ION®

TAILGATER® XL

User Guide

English

Tap or click
for technical
support.

ionaudio.com/support

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the Tailgater® XL. At ION, your entertainment is as important to us as it is to you. That's why we design our products with one thing in mind—to make your life more fun and more convenient.

Note: Before you first use the product, please fully charge the batteries. Your unit was purposely shipped with a reduced battery charge to ensure safe transit. USB charging only functions when the unit's power is turned on.

Use the included power cable to connect the unit to a power outlet and let it charge for up to 12 hours. This helps ensure the longest life for your battery.

Box Contents

Tailgater® XL

Power Cable (IEC320 C13, 6 ft. / 183 cm)

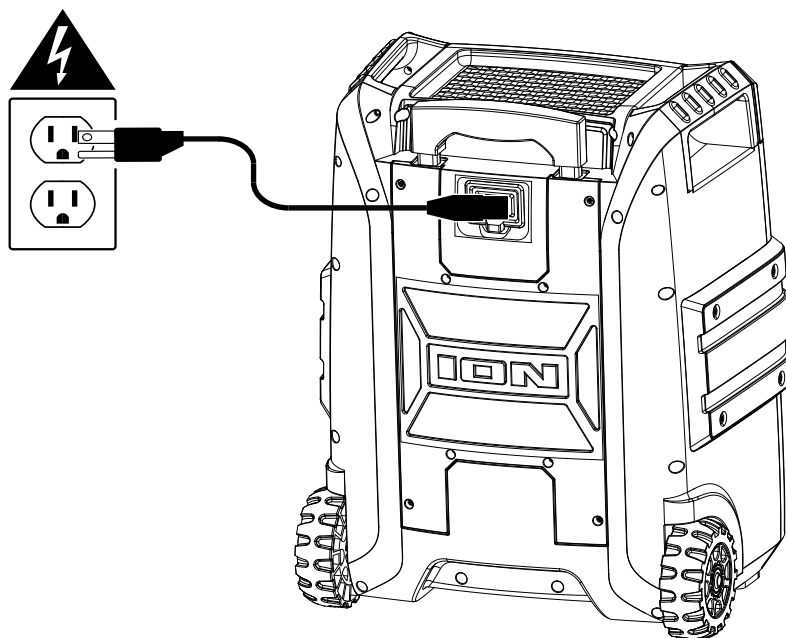Microphone with Cable (8 ft. / 250 cm)

Quickstart Guide

Support

For the latest information about this product (documentation, technical specifications, system requirements, compatibility information, etc.) and product registration, visit ionaudio.com.

For additional product support, visit ionaudio.com/support.

SETUP

Charging and Battery Information

For the quickest charging time, power off Tailgater® XL and use the included power cable to connect to a power outlet. A full charge can take up to 12 hours.

Rechargeable lead-acid batteries are the same type used in automobiles. As with your car battery, how you use this battery has a significant impact on its lifespan. With proper use and treatment, a lead-acid battery can last for years. Here are some recommendations for getting the longest life from the internal battery.

General Usage	Fully charge the battery before using it. Charge the battery completely after each use.
Storage	For best product longevity, do not store at exceedingly hot (greater than 90°F/32°C) or exceedingly cold (less than 32°F/0°C) temperatures. It is acceptable to leave your sound system plugged in. This will not overcharge the battery. If you leave the battery level low and do not charge it for 3 months, it may permanently lose capacity.
Repair	If the battery fails to charge, contact ION Audio at ionaudio.com.
Disposal	Bring the unit to a recycling center or dispose of in accordance with local ordinances.

