P55 Extreme4

User Manual

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This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:
(1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and
(2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

CALIFORNIA, USA ONLY
The Lithium battery adopted on this motherboard contains Perchlorate, a toxic substance controlled in Perchlorate Best Management Practices (BMP) regulations passed by the California Legislature. When you discard the Lithium battery in California, USA, please follow the related regulations in advance.
"Perchlorate Material-special handling may apply, see www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/perchlorate"

ASRock Website: http://www.asrock.com

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Thank you for purchasing ASRock ***P55 Extreme4*** motherboard, a reliable motherboard produced under ASRock's consistently stringent quality control. It delivers excellent performance with robust design conforming to ASRock's commitment to quality and endurance.

In this manual, chapter 1 and 2 contain introduction of the motherboard and step-by-step guide to the hardware installation. Chapter 3 and 4 contain the configuration guide to BIOS setup and information of the Support CD.

Because the motherboard specifications and the BIOS software might be updated, the content of this manual will be subject to change without notice. In case any modifications of this manual occur, the updated version will be available on ASRock website without further notice. You may find the latest VGA cards and CPU support lists on ASRock website as well. ASRock website http://www.asrock.com
If you require technical support related to this motherboard, please visit our website for specific information about the model you are using.
www.asrock.com/support/index.asp

1.1 Package Contents

ASRock ***P55 Extreme4*** Motherboard
(ATX Form Factor: 12.0-in x 9.6-in, 30.5 cm x 24.4 cm)
ASRock ***P55 Extreme4*** Quick Installation Guide
ASRock ***P55 Extreme4*** Support CD
1 x 80-conductor Ultra ATA 66/100/133 IDE Ribbon Cable
1 x Ribbon Cable for a 3.5-in Floppy Drive
4 x Serial ATA (SATA) Data Cables (Optional)
2 x Serial ATA (SATA) HDD Power Cables (Optional)
1 x I/O Panel Shield
1 x ASRock SLI_Bridge_2S Card
1 x Front USB 3.0 Panel
6 x Screws

1.2 Specifications

Platform	- ATX Form Factor: 12.0-in x 9.6-in, 30.5 cm x 24.4 cm - All Solid Capacitor design (100% Japan-made high-quality Conductive Polymer Capacitors)
CPU	- Supports Intel® Core™ i7 / i5 / i3 and Pentium® G6950 Processors in LGA1156 Package - Advanced V8 + 2 Power Phase Design - Supports Intel® Turbo Boost Technology - Supports Hyper-Threading Technology (see **CAUTION 1**) - Supports Untied Overclocking Technology (see **CAUTION 2**) - Supports EM64T CPU
Chipset	- Intel® P55
Memory	- Dual Channel DDR3 Memory Technology (see **CAUTION 3**) - 4 x DDR3 DIMM slots - Supports DDR3 2600+(OC)/2133(OC)/1866(OC)/1600/ 1333/1066 non-ECC, un-buffered memory - Max. capacity of system memory: 16GB (see **CAUTION 4**) - Supports Intel® Extreme Memory Profile (XMP) (see **CAUTION 5**)
Expansion Slot	- 2 x PCI Express 2.0 x16 slots (Single at x16 or Dual at x8/x8 mode) - 3 x PCI Express 2.0 x1 slots (2.5GT/s) - 2 x PCI slots - Supports ATI™ CrossFireX™ and Quad CrossFireX™ - Supports NVIDIA® SLI™ and Quad SLI™
Audio	- 7.1 CH HD Audio with Content Protection (Realtek ALC892 Audio Codec) - Premium Blu-ray audio support - Supports THX TruStudio Pro™
LAN	- PCIE x1 Gigabit LAN 10/100/1000 Mb/s - Realtek RTL8111E - Supports Wake-On-LAN - Supports LAN Cable Detection - Supports Energy Efficient Ethernet 802.3az
Rear Panel I/O	I/O Panel - 1 x PS/2 Mouse Port - 1 x PS/2 Keyboard Port - 1 x Coaxial SPDIF Out Port - 1 x Optical SPDIF Out Port - 6 x Ready-to-Use USB 2.0 Ports

	- 2 x Ready-to-Use USB 3.0 Ports - 1 x eSATAIII Connector - 1 x RJ-45 LAN Port with LED (ACT/LINK LED and SPEED LED) - 1 x Clear CMOS Switch with LED - HD Audio Jack: Side Speaker/Rear Speaker/Central/Bass/ Line in/Front Speaker/Microphone (see **CAUTION 6**)
SATA3	- 2 x SATA3 6.0 Gb/s connectors by Marvell SE9128, support RAID (RAID 0 and RAID 1), NCQ, AHCI and "Hot Plug" functions - 2 x SATA3 6.0 Gb/s connectors by Marvell SE9123/9120, support NCQ, AHCI and "Hot Plug" functions (SATA3_4 connector is shared with eSATA3 port)
USB3.0	- 2 x Rear USB 3.0 ports by NEC UPD720200, support USB 1.0/2.0/3.0 up to 5Gb/s - 1 x Front USB 3.0 header (supports 2 USB 3.0 ports) by NEC UPD720200, supports USB 1.0/2.0/3.0 up to 5Gb/s
Connector	- 6 x SATAII 3.0Gb/s connectors, support RAID (RAID 0, RAID 1, RAID 10, RAID 5 and Intel Rapid Storage), NCQ, AHCI and “Hot Plug” functions - 4 x SATA3 6.0Gb/s connectors - 1 x ATA133 IDE connector (supports 2 x IDE devices) - 1 x Floppy connector - 1 x IR header - 1 x COM port header - 1 x HDMI_SPDIF header - 1 x Power LED header - CPU/Chassis/Power FAN connector - 24 pin ATX power connector - 8 pin 12V power connector - CD in header - Front panel audio connector - 3 x USB 2.0 headers (support 6 USB 2.0 ports) - 1 x USB 3.0 header (supports 2 USB 3.0 ports) - 1 x Dr. Debug (7-Segment Debug LED)
Smart Switch	- 1 x Clear CMOS Switch with LED - 1 x Power Switch with LED - 1 x Reset Switch with LED
BIOS Feature	- 16Mb AMI BIOS - AMI Legal BIOS - Supports “Plug and Play” - ACPI 1.1 Compliance Wake Up Events

	- Supports jumperfree - SMBIOS 2.3.1 Support - CPU, DRAM, VTT, PCH, CPU PLL Voltage Multi-adjustment - Supports I. O. T. (Intelligent Overclocking Technology)
Support CD	- Drivers, Utilities, AntiVirus Software (Trial Version), ASRock Software Suite (CyberLink DVD Suite - OEM and Trial; THX TruStudio Pro™ - OEM)
Unique Feature	- ASRock OC Tuner (see **CAUTION 7**) - Intelligent Energy Saver (see **CAUTION 8**) - Instant Boot - ASRock Instant Flash (see **CAUTION 9**) - ASRock OC DNA (see **CAUTION 10**) - ASRock AIWI (see **CAUTION 11**) - ASRock APP Charger (see **CAUTION 12**) - Hybrid Booster: - CPU Frequency Stepless Control (see **CAUTION 13**) - ASRock U-COP (see **CAUTION 14**) - Boot Failure Guard (B.F.G.) - Combo Cooler Option (C.C.O.) (see **CAUTION 15**) - Good Night LED - Turbo 40 / Turbo 50 Technology
Hardware Monitor	- CPU Temperature Sensing - Chassis Temperature Sensing - CPU/Chassis/Power Fan Tachometer - CPU Quiet Fan - CPU/Chassis Fan Multi-Speed Control - Voltage Monitoring: +12V, +5V, +3.3V, CPU Vcore
OS	- Microsoft® Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / XP / XP 64-bit compliant
Certifications	- FCC, CE, WHQL - ErP/EuP Ready (ErP/EuP ready power supply is required) (see **CAUTION 16**)

* For detailed product information, please visit our website: http://www.asrock.com

WARNING

Please realize that there is a certain risk involved with overclocking, including adjusting the setting in the BIOS, applying Untied Overclocking Technology, or using the third-party overclocking tools. Overclocking may affect your system stability, or even cause damage to the components and devices of your system. It should be done at your own risk and expense. We are not responsible for possible damage caused by overclocking.

CAUTION!

1. About the setting of "Hyper Threading Technology", please check page 57.
2. This motherboard supports Untied Overclocking Technology. Please read "Untied Overclocking Technology" on page 48 for details.
3. This motherboard supports Dual Channel Memory Technology. Before you implement Dual Channel Memory Technology, make sure to read the installation guide of memory modules on page 18 for proper installation.
4. Due to the operating system limitation, the actual memory size may be less than 4GB for the reservation for system usage under Windows® 7 / Vista™ / XP. For Windows® XP 64-bit and Windows® OS with 64-bit CPU, there is no such limitation.
5. For those CPU that only support up to DDR3 1333, the XMP DDR3 1600 is supported through overclocking.
6. For microphone input, this motherboard supports both stereo and mono modes. For audio output, this motherboard supports 2-channel, 4-channel, 6-channel, and 8-channel modes. Please check the table on page 13 for proper connection.
7. It is a user-friendly ASRock overclocking tool which allows you to surveil your system by hardware monitor function and overclock your hardware devices to get the best system performance under Windows® environment. Please visit our website for the operation procedures of ASRock OC Tuner.
   ASRock website: http://www.asrock.com/feature/OCTuner/index.htm
8. Featuring an advanced proprietary hardware and software design, Intelligent Energy Saver is a revolutionary technology that delivers unparalleled power savings. In other words, it is able to provide exceptional power saving and improve power efficiency without sacrificing computing performance. Please visit our website for the operation procedures of Intelligent Energy Saver.
   ASRock website: http://www.asrock.com/feature/IES/index.html
9. ASRock Instant Flash is a BIOS flash utility embedded in Flash ROM. This convenient BIOS update tool allows you to update system BIOS without entering operating systems first like MS-DOS or Windows®. With this utility, you can press <F6> key during the POST or press <F2> key to BIOS setup menu to access ASRock Instant Flash. Just launch this tool and save the new BIOS file to your USB flash drive, floppy disk or hard drive, then you can update your BIOS only in a few clicks without preparing an additional floppy diskette or other complicated flash utility. Please be noted that the USB flash drive or hard drive must use FAT32/16/12 file system.
10. The software name itself – OC DNA literally tells you what it is capable of. OC DNA, an exclusive utility developed by ASRock, provides a convenient way for the user to record the OC settings and share with others. It helps you to save your overclocking record under the operating system and simplifies the complicated recording process of overclocking settings. With OC DNA, you can save your OC settings as a profile and share with

your friends! Your friends then can load the OC profile to their own system to get the same OC settings as yours! Please be noticed that the OC profile can only be shared and worked on the same motherboard.

