source name whose attribute is being retrieved

*pname* the name of the attribute to retrieve:  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY  
AL\_DIRECTION

*v1, v2, v3* pointers to the integer values being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourcei](#), [alSource3i](#), [alSourceiv](#), [alGetSourcei](#), [alGetSourceiv](#)

## alGetSourceiv

### Description

This function retrieves an integer property of a source.

```
void alGetSourceiv(  
    ALuint source,  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*source* source name whose attribute is being retrieved

*param* the name of the attribute to retrieve:  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY  
AL\_DIRECTION

*values* pointer to the integer values being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourceci](#), [alSource3i](#), [alSourceiv](#), [alGetSourceci](#), [alGetSource3i](#)

## alSourcePlay

### Description

This function plays a source.

```
void alSourcePlay(  
    ALuint source  
);
```

### Parameters

*source*                      the name of the source to be played

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The playing source will have its state changed to AL\_PLAYING. When called on a source which is already playing, the source will restart at the beginning. When the attached buffer(s) are done playing, the source will progress to the AL\_STOPPED state.

### See Also

[alSourcePlayv](#), [alSourcePause](#), [alSourcePausev](#), [alSourceRewind](#), [alSourceRewindv](#), [alSourceStop](#), [alSourceStopv](#)

## alSourcePlayv

### Description

This function plays a set of sources.

```
void alSourcePlayv(  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint *sources  
);
```

### Parameters

*n* the number of sources to be played  
*sources* a pointer to an array of sources to be played

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The playing sources will have their state changed to AL\_PLAYING. When called on a source which is already playing, the source will restart at the beginning. When the attached buffer(s) are done playing, the source will progress to the AL\_STOPPED state.

### See Also

[alSourcePlay](#), [alSourcePause](#), [alSourcePausev](#), [alSourceRewind](#), [alSourceRewindv](#), [alSourceStop](#), [alSourceStopv](#)

## alSourcePause

### Description

This function pauses a source.

```
void alSourcePause(  
    ALuint source  
);
```

### Parameters

*source*                      the name of the source to be paused

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The paused source will have its state changed to AL\_PAUSED.

### See Also

[alSourcePlay](#), [alSourcePlayv](#), [alSourcePausev](#), [alSourceRewind](#), [alSourceRewindv](#),  
[alSourceStop](#), [alSourceStopv](#)

## alSourcePausev

### Description

This function pauses a set of sources.

```
void alSourcePausev(  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint *sources  
);
```

### Parameters

*n* the number of sources to be paused  
*sources* a pointer to an array of sources to be paused

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The paused sources will have their state changed to AL\_PAUSED.

### See Also

[alSourcePlay](#), [alSourcePlayv](#), [alSourcePause](#), [alSourceRewind](#), [alSourceRewindv](#), [alSourceStop](#), [alSourceStopv](#)

## alSourceStop

### Description

This function stops a source.

```
void alSourceStop(  
    ALuint source  
);
```

### Parameters

*source*                      the name of the source to be stopped

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The stopped source will have its state changed to AL\_STOPPED.

### See Also

[alSourcePlay](#), [alSourcePlayv](#), [alSourcePause](#), [alSourcePausev](#), [alSourceRewind](#), [alSourceRewindv](#), [alSourceStopv](#)

## alSourceStopv

### Description

This function stops a set of sources.

```
void alSourceStopv(  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint *sources  
);
```

### Parameters

*n* the number of sources to stop

*sources* a pointer to an array of sources to be stopped

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The stopped sources will have their state changed to AL\_STOPPED.

### See Also

[alSourcePlay](#), [alSourcePlayv](#), [alSourcePause](#), [alSourcePausev](#), [alSourceRewind](#), [alSourceRewindv](#), [alSourceStop](#)



## alSourceRewind

### Description

This function stops the source and sets its state to AL\_INITIAL.

```
void alSourceRewind(  
    ALuint source  
);
```

### Parameters

*source* the name of the source to be rewound

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourcePlay](#), [alSourcePlayv](#), [alSourcePause](#), [alSourcePausev](#), [alSourceRewind](#), [alSourceStop](#), [alSourceStopv](#)

## alSourceRewindv

### Description

This function stops a set of sources and sets all their states to AL\_INITIAL.

```
void alSourceRewindv(  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint *sources  
);
```

### Parameters

*n* the number of sources to be rewound  
*sources* a pointer to an array of sources to be rewound

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alSourcePlay](#), [alSourcePlayv](#), [alSourcePause](#), [alSourcePausev](#), [alSourceRewind](#), [alSourceStop](#), [alSourceStopy](#)

## alSourceQueueBuffers

### Description

This function queues a set of buffers on a source. All buffers attached to a source will be played in sequence, and the number of processed buffers can be detected using an [alSourcec](#) call to retrieve AL\_BUFFERS\_PROCESSED.

```
void alSourceQueueBuffers(  
    ALuint source,  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint* buffers  
);
```

### Parameters

*source*                      the name of the source to queue buffers onto

*n*                              the number of buffers to be queued

*buffers*                      a pointer to an array of buffer names to be queued

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_NAME	At least one specified buffer name is not valid, or the specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context, an attempt was made to add a new buffer which is not the same format as the buffers already in the queue, or the source already has a static buffer attached.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

When first created, a source will be of type AL\_UNDETERMINED. A successful [alSourceQueueBuffers](#) call will change the source type to AL\_STREAMING.

### See Also

[alSourceUnqueueBuffers](#)

## alSourceUnqueueBuffers

### Description

This function unqueues a set of buffers attached to a source. The number of processed buffers can be detected using an [alSourcei](#) call to retrieve AL\_BUFFERS\_PROCESSED, which is the maximum number of buffers that can be unqueued using this call.

```
void alSourceUnqueueBuffers(  
    ALuint source,  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint* buffers  
);
```

### Parameters

*source*                      the name of the source to unqueue buffers from

*n*                              the number of buffers to be unqueued

*buffers*                      a pointer to an array of buffer names that were removed

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	At least one buffer can not be unqueued because it has not been processed yet.
AL_INVALID_NAME	The specified source name is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The unqueue operation will only take place if all *n* buffers can be removed from the queue.

### See Also

[alSourceQueueBuffers](#)

## Listener Functions

### *Properties*

<u>Property</u>	<u>Data Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL_GAIN	f, fv	“master gain” value should be positive
AL_POSITION	fv, 3f, iv, 3i	X, Y, Z position
AL_VELOCITY	fv, 3f, iv, 3i	velocity vector
AL_ORIENTATION	fv, iv	orientation expressed as “at” and “up” vectors

### *Functions*

[alListenerf](#)  
[alListener3f](#)  
[alListenerfv](#)  
[alListeneri](#)  
[alListener3i](#)  
[alListeneriv](#)  
[alGetListenerf](#)  
[alGetListener3f](#)  
[alGetListenerfv](#)  
[alGetListeneri](#)  
[alGetListener3i](#)  
[alGetListeneriv](#)

## alListenerf

### Description

This function sets a floating point property for the listener.

```
void alListenerf(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALfloat value  
);
```

### Parameters:

*param*                      the name of the attribute to be set:  
                                    AL\_GAIN

*value*                        the ALfloat value to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b><i>State</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListener3f](#), [alListenerfv](#), [alGetListenerf](#), [alGetListener3f](#), [alGetListenerfv](#)

## alListener3f

### Description

This function sets a floating point property for the listener.

```
void alListener3f(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALfloat v1,  
    ALfloat v2,  
    ALfloat v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*param*                      the name of the attribute to set:  
                                    AL\_POSITION  
                                    AL\_VELOCITY

*v1, v2, v3*                      the value to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListenerf](#), [alListenerfv](#), [alGetListenerf](#), [alGetListener3f](#), [alGetListenerfv](#)

## alListenerfv

### Description

This function sets a floating point-vector property of the listener.

```
void alListenerfv(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALfloat *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the name of the attribute to be set:  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY  
AL\_ORIENTATION

*values* pointer to floating point-vector values

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListenerf](#), [alListener3f](#), [alGetListenerf](#), [alGetListener3f](#), [alGetListenerfv](#)



## alListeneri

### Description

This function sets an integer property of the listener.