FEATURES

Front Panel

Click a control below to jump to that section.
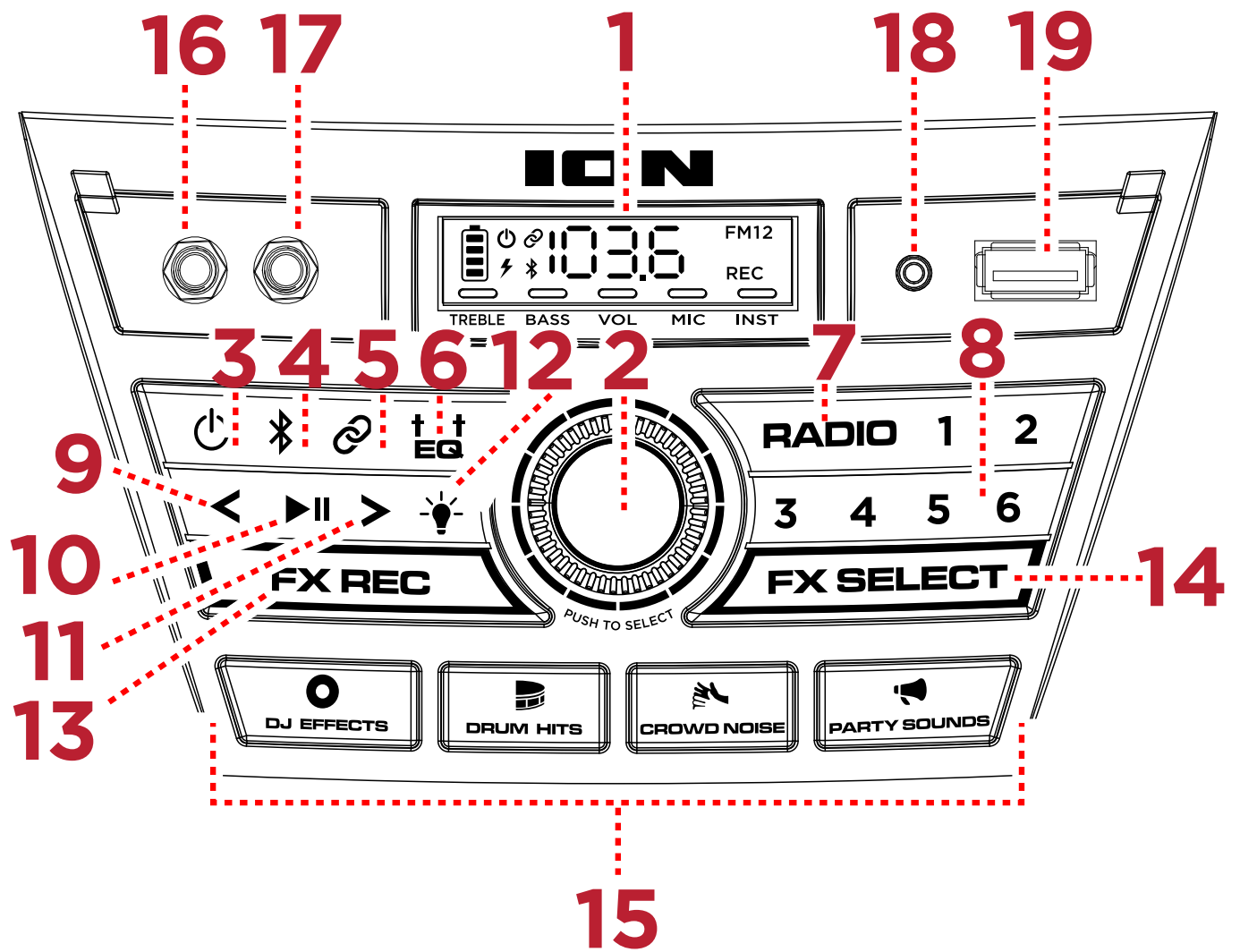
1. **Display**

   Shows information relative to the current operation:

   - **Battery Indicator** 🔋: The battery icon displays the battery life percentage. When fully charged, the battery icon will be completely filled.

   - **Power Status Icon** ⏻: This icon will illuminate when the speaker is connected to a power outlet and powered on.

   - **Lightning Bolt Icon** ⚡: The lightning bolt icon will display when Tailgater® XL is connected to a power outlet and charging. When the battery is fully charged, the icon will disappear.

   - **Stereo-Link™ Icon** 🔗: The Stereo-Link™ icon will display when Tailgater® XL is linked to another speaker. The Stereo-Link™ icon will be off when a single speaker is used. See *Operation > Pairing a Bluetooth® Device* below for instructions on how to link two speakers.