11. To experience intuitive motion controlled games is no longer only available at Wii. ASRock AIWI utility introduces a new way of PC gaming operation. ASRock AIWI is the world's first utility to turn your iPhone/iPod touch as a game joystick to control your PC games. All you have to do is just to install the ASRock AIWI utility either from ASRock official website or ASRock software support CD to your motherboard, and also download the free AIWI Lite from App store to your iPhone/iPod touch. Connecting your PC and apple devices via Bluetooth or WiFi networks, then you can start experiencing the exciting motion controlled games. Also, please do not forget to pay attention to ASRock official website regularly, we will continuously provide you the most up-do-date supported games!
    ASRock website: http://www.asrock.com/Feature/Aiwi/index.asp
12. If you desire a faster, less restricted way of charging your Apple devices, such as iPhone/iPod/iPad Touch, ASRock has prepared a wonderful solution for you - ASRock APP Charger. Simply installing the APP Charger driver, it makes your iPhone charged much quickly from your computer and up to 40% faster than before. ASRock APP Charger allows you to quickly charge many Apple devices simultaneously and even supports continuous charging when your PC enters into Standby mode (S1), Suspend to RAM (S3), hibernation mode (S4) or power off (S5). With APP Charger driver installed, you can easily enjoy the marvelous charging experience than ever.
    ASRock website: http://www.asrock.com/Feature/AppCharger/index.asp
13. Although this motherboard offers stepless control, it is not recommended to perform over-clocking. Frequencies other than the recommended CPU bus frequencies may cause the instability of the system or damage the CPU.
14. While CPU overheat is detected, the system will automatically shutdown. Before you resume the system, please check if the CPU fan on the motherboard functions properly and unplug the power cord, then plug it back again. To improve heat dissipation, remember to spray thermal grease between the CPU and the heatsink when you install the PC system.
15. Combo Cooler Option (C.C.O.) provides the flexible option to adopt two different CPU cooler types, Socket LGA 775 and LGA 1156. Please be noticed that not all the 775 CPU Fan can be used.
16. EuP, stands for Energy Using Product, was a provision regulated by European Union to define the power consumption for the completed system. According to EuP, the total AC power of the completed system shall be under 1.00W in off mode condition. To meet EuP standard, an EuP ready motherboard and an EuP ready power supply are required. According to Intel's suggestion, the EuP ready power supply must meet the standard of 5v standby power efficiency is higher than 50% under 100 mA current consumption. For EuP ready power supply selection, we recommend you checking with the power supply manufacturer for more details.

1.3 Two SLI™ Graphics Card Support List

(for Windows® XP / XP 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / 7 / 7 64-bit)

Chipset Vendor	Model Name	Chipset Name	Driver
NVIDIA	MSI NX8600GT-T2D256E	GeForce 8600 GT	195.62
	Gigabyte GV-NX88T256H	GeForce 8800 GT	195.62
	LEADTEK PX8800 GTX TDH	GeForce 8800 GTX	195.62
	Chaintech GES96GT-A1512P	GeForce 9600 GT	195.62
	ASUS EN9800GT TDP/HTDP/512M	GeForce 9800GT	195.62
	LEADTEK PX9800GTX	GeForce 9800GTX	195.62
	LEADTEK PX9800 GTX+	GeForce 9800GTX+	195.62
	SPARKLE SF-PX98GX221024D3-NHM	GeForce 9800GTX2	195.62
	MSI N250GTS-2D512-OC	GeForce GTS 250	195.62
	GIGABYTE GV-N26-896H-B	GeForce GTX260	195.62
	LEADTEK-GTX275/896M	GeForce GTX275	195.62
	GIGABYTE-GV-N295-18I-B/1792M	GeForce GTX295	195.62

* For the latest updates of the supported PCI Express VGA card list for SLI™ Mode, please visit our website for details.
ASRock website: http://www.asrock.com/support/index.htm

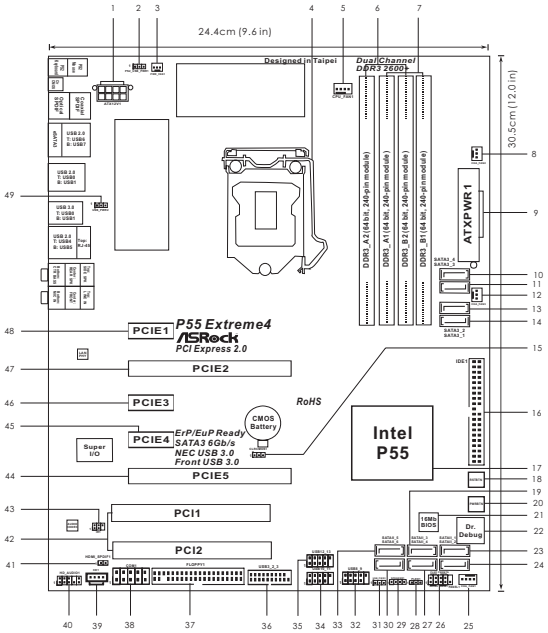
1.4 Two CrossFireX™ Graphics Card Support List

(for Windows® XP / XP 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / 7 / 7 64-bit)

Chipset Vendor	Model Name	Chipset Name	Driver
ATI	Powercolor AX3650 512MMD3-XP	RADEON 3650	Catalyst 9.12
	Gigabyte GV-RX385256H-B	RADEON 3850	Catalyst 9.12
	Powercolor AX3870 512MD4-H	RADEON 3870	Catalyst 9.12
	ASUS EAH4350 SILENT/DI/512MD2/A	RADEON HD 4350	Catalyst 9.12
	Powercolor AX4670 512MD3-P	RADEON 4670	Catalyst 9.12
	Gecube GC-HD485PG3-E3	RADEON 4850	Catalyst 9.12
	ASUS EAH5850/G/2DIS/1GD5/A	RADEON 5850	Catalyst 9.12
	MSI-ATI-R5770-PM2D1G	RADEON 5770	Catalyst 9.12

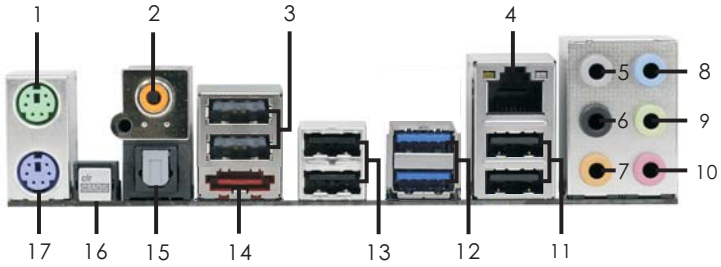
* For the latest updates of the supported PCI Express VGA card list for CrossFireX™ Mode, please visit our website for details.
ASRock website: http://www.asrock.com/support/index.htm

1.5 Motherboard Layout



1	ATX 12V Power Connector (ATX12V1)	26	System Panel Header (PANEL1, White)
2	PS2_USB_PWR1 Jumper	27	SATAII Connector (SATAII_4, Blue)
3	Power Fan Connector (PWR_FAN1)	28	Power LED Header (PLED1)
4	1156-Pin CPU Socket	29	Chassis Speaker Header (SPEAKER 1, White)
5	CPU Fan Connector (CPU_FAN1)	30	SATAII Connector (SATAII_6, Blue)
6	2 x 240-pin DDR3 DIMM Slots (Dual Channel: DDR3_A2, DDR3_B2, Blue)	31	USB_PWR3 Jumper
7	2 x 240-pin DDR3 DIMM Slots (Dual Channel: DDR3_A1, DDR3_B1, White)	32	USB 2.0 Header (USB8_9, Blue)
8	Chassis Fan Connector (CHA_FAN2)	33	SATAII Connector (SATAII_5, Blue)
9	ATX Power Connector (ATXPWR1)	34	USB 2.0 Header (USB10_11, Blue)
10	SATA3 Connector (SATA3_4, White)	35	USB 2.0 Header (USB12_13, Blue)
11	SATA3 Connector (SATA3_3, White)	36	USB 3.0 Header (USB3_2_3, Light Blue)
12	Chassis Fan Connector (CHA_FAN3)	37	Floppy Connector (FLOPPY1)
13	SATA3 Connector (SATA3_2, White)	38	COM Port Header (COM1)
14	SATA3 Connector (SATA3_1, White)	39	Internal Audio Connector: CD1 (White)
15	Clear CMOS Jumper (CLRCMOS1)	40	Front Panel Audio Header (HD_AUDIO1, White)
16	Primary IDE Connector (IDE1, Blue)	41	HDMI_SPDIF Header (HDMI_SPDIF1, White)
17	Intel P55 Chipset	42	PCI Slots (PCI1-2)
18	Reset Switch (RSTBTN)	43	Infrared Module Header (IR1)
19	SATAII Connector (SATAII_3, Blue)	44	PCI Express 2.0 x16 Slot (PCIE5, Blue)
20	Power Switch (PWRBTN)	45	PCI Express 2.0 x1 Slot (PCIE4, White)
21	16Mb SPI Flash	46	PCI Express 2.0 x1 Slot (PCIE3, White)
22	Dr. Debug (LED)	47	PCI Express 2.0 x16 Slot (PCIE2, Blue)
23	SATAII Connector (SATAII_1, Blue)	48	PCI Express 2.0 x1 Slot (PCIE1, White)
24	SATAII Connector (SATAII_2, Blue)	49	USB_PWR2 Jumper
25	Chassis Fan Connector (CHA_FAN1)		

1.6 I/O Panel



1	PS/2 Mouse Port (Green)	10	Microphone (Pink)
2	Coaxial SPDIF Out Port	11	USB 2.0 Ports (USB45)
3	USB 2.0 Port (USB67)	12	USB 3.0 Ports (USB3_0_1)
* 4	LAN RJ-45 Port	13	USB 2.0 Ports (USB01)
5	Side Speaker (Gray)	14	eSATAIII Connector (eSATA3)
6	Rear Speaker (Black)	15	Optical SPDIF Out Port
7	Central / Bass (Orange)	16	Clear CMOS Switch (CLRCBTN)
8	Line In (Light Blue)	17	PS/2 Keyboard Port (Purple)
** 9	Front Speaker (Lime)		

* There are two LED next to the LAN port. Please refer to the table below for the LAN port LED indications.

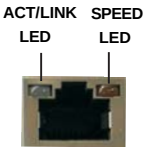
LAN Port LED Indications

Activity/Link LED

Status	Description
Off	No Link
Blinking	Data Activity
On	Link

SPEED LED

Status	Description
Off	10Mbps connection
Orange	100Mbps connection
Green	1Gbps connection



LAN Port

** If you use 2-channel speaker, please connect the speaker's plug into "Front Speaker Jack". See the table below for connection details in accordance with the type of speaker you use.

TABLE for Audio Output Connection

Audio Output Channels	Front Speaker (No. 9)	Rear Speaker (No. 6)	Central / Bass (No. 7)	Side Speaker (No. 5)
2	V	--	--	--
4	V	V	--	--
6	V	V	V	--
8	V	V	V	V

To enable Multi-Streaming function, you need to connect a front panel audio cable to the front panel audio header. After restarting your computer, you will find "Mixer" tool on your system. Please select "Mixer ToolBox" , click "Enable playback multi-streaming", and click "ok". Choose "2CH", "4CH", "6CH", or "8CH" and then you are allowed to select "Realtek HDA Primary output" to use Rear Speaker, Central/Bass, and Front Speaker, or select "Realtek HDA Audio 2nd output" to use front panel audio.