```
void alListeneri(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint value  
);
```

### Parameters

*param*                      the name of the attribute to be set  
*value*                      the integer value to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

There are no integer listener attributes defined for OpenAL 1.1, but this function may be used by an extension.

### See Also

[alListener3i](#), [alListeneriv](#), [alGetListeneri](#), [alGetListener3i](#), [alGetListeneriv](#)

## alListener3i

### Description

This function sets an integer property of the listener.

```
void alListener3i(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint v1,  
    ALint v2,  
    ALint v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*param*                      the name of the attribute to be set:  
                                AL\_POSITION  
                                AL\_VELOCITY

*v1, v2, v3*                 the integer values to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListeneri](#), [alListeneriv](#), [alGetListeneri](#), [alGetListener3i](#), [alGetListeneriv](#)

## alListeneriv

### Description

This function sets an integer property of the listener.

```
void alListeneriv(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the name of the attribute to be set  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY  
AL\_ORIENTATION

*values* pointer to the integer values to set the attribute to

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListeneri](#), [alListener3i](#), [alGetListeneri](#), [alGetListener3i](#), [alGetListeneriv](#)

## alGetListenerf

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point property of the listener.

```
void alGetListenerf(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALfloat *value  
);
```

### Parameters

*param*                      the name of the attribute to be retrieved:  
  AL\_GAIN

*value*                      a pointer to the floating point value being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<i>State</i>	<i>Description</i>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListenerf](#), [alListener3f](#), [alListenerfv](#), [alGetListener3f](#), [alGetListenerfv](#)

## alGetListener3f

### Description

This function retrieves a set of three floating point values from a property of the listener.

```
void alGetListener3f(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALfloat *v1,  
    ALfloat *v2,  
    ALfloat *v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*param*                      the name of the attribute to be retrieved  
                                AL\_POSITION  
                                AL\_VELOCITY

*v1, v2, v3*                 pointers to the three floating point being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListenerf](#), [alListener3f](#), [alListenerfv](#), [alGetListenerf](#), [alGetListenerfv](#)

## alGetListenerfv

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point-vector property of the listener.

```
void alGetListenerfv(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALfloat *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the name of the attribute to be retrieved  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY  
AL\_ORIENTATION

*values* a pointer to the floating point-vector value being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListenerf](#), [alListener3f](#), [alListenerfv](#), [alGetListenerf](#), [alGetListener3f](#)

## alGetListeneri

### Description

This function retrieves an integer property of the listener.

```
void alGetListeneri(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint *value  
);
```

### Parameters

*param*                      the name of the attribute to be retrieved  
*value*                      a pointer to the integer value being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

There are no integer listener attributes defined for OpenAL 1.1, but this function may be used by an extension.

### See Also

[alListeneri](#), [alListener3i](#), [alListeneriv](#), [alGetListener3i](#), [alGetListeneriv](#)

## alGetListener3i

### Description

This function retrieves an integer property of the listener.

```
void alGetListener3i(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint *v1,  
    ALint *v2,  
    ALint *v3  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the name of the attribute to be retrieved  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY

*v1, v2, v3* pointers to the integer values being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListeneri](#), [alListener3i](#), [alListeneriv](#), [alGetListeneri](#), [alGetListeneriv](#)



## alGetListeneriv

### Description

This function retrieves an integer property of the listener.

```
void alGetListeneriv(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint *values  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the name of the attribute to be retrieved  
AL\_POSITION  
AL\_VELOCITY  
AL\_ORIENTATION

*values* a pointer to the integer values being retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The value pointer given is not valid.
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alListeneri](#), [alListener3i](#), [alListeneriv](#), [alGetListeneri](#), [alGetListener3i](#)

## State Functions

### *Properties*

<u>Property</u>	<u>Data Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL_DOPPLER_FACTOR	f	Global Doppler factor
AL_SPEED_OF_SOUND	f	Speed of sound in units per second
AL_DISTANCE_MODEL	i	Distance model enumeration value

### *Functions*

[alEnable](#)  
[alDisable](#)  
[alIsEnabled](#)  
[alGetBoolean](#)  
[alGetDouble](#)  
[alGetFloat](#)  
[alGetInteger](#)  
[alGetBooleany](#)  
[alGetDoublev](#)  
[alGetFloatv](#)  
[alGetIntegerv](#)  
[alGetString](#)  
[alDistanceModel](#)  
[alDopplerFactor](#)  
[alSpeedOfSound](#)

## alEnable

### Description

This function enables a feature of the OpenAL driver.

```
void alEnable(  
    AEnum capability  
);
```

### Parameters

*capability*                      the name of a capability to enable

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified capability is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

There are no capabilities defined in OpenAL 1.1 to be used with this function, but it may be used by an extension.

### See Also

[alDisable](#), [allsEnabled](#)

## alDisable

### Description

This function disables a feature of the OpenAL driver.

```
void alDisable(  
    AEnum capability  
);
```

### Parameters

*capability*                      the name of a capability to disable

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified capability is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

There are no capabilities defined in OpenAL 1.1 to be used with this function, but it may be used by an extension.

### See Also

[alEnable](#), [alIsEnabled](#)

## allEnabled

### Description

This function returns a boolean indicating if a specific feature is enabled in the OpenAL driver.

```
ALboolean allEnabled(  
    AEnum capability  
);
```

### Parameters

*capability*                      the name of a capability to enable

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified capability is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns AL\_TRUE if the capability is enabled, AL\_FALSE if the capability is disabled. There are no capabilities defined in OpenAL 1.1 to be used with this function, but it may be used by an extension.

### See Also

[alEnable](#), [alDisable](#)

## alGetBoolean

### Description

This function returns a boolean OpenAL state.

```
ALboolean alGetBoolean(  
    AEnum param  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the state to be queried:  
AL\_DOPPLER\_FACTOR  
AL\_SPEED\_OF\_SOUND  
AL\_DISTANCE\_MODEL

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The boolean state described by *param* will be returned.

### See Also

[alGetBooleany](#), [alGetDouble](#), [alGetDoublev](#), [alGetFloat](#), [alGetFloatv](#), [alGetInteger](#), [alGetIntegerv](#)

## alGetDouble

### Description

This function returns a double precision floating point OpenAL state.

```
Aldouble alGetDouble(  
    ALenum param  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the state to be queried:  
AL\_DOPPLER\_FACTOR  
AL\_SPEED\_OF\_SOUND  
AL\_DISTANCE\_MODEL

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The double value described by *param* will be returned.

### See Also

[alGetBoolean](#), [alGetBooleany](#), [alGetDoublev](#), [alGetFloat](#), [alGetFloatv](#), [alGetInteger](#), [alGetIntegerv](#)

## alGetFloat

### Description

This function returns a floating point OpenAL state.

```
ALfloat    alGetFloat(  
    AEnum  param  
);
```

### Parameters

*param*                      the state to be queried:  
                              AL\_DOPPLER\_FACTOR  
                              AL\_SPEED\_OF\_SOUND  
                              AL\_DISTANCE\_MODEL

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The floating point state described by param will be returned.

### See Also

[alGetBoolean](#), [alGetBooleany](#), [alGetDouble](#), [alGetDoublev](#), [alGetFloatv](#), [alGetInteger](#), [alGetIntegerv](#)



## alGetInteger

### Description

This function returns an integer OpenAL state.

```
Alint alGetInteger(  
    AEnum param  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the state to be queried:  
AL\_DOPPLER\_FACTOR  
AL\_SPEED\_OF\_SOUND  
AL\_DISTANCE\_MODEL

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The integer state described by *param* will be returned.