   - **Bluetooth® Icon** ᛒ: The Bluetooth® icon will display when a device is paired to Tailgater® XL. See *Operation > Pairing a Bluetooth® Device* to learn how to connect a Bluetooth® device.

   - **Radio Station/Numerical Display:** The centered numerals indicate the current radio station that is selected. See *Operation > Using the Radio* for more information.

   - **Radio Band (FM1/FM2):** These icons indicate which radio band is selected. See *Operation > Using the Radio* for more information.

   - **Record Indicator** REC: When this icon is flashing, the speaker is in FX record mode recording your sound fx.

2. **Control Knob**

   Press to toggle between controlling the volume of the music source (Bluetooth®, Aux, or Radio), mic input, or instrument input/FX, bass, and treble, as indicated on the display. Turn the knob to increase or decrease the selected setting.

3. **Power**

   Press and hold this button to turn Tailgater® XL on and off.

4. **Bluetooth®**

   Press this button to enter Bluetooth® pairing mode. When connected to a Bluetooth® device, double-press this button to disconnect a paired device and re-enter pairing mode, or single-press to disconnect a paired device and enter Aux mode. See *Operation > Pairing a Bluetooth® Device* to learn how to connect a Bluetooth® device.

   Tip: Press and hold the Bluetooth button for three seconds to enable and disable the voice prompt feature.

5. **Stereo-Link™**

   Press and hold this button for three seconds on two Tailgater® XLs to Stereo-Link™ them together. See *Operation > Linking Two Speakers* for more information.

6. **EQ**

   Press to cycle through the four EQ modes.

7. **Radio**

   Press this button to select FM1 radio mode. Press again for FM2. Press a third time to turn the radio off. See *Operation > Using the Radio* to learn more.

8. **Presets**

   In Radio Mode, press these buttons to select a previously saved preset station. To save the current station as a preset, press and hold these buttons. See *Operation > Using the Radio* to learn more.

9. **Previous**

   In FM mode, press this button to go to the previous station. Press and hold this button to seek to the previous strong station.

   In Bluetooth® mode, press and hold this button to go to the beginning of the current track. Press the **Previous** button again within one second to skip to the previous track.

10. **Play/Pause**

    Press this button to start and stop Bluetooth® audio.

11. **Next**

    In FM mode, press this button to go to the next station. Press and hold this button to seek to the next strong station.

    In Bluetooth® mode, press and hold this button to go to the next track.

12. **Lights**

    Press this button to cycle between light modes.

    - **Solid Mode:** Each button will stay lit on a specific color and not change. All 4 FX pads will be different colors.

    - **Beat Sync:** The lights will flash to the beat of the audio being played through the speaker.

    - **Off:** The lights turn off except for the button that is being pressed.

13. FX REC

Press this button to record up to 30 seconds of your own sound effect. Once the **REC icon** begins flashing, press and hold an **FX pad** to begin recording from any sound source (such as Bluetooth®, radio, or the Inputs) while the pad is held. Once recorded, press the **FX pad** to trigger your sound. Press and hold this button and press an **FX pad** to delete a recorded sound. Higher volume from your input will result in a higher quality sound recording. When using the microphone to record a sample, point the microphone away from the speaker to avoid feedback.

14. FX SELECT

Press this button to change the sounds on each FX Pad. Once the FX Pads are lit white, press each one to cycle through all the sound effects. Once you have found the sound effects you like, press this button again to lock them in. To revert to the default sounds, press and hold this button.

15. FX Pads

Press these pads to trigger a sound effect. Press the Control Knob and select INST to adjust the FX volume. See *Appendix > Sound FX* for a full list of sounds.

16. Microphone Input (1/4" [6.35 mm], unbalanced)

Connect a microphone to this mono input. Press the Control Knob and select MIC to adjust the microphone volume.

17. Instrument Input (1/4" [6.35 mm], unbalanced)

Connect an instrument such as an electric guitar to this mono input. Press the Control Knob and select INST to adjust the instrument volume.

18. Aux Input (1/8" [3.5 mm], balanced)

This stereo input can be used to connect a CD player, MP3 player, or other audio source. To hear this signal, disconnect Bluetooth® and enter Aux Mode by pressing the **Bluetooth®** button.