Chapter 2: Installation

This is an ATX form factor (12.0" x 9.6", 30.5 x 24.4 cm) motherboard. Before you install the motherboard, study the configuration of your chassis to ensure that the motherboard fits into it.

Make sure to unplug the power cord before installing or removing the motherboard. Failure to do so may cause physical injuries to you and damages to motherboard components.

2.1 Screw Holes

Place screws into the holes indicated by circles to secure the motherboard to the chassis.

Do not over-tighten the screws! Doing so may damage the motherboard.

2.2 Pre-installation Precautions

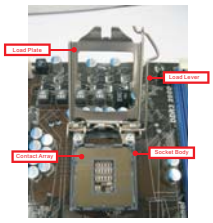
Take note of the following precautions before you install motherboard components or change any motherboard settings.

1. Unplug the power cord from the wall socket before touching any component.
2. To avoid damaging the motherboard components due to static electricity, NEVER place your motherboard directly on the carpet or the like. Also remember to use a grounded wrist strap or touch a safety grounded object before you handle components.
3. Hold components by the edges and do not touch the ICs.
4. Whenever you uninstall any component, place it on a grounded antistatic pad or in the bag that comes with the component.

Before you install or remove any component, ensure that the power is switched off or the power cord is detached from the power supply.
Failure to do so may cause severe damage to the motherboard, peripherals, and/or components.

2.3 CPU Installation

For the installation of Intel 1156-Pin CPU, please follow the steps below.



1156-Pin Socket Overview

Before you insert the 1156-Pin CPU into the socket, please check if the CPU surface is unclean or if there is any bent pin on the socket. Do not force to insert the CPU into the socket if above situation is found. Otherwise, the CPU will be seriously damaged.

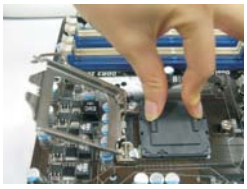
Step 1. Open the socket:

Step 1-1. Disengaging the lever by depressing down and out on the hook to clear retention tab.

Step 1-2. Rotate the load lever to fully open position at approximately 135 degrees.

Step 1-3. Rotate the load plate to fully open position at approximately 100 degrees.

Step 2. Remove PnP Cap (Pick and Place Cap).

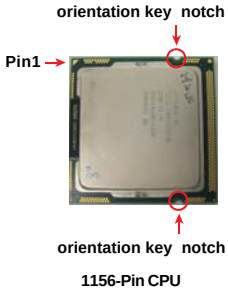


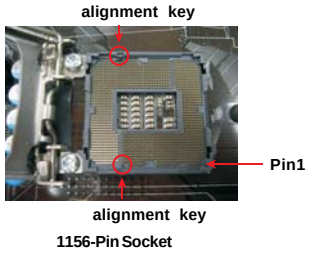
1. It is recommended to use the cap tab to handle and avoid kicking off the PnP cap.
2. This cap must be placed if returning the motherboard for after service.

Step 3. Insert the 1156-Pin CPU:

Step 3-1. Hold the CPU by the edge where is marked with black line.

Step 3-2. Orient the CPU with IHS (Integrated Heat Sink) up. Locate Pin1 and the two orientation key notches.





For proper inserting, please ensure to match the two orientation key notches of the CPU with the two alignment keys of the socket.

Step 3-3. Carefully place the CPU into the socket by using a purely vertical motion.

Step 3-4. Verify that the CPU is within the socket and properly mated to the orient keys.

Step 4. Close the socket:

Step 4-1. Rotate the load plate onto the IHS.

Step 4-2. While pressing down lightly on load plate, engage the load lever.

Step 4-3. Secure load lever with load plate tab under retention tab of load lever.

2.4 Installation of CPU Fan and Heatsink

This motherboard is equipped with 1156-Pin socket that supports Intel 1156-Pin CPU. Please adopt the type of heatsink and cooling fan compliant with Intel 1156-Pin CPU to dissipate heat. Before you installed the heatsink, you need to spray thermal interface material between the CPU and the heatsink to improve heat dissipation. Ensure that the CPU and the heatsink are securely fastened and in good contact with each other. Then connect the CPU fan to the CPU_FAN connector (CPU_FAN1, see page 12, No. 5).

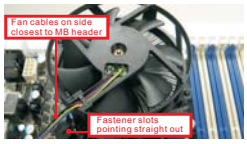
For proper installation, please kindly refer to the instruction manuals of your CPU fan and heatsink.

Below is an example to illustrate the installation of the heatsink for 1156-Pin CPU.

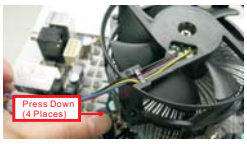
Step 1. Apply thermal interface material onto center of IHS on the socket surface.

Step 2. Place the heatsink onto the socket. Ensure fan cables are oriented on side closest to the CPU fan connector on the motherboard (CPU_FAN1, see page 12, No. 5).

Step 3. Align fasteners with the motherboard throughholes.



Step 4. Rotate the fastener clockwise, then press down on fastener caps with thumb to install and lock. Repeat with remaining fasteners.



If you press down the fasteners without rotating them clockwise, the heatsink cannot be secured on the motherboard.

Step 5. Connect fan header with the CPU fan connector on the motherboard.

Step 6. Secure excess cable with tie-wrap to ensure cable does not interfere with fan operation or contact other components.

Please be noticed that this motherboard supports Combo Cooler Option (C.C.O.), which provides the flexible option to adopt two different CPU cooler types, Socket LGA 775 and LGA 1156. The white throughholes are for Socket LGA 1156 CPU fan.

2.5 Installation of Memory Modules (DIMM)

This motherboard provides four 240-pin DDR3 (Double Data Rate 3) DIMM slots, and supports Dual Channel Memory Technology. For dual channel configuration, you always need to install **identical** (the same brand, speed, size and chip-type) DDR3 DIMM pair in the slots of the same color. In other words, you have to install **identical** DDR3 DIMM pair in **Dual Channel** (DDR3_A1 and DDR3_B1; white slots; see p.12 No.7), so that Dual Channel Memory Technology can be activated. This motherboard also allows you to install four DDR3 DIMMs for dual channel configuration, and please install **identical** DDR3 DIMMs in all four slots. You may refer to the Dual Channel Memory Configuration Table below.

Dual Channel Memory Configurations

	DDR3_A2 (Blue Slot)	DDR3_A1 (White Slot)	DDR3_B2 (Blue Slot)	DDR3_B1 (White Slot)
(1)	-	Populated	-	Populated
(2)*	Populated	Populated	Populated	Populated

* For the configuration (2), please install **identical** DDR3 DIMMs in all four slots.

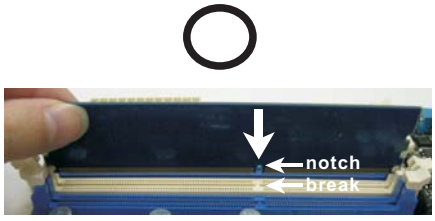
1. If you want to install two memory modules, for optimal compatibility and reliability, it is recommended to install them in the slots of the same color. In other words, install them either in the set of white slots (DDR3_A1 and DDR3_B1).
2. If only one memory module or three memory modules are installed in the DDR3 DIMM slots on this motherboard, it is unable to activate the Dual Channel Memory Technology.
3. It is not allowed to install a DDR or DDR2 memory module into DDR3 slot;otherwise, this motherboard and DIMM may be damaged.
4. Please install the memory module into the white slot (DDR3_B1) for the first priority.

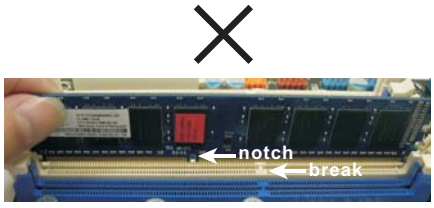
Installing a DIMM

Please make sure to disconnect power supply before adding or removing DIMMs or the system components.

Step 1. Unlock a DIMM slot by pressing the retaining clips outward.

Step 2. Align a DIMM on the slot such that the notch on the DIMM matches the break on the slot.





The DIMM only fits in one correct orientation. It will cause permanent damage to the motherboard and the DIMM if you force the DIMM into the slot at incorrect orientation.

Step 3. Firmly insert the DIMM into the slot until the retaining clips at both ends fully snap back in place and the DIMM is properly seated.

2.6 Expansion Slots (PCI and PCI Express Slots)

There are 2 PCI slots and 5 PCI Express slots on this motherboard.

PCI slots: PCI slots are used to install expansion cards that have the 32-bit PCI interface.

PCIE slots:

PCIE1 / PCIE3 / PCIE4 (PCIE x1 slot; White) is used for PCI Express cards with x1 lane width cards, such as Gigabit LAN card, SATA2 card, etc.

PCIE2 / PCIE5 (PCIE x16 slot; Blue) is used for PCI Express x16 lane width graphics cards, or used to install PCI Express graphics cards to support CrossFireX™ or SLI™ function.

1. In single VGA card mode, it is recommended to install a PCI Express x16 graphics card on PCIE2 slot.
2. In CrossFireX™ mode or SLI™ mode, please install PCI Express x16 graphics cards on PCIE2 and PCIE5 slots. Therefore, both these two slots will work at x8 bandwidth.
3. Please connect a chassis fan to motherboard chassis fan connector (CHA_FAN1, CHA_FAN2 or CHA_FAN3) when using multiple graphics cards for better thermal environment.

Installing an expansion card

Step 1. Before installing the expansion card, please make sure that the power supply is switched off or the power cord is unplugged. Please read the documentation of the expansion card and make necessary hardware settings for the card before you start the installation.

Step 2. Remove the system unit cover (if your motherboard is already installed in a chassis).

Step 3. Remove the bracket facing the slot that you intend to use. Keep the screws for later use.

Step 4. Align the card connector with the slot and press firmly until the card is completely seated on the slot.

Step 5. Fasten the card to the chassis with screws.

Step 6. Replace the system cover.

2.7 SLI™ and Quad SLI™ Operation Guide

This motherboard supports NVIDIA® SLI™ and Quad SLI™ (Scalable Link Interface) technology that allows you to install up to two identical PCI Express x16 graphics cards. Currently, NVIDIA® SLI™ technology supports Windows® XP / XP 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / 7 / 7 64-bit OS. NVIDIA® Quad SLI™ technology support Windows® Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / 7 / 7 64-bit OS only. Please follow the installation procedures in this section.

Requirements

1. For SLI™ or Quad SLI™ technology, you should have two identical SLI™-ready graphics cards that are NVIDIA® certified.
2. Make sure that your graphics card driver supports NVIDIA® SLI™ technology. Download the driver from NVIDIA® website (www.nvidia.com).
3. Make sure that your power supply unit (PSU) can provide at least the minimum power required by your system. It is recommended to use NVIDIA® certified PSU. Please refer to NVIDIA® website for details.