### See Also

[alGetBoolean](#), [alGetBooleany](#), [alGetDouble](#), [alGetDoublev](#), [alGetFloat](#), [alGetFloatv](#), [alGetIntegerv](#)

## alGetBooleanv

### Description

This function retrieves a boolean OpenAL state.

```
void alGetBooleanv(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALboolean *data  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the state to be returned:  
AL\_DOPPLER\_FACTOR  
AL\_SPEED\_OF\_SOUND  
AL\_DISTANCE\_MODEL

*data* a pointer to the location where the state will be stored

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified data pointer is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alGetBoolean](#), [alGetDouble](#), [alGetDoublev](#), [alGetFloat](#), [alGetFloatv](#), [alGetInteger](#), [alGetIntegerv](#)

## alGetDoublev

### Description

This function retrieves a double precision floating point OpenAL state.

```
void alGetDoublev(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALdouble *data  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the state to be returned:  
AL\_DOPPLER\_FACTOR  
AL\_SPEED\_OF\_SOUND  
AL\_DISTANCE\_MODEL

*data* a pointer to the location where the state will be stored

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified data pointer is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alGetBoolean](#), [alGetBooleany](#), [alGetDouble](#), [alGetFloat](#), [alGetFloatv](#), [alGetInteger](#), [alGetIntegerv](#)

## alGetFloatv

### Description

This function retrieves a floating point OpenAL state.

```
void alGetFloatv(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALfloat *data  
);
```

### Parameters

*param* the state to be returned:  
AL\_DOPPLER\_FACTOR  
AL\_SPEED\_OF\_SOUND  
AL\_DISTANCE\_MODEL

*data* a pointer to the location where the state will be stored

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified data pointer is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alGetBoolean](#), [alGetBooleanv](#), [alGetDouble](#), [alGetDoublev](#), [alGetFloat](#), [alGetInteger](#), [alGetIntegerv](#)

## alGetIntegerv

### Description

This function retrieves an integer OpenAL state.

```
void alGetIntegerv(  
    AEnum param,  
    ALint *data  
);
```

### Parameters

*param*                      The state to be returned:  
                              AL\_DOPPLER\_FACTOR  
                              AL\_SPEED\_OF\_SOUND  
                              AL\_DISTANCE\_MODEL

*data*                        a pointer to the location where the state will be stored

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified data pointer is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alGetBoolean](#), [alGetBooleany](#), [alGetDouble](#), [alGetDoublev](#), [alGetFloat](#), [alGetFloatv](#), [alGetInteger](#)

## alGetString

### Description

This function retrieves an OpenAL string property.

```
const ALchar * alGetString(  
    AEnum param  
);
```

### Parameters

*param*                      The property to be returned  
                              AL\_VENDOR  
                              AL\_VERSION  
                              AL\_RENDERER  
                              AL\_EXTENSIONS

### Possible Error States

<i>State</i>	<i>Description</i>
AL_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns a pointer to a null-terminated string.

## alDistanceModel

### Description

This function selects the OpenAL distance model – AL\_INVERSE\_DISTANCE, AL\_INVERSE\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED, AL\_LINEAR\_DISTANCE, AL\_LINEAR\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED, AL\_EXPONENT\_DISTANCE, AL\_EXPONENT\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED, or AL\_NONE.

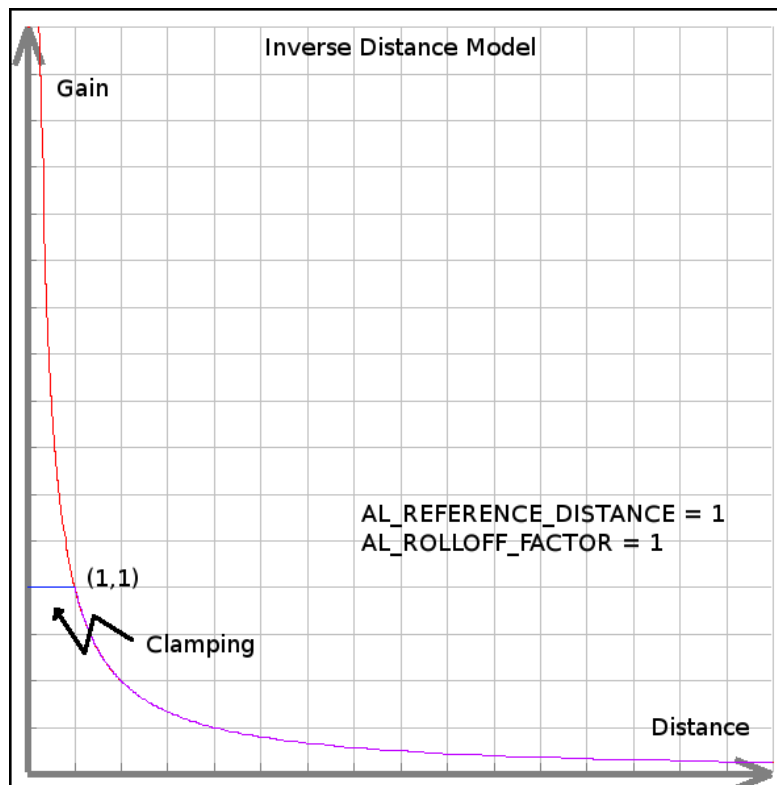
The AL\_INVERSE\_DISTANCE model works according to the following formula:

```
gain = AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE / (AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE +  
    AL_ROLLOFF_FACTOR *  
    (distance - AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE));
```

The AL\_INVERSE\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED model works according to the following formula:

```
distance = max(distance, AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE);  
distance = min(distance, AL_MAX_DISTANCE);  
gain = AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE / (AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE +  
    AL_ROLLOFF_FACTOR *  
    (distance - AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE));
```

Here is a graph showing the inverse distance curve:



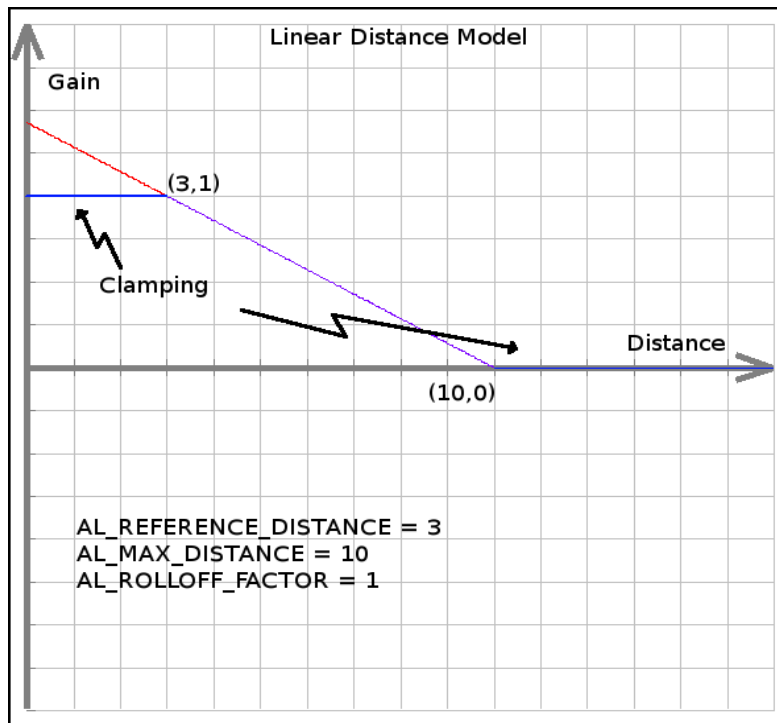
The AL\_LINEAR\_DISTANCE model works according to the following formula:

```
distance = min(distance, AL_MAX_DISTANCE) // avoid negative gain
gain = (1 - AL_ROLLOFF_FACTOR * (distance -
    AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE) /
    (AL_MAX_DISTANCE - AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE))
```

The AL\_LINEAR\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED model works according to the following formula:

```
distance = max(distance, AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE)
distance = min(distance, AL_MAX_DISTANCE)
gain = (1 - AL_ROLLOFF_FACTOR * (distance -
    AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE) /
    (AL_MAX_DISTANCE - AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE))
```

Here is a graph showing the linear distance curve:



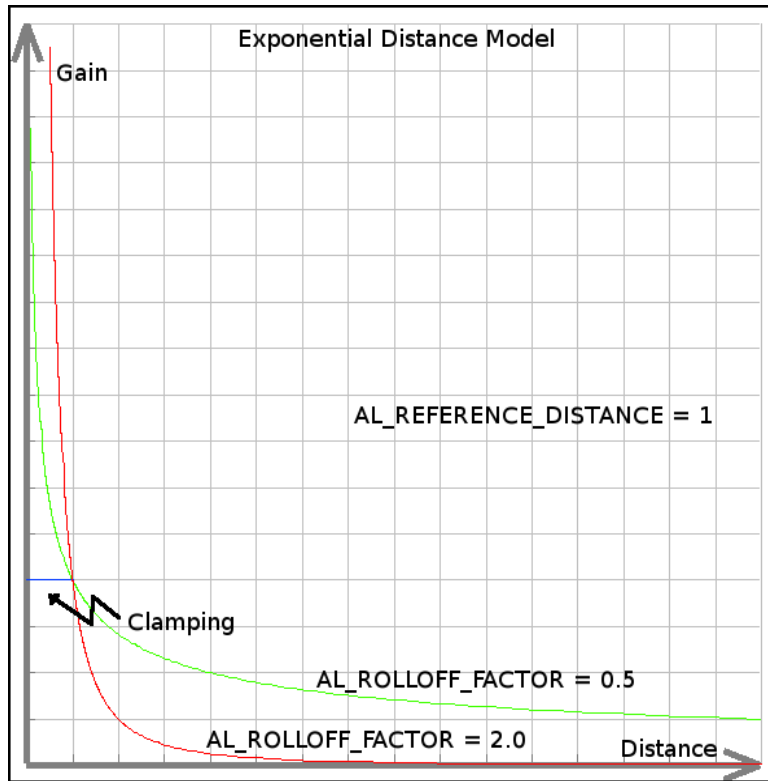
The AL\_EXPONENT\_DISTANCE model works according to the following formula:

```
gain = (distance / AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE) ^
    (- AL_ROLLOFF_FACTOR)
```

The AL\_EXPONENT\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED model works according to the following formula:

```
distance = max(distance, AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE)
distance = min(distance, AL_MAX_DISTANCE)
gain = (distance / AL_REFERENCE_DISTANCE) ^
    (- AL_ROLLOFF_FACTOR)
```





Here is a graph showing the exponent distance curve:

The AL\_NONE model works according to the following formula:

gain = 1;

```
void alDistanceModel(
    ALEnum value
);
```

### Parameters

*value* the distance model to be set:

- AL\_INVERSE\_DISTANCE
- AL\_INVERSE\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED
- AL\_LINEAR\_DISTANCE
- AL\_LINEAR\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED
- AL\_EXPONENT\_DISTANCE
- AL\_EXPONENT\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED
- AL\_NONE

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified distance model is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

**Remarks**

The default distance model in OpenAL is AL\_INVERSE\_DISTANCE\_CLAMPED.

## alDopplerFactor

### Description

This function selects the OpenAL Doppler factor value.

```
void alDopplerFactor(  
    ALfloat value  
);
```

### Parameters

*value* the Doppler scale value to set

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified value is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The default Doppler factor value is 1.0.

## alSpeedOfSound

### Description

This function selects the speed of sound for use in Doppler calculations.

```
void alSpeedOfSound(  
    ALfloat value  
);
```

### Parameters

*value* the speed of sound value to set

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified value is not valid.
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	There is no current context.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

The default speed of sound value is 343.3.

## Error Functions

### *Error Codes*

<u>Error Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
AL_NO_ERROR	there is not currently an error
AL_INVALID_NAME	a bad name (ID) was passed to an OpenAL function
AL_INVALID_ENUM	an invalid enum value was passed to an OpenAL function
AL_INVALID_VALUE	an invalid value was passed to an OpenAL function
AL_INVALID_OPERATION	the requested operation is not valid
AL_OUT_OF_MEMORY	the requested operation resulted in OpenAL running out of memory

### *Functions*

[alGetError](#)

## **alGetError**

### **Description**

This function returns the current error state and then clears the error state.

```
ALenum alGetError(ALvoid);
```

### **Parameters**

None

### **Possible Error States**

None

### **Version Requirements**

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### **Remarks**

Returns an ALenum representing the error state. When an OpenAL error occurs, the error state is set and will not be changed until the error state is retrieved using alGetError. Whenever alGetError is called, the error state is cleared and the last state (the current state when the call was made) is returned. To isolate error detection to a specific portion of code, alGetError should be called before the isolated section to clear the current error state.

## Extension Functions

### *Functions*

[allExtensionPresent](#)

[alGetProcAddress](#)

[alGetEnumValue](#)

## allIsExtensionPresent

### Description

This function tests if a specific extension is available for the OpenAL driver.

```
ALboolean allIsExtensionPresent(  
    const ALchar *extname  
);
```

### Parameters

*extname* a null-terminated string describing the desired extension

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
AL_INVALID_VALUE	The specified extension string is not a valid pointer.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns AL\_TRUE if the extension is available, AL\_FALSE if the extension is not available.

### See Also

[alGetProcAddress](#), [alGetEnumValue](#)



## alGetProcAddress

### Description

This function returns the address of an OpenAL extension function.

```
void * alGetProcAddress(  
    const ALchar *fname  
);
```

### Parameters

*fname*                      a null-terminated string containing the function name

### Possible Error States

None

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The return value is a pointer to the specified function. The return value will be NULL if the function is not found.

### See Also

[allExtensionsPresent](#), [alGetEnumValue](#)

## alGetEnumValue

### Description

This function returns the enumeration value of an OpenAL enum described by a string.

```
ALenum alGetEnumValue(  
    const ALchar *ename  
);
```

### Parameters

*ename*                      a null-terminated string describing an OpenAL enum

### Possible Error States

None

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns the actual ALenum described by a string. Returns NULL if the string doesn't describe a valid OpenAL enum.

### See Also

[allExtensionsPresent](#), [alGetProcAddress](#)

## Context Management Functions

### ***Properties***

<u>Property</u>	<u>Data Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
ALC_FREQUENCY	i	output frequency
ALC_MONO_SOURCES	i	requested number of mono sources
ALC_STEREO_SOURCES	i	requested number of stereo sources
ALC_REFRESH	i	update rate of context processing
ALC_SYNC	i	flag indicating a synchronous context

### ***Functions***

[alcCreateContext](#)

[alcMakeContextCurrent](#)

[alcProcessContext](#)

[alcSuspendContext](#)

[alcDestroyContext](#)

[alcGetCurrentContext](#)

[alcGetContextsDevice](#)

## alcCreateContext

### Description

This function creates a context using a specified device.

```
ALCcontext * alcCreateContext(  
    ALCdevice *device,  
    ALCint* attrlist  
);
```

### Parameters

*device* a pointer to a device

*attrlist* a pointer to a set of attributes:  
ALC\_FREQUENCY  
ALC\_MONO\_SOURCES  
ALC\_REFRESH  
ALC\_STEREO\_SOURCES  
ALC\_SYNC

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_VALUE	An additional context can not be created for this device.
ALC_INVALID_DEVICE	The specified device is not a valid output device.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns a pointer to the new context (NULL on failure).

The attribute list can be NULL, or a zero terminated list of integer pairs composed of valid ALC attribute tokens and requested values.

### See Also

[alcDestroyContext](#), [alcMakeContextCurrent](#)

## alcMakeContextCurrent

### Description

This function makes a specified context the current context.

```
ALCboolean alcMakeContextCurrent(  
    ALCcontext *context  
);
```

### Parameters

*context*                      a pointer to the new context

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_CONTEXT	The specified context is invalid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns ALC\_TRUE on success, or ALC\_FALSE on failure.

### See Also

[alcCreateContext](#), [alcDestroyContext](#)

## alcProcessContext

### Description

This function tells a context to begin processing.

```
void alcProcessContext(  
    ALCcontext *context  
);
```

### Parameters

*context*                      a pointer to the new context

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_CONTEXT	The specified context is invalid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

When a context is suspended, changes in OpenAL state will be accepted but will not be processed. [alcSuspendContext](#) can be used to suspend a context, and then all the OpenAL state changes can be applied at once, followed by a call to `alcProcessContext` to apply all the state changes immediately. In some cases, this procedure may be more efficient than application of properties in a non-suspended state. In some implementations, process and suspend calls are each a NOP.