19. USB Charging Port

Connect your device's charge cable here to charge it. USB charging only functions when the unit's power is turned on.

Rear Panel
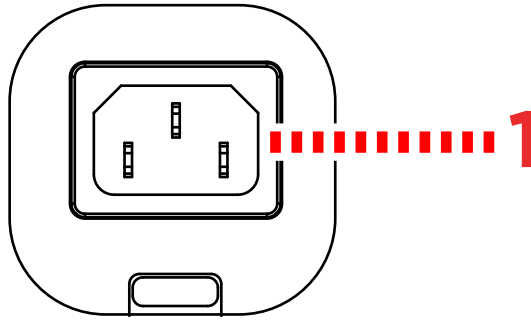
Note: Pull the tab on the protective rubber panel to release it and access the power input.

1. **Power**

   Connect the included power cable from here and plug it into a power outlet.

OPERATION

App Control

IMPORTANT: To ensure the best possible experience with the app, use the most current Android OS or iOS on your device.

Follow these steps to download the free app on your device:

1. Open the Apple App Store or Google Play on your device. Then, search for the **ION Sound Control**® app.

2. Follow the on-screen instructions to download and install the app. Once downloaded, the **ION Sound Control**® app will appear on your device's home screen.

3. Connect your device to Tailgater® XL via Bluetooth®. See *Operation > Pairing a Bluetooth® Device* to learn how to do this.

4. Open the ION Sound Control® app. If prompted, allow the app to access your device's Bluetooth® and Location Services.

5. Follow the steps on screen to find and connect to your Tailgater® XL. Once connected, you can control various functions of the speaker, such as:

   - **Source Selection:** Select the source to use (Bluetooth®, FM, or Aux).

   - **Volume:** Adjust the speaker's volume.

   - **Mic Volume:** Adjust the volume of the Mic input.

   - **EQ:** Adjust the speaker's equalization.

   - **FM Radio Stations and Preset Selection:** Use the app to save radio preset stations. The presets on the app will sync with the presets on Tailgater® XL.

   - **Voice Prompts:** Enable or disable the voice prompts.

   - **Lights:** Choose the lighting effect and select the lighting color.

   - **Battery Life:** Check the speaker's battery life status.

   - **Support:** Visit ionaudio.com, contact Technical Support, and view Warranty information and Frequently Asked Questions.

Pairing a Bluetooth® Device

1 - PRESS AND HOLD FOR 2 SECONDS

2
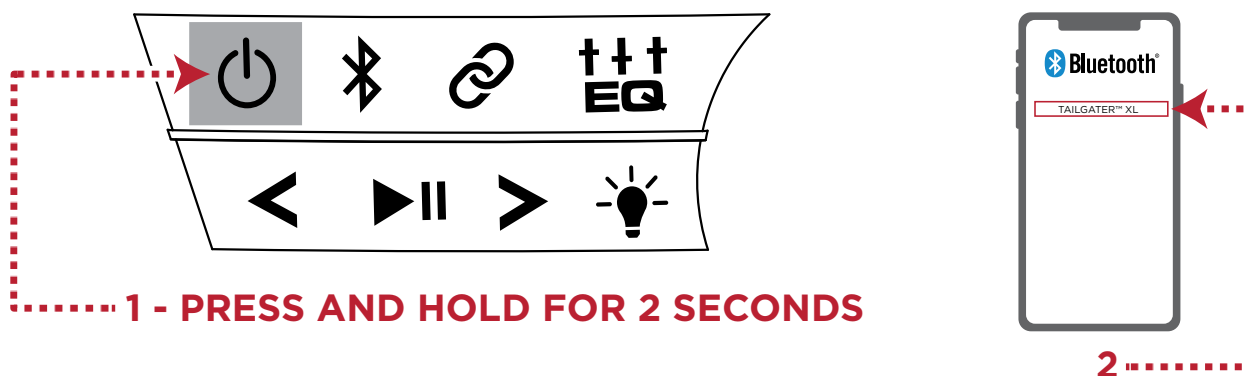
1. Turn on your Bluetooth® device.