2.7.1 Graphics Card Setup

2.7.1.1 Installing Two SLI™-Ready Graphics Cards

Step 1. Install the identical SLI™-ready graphics cards that are NVIDIA® certified because different types of graphics cards will not work together properly. (Even the GPU chips version shall be the same.) Insert one graphics card into PCIE2 slot and the other graphics card to PCIE5 slot. Make sure that the cards are properly seated on the slots.

Step2. If required, connect the auxiliary power source to the PCI Express graphics cards.

Step3. Align and insert ASRock SLI_Bridge_2S Card to the goldfingers on each graphics card. Make sure ASRock SLI_Bridge_2S Card is firmly in place.

ASRock SLI_Bridge_2S Card

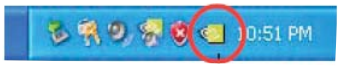
Step4. Connect a VGA cable or a DVI cable to the monitor connector or the DVI connector of the graphics card that is inserted to PCIE2 slot.

2.7.2 Driver Installation and Setup

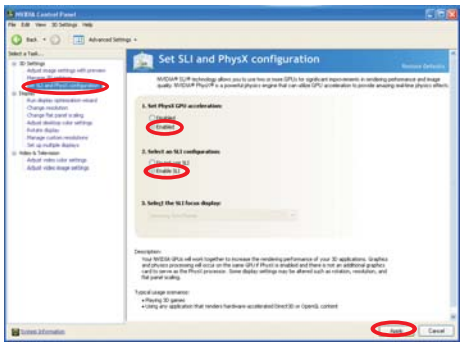
Install the graphics card drivers to your system. After that, you can enable the Multi-Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) feature in the NVIDIA® nView system tray utility. Please follow the below procedures to enable the multi-GPU feature.

For Windows® XP / XP 64-bit OS:
(For SLI™ mode only)

A. Double-click **NVIDIA Settings icon** on your Windows® taskbar.



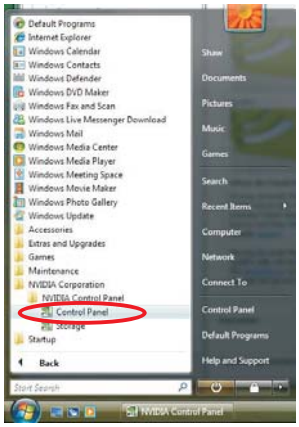
B. From the pop-up menu, select **Set SLI and PhysX configuration**. In **Set PhysX GPU acceleration** item, please select **Enabled**. In **Select an SLI configuration** item, please select **Enable SLI**. And click **Apply**.



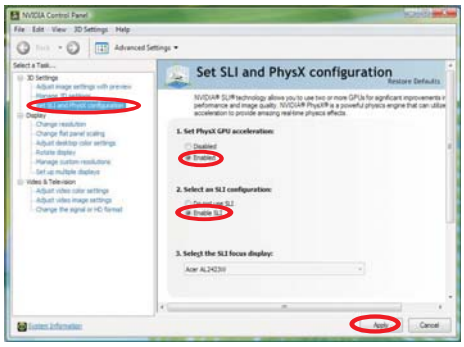
C. Reboot your system.
D. You can freely enjoy the benefit of SLI™ feature.

For Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit OS:
(For SLI™ and Quad SLI™ mode)

A. Click the **Start** icon on your Windows taskbar.
B. From the pop-up menu, select **All Programs**, and then click **NVIDIA Corporation**.
C. Select **NVIDIA Control Panel** tab.
D. Select **Control Panel** tab.



E. From the pop-up menu, select **Set SLI and PhysX configuration**. In **Set PhysX GPU acceleration** item, please select **Enabled**. In **Select an SLI configuration** item, please select **Enable SLI**. And click **Apply**.



F. Reboot your system.
G. You can freely enjoy the benefit of SLI™ or Quad SLI™ feature.

* SLI™ appearing here is a registered trademark of NVIDIA® Technologies Inc., and is used only for identification or explanation and to the owners' benefit, without intent to infringe.

2.8 CrossFireX™ and Quad CrossFireX™ Operation Guide

This motherboard supports CrossFireX™ and Quad CrossFireX™ feature. CrossFireX™ technology offers the most advantageous means available of combining multiple high performance Graphics Processing Units (GPU) in a single PC. Combining a range of different operating modes with intelligent software design and an innovative interconnect mechanism, CrossFireX™ enables the highest possible level of performance and image quality in any 3D application. Currently CrossFireX™ feature is supported with Windows® XP with Service Pack 2 / Vista™ / 7 OS. Quad CrossFireX™ feature are supported with Windows® Vista™ / 7 OS only. Please check AMD website for ATI™ CrossFireX™ driver updates.

1. If a customer incorrectly configures their system they will not see the performance benefits of CrossFireX™. All three CrossFireX™ components, a CrossFireX™ Ready graphics card, a CrossFireX™ Ready motherboard and a CrossFireX™ Edition co-processor graphics card, must be installed correctly to benefit from the CrossFireX™ multi-GPU platform.
2. If you pair a 12-pipe CrossFireX™ Edition card with a 16-pipe card, both cards will operate as 12-pipe cards while in CrossFireX™ mode.

2.8.1 Graphics Card Setup

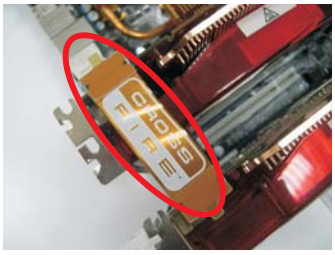
2.8.1.1 Installing Two CrossFireX™-Ready Graphics Cards

Different CrossFireX™ cards may require different methods to enable CrossFireX™ feature. In below procedures, we use Radeon HD 3870 as the example graphics card. For other CrossFireX™ cards that ATI™ has released or will release in the future, please refer to ATI™ graphics card manuals for detailed installation guide.

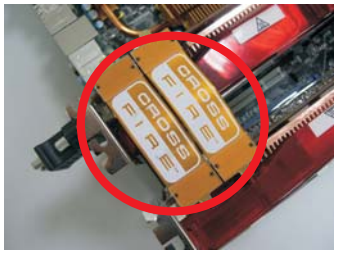
Step 1. Insert one Radeon graphics card into PCIE2 slot and the other Radeon graphics card to PCIE5 slot. Make sure that the cards are properly seated on the slots.

Step 2. Connect two Radeon graphics cards by installing CrossFire Bridge on CrossFire Bridge Interconnects on the top of Radeon graphics cards. (CrossFire Bridge is provided with the graphics card you purchase, not bundled with this motherboard. Please refer to your graphics card vendor for details.)

CrossFire Bridge



or



Step 3. Connect the DVI monitor cable to the DVI connector on the Radeon graphics card on PCIE2 slot. (You may use the DVI to D-Sub adapter to convert the DVI connector to D-Sub interface, and then connect the D-Sub monitor cable to the DVI to D-Sub adapter.)

2.8.2 Driver Installation and Setup

Step 1. Power on your computer and boot into OS.

Step 2. Remove the ATI™ driver if you have any VGA driver installed in your system.

The Catalyst Uninstaller is an optional download. We recommend using this utility to uninstall any previously installed Catalyst drivers prior to installation. Please check AMD website for ATI™ driver updates.

Step 3. Install the required drivers to your system.

For Windows® XP OS:

A. ATI™ recommends Windows® XP Service Pack 2 or higher to be installed (If you have Windows® XP Service Pack 2 or higher installed in your system, there is no need to download it again):
http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/sp2/default.mspx

B. You must have Microsoft .NET Framework installed prior to downloading and installing the CATALYST Control Center. Please check Microsoft website for details.

For Windows® 7 / Vista™ OS:

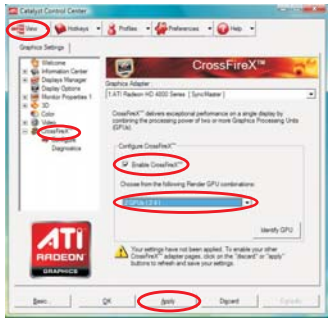
Install the CATALYST Control Center. Please check AMD website for details.

Step 4. Restart your computer.

Step 5. Install the VGA card drivers to your system, and restart your computer. Then you will find "ATI Catalyst Control Center" on your Windows® taskbar.

ATI Catalyst Control Center

Step 6. Double-click "ATI Catalyst Control Center". Click "View", select "CrossFireX™", and then check the item "Enable CrossFireX™". Select the option according to the total GPU number on the Radeon graphics cards. Click "Apply".



Although you have selected the option "Enable CrossFire™", the CrossFireX™ function may not work actually. Your computer will automatically reboot. After restarting your computer, please confirm whether the option "Enable CrossFire™" in "ATI Catalyst Control Center" is selected or not; if not, please select it again, and then you are able to enjoy the benefit of CrossFireX™ feature.

Step 7. You can freely enjoy the benefit of CrossFireX™ or Quad CrossFireX™ feature.

* CrossFireX™ appearing here is a registered trademark of ATI™ Technologies Inc., and is used only for identification or explanation and to the owners' benefit, without intent to infringe.
* For further information of ATI™ CrossFireX™ technology, please check AMD website for updates and details.

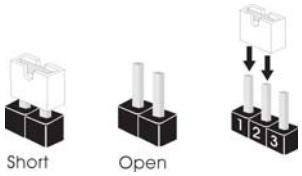
2.9 Surround Display Feature

This motherboard supports Surround Display upgrade. With the external add-on PCI Express VGA cards, you can easily enjoy the benefits of Surround Display feature. For the detailed instruction, please refer to the document at the following path in the Support CD:

..\ Surround Display Information

2.10 Jumpers Setup

The illustration shows how jumpers are setup. When the jumper cap is placed on pins, the jumper is “Short”. If no jumper cap is placed on pins, the jumper is “Open”. The illustration shows a 3-pin jumper whose pin1 and pin2 are “Short” when jumper cap is placed on these 2 pins.



Jumper	Setting	
PS2_USB_PWR1 (see p.12, No. 2)	1_2 +5V; 2_3 +5VSB	Short pin2, pin3 to enable +5VSB (standby) for PS/2 or USB67 wake up events.
USB_PWR2 (see p.12, No.49)	1_2 +5V; 2_3 +5V_DUAL	Short pin2, pin3 to enable +5V_DUAL for USB01/45 wake up events.
USB_PWR3 (see p.12, No. 31)	1_2 +5V; 2_3 +5VSB	Short pin2, pin3 to enable +5VSB (standby) for USB8_9/10_11/12_13 wake up events.
Clear CMOS Jumper (CLRCMOS1) (see p.12, No. 15)	1_2 Default; 2_3 Clear CMOS	

Note: To select +5VSB, it requires 2 Amp and higher standby current provided by power supply.