### See Also

[alcSuspendContext](#)

## alcSuspendContext

### Description

This function suspends processing on a specified context.

```
void alcSuspendContext(  
    ALCcontext *context  
);
```

### Parameters

*context* a pointer to the context to be suspended

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_CONTEXT	The specified context is invalid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

When a context is suspended, changes in OpenAL state will be accepted but will not be processed. A typical use of `alcSuspendContext` would be to suspend a context, apply all the OpenAL state changes at once, and then call [alcProcessContext](#) to apply all the state changes at once. In some cases, this procedure may be more efficient than application of properties in a non-suspended state. In some implementations, process and suspend calls are each a NOP.

### See Also

[alcProcessContext](#)

## alcDestroyContext

### Description

This function destroys a context.

```
void alcDestroyContext(  
    ALCcontext *context  
);
```

### Parameters

*context*                      a pointer to the new context

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_CONTEXT	The specified context is invalid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

A context which is not current can be destroyed at any time (all sources within that context will also be deleted). [alcMakeContextCurrent](#) should be used to make sure the context to be destroyed is not current (NULL is valid for [alcMakeContextCurrent](#)).

### See Also

[alcCreateContext](#), [alcMakeContextCurrent](#)



## **alcGetCurrentContext**

### **Description**

This function retrieves the current context.

```
ALCcontext * alcGetCurrentContext( ALCvoid );
```

### **Parameters**

None

### **Possible Error States**

None

### **Version Requirements**

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### **Remarks**

Returns a pointer to the current context.

### **See Also**

[alcGetContextsDevice](#)

## alcGetContextsDevice

### Description

This function retrieves a context's device pointer.

```
ALCdevice * alcGetContextsDevice( ALCcontext *context );
```

### Parameters

*context*                      a pointer to a context

### Possible Error States

<b><i>State</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
ALC_INVALID_CONTEXT	The specified context is invalid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns a pointer to the specified context's device.

### See Also

[alcGetCurrentContext](#)

## Context Error Functions

### *Error Codes*

<u>Error Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
ALC_NO_ERROR	there is not currently an error
ALC_INVALID_DEVICE	a bad device was passed to an OpenAL function
ALC_INVALID_CONTEXT	a bad context was passed to an OpenAL function
ALC_INVALID_ENUM	an unknown enum value was passed to an OpenAL function
ALC_INVALID_VALUE	an invalid value was passed to an OpenAL function
ALC_OUT_OF_MEMORY	the requested operation resulted in OpenAL running out of memory

### *Functions*

[alcGetError](#)

## alcGetError

### Description

This function retrieves the current context error state.

```
ALCenum alcGetError( ALCdevice *device );
```

### Parameters

*device* a pointer to the device to retrieve the error state from

### Possible Error States

None

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

None

## Context Device Functions

### *Functions*

[alcOpenDevice](#)

[alcCloseDevice](#)

## alcOpenDevice

### Description

This function opens a device by name.

```
ALCdevice *alcOpenDevice(  
    const ALCchar *devicename  
);
```

### Parameters

*devicename*                    a null-terminated string describing a device

### Possible Error States

The return value will be NULL if there is an error.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns a pointer to the opened device. Will return NULL if a device can not be opened.

### See Also

[alcCloseDevice](#)

## alcCloseDevice

### Description

This function closes a device by name.

```
ALCboolean alcCloseDevice(  
    ALCdevice *device  
);
```

### Parameters

*device*                      a pointer to an opened device

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_DEVICE	The specified device name doesn't exist.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

ALC\_TRUE will be returned on success or ALC\_FALSE on failure. Closing a device will fail if the device contains any contexts or buffers.

### See Also

[alcOpenDevice](#)

## Context Extension Functions

### *Functions*

[alcIsExtensionPresent](#)

[alcGetProcAddress](#)

[alcGetEnumValue](#)



## alcIsExtensionPresent

### Description

This function queries if a specified context extension is available.

```
ALCboolean alcIsExtensionPresent(  
    ALCdevice *device,  
    const ALCchar *extName  
);
```

### Parameters

*device*                      a pointer to the device to be queried for an extension  
*extName*                    a null-terminated string describing the extension

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_VALUE	The string pointer is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns ALC\_TRUE if the extension is available, ALC\_FALSE if the extension is not available.

### See Also

[alcGetProcAddress](#), [alcGetEnumValue](#)

## alcGetProcAddress

### Description

This function retrieves the address of a specified context extension function.

```
void * alcGetProcAddress(  
    ALCdevice *device,  
    const ALCchar *funcName  
);
```

### Parameters

*device* a pointer to the device to be queried for the function  
*funcName* a null-terminated string describing the function

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_VALUE	The string pointer is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns the address of the function, or NULL if it is not found.

### See Also

[alIsExtensionPresent](#), [alcGetEnumValue](#)

## alcGetEnumValue

### Description

This function retrieves the enum value for a specified enumeration name.

```
ALCenum alcGetEnumValue(  
    ALCdevice *device,  
    const ALCchar *enumName  
);
```

### Parameters

*device*                      a pointer to the device to be queried  
*enumName*                    a null terminated string describing the enum value

### Possible Error States

<b><i>State</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
ALC_INVALID_VALUE	The string pointer is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

Returns the enum value described by the enumName string. This is most often used for querying an enum value for an ALC extension.

### See Also

[alIsExtensionPresent](#), [alcGetProcAddress](#)

## Context State Functions

### *Functions*

[alcGetString](#)

[alcGetIntegerv](#)

## alcGetString

### Description

This function returns pointers to strings related to the context.

```
const ALCchar * alcGetString(  
    ALCdevice *device,  
    ALEnum param  
);
```

### Parameters

*device* a pointer to the device to be queried

*param* an attribute to be retrieved:  
ALC\_DEFAULT\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER  
ALC\_CAPTURE\_DEFAULT\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER  
ALC\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER  
ALC\_CAPTURE\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER  
ALC\_EXTENSIONS

### Possible Error States

<i>State</i>	<i>Description</i>
ALC_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

ALC\_DEFAULT\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER will return the name of the default output device.

ALC\_CAPTURE\_DEFAULT\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER will return the name of the default capture device.

ALC\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER will return the name of the specified output device if a pointer is supplied, or will return a list of all available devices if a NULL device pointer is supplied. A list is a pointer to a series of strings separated by NULL characters, with the list terminated by two NULL characters. See [Enumeration Extension](#) for more details.

ALC\_CAPTURE\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER will return the name of the specified capture device if a pointer is supplied, or will return a list of all available devices if a NULL device pointer is supplied.

ALC\_EXTENSIONS returns a list of available context extensions, with each extension separated by a space and the list terminated by a NULL character.

## alcGetIntegerv

### Description

This function returns integers related to the context.

```
void alcGetIntegerv(  
    ALCdevice *device,  
    ALCenum param,  
    ALCsizei size,  
    ALCint *data  
);
```

### Parameters

<i>device</i>	a pointer to the device to be queried
<i>param</i>	an attribute to be retrieved: ALC_MAJOR_VERSION ALC_MINOR_VERSION ALC_ATTRIBUTES_SIZE ALC_ALL_ATTRIBUTES
<i>size</i>	the size of the destination buffer provided
<i>data</i>	a pointer to the data to be returned

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_VALUE	The specified data pointer or size is not valid.
ALC_INVALID_ENUM	The specified parameter is not valid.
ALC_INVALID_DEVICE	The specified device is not valid.
ALC_INVALID_CONTEXT	The specified context is not valid.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.0 or higher

### Remarks

The versions returned refer to the specification version that the implementation meets.