2. Power on Tailgater® XL by holding down the **Power** button for 2 seconds. The speaker will then enter Bluetooth® pairing mode.

3. Navigate to your device's Bluetooth® setup screen, find **TAILGATER XL**, and connect. The **Bluetooth® icon** will appear in the display, and if voice prompts are enabled, you will hear "Bluetooth® Connected". If the speaker does not connect to a Bluetooth® device within 60 seconds, it will switch to Aux mode. You will need to single press the Bluetooth® button to enter Bluetooth® mode.

   Note: If your Bluetooth device prompts for a pairing code, enter "**0000**".

   Note: Do not connect to iPA150C_BLE; this is reserved exclusively for connecting to the ION Sound Control™ app. If you experience trouble in connecting, select "Forget this Device" on your Bluetooth device and try to connect again.

To disconnect a paired device, do any of the following:

- Turn off Bluetooth® from your device's Bluetooth® settings. The speaker will enter Bluetooth® pairing mode to make it available for another device.

- Double-press the **Bluetooth®** button to disconnect and re-enter pairing mode.

- Briefly press the **Bluetooth®** button to disconnect and enter Aux mode.

Once you have disconnected, you will hear "Bluetooth® Disconnected" if voice prompts are enabled.

Tip: Press and hold the **Bluetooth** button for three seconds to turn voice prompts on or off.

Linking Two Speakers

If you would like to play music from a Bluetooth® device, you can first "link" two Tailgater® XL speakers together in order to listen to your music in stereo. One Tailgater® XL will serve as the left speaker and the other will serve as the right speaker.

1 - PRESS AND HOLD FOR 2 SECONDS

2 - SPEAKER 1 - PRESS AND HOLD FOR 3 SECONDS

3 - SPEAKER 2 - PRESS AND HOLD FOR 3 SECONDS

4
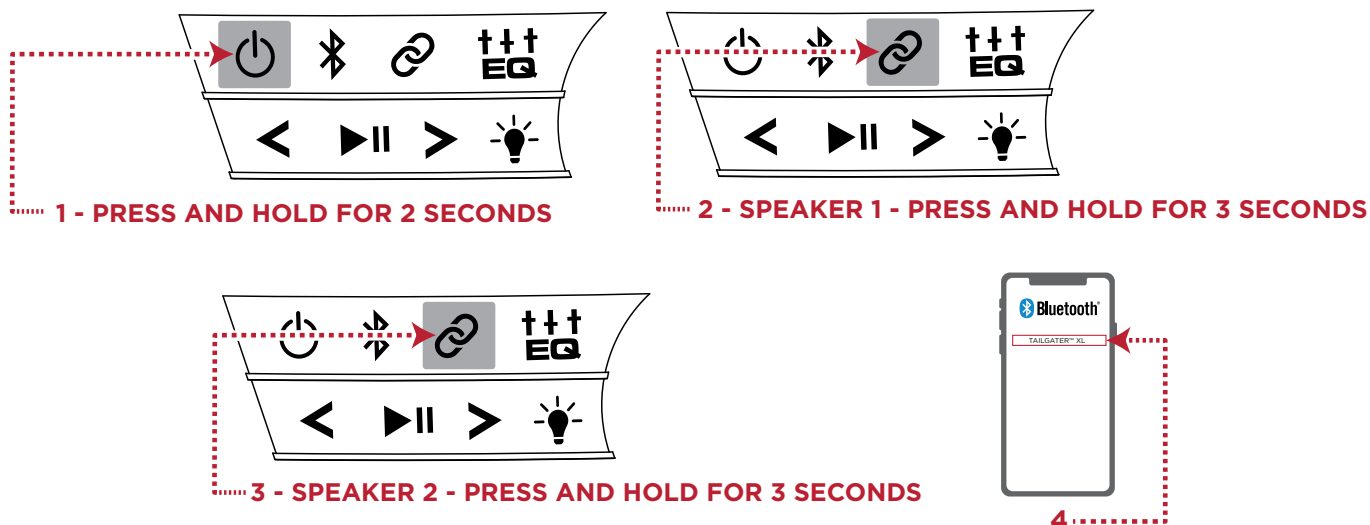
To link two Tailgater® XL speakers together:

1. Power on both speakers.

2. After you hear the voice prompt "Bluetooth® pairing," press and hold the **Stereo-Link™** button for three seconds on one speaker. Then press and hold the **Stereo-Link™** button for three seconds on the other speaker to connect.