Note: To select +5V_DUAL, it requires 2 Amp and higher standby current provided by power supply. When you select +5V_DUAL, USB devices can wake up the system under S3 (Suspend to RAM) state.

Note: To select +5VSB, it requires 2 Amp and higher standby current provided by power supply.

Note: CLRCMOS1 allows you to clear the data in CMOS. The data in CMOS includes system setup information such as system password, date, time, and system setup parameters. To clear and reset the system parameters to default setup, please turn off the computer and unplug the power cord from the power supply. After waiting for 15 seconds, use a jumper cap to short pin2 and pin3 on CLRCMOS1 for 5 seconds. However, please do not clear the CMOS right after you update the BIOS. If you need to clear the CMOS when you just finish updating the BIOS, you must boot up the system first, and then shut it down before you do the clear-CMOS action.

2.11 Onboard Headers and Connectors

Onboard headers and connectors are NOT jumpers. Do NOT place jumper caps over these headers and connectors. Placing jumper caps over the headers and connectors will cause permanent damage of the motherboard!

FDD connector

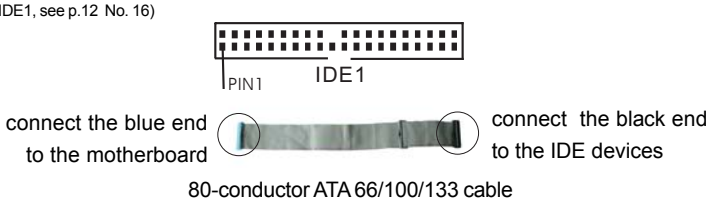
(33-pin FLOPPY1)

(see p.12 No. 37)

Note: Make sure the red-striped side of the cable is plugged into Pin1 side of the connector.

Primary IDE connector (Blue)

(39-pin IDE1, see p.12 No. 16)

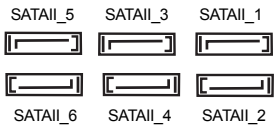


80-conductor ATA 66/100/133 cable

Note: Please refer to the instruction of your IDE device vendor for the details.

Serial ATAII Connectors

(SATAII_1: see p.12, No. 23)
(SATAII_2: see p.12, No. 24)
(SATAII_3: see p.12, No. 19)
(SATAII_4: see p.12, No. 27)
(SATAII_5: see p.12, No. 33)
(SATAII_6: see p.12, No. 30)



These six Serial ATAII (SATAII) connectors support SATA data cables for internal storage devices. The current SATAII interface allows up to 3.0 Gb/s data transfer rate.

Serial ATA3 Connectors

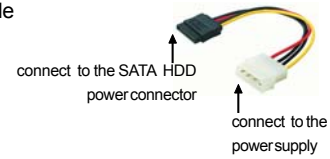
(SATA3_1: see p.12, No. 14)
(SATA3_2: see p.12, No. 13)
(SATA3_3: see p.12, No. 11)
(SATA3_4: see p.12, No. 10)

These four Serial ATA3 (SATA3) connectors support SATA data cables for internal storage devices. The current SATA3 interface allows up to 6.0 Gb/s data transfer rate.

Serial ATA (SATA) Data Cable (Optional)

Either end of the SATA data cable can be connected to the SATA / SATAII / SATA3 hard disk or the SATAII / SATA3 connector on this motherboard.

Serial ATA (SATA) Power Cable (Optional)

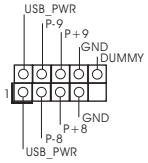


Please connect the black end of SATA power cable to the power connector on each drive. Then connect the white end of SATA power cable to the power connector of the power supply.

USB 2.0 Headers

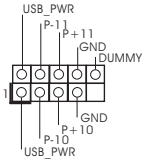
(9-pin USB8_9)

(see p.12 No. 32)



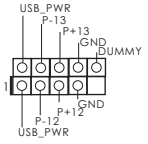
(9-pin USB10_11)

(see p.12 No. 34)



(9-pin USB12_13)

(see p.12 No. 35)

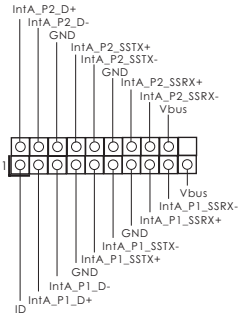


Besides six default USB 2.0 ports on the I/O panel, there are three USB 2.0 headers on this motherboard. Each USB 2.0 header can support two USB 2.0 ports.

USB 3.0 Header

(19-pin USB3_2_3)

(see p.12 No. 36)

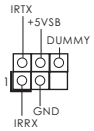


Besides two default USB 3.0 ports on the I/O panel, there is one USB 3.0 header on this motherboard. This USB 3.0 header can support two USB 3.0 ports.

Infrared Module Header

(5-pin IR1)

(see p.12 No. 43)



This header supports an optional wireless transmitting and receiving infrared module.

Internal Audio Connectors

(4-pin CD1)

(CD1: see p.12 No. 39)

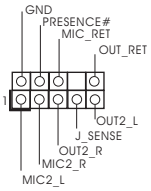
CD1

This connector allows you to receive stereo audio input from sound sources such as a CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, TV tuner card, or MPEG card.

Front Panel Audio Header

(9-pin HD_AUDIO1)

(see p.12 No. 40)



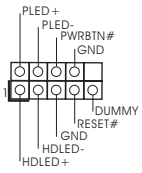
This is an interface for front panel audio cable that allows convenient connection and control of audio devices.

1. High Definition Audio supports Jack Sensing, but the panel wire on the chassis must support HDA to function correctly. Please follow the instruction in our manual and chassis manual to install your system.
2. If you use AC'97 audio panel, please install it to the front panel audio header as below:
   A. Connect Mic_IN (MIC) to MIC2_L.
   B. Connect Audio_R (RIN) to OUT2_R and Audio_L (LIN) to OUT2_L.
   C. Connect Ground (GND) to Ground (GND).
   D. MIC_RET and OUT_RET are for HD audio panel only. You don't need to connect them for AC'97 audio panel.
   E. To activate the front mic.
   For Windows® XP / XP 64-bit OS:
   Select "Mixer". Select "Recorder". Then click "FrontMic".
   For Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit OS:
   Go to the "FrontMic" Tab in the Realtek Control panel. Adjust "Recording Volume".

System Panel Header

(9-pin PANEL1)

(see p.12 No. 26)

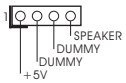
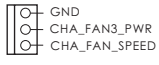
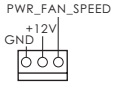


This header accommodates several system front panel functions.

Connect the power switch, reset switch and system status indicator on the chassis to this header according to the pin assignments below. Note the positive and negative pins before connecting the cables.

PWRBTN (Power Switch):
Connect to the power switch on the chassis front panel. You may configure the way to turn off your system using the power switch.
RESET (Reset Switch):
Connect to the reset switch on the chassis front panel. Press the reset switch to restart the computer if the computer freezes and fails to perform a normal restart.
PLED (System Power LED):
Connect to the power status indicator on the chassis front panel. The LED is on when the system is operating. The LED keeps blinking when the sys-tem is in S1 sleep state. The LED is off when the system is in S3/S4 sleep state or powered off (S5).
HDLED (Hard Drive Activity LED):
Connect to the hard drive activity LED on the chassis front panel. The LED is on when the hard drive is reading or writing data.

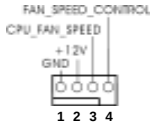
The front panel design may differ by chassis. A front panel module mainly consists of power switch, reset switch, power LED, hard drive activity LED, speaker and etc. When connecting your chassis front panel module to this header, make sure the wire assignments and the pin assign-ments are matched correctly.

Chassis Speaker Header (4-pin SPEAKER 1) (see p.12 No. 29)		Please connect the chassis speaker to this header.
Power LED Header (3-pin PLED1) (see p.12 No. 28)		Please connect the chassis power LED to this header to indicate system power status. The LED is on when the system is operating. The LED keeps blinking in S1 state. The LED is off in S3/S4 state or S5 state (power off).
Chassis and Power Fan Connectors (4-pin CHA_FAN1) (see p.12 No. 25) (3-pin CHA_FAN2) (see p.12 No. 8) (3-pin CHA_FAN3) (see p.12 No. 12) (3-pin PWR_FAN1) (see p.12 No. 3)	  	Please connect the fan cables to the fan connectors and match the black wire to the ground pin.

CPU Fan Connector

(4-pin CPU_FAN1)

(see p.12 No. 5)



Please connect a CPU fan cable to this connector and match the black wire to the ground pin.

Though this motherboard provides 4-Pin CPU fan (Quiet Fan) support, the 3-Pin CPU fan still can work successfully even without the fan speed control function. If you plan to connect the 3-Pin CPU fan to the CPU fan connector on this motherboard, please connect it to Pin 1-3.

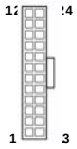
Pin 1-3 Connected

3-Pin Fan Installation

ATX Power Connector

(24-pin ATXPWR1)

(see p.12, No. 9)



Please connect an ATX power supply to this connector.

Though this motherboard provides 24-pin ATX power connector, it can still work if you adopt a traditional 20-pin ATX power supply. To use the 20-pin ATX power supply, please plug your power supply along with Pin 1 and Pin 13.

20-Pin ATX Power Supply Installation

ATX 12V Power Connector

(8-pin ATX12V1)

(see p.12 No. 1)

Please connect an ATX 12V power supply to this connector.

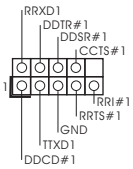
Though this motherboard provides 8-pin ATX 12V power connector, it can still work if you adopt a traditional 4-pin ATX 12V power supply. To use the 4-pin ATX power supply, please plug your power supply along with Pin 1 and Pin 5.

4-Pin ATX 12V Power Supply Installation

Serial port Header

(9-pin COM1)

(see p.12 No.38)



This COM1 header supports a serial port module.

HDMI_SPDIF Header (2-pin HDMI_SPDIF1) (see p.12 No. 41)		HDMI_SPDIF header, providing SPDIF audio output to HDMI VGA card, allows the system to connect HDMI Digital TV/ projector/LCD devices. Please connect the HDMI_SPDIF connector of HDMI VGA card to this header.
Front USB 3.0 Panel		This front USB 3.0 panel can support 2 additional USB 3.0 ports besides the I/O panel. Please connect the light blue connector on the cable of this front USB 3.0 panel to the USB 3.0 header (USB3_2_3) and fasten the front USB 3.0 panel to the chassis with the bundled six screws.

2.12 Smart Switches

This motherboard has three smart switches: power switch, reset switch and clear CMOS switch, allowing users to quickly turn on/off or reset the system or clear the CMOS values.

Power Switch (PWRBTN) (see p.12 No. 20)		Power Switch is a smart switch, allowing users to quickly turn on/off the system.
Reset Switch (RSTBTN) (see p.12 No. 18)		Reset Switch is a smart switch, allowing users to quickly reset the system.
Clear CMOS Switch (CLRCBTN) (see p.13 No. 16)		Clear CMOS Switch is a smart switch, allowing users to quickly clear the CMOS values

You are not allowed to use Clear CMOS switch function if you set up the system password. If you want to clear the CMOS values, please clean your system password in advance or refer to page 29 “Clear CMOS jumper” description instead.