## Context Capture Functions

### *Functions*

[alcCaptureOpenDevice](#)

[alcCaptureCloseDevice](#)

[alcCaptureStart](#)

[alcCaptureStop](#)

[alcCaptureSamples](#)

## alcCaptureOpenDevice

### Description

This function opens a capture device by name.

```
ALCdevice * alcCaptureOpenDevice(  
    const ALCchar *devicename,  
    ALCuint frequency,  
    ALCenum format,  
    ALCsizei buffersize  
);
```

### Parameters

<i>devicename</i>	a pointer to a device name string
<i>frequency</i>	the frequency that the data should be captured at
<i>format</i>	the requested capture buffer format
<i>buffersize</i>	the size of the capture buffer

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_VALUE	One of the parameters has an invalid value.
ALC_OUT_OF_MEMORY	The specified device is invalid, or can not capture audio.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

Returns the capture device pointer, or NULL on failure.

### See Also

[alcCaptureCloseDevice](#)



## alcCaptureCloseDevice

### Description

This function closes the specified capture device.

```
ALCboolean alcCaptureCloseDevice(  
    ALCdevice *device  
);
```

### Parameters

*device* a pointer to a capture device

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_DEVICE	The specified device is not a valid capture device.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

Returns ALC\_TRUE if the close operation was successful, ALC\_FALSE on failure.

### See Also

[alcCaptureOpenDevice](#)

## alcCaptureStart

### Description

This function begins a capture operation.

```
void alcCaptureStart(  
    ALCdevice *device  
);
```

### Parameters

*device* a pointer to a capture device

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_DEVICE	The specified device is not a valid capture device.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

alcCaptureStart will begin recording to an internal ring buffer of the size specified when opening the capture device. The application can then retrieve the number of samples currently available using the ALC\_CAPTURE\_SAMPLES token with [alcGetIntegerv](#). When the application determines that enough samples are available for processing, then it can obtain them with a call to [alcCaptureSamples](#).

### See Also

[alcCaptureStop](#), [alcCaptureSamples](#)

## alcCaptureStop

### Description

This function stops a capture operation.

```
void alcCaptureStop(  
    ALCdevice *device  
);
```

### Parameters

*device* a pointer to a capture device

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_DEVICE	The specified device is not a valid capture device.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alcCaptureStart](#), [alcCaptureSamples](#)

## alcCaptureSamples

### Description

This function completes a capture operation, and does not block.

```
void alcCaptureSamples(  
    ALCdevice *device,  
    ALCvoid *buffer,  
    ALCsizei samples  
);
```

### Parameters

*device*                      a pointer to a capture device

*buffer*                      a pointer to a data buffer, which must be large enough to accommodate *samples* number of samples

*samples*                      the number of samples to be retrieved

### Possible Error States

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
ALC_INVALID_VALUE	The specified number of samples is larger than the number of available samples.
ALC_INVALID_DEVICE	The specified device is not a valid capture device.

### Version Requirements

OpenAL 1.1 or higher

### Remarks

None

### See Also

[alcCaptureStart](#), [alcCaptureStop](#)

## ALC and AL Function Lists

Functions new to OpenAL 1.1 are *italicized* and **boldface**.

### **ALC Functions**

```
alcCreateContext  
alcMakeContextCurrent  
alcProcessContext  
alcSuspendContext  
alcDestroyContext  
alcGetCurrentContext  
alcGetContextsDevice  
alcOpenDevice  
alcCloseDevice  
alcGetError  
alcIsExtensionPresent  
alcGetProcAddress  
alcGetEnumValue  
alcGetString  
alcGetIntegerv  
alcCaptureOpenDevice  
alcCaptureCloseDevice  
alcCaptureStart  
alcCaptureStop  
alcCaptureSamples
```

### **AL Functions**

```
alEnable  
alDisable  
alIsEnabled  
alGetString  
alGetBooleanv  
alGetIntegerv  
alGetFloatv  
alGetDoublev  
alGetBoolean  
alGetInteger  
alGetFloat  
alGetDouble  
alGetError  
alIsExtensionPresent  
alGetProcAddress  
alGetEnumValue  
alListenerf  
alListener3f  
alListenerfv  
alListeneri  
alListener3i  
alListeneriv  
alGetListenerf  
alGetListener3f
```

alGetListenerfv  
alGetListeneri  
**alGetListener3i**  
alGetListeneriv  
alGenSources  
alDeleteSources  
alIsSource  
alSourcef  
alSource3f  
alSourcefv  
alSourcei  
**alSource3i**  
**alSourceiv**  
alGetSourcef  
alGetSource3f  
alGetSourcefv  
alGetSourcei  
**alGetSource3i**  
alGetSourceiv  
alSourcePlayv  
alSourceStopv  
alSourceRewindv  
alSourcePausev  
alSourcePlay  
alSourceStop  
alSourceRewind  
alSourcePause  
alSourceQueueBuffers  
alSourceUnqueueBuffers  
alGenBuffers  
alDeleteBuffers  
alIsBuffer  
**alBufferf**  
**alBuffer3f**  
**alBufferfv**  
**alBufferi**  
**alBuffer3i**  
**alBufferiv**  
alGetBufferf  
**alGetBuffer3f**  
alGetBufferfv  
alGetBufferi  
**alGetBuffer3i**  
alGetBufferiv  
alDopplerFactor  
alDopplerVelocity  
**alSpeedOfSound**  
alDistanceModel

## Standard Extensions to OpenAL

The [Enumeration Extension](#) enables a developer to retrieve a list of device strings, identifying the OpenAL devices present on a system. This allows an application to present the user with a choice of valid rendering devices at run-time.

## Enumeration Extension

The Enumeration Extension enables the application developer to retrieve a list of device strings identifying the different OpenAL rendering and capture devices present on the user's PC. The OpenAL router takes care of querying the user's system to find valid device implementations. Any of the strings returned by the enumeration extension can be used to create a device during initialization via [alcOpenDevice](#). This extension is critical if you want to enable the user to select at run-time which device should be used to render your OpenAL audio.

Naturally device enumeration is a very platform-specific topic. The mechanism might not be implemented on platforms such as games consoles with fixed capabilities, where multiple rendering devices are unnecessary.

Note that on PC the standard Enumeration Extension will not identify every potential OpenAL output path. It will not return all the possible outputs in situations where the user has more than one audio device installed, or under Windows Vista where the audio system specifies different "endpoints" for sound such as Speakers, S/PDIF, etc... If you require complete control over the choice of output path, use the "[Enumerate All](#)" extension.

For full details on making use of the different devices you might come across on the Windows PC platform, see the accompanying OpenAL Deployment Guide (PC Windows).

## Detecting the Enumeration Extension

To check whether the OpenAL libraries expose the Enumeration extension, use the OpenAL function call [alcIsExtensionPresent](#) and the name "ALC\_ENUMERATION\_EXT".

```
if (alcIsExtensionPresent(NULL, "ALC_ENUMERATION_EXT") ==  
AL_TRUE)  
  
    // Enumeration Extension Found
```

## Retrieving device names

If the extension is found, the developer can retrieve a string containing NULL-separated device name strings (the list is terminated with two consecutive NULL characters), and a string containing the name of the default device.

To retrieve the string listing all the devices present, the developer should use the OpenAL function call [alcGetString](#) with the name "ALC\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER".

To retrieve the string containing the name of the default device, the developer should use the OpenAL function call [alcGetString](#) with the name "ALC\_DEFAULT\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER".



```

const ALCchar *devices;
const ALCchar *defaultDeviceName;

// Pass in NULL device handle to get list of devices
devices = alcGetString(NULL, ALC_DEVICE_SPECIFIER);
// devices contains the device names, separated by NULL
// and terminated by two consecutive NULLs.

defaultDeviceName = alcGetString(NULL,
ALC_DEFAULT_DEVICE_SPECIFIER);
// defaultDeviceName contains the name of the default
// device

```

## Parsing the device string

It is trivial to parse the device string and retrieve the names of the individual devices. Ideally these will be presented to the user in the application configuration GUI, to enable the user to select the desired device at initialization time.