   Note: The linking process can take up to 30 seconds to complete. The closer the two speakers are to each other, the quicker the link is established.

3. Once linked, the primary (left) speaker will enter Bluetooth® pairing mode. Navigate to your Bluetooth® device's setup screen, find **TAILGATER XL**, and connect. The Bluetooth® icon on the primary speaker will flash to indicate it is searching for a Bluetooth® device to pair with.

   When the connection is successful, you will hear "Bluetooth® Connected" from the primary speaker (if voice prompts are enabled). When audio playback begins, you should hear it through both speakers. The primary speaker will play the left channel while the secondary speaker plays the right channel. Playback controls are active on both speakers.

To disconnect two speakers or cancel linking between the two, double press the **Stereo-Link™** button on either speaker.

Note: Pressing and holding the **Power** button on the primary speaker while in Stereo-Link™ mode will power off all connected speakers. Tailgater® XL speakers powered off in Stereo-Link™ mode will automatically enter Stereo-Link™ mode the next time they are powered on and begin searching for secondary speakers to connect to.

Using the Radio

1 - PRESS

2 - PRESS TO SELECT PREVIOUS OR NEXT STATION

3 - PRESS AND HOLD TO SEEK
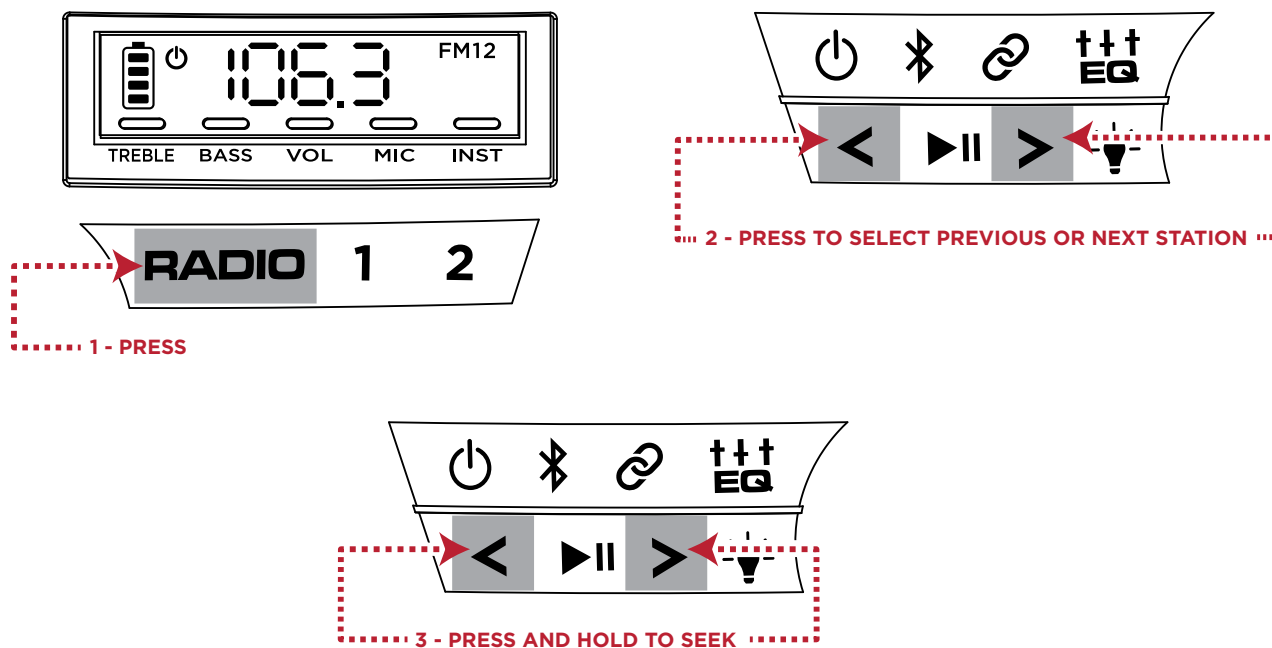
To use the radio, press the **Radio** button to select **FM1**, press it again to select **FM2**, and press it a third time to turn the radio off.