2.13 Dr. Debug

Dr. Debug is used to provide code information, which makes troubleshooting even easier. Please see the diagrams below for reading the Dr. Debug codes.

The Bootblock initialization code sets up the chipset, memory and other components before system memory is available. The following table describes the type of checkpoints that may occur during the bootblock initialization portion of the BIOS:

Checkpoint	Description
Before D1	Early chipset initialization is done. Early super I/O initialization is done including RTC and keyboard controller. NMI is disabled.
D1	Perform keyboard controller BAT test. Check if waking up from power management suspend state. Save power-on CPUID value in scratch CMOS.
D0	Go to flat mode with 4GB limit and GA20 enabled. Verify the bootblock checksum.
D2	Disable CACHE before memory detection. Execute full memory sizing module. Verify that flat mode is enabled.
D3	If memory sizing module not executed, start memory refresh and do memory sizing in Bootblock code. Do additional chipset initialization. Re-enable CACHE. Verify that flat mode is enabled.
D4	Test base 512KB memory. Adjust policies and cache first 8MB. Set stack.
D5	Bootblock code is copied from ROM to lower system memory and control is given to it. BIOS now executes out of RAM.
D6	Both key sequence and OEM specific method is checked to determine if BIOS recovery is forced. Main BIOS checksum is tested. If BIOS recovery is necessary, control flows to checkpoint E0.
D7	Restore CPUID value back into register. The Bootblock-Runtime interface module is moved to system memory and control is given to it. Determine whether to execute serial flash.
D8	The Runtime module is uncompressed into memory. CPUID information is stored in memory.
D9	Store the Uncompressed pointer for future use in PMM. Copying Main BIOS into memory. Leaves all RAM below 1MB Read-Write including E000 and F000 shadow areas but closing SMRAM.
DA	Restore CPUID value back into register. Give control to BIOS POST (ExecutePOSTKernel).

The POST code checkpoints are the largest set of checkpoints during the BIOS pre-boot process. The following table describes the type of checkpoints that may occur during the POST portion of the BIOS:

Checkpoint	Description
03	Disable NMI, Parity, video for EGA, and DMA controllers. Initialize BIOS, POST, Runtime data area. Also initialize BIOS modules on POST entry and GPNV area. Initialized CMOS as mentioned in the Kernel Variable "wCMOSFlags."
04	Check CMOS diagnostic byte to determine if battery power is OK and CMOS checksum is OK. Verify CMOS checksum manually by reading storage area. If the CMOS checksum is bad, update CMOS with power-on default values and clear passwords. Initialize status register A. Initializes data variables that are based on CMOS setup questions. Initializes both the 8259 compatible PICs in the system
05	Initializes the interrupt controlling hardware (generally PIC) and interrupt vector table.
06	Do R/W test to CH-2 count reg. Initialize CH-0 as system timer. Install the POSTINT1Ch handler. Enable IRQ-0 in PIC for system timer interrupt. Traps INT1Ch vector to "POSTINT1ChHandlerBlock."
08	Initializes the CPU. The BAT test is being done on KBC. Program the keyboard controller command byte is being done after Auto detection of KB/MS using AMI KB-5.
C0	Early CPU Init Start — Disable Cache - Init Local APIC
C1	Set up boot strap proccessor Information
C2	Set up boot strap proccessor for POST
C5	Enumerate and set up application proccessors
C6	Re-enable cache for boot strap proccessor
C7	Early CPU Init Exit
0A	Initializes the 8042 compatible Key Board Controller.
0B	Detects the presence of PS/2 mouse.
0C	Detects the presence of Keyboard in KBC port.
0E	Testing and initialization of different Input Devices. Also, update the Kernel Variables. Traps the INT09h vector, so that the POST INT09h handler gets control for IRQ1. Uncompress all available language, BIOS logo, and Silent logo modules.
13	Early POST initialization of chipset registers.
24	Uncompress and initialize any platform specific BIOS modules.
30	Initialize System Management Interrupt.
2A	Initializes different devices through DIM. See DIM Code Checkpoints section of document for more information.
2C	Initializes different devices. Detects and initializes the video adapter installed in the system that have optional ROMs.
2E	Initializes all the output devices.
31	Allocate memory for ADM module and uncompress it. Give control to ADM module for initialization. Initialize language and font modules for ADM. Activate ADM module.

33	Initializes the silent boot module. Set the window for displaying text information.
37	Displaying sign-on message, CPU information, setup key message, and any OEM specific information.
38	Initializes different devices through DIM.
39	Initializes DMAC-1 & DMAC-2.
3A	Initialize RTC date/time.
3B	Test for total memory installed in the system. Also, Check for DEL or ESC keys to limit memory test. Display total memory in the system.
3C	Mid POST initialization of chipset registers.
40	Detect different devices (Parallel ports, serial ports, and coprocessor in CPU, etc.) successfully installed in the system and update the BDA, EBDA, etc.
50	Programming the memory hole or any kind of implementation that needs an adjustment in system RAM size if needed.
52	Updates CMOS memory size from memory found in memory test. Allocates memory for Extended BIOS Data Area from base memory.
60	Initializes NUM-LOCK status and programs the KBD typematic rate.
75	Initialize Int-13 and prepare for IPL detection.
78	Initializes IPL devices controlled by BIOS and option ROMs.
7A	Initializes remaining option ROMs.
7C	Generate and write contents of ESCD in NVRam.
84	Log errors encountered during POST.
85	Display errors to the user and gets the user response for error.
87	Execute BIOS setup if needed / requested.
8C	Late POST initialization of chipset registers.
8D	Build ACPI tables (if ACPI is supported)
8E	Program the peripheral parameters. Enable/Disable NMI as selected
90	Late POST initialization of system management interrupt.
A0	Check boot password if installed.
A1	Clean-up work needed before booting to OS.
A2	Takes care of runtime image preparation for different BIOS modules. Fill the free area in F000h segment with 0FFh. Initializes the Microsoft IRQ Routing Table. Prepares the runtime language module. Disables the system configuration display if needed.
A4	Initialize runtime language module.
A7	Displays the system configuration screen if enabled. Initialize the CPU's before boot, which includes the programming of the MTRR's.
A8	Prepare CPU for OS boot including final MTRR values.
A9	Wait for user input at config display if needed.
AA	Uninstall POST INT1Ch vector and INT09h vector. Deinitializes the ADM module.
AB	Prepare BBS for Int 19 boot.
AC	End of POST initialization of chipset registers.
B1	Save system context for ACPI.
00	Passes control to OS Loader (typically INT19h).

2.14 Serial ATA (SATA) / Serial ATAII (SATAII) Hard Disks Installation

This motherboard adopts Intel® P55 chipset that supports Serial ATA (SATA) / Serial ATAII (SATAII) hard disks and RAID (RAID 0, RAID 1, RAID 10, RAID 5, and Intel Rapid Storage) functions. You may install SATA / SATAII hard disks on this motherboard for internal storage devices. This section will guide you to install the SATA / SATAII hard disks.

STEP 1: Install the SATA / SATAII hard disks into the drive bays of your chassis.
STEP 2: Connect the SATA power cable to the SATA / SATAII hard disk.
STEP 3: Connect one end of the SATA data cable to the motherboard's SATAII connector.
STEP 4: Connect the other end of the SATA data cable to the SATA / SATAII hard disk.

It is not recommended to switch the "SATAII Operation Mode" setting between AHCI, RAID and IDE mode after OS installation.

2.15 Serial ATA3 (SATA3) Hard Disks Installation

This motherboard adopts Marvell SE9128 chipset that supports Serial ATA3 (SATA3) hard disks and RAID (RAID 0 and RAID 1) functions for SATA3_1 and SATA3_2 connectors. It also adopts Marvell SE9123/9120 chipset that supports Serial ATA3 (SATA3) hard disks for SATA3_3 and SATA3_4 connectors. You may install SATA3 hard disks on this motherboard for internal storage devices. This section will guide you to install the SATA3 hard disks.

STEP 1: Install the SATA3 hard disks into the drive bays of your chassis.
STEP 2: Connect the SATA power cable to the SATA3 hard disk.
STEP 3: Connect one end of the SATA data cable to the motherboard's SATA3 connector.
STEP 4: Connect the other end of the SATA data cable to the SATA3 hard disk.

It is not recommended to switch the "SATA3_1, 2 Operation Mode" and "SATA3_3, 4 Operation Mode" settings between AHCI and IDE mode after OS installation.

2.16 Hot Plug and Hot Swap Functions for SATA / SATAII HDDs

This motherboard supports Hot Plug and Hot Swap functions for SATA / SATAII in RAID / AHCI mode. Intel® P55 chipset provides hardware support for Advanced Host controller Interface (AHCI), a new programming interface for SATA host controllers developed thru a joint industry effort.

NOTE

What is Hot Plug Function?

If the SATA / SATAII HDDs are NOT set for RAID configuration, it is called "Hot Plug" for the action to insert and remove the SATA / SATAII HDDs while the system is still power-on and in working condition.
However, please note that it cannot perform Hot Plug if the OS has been installed into the SATA / SATAII HDD.

What is Hot Swap Function?

If SATA / SATAII HDDs are built as RAID1 or RAID 5 then it is called "Hot Swap" for the action to insert and remove the SATA / SATAII HDDs while the system is still power-on and in working condition.

2.17 Hot Plug and Hot Swap Functions for SATA3 HDDs

This motherboard supports Hot Plug and Hot Swap functions for SATA3_1 and SATA3_2 in RAID / AHCI mode. It also supports Hot Plug function for SATA3_3 and SATA3_4 in AHCI mode. Marvell SE9128/9123/9120 chipset provides hardware support for Advanced Host controller Interface (AHCI), a new programming interface for SATA host controllers developed thru a joint industry effort.

NOTE

What is Hot Plug Function?

If the SATA3 HDDs are NOT set for RAID configuration, it is called "Hot Plug" for the action to insert and remove the SATA3 HDDs while the system is still power-on and in working condition.
However, please note that it cannot perform Hot Plug if the OS has been installed into the SATA3 HDD.

What is Hot Swap Function?

If SATA3 HDDs are built as RAID1 then it is called "Hot Swap" for the action to insert and remove the SATA3 HDDs while the system is still power-on and in working condition.

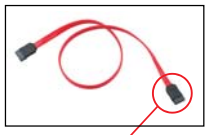
2.18 SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD Hot Plug Feature and Operation Guide

This motherboard supports Hot Plug feature for SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD in RAID / AHCI mode. Please read below operation guide of Hot Plug feature carefully. Before you process the SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD Hot Plug, please check below cable accessories from the motherboard gift box pack.