## Checking the current device name

The developer can check to see the name of the device that was actually opened using the function call [alcGetString](#) with a pointer to an open device and the name "ALC\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER".

```

ALCdevice *pMyDevice;
const ALCchar *actualDeviceName;

// Open the default device
pMyDevice=alcOpenDevice(NULL)

// Pass in valid device pointer to get the name of the open
// device

actualDeviceName = alcGetString(pMyDevice, ALC_DEVICE_SPECIFIER);
// actualDeviceName contains the name of the open device

```

## Enumeration Names

ALC\_ENUMERATION\_EXT

Use with [alcIsExtensionPresent](#) to detect if the enumeration extension is available.

#### **ALC\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER**

Use with [alcGetString](#) and a NULL device pointer to retrieve a string containing the available device names, separated with NULL characters and terminated by two consecutive NULL characters.

Use with [alcGetString](#) and a pointer to a previously-opened device to ascertain the device's name.

#### **ALC\_CAPTURE\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER**

Use with [alcGetString](#) and a NULL device pointer to retrieve a string containing the available capture device names, separated with NULL characters and terminated by two consecutive NULL characters.

Use with [alcGetString](#) and a pointer to a previously-opened capture device to ascertain the device's name.

#### **ALC\_DEFAULT\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER**

Use with [alcGetString](#) with a NULL Device identifier to retrieve a NULL-terminated string containing the name of the default device.

#### **ALC\_CAPTURE\_DEFAULT\_DEVICE\_SPECIFIER**

Use with [alcGetString](#) with a NULL Device identifier to retrieve a NULL-terminated string containing the name of the default capture device.

## **Creative Labs' Extensions to OpenAL**

Creative has introduced a number of extensions to OpenAL, many of which take advantage of the unique features of their soundcards. The "[Enumerate All](#)" extension is similar to the Core OpenAL "[Enumeration Extension](#)" but is extended to cover all available soundcards (and audio end-points in Windows Vista). The "[X-RAM](#)" extension allows a developer to utilize on-board audio RAM for storing OpenAL buffers. The "[Multi-Channel Buffers](#)" extension allows a developer to play multi-channel buffers (e.g. 5.1). Finally, the generic "[Effects Extension \(EFX\)](#)" allows an application to use effects such as reverb and low-pass filters to create realistic 3D aural worlds.

## Enumerate All Extension

The Enumerate All Extension enables the application developer to retrieve a complete list of device strings identifying all the available OpenAL rendering devices and paths present on the user's PC. It works in exactly the same manner as the [Enumeration Extension](#), but it detects additional audio paths that the standard extension will ignore. For instance, it will return all the possible outputs in situations where the user has more than one audio device installed, or under Windows Vista where the audio system specifies different "endpoints" for sound such as Speakers, S/PDIF, etc... If you don't require such complete control over the choice of output path, then use the standard [Enumeration Extension](#).

## Detecting the Enumerate All Extension

To check whether the OpenAL libraries expose the Enumerate All extension, use the OpenAL function call [alcIsExtensionPresent](#) and the name "ALC\_ENUMERATE\_ALL\_EXT".

```
if (alcIsExtensionPresent(NULL, "ALC_ENUMERATE_ALL_EXT") ==
    AL_TRUE)
    // Enumerate All Extension Found
```

## Retrieving device names

If the extension is found, the developer can retrieve a string containing NULL-separated device name strings (the list is terminated with two consecutive NULL characters), and a string containing the name of the default device.

To retrieve the string listing all the devices present, the developer should use the OpenAL function call [alcGetString](#) with the name "ALC\_ALL\_DEVICES\_SPECIFIER".

To retrieve the string containing the name of the default device, the developer should use the OpenAL function call [alcGetString](#) with the name "ALC\_DEFAULT\_ALL\_DEVICES\_SPECIFIER".

```
const ALCchar *devices;
const ALCchar *defaultDeviceName;

// Pass in NULL device handle to get list of *all* devices
devices = alcGetString(NULL, ALC_ALL_DEVICES_SPECIFIER);
// devices contains *all* the device names, separated by NULL
// and terminated by two consecutive NULLs.

defaultDeviceName = alcGetString(NULL,
    ALC_DEFAULT_ALL_DEVICES_SPECIFIER);
// defaultDeviceName contains the name of the default
// device
```

Any of the strings returned by the Enumerate All extension can be used to create a device during initialization via [alcOpenDevice](#).

## Enumeration Names

### **ALC\_ENUMERATE\_ALL\_EXT**

Use with [alcIsExtensionPresent](#) to detect if the Enumerate All extension is available.

### **ALC\_ALL\_DEVICES\_SPECIFIER**

Use with [alcGetString](#) and a NULL device pointer to retrieve a string containing the names of all available devices and audio output paths, separated with NULL characters and terminated by two consecutive NULL characters.

### **ALC\_DEFAULT\_ALL\_DEVICES\_SPECIFIER**

Use with [alcGetString](#) with a NULL Device identifier to retrieve a NULL-terminated string containing the name of the default device.

## **X-RAM**

With the introduction of the Sound Blaster X-Fi™ series of audio cards, Creative has launched a range of products that include on-board RAM. 'X-RAM' is provided on the top-end Sound Blaster X-Fi solutions (Sound Blaster X-Fi Fatal1ty™ FPS and Sound Blaster X-Fi Elite Pro). These products feature 64MB of X-RAM that can only be used for audio purposes. With the availability of X-RAM, developers can now improve performance issues related to playing audio in their applications and increase the overall quality of their sound when X-RAM is available.

### **X-RAM Usage Scenarios**

Detecting the presence of X-RAM offers new possibilities to application developers. As a fixed resource dedicated to storing audio samples, an application can use X-RAM to improve the performance and quality of an application.

When X-RAM could be used: -

#### **Improving Quality**

An application that detects X-RAM can use higher quality audio assets that it might not be able to use otherwise.

#### **Improving Performance**

A game that detects X-RAM can decompress compressed audio samples at load time into the X-RAM so that the application does not have to spend precious processor cycles decompressing data during runtime.

When X-RAM should not be used: -

#### **Streaming**

There is an overhead involved with uploading data to the memory which means that X-RAM is not recommended for storing AL Buffers, whose contents will be constantly changing, e.g. when queuing buffers on an Open AL Source.

### **X-RAM Modes**

The X-RAM extension to Open AL has two modes of operation – an 'automatic' mode (the default) and a 'managed' mode. In automatic mode an application does not need to make any function calls, or even query for any extensions, and Open AL buffers will automatically be loaded into X-RAM if it is found and has enough storage space. In managed mode the application developer has complete control over which Open AL Buffers are uploaded to X-RAM or not. Modes are set on individual Open AL Buffers and *must* be set before audio data is copied to the buffer. Attempts to change the Mode on a buffer that already has audio data will fail.

#### **Automatic Mode (AL\_STORAGE\_AUTOMATIC)**

The default buffer mode allows legacy applications to take advantage of the on-board memory. In automatic mode, the first call to [alBufferData](#) after a Buffer has been generated, will attempt to allocate the memory in X-RAM. If there is not enough memory available then an attempt to allocate system memory is made. If there is not enough system memory then the AL error AL\_OUT\_OF\_MEMORY will be set as per the OpenAL 1.0 specification.

If a future [alBufferData](#) call is made on a buffer in automatic mode, the driver will assume that the application is using the AL Buffer for streaming (requiring regular updates to the audio data in the buffer), and the sample data will be moved from X-RAM to host memory. If there is not enough system memory then the AL error AL\_OUT\_OF\_MEMORY will be set as per the OpenAL 1.0 specification.

### Manual Mode - Hardware (AL\_STORAGE\_HARDWARE)

In hardware mode a buffer will be uploaded to X-RAM. A buffer in this mode is expected to be used as a single shot or looping sound, but can be reloaded if desired.

If an [alBufferData](#) call is made on a buffer in hardware mode an attempt to allocate X-RAM storage for the buffer data is made. If there is not enough X-RAM then the AL error AL\_OUT\_OF\_MEMORY will be set as per the OpenAL 1.0 specification.