While in radio mode, briefly press the **Previous** and **Next** buttons (**</>**) to move to the previous or next station. Press and hold the **</>** buttons to seek for the next strongest station in that direction.

PRESS AND HOLD TO SAVE A PRESET

PRESS TO RECALL A SAVED PRESET
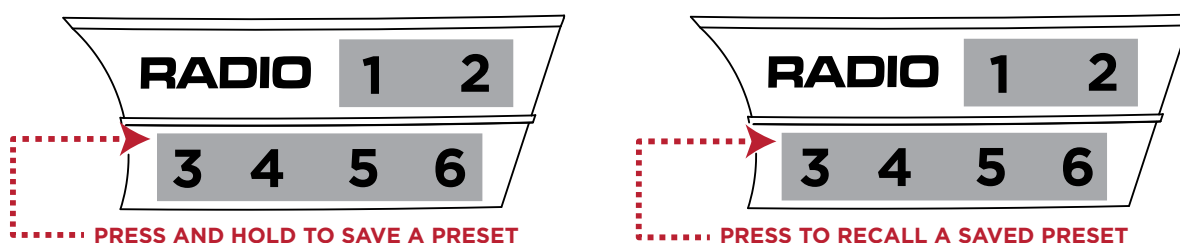
To save a radio station as a preset, press and hold one of the **Preset buttons** (or use the ION Sound Control® app).

To recall a previously saved preset, briefly press one of the **Preset buttons**. There are six presets for FM1 and six for FM2.

Using the USB Charge Port
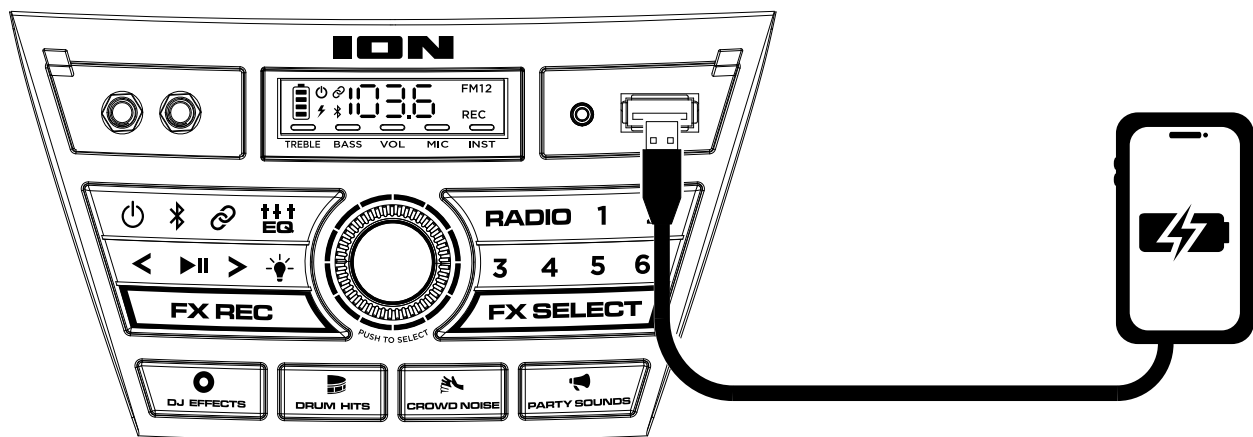
To use the USB charge port:

Note: For optimal charging, power off the speaker and connect it to a power supply while charging.

1. Connect a USB type-A cable to the **USB Charge Port** on the rear panel of your Tailgater® XL speaker (see image).

2. Connect the other end of the cable to the charging input on your smartphone, tablet, or other compatible device.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If the unit is not charging: Make sure the included power cable is properly connected to the power input and the power outlet.