A. 7-pin SATA data cable

B. SATA power cable with SATA 15-pin power connector interface

A. SATA data cable (Red)



SATA 7-pin connector

B. SATA power cable

The SATA 15-pin power connector (Black) connect to SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD

1x4-pin conventional power connector (White) connect to power supply

Caution

1. Without SATA 15-pin power connector interface, the SATA / SATAII / SATA3 Hot Plug cannot be processed.
2. Even some SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDDs provide both SATA 15-pin power connector and IDE 1x4-pin conventional power connector interfaces, the IDE 1x4-pin conventional power connector interface is definitely not able to support Hot Plug and will cause the HDD damage and data loss.

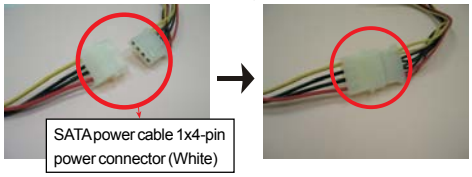
Points of attention, before you process the Hot Plug:

1. Below operation procedure is designed only for our motherboard, which supports SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD Hot Plug.
   * The SATA / SATAII / SATA3 Hot Plug feature might not be supported by the chipset because of its limitation, the SATA / SATAII / SATA3 Hot Plug support information of our motherboard is indicated in the product spec on our website: www.asrock.com
2. Make sure your SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD can support Hot Plug function from your dealer or HDD user manual. The SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD, which cannot support Hot Plug function, will be damaged under the Hot Plug operation.
3. Please make sure the SATA / SATAII / SATA3 driver is installed into system properly. The latest SATA / SATAII / SATA3 driver is available on our support website: www.asrock.com
4. Make sure to use the SATA power cable & data cable, which are from our motherboard package.
5. Please follow below instructions step by step to reduce the risk of HDD crash or data loss.

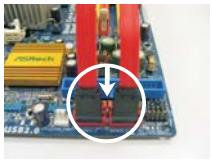
How to Hot Plug a SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD:

Points of attention, before you process the Hot Plug:
Please do follow below instruction sequence to process the Hot Plug, improper procedure will cause the SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD damage and data loss.

Step *1* Please connect SATA power cable 1x4-pin end (White) to the power supply 1x4-pin cable.



Step *2* Connect SATA data cable to the motherboard's SATAII / SATA3 connector.



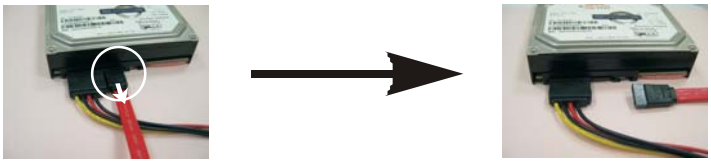
Step *3* Connect SATA 15-pin power cable connector (Black) end to SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD.

Step *4* Connect SATA data cable to the SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD.

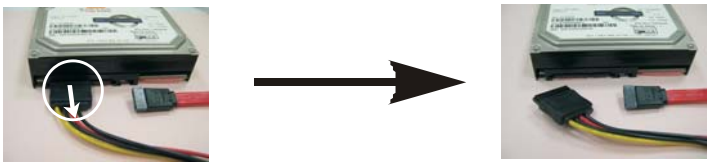
How to Hot Unplug a SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD:

Points of attention, before you process the Hot Unplug:
Please do follow below instruction sequence to process the Hot Unplug, improper procedure will cause the SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD damage and data loss.

Step *1* Unplug SATA data cable from SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD side.



Step *2* Unplug SATA 15-pin power cable connector (Black) from SATA / SATAII / SATA3 HDD side.



2.19 Driver Installation Guide

To install the drivers to your system, please insert the support CD to your optical drive first. Then, the drivers compatible to your system can be auto-detected and listed on the support CD driver page. Please follow the order from up to bottom side to install those required drivers. Therefore, the drivers you install can work properly.

2.20 Installing Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / XP / XP 64-bit With RAID Functions

If you want to install Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / XP / XP 64-bit OS on your SATA / SATAII HDDs with RAID functions, please follow below procedures according to the OS you install.

2.20.1 Installing Windows® XP / XP 64-bit With RAID Functions

If you want to install Windows® XP / XP 64-bit on your SATA / SATAII HDDs with RAID functions, please follow below steps.

STEP 1: Set up BIOS.

A. Enter BIOS SETUP UTILITY → Advanced screen→ Storage Configuration.

B. Set the option "SATAII Operation Mode" to [RAID].

STEP 2: Make a SATA / SATAII Driver Diskette.

A. Insert the Support CD into your optical drive to boot your system.

B. During POST at the beginning of system boot-up, press <F11> key, and then a window for boot devices selection appears. Please select CD-ROM as the boot device.

C. When you see the message on the screen, "Do you want to generate Serial ATA driver diskette [YN]?", press <Y>.

D. Then you will see these messages,

Please insert a diskette into the floppy drive.
WARNING! Formatting the floppy diskette will
lose ALL data in it!
Start to format and copy files [YN]?
Please insert a floppy diskette into the floppy drive, and press <Y>.

E. The system will start to format the floppy diskette and copy SATA / SATAII drivers into the floppy diskette.

STEP 3: Use "RAID Installation Guide" to set RAID configuration.
Before you start to configure the RAID function, you need to check the installation guide in the Support CD for proper configuration. Please refer to the document in the Support CD, "Guide to SATA Hard Disks Installation and RAID Configuration", which is located in the folder at the following path:
.. \ RAID Installation Guide
STEP 4: Install Windows® XP / XP 64-bit OS on your system.
After making a SATA / SATAII driver diskette and using "RAID Installation Guide" to set RAID configuration, you can start to install Windows® XP / XP 64-bit on your system. At the beginning of Windows setup, press F6 to install a third-party RAID driver. When prompted, insert the SATA / SATAII driver diskette containing the Intel® RAID driver. After reading the floppy disk, the driver will be presented. Select the driver to install according to the mode you choose and the OS you install.

After the installation of Windows® XP / XP-64bit OS, if you want to manage RAID functions, you are allowed to use both "RAID Installation Guide" and "Intel Rapid Storage Information" for RAID configuration. Please refer to the document in the Support CD, "Guide to SATA Hard Disks Installation and RAID Configuration", which is located in the folder at the following path: **.. \ RAID Installation Guide** and the document in the support CD, "Guide to Intel Rapid Storage", which is located in the folder at the following path:
.. \ Intel Rapid Storage Information

1. If you want to use "Intel Rapid Storage" in Windows® environment, please install "SATAII driver" from the Support CD again so that "Intel Rapid Storage" will be installed to your system as well.
2. Marvell SATA3 RAID Utility does not support rebuild function under Windows®. If you wants to use RAID1 rebuild function, please do it under Marvell RAID ROM.

2.20.2 Setting Up a "RAID Ready" System

You can also set up a "RAID Ready" system with a single SATA / SATAII hard disk. A "RAID Ready" system can be seamlessly upgraded to RAID 0, RAID 1 or RAID 5 at a later date by using RAID migration feature of Intel Rapid Storage. The following steps outline how to build an Intel "RAID Ready" system.

1. Assemble the system and attach a single SATA / SATAII hard drive.
2. Set up system BIOS as step 1 of page 43. When done, exit Setup.
3. Make a SATA / SATAII driver diskette as step 2 of page 43. Begin Windows® setup by booting from the installation CD.
4. At the beginning of Windows® setup, press F6 to install a third-party RAID driver. When prompted, insert the SATA / SATAII driver diskette containing the Intel® RAID driver. After reading the floppy disk, the driver will be presented. Select the driver to install according to the mode you choose and the OS you install.

5. Finish the Windows® installation and install all necessary drivers.
6. Install the Intel(R) Rapid Storage software via the CD-ROM included with your motherboard or after downloading it from the Internet. This will add the Intel(R) Rapid Storage Console which can be used to manage the RAID configuration.
7. After setting up a “RAID Ready” system as the above steps, you can follow the procedures of the next section to migrate the system to RAID 0, RAID 1 or RAID 5.

2.20.3 Migrating a “RAID Ready” System to RAID 0, RAID 1 or RAID 5

If you have an existing “RAID Ready” system, then you can use the following steps to perform a migration from a single non-RAID configuration to a two drive RAID 0, RAID 1 configuration or three drive RAID 5 configuration. To prepare for this, you will need another SATA / SATAII / SATA3 hard drive with a capacity equal to or greater than that currently being used as the source hard drive.

1. Physically attach one additional SATA / SATAII hard drive to the SATAII port not being used. Note the serial number of the hard drive already in the system; you will use this to select it as the source hard drive when initiating the migration.
2. Boot Windows®, install the Intel(R) Rapid Storage software, if not already installed, using the setup package obtained from a CD-ROM or from the Internet. This will install the necessary Intel Storage Utility and start menu links.
3. Open the Intel Storage Utility from the Start Menu and select “Create RAID volume from Existing Hard Drive” from the Actions menu. This will activate the Create RAID volume from Existing Hard Drive Wizard. Click through the dialogs as prompted. It’s important to understand what will occur during the migration process because any data on the destination hard drive will be lost.
4. Once the migration is complete, reboot the system. If you migrated to a RAID 0 volume, use Disk Management from within Windows® in order to partition and format the empty space created when the two hard drive capacities are combined. You may also use third-party software to extend any existing partitions within the RAID volume.

2.20.4 Installing Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit With RAID Functions

If you want to install Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit on your SATA / SATAII HDDs with RAID functions, please follow below steps.

STEP 1: Set up BIOS.

A. Enter BIOS SETUP UTILITY → Advanced screen → Storage Configuration.

B. Set the option "SATAII Operation Mode" to [RAID].

STEP 2: Use "RAID Installation Guide" to set RAID configuration.

Before you start to configure the RAID function, you need to check the installation guide in the Support CD for proper configuration. Please refer to the document in the Support CD, "Guide to SATA Hard Disks Installation and RAID Configuration", which is located in the folder at the following path:

.. \ RAID Installation Guide

STEP 3: Install Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit OS on your system.

Insert the Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit optical disk into the optical drive to boot your system, and follow the instruction to install Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit OS on your system. When you see "Where do you want to install Windows?" page, please insert the ASRock Support CD into your optical drive, and click the "Load Driver" button on the left on the bottom to load the Intel® RAID drivers. Intel® RAID drivers are in the following path in our Support CD:

.. \ I386 (For Windows® Vista™ OS)

.. \ AMD64 (For Windows® Vista™ 64-bit OS)

After that, please insert Windows® Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit optical disk into the optical drive again to continue the installation.

After the installation of Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit OS, if you want to manage RAID functions, you are allowed to use both "RAID Installation Guide" and "Intel Rapid Storage Information" for RAID configuration. Please refer to the document in the Support CD, "Guide to SATA Hard Disks Installation and RAID Configuration", which is located in the folder at the following path: **.. \ RAID Installation Guide** and the document in the support CD, "Guide to Intel Rapid Storage", which is located in the folder at the following path: **.. \ Intel Rapid Storage Information**

1. If you want to use "Intel Rapid Storage" in Windows® environment, please install "SATAII driver" from the Support CD again so that "Intel Rapid Storage" will be installed to your system as well.
2. Marvell SATA3 RAID Utility does not support rebuild function under Windows®. If you wants to use RAID1 rebuild function, please do it under Marvell RAID ROM.