### Manual Mode – Accessible (AL\_STORAGE\_ACCESSIBLE)

In accessible mode a buffer is to be placed where the overhead of loading the buffer is minimal. Currently this is assumed to be system memory but in future products, with potentially faster busses, the buffer will be allocated wherever is most applicable. When a buffer is put in this mode it is expected that it will be reloaded numerous times as in a streaming situation.

If an [alBufferData](#) call is made on a buffer in accessible mode an attempt to allocate system memory is always made. If there is not enough system memory then the AL error AL\_OUT\_OF\_MEMORY should be set as per the OpenAL 1.0 specification.

## Detecting X-RAM

To query for the presence of an audio card with X-RAM, use the Open AL [alIsExtensionPresent](#) function call and the name "EAX-RAM".

```
if (alIsExtensionPresent("EAX-RAM") == AL_TRUE)
    // X-RAM Found
```

If the extension is found, an application that wishes to change Buffer Modes should query for the X-RAM extension functions using [alGetProcAddress](#).

```
EAXSetBufferMode g_eaxSetMode;
EAXGetBufferMode g_eaxGetMode;

g_eaxSetMode = (EAXSetBufferMode)
    alGetProcAddress("EAXSetBufferMode");
g_eaxGetMode = (EAXGetBufferMode)
    alGetProcAddress("EAXGetBufferMode");
```

The [EAXSetBufferMode](#) and [EAXGetBufferMode](#) function definitions are defined in xram.h.

The final step in preparing an application to use X-RAM functionality is to query for the values of the X-RAM enumerations using `alGetEnumValue`. [AL\\_EAX\\_RAM\\_SIZE](#) and [AL\\_EAX\\_RAM\\_FREE](#) are used with `alGetInteger` to retrieve the total amount of X-RAM and the amount of free X-RAM. [AL\\_STORAGE\\_AUTOMATIC](#), [AL\\_STORAGE\\_HARDWARE](#) and [AL\\_STORAGE\\_ACCESSIBLE](#) are used with the `EAXSetBufferMode` and `EAXGetBufferMode` functions.

```
ALenum g_eXRAMSize, g_eXRAMFree;
ALenum g_eXRAMAuto, g_eXRAMHardware, g_eXRAMAccessible;

g_eXRAMSize = alGetEnumValue("AL_EAX_RAM_SIZE");
g_eXRAMFree = alGetEnumValue("AL_EAX_RAM_FREE");
g_eXRAMAuto = alGetEnumValue("AL_STORAGE_AUTOMATIC");
g_eXRAMHardware = alGetEnumValue("AL_STORAGE_HARDWARE");
g_eXRAMAccessible = alGetEnumValue("AL_STORAGE_ACCESSIBLE");
```

To query for the total amount or available X-RAM on the soundcard, an application can use the `alGetInteger` function with the [AL\\_EAX\\_RAM\\_SIZE](#) and [AL\\_EAX\\_RAM\\_FREE](#) enum values.

```
ALint iRAMSizeMB;
ALint iRAMFreeMB;

iRAMSizeMB = alGetInteger(g_eXRAMSize) / (1024*1024);
iRAMFreeMB = alGetInteger(g_eXRAMFree) / (1024*1024);
```



## EAXSetBufferMode

The **EAXSetBufferMode** function is used to set the storage Mode of an array of Open AL Buffers.

```
ALboolean EAXSetBufferMode(  
    ALsizei n,  
    ALuint *buffers,  
    ALint value  
);
```

### Parameters

*n*  
The number of Open AL Buffers pointed to by *buffers*.

*buffers*  
An array of Open AL Buffer handles.

*value*  
The storage mode that should be used for all the given buffers. Should be the value of one of the following enum names: -

[AL\\_STORAGE\\_AUTOMATIC](#)  
[AL\\_STORAGE\\_HARDWARE](#)  
[AL\\_STORAGE\\_ACCESSIBLE](#)

### Return Values

AL\_TRUE if all the AL Buffers were successfully set to the requested storage mode, AL\_FALSE otherwise.

### Remarks

None.

### See Also

[EAXGetBufferMode](#)

## EAXGetBufferMode

The **EAXGetBufferMode** function is used to retrieve the storage Mode of a particular Open AL Buffer.

```
ALenum EAXGetBufferMode(  
    ALuint buffer,  
    ALint *pReserved  
);
```

### Parameters

*buffer*  
The handle of an Open AL Buffer.

*pReserved*  
Should be set to NULL.

### Return Values

The Storage Mode assigned to this Open AL Buffer. One of the following enum names: -

[AL\\_STORAGE\\_AUTOMATIC](#)  
[AL\\_STORAGE\\_HARDWARE](#)  
[AL\\_STORAGE\\_ACCESSIBLE](#)

### Remarks

None.

### See Also

[EAXSetBufferMode](#)

## Enumeration Names

### **AL\_EAX\_RAM\_SIZE**

Use with [alGetInteger](#) to retrieve the total amount of X-RAM in bytes.

### **AL\_EAX\_RAM\_FREE**

Use with `alGetInteger` to retrieve the amount of free X-RAM in bytes.

### **AL\_STORAGE\_AUTOMATIC**

See [X-RAM Modes](#).

### **AL\_STORAGE\_HARDWARE**

See [X-RAM Modes](#).

### **AL\_STORAGE\_ACCESSIBLE**

See [X-RAM Modes](#).

## Multi-Channel Buffers

The multi-channel extension provides a mechanism to play multi-channel data via OpenAL. A variety of formats are supported. Multi-channel buffers can be attached or queued on a source. Note that when using the "Generic Software" device, the multi-channel buffers are mixed down to a stereo output. On a hardware device (such as the "Generic Hardware" device or a native device), each channel of a buffer requires a hardware voice. So, for example playing a buffer using the `AL_FORMAT_51CHN16` format will require 6 free hardware voices. If the hardware resources are unavailable, the call to [alSourceQueueBuffers](#) or [alSourcei](#) will fail.

Formats supported:

- 4 channels, 16 bit data
- 6 channels (5.1), 16 bit data
- 7 channels (6.1), 16 bit data
- 8 channels (7.1), 16 bit data

Before using any of the different multi-channel buffers, use [alGetEnumValue](#) to check if the format is supported.

```
ALenum      eBufferFormat = 0;
eBufferFormat = alGetEnumValue("AL_FORMAT_51CHN16");
if (!eBufferFormat)
{
    printf("No support for 5.1 playback!\n");
    return 0;
}
```

### AL\_FORMAT\_QUAD16

This describes a 4 channels buffer of 16 bit samples.

Data organisation :

- Sample 1, front left speaker
- Sample 1, front right speaker
- Sample 1, back left speaker
- Sample 1, back right speaker

Then

- Sample 2, front left speaker
- Sample 2, front right speaker...

### AL\_FORMAT\_51CHN16

This describes a 5.1 ( 6 channels ) buffer of 16 bit samples.

Data organisation :

- Sample 1, front left speaker
- Sample 1, front right speaker

Sample 1, front center speaker  
Sample 1, low frequency speaker  
Sample 1, back left speaker  
Sample 1, back right speaker

Then

Sample 2, front left speaker  
Sample 2, front right speaker...

### **AL\_FORMAT\_61CHN16**

This describes a 6.1 ( 7 channels ) buffer of 16 bit samples.

Data organisation :

Sample 1, front left speaker  
Sample 1, front right speaker  
Sample 1, front center speaker  
Sample 1, low frequency speaker  
Sample 1, back left speaker  
Sample 1, back right speaker  
Sample 1, back center speaker

Then

Sample 2, front left speaker  
Sample 2, front right speaker...

### **AL\_FORMAT\_71CHN16**

This describes a 7.1 ( 8 channels ) buffer of 16 bit samples.

Data organisation :

Sample 1, front left speaker  
Sample 1, front right speaker  
Sample 1, front center speaker  
Sample 1, low frequency speaker  
Sample 1, back left speaker  
Sample 1, back right speaker  
Sample 1, side left speaker  
Sample 1, side right speaker

Then

Sample 2, front left speaker  
Sample 2, front right speaker...

### ***Effects Extension (EFX)***

Information about the Effects Extension to OpenAL can be found in the “Effects Extension Guide”.