If the sound is distorted: Try lowering the volume control of your sound source.

I hear a hum when cables are connected:
- Disconnect cables from the input jacks to see if it's a faulty cable.
- Make sure the signal cables are not placed near power cables.
- Connect all audio equipment power cables to outlets which share a common ground.

If there is a high-pitched whistling noise when using microphones: This is probably feedback. Point the microphone away from the speaker.

If you can't hear the microphone over the music volume: Turn down the music volume from your source.

If there is too much bass: Try adjusting the tone or EQ control on your sound source to lower the bass level. This will allow you to play the music louder before clipping (distortion) occurs.

If the audio drops out when recording: Make sure the volume is turned up if you are trying to record audio using the FX Rec function.

If you cannot connect your audio device to Tailgater® XL via Bluetooth®:

- Have your audio device (e.g., smartphone or tablet) and Tailgater® XL as close together as possible while trying to connect. Make sure both the audio device and Tailgater® XL are unobstructed by walls, furniture, etc.

- Double-press the Bluetooth® button to disconnect Tailgater® XL from any other audio device and restart the search process. If this does not work right away, power off Tailgater® XL and then power it back on. See *Operation > Pairing a Bluetooth® Device* for more information.

- Reset the Bluetooth® connection on your audio device by turning Bluetooth® off and back on. You can find this under the Bluetooth® menu in the Settings for your phone or other audio device.

If this does not work, and you have connected to Tailgater® XL before, find Tailgater® XL in the list of available or previously connected devices in your audio device's Bluetooth® menu, tap the "gear" or "i" icon located next to it and then select **Unpair** or **Forget**. Turn Tailgater® XL off and back on and try pairing again once it reappears in your available devices list.

Note: If Tailgater® XL has been paired to another audio device recently that is still within range, you may need to repeat this process with that audio device to fully disconnect.

APPENDIX

Sound FX

DJ Effects

1.	DJ Scratch 2	6.	Fat Zap
2.	DJ Scratch 2	7.	Scream
3.	DJ Scratch 3	8.	Metallic Percussion
4.	DJ Scratch 4	9.	Electronic Clap
5.	Deep Noise	10.	Orchestra Hit

Drum Hits

11.	Dance Kick Drum	16.	Snare Drum
12.	Cowbell	17.	Drum Roll 1
13.	Cymbal	18.	Drum Roll 2
14.	Shaker	19.	Punchline Fill 1
15.	Rock Kick Drum	20.	Punchline Fill 2

Crowd Noise

21.	Big Applause	26.	Organ Fanfare
22.	Arena Applause	27.	Ref Whistle 1
23.	Arena Drum Beat	28.	Refs Whistle 2
24.	Zapper	29.	Surprise Party
25.	Crickets	30.	Arena Whistle

Party Sounds

31.	Fog Horn	36.	Car Honk
32.	Old Telephone	37.	Thunder Clap
33.	8 Bit Jump	38.	Dog
34.	8Bit Sweep	39.	Glass Hit
35.	Cow Moo	40.	Singing Plastic

Technical Specifications

Speakers	(2) 1.0" / 25 mm tweeters, 8.0" / 203 mm driver, (2) 3.0" / 76 mm side-firing drivers
Wireless Technology	Bluetooth® - Classic Audio
Wireless Range *	**Bluetooth® Range:** Up to 100 ft. (30.5 m) **TWS Range:** Up to 75 ft. (22.9 m) between speakers
Other Features	Wheels, telescoping handle
Battery	**Capacity**: 12 V / 7000 mAh, 84 Wh **Charge Time**: Up to 12 hours
Power	**Cable:** IEC320 C13 **Input Voltage:** 100–240 VAC, 50/60 Hz
Dimensions (width x depth x height)	10.94 x 15.43 x 18.90" 27.7 x 39.1 x 48.0 cm
Weight	24.91 lbs. 11.3 kg

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

* Bluetooth® and wireless reception and range are affected by walls, obstructions, and movement. For optimal performance, place the product so it is unobstructed by walls or furniture and is raised off the ground.

** Battery life may vary based on temperature, age, and volume usage of product.

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