2.21 Installing Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / XP / XP 64-bit Without RAID Functions

If you want to install Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / XP / XP 64-bit OS on your SATA / SATAII HDDs without RAID functions, please follow below procedures according to the OS you install.

2.21.1 Installing Windows® XP / XP 64-bit Without RAID Functions

If you want to install Windows® XP / XP 64-bit OS on your SATA / SATAII HDDs without RAID functions, please follow below steps.

Using SATA / SATAII HDDs with NCQ function

STEP 1: Set Up BIOS.

A. Enter BIOS SETUP UTILITY → Advanced screen→ Storage Configuration.

B. Set the option "SATAII Operation Mode" to [AHCI].

STEP 2: Make a SATA / SATAII driver diskette.

Please make a SATA / SATAII driver diskette by following section 2.20.1 step 2 on page 43.

STEP 3: Install Windows® XP / XP 64-bit OS on your system.

After making a SATA / SATAII driver diskette, you can start to install Windows® XP / XP 64-bit on your system. At the beginning of Windows® setup, press F6 to install a third-party AHCI driver. When prompted, insert the SATA / SATAII driver diskette containing the Intel® AHCI driver. After reading the floppy disk, the driver will be presented. Select the driver to install according to the mode you choose and the OS you install.

Using SATA / SATAII HDDs without NCQ function

STEP 1: Set up BIOS.

A. Enter BIOS SETUP UTILITY →Advanced screen→ Storage Configuration.

B. Set the option "SATAII Operation Mode" to [IDE].

STEP 2: Install Windows® XP / XP 64-bit OS on your system.

2.21.2 Installing Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit Without RAID Functions

If you want to install Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit OS on your SATA / SATAII HDDs without RAID functions, please follow below steps.

Using SATA / SATAII HDDs with NCQ function

STEP 1: Set Up BIOS.

A. Enter BIOS SETUP UTILITY → Advanced screen→ Storage Configuration.

B. Set the option "SATAII Operation Mode" to [AHCI].

STEP 2: Install Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit OS on your system.

Using SATA / SATAII HDDs without NCQ function

STEP 1: Set up BIOS.

A. Enter BIOS SETUP UTILITY → Advanced screen→ Storage Configuration.

B. Set the option "SATAII Operation Mode" to [IDE].

STEP 2: Install Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit OS on your system.

2.22 Untied Overclocking Technology

This motherboard supports Untied Overclocking Technology, which means during overclocking, FSB enjoys better margin due to fixed PCI / PCIE buses. Before you enable Untied Overclocking function, please enter "Overclock Mode" option of BIOS setup to set the selection from [Auto] to [Manual]. Therefore, CPU FSB is untied during overclocking, but PCI / PCIE buses are in the fixed mode so that FSB can operate under a more stable overclocking environment.

Please refer to the warning on page 8 for the possible overclocking risk before you apply Untied Overclocking Technology.

Chapter 3: BIOS SETUP UTILITY

3.1 Introduction

This section explains how to use the BIOS SETUP UTILITY to configure your system. The BIOS FWH chip on the motherboard stores the BIOS SETUP UTILITY. You may run the BIOS SETUP UTILITY when you start up the computer. Please press <F2> or <Del> during the Power-On-Self-Test (POST) to enter the BIOS SETUP UTILITY, otherwise, POST will continue with its test routines.

If you wish to enter the BIOS SETUP UTILITY after POST, restart the system by pressing <Ctl> + <Alt> + <Delete>, or by pressing the reset button on the system chassis. You may also restart by turning the system off and then back on.

Because the BIOS software is constantly being updated, the following BIOS setup screens and descriptions are for reference purpose only, and they may not exactly match what you see on your screen.

3.1.1 BIOS Menu Bar

The top of the screen has a menu bar with the following selections:

Main	To set up the system time/date information
OC Tweaker	To set up overclocking features
Advanced	To set up the advanced BIOS features
H/W Monitor	To display current hardware status
Boot	To set up the default system device to locate and load the Operating System
Security	To set up the security features
Exit	To exit the current screen or the BIOS SETUP UTILITY

Use <←> key or <→> key to choose among the selections on the menu bar, and then press <Enter> to get into the sub screen.

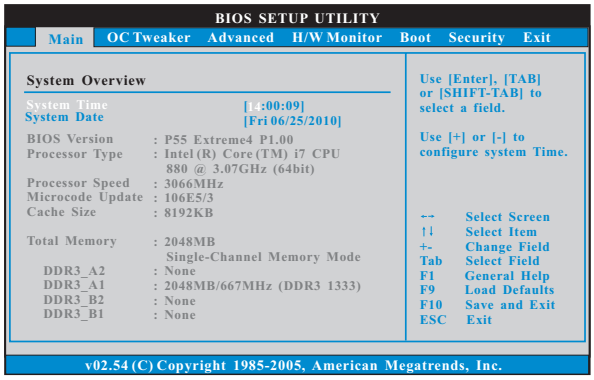
3.1.2 Navigation Keys

Please check the following table for the function description of each navigation key.

Navigation Key(s)	Function Description
← / →	Moves cursor left or right to select Screens
↑ / ↓	Moves cursor up or down to select items
+ / -	To change option for the selected items
<Enter>	To bring up the selected screen
<F1>	To display the General Help Screen
<F9>	To load optimal default values for all the settings
<F10>	To save changes and exit the BIOS SETUP UTILITY
<ESC>	To jump to the Exit Screen or exit the current screen

3.2 Main Screen

When you enter the BIOS SETUP UTILITY, the Main screen will appear and display the system overview.



System Time [Hour:Minute:Second]

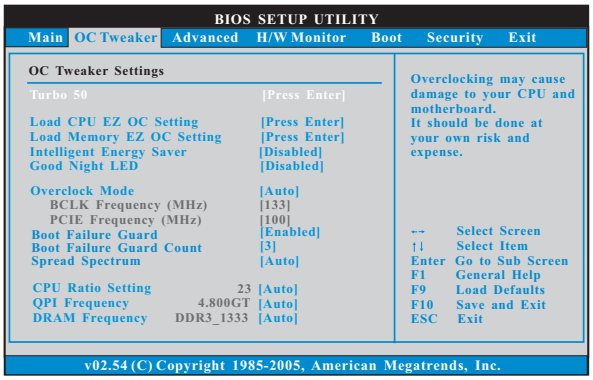
Use this item to specify the system time.

System Date [Day Month/Date/Year]

Use this item to specify the system date.

3.3 OC Tweaker Screen

In the OC Tweaker screen, you can set up overclocking features.



Turbo 50

You can use this option to increase your system performance. Configuration options: [Press Enter], [OFF], [System Performance Increases 40%] and [System Performance Increases 50%]. This option appears only when your CPU supports this function.

Load CPU EZ OC Setting

You can use this option to load CPU EZ overclocking setting. Please note that overclocing may cause damage to your CPU and motherboard. It should be done at your own risk and expense.

Load Memory EZ OC Setting

You can use this option to load memory EZ overclocking setting. Please note that overclocing may cause damage to your memory and motherboard. It should be done at your own risk and expense.

Intelligent Energy Saver

Intelligent Energy Saver is a revolutionary technology that delivers unparalleled power savings. The default value is [Disabled]. Configuration options: [Enabled] and [Disabled]. If you want to enable this function, please set this item to [Enabled]. Besides the BIOS option, you can also choose our Intelligent Energy Saver utility to enable this function.

Good Night LED

Enable this option to turn off Power LED and Lan LED when the system is power on. The keyboard LED will also be turned off in S1, S3 and S4 state. The default value is [Disabled].

Overclock Mode

Use this to select Overclock Mode. Configuration options: [Auto], [Manual], [I.O.T.] and [Optimized]. The default value is [Auto]. If you select [Manual], Untied Overclocking function is enabled. Please refer to page 48 for the details of Untied Overclocking Technology. Therefore, you are allowed to adjust the Host frequency and PCIE frequency in the following two items. If you select [I.O.T.] (Intelligent Overclocking Technology), the system will automatically enable the overclocking function when your CPU is heavy loaded.

BCLK Frequency (MHz)

Use this option to adjust BCLK (Internal Base Clock) frequency.

PCIE Frequency (MHz)

Use this option to adjust PCIE frequency.

Boot Failure Guard

Enable or disable the feature of Boot Failure Guard.

Boot Failure Guard Count

Enable or disable the feature of Boot Failure Guard Count.

Spread Spectrum

This item should always be [Auto] for better system stability.

CPU Ratio Setting

If the ratio status is unlocked, you will find this item appear to allow you changing the ratio value of this motherboard.

QPI Frequency

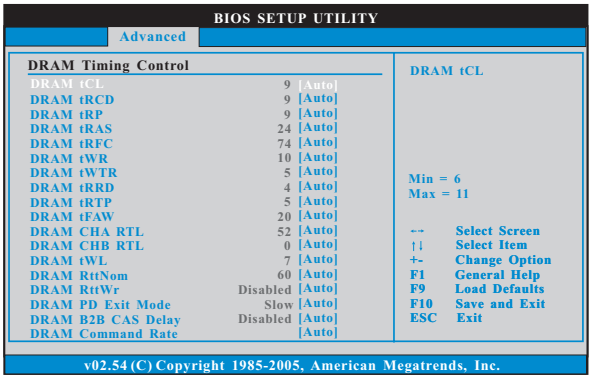
Use this option to adjust QPI (QuickPath Interconnect) frequency. The default value is [Auto].

DRAM Frequency

If [Auto] is selected, the motherboard will detect the memory module(s) inserted and assigns appropriate frequency automatically.

DRAM Timing Control

Use this item to control DRAM Timing.



DRAM tCL

Use this item to adjust the means of memory accessing. Configuration options : [Auto], [6] to [11].

DRAM tRCD

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TRCD. Configuration options: [Auto], [3] to [15].

DRAM tRP

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TRP. Configuration options: [Auto], [3] to [15].

DRAM tRAS

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TRAS. Configuration options: [Auto], [9] to [31].

DRAM tRFC

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TRFC. Configuration options: [Auto], [15] to [255].

DRAM tWR

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TWR. Configuration options: [Auto], [3] to [15].

DRAM tWTR

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TWTR. Configuration options: [Auto], [2] to [10].

DRAM tRRD

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TRRD. Configuration options: [Auto], [4] to [7].

DRAM tRTP

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TRTP. Configuration options: [Auto], [2] to [13].

DRAM tFAW

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TFAW. Configuration options: [Auto], [1] to [63].

DRAM CHA RTL

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for CHA RTL. Configuration options: [Auto], [1] to [255].

DRAM CHB RTL

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for CHB RTL. Configuration options: [Auto], [1] to [255].

DRAM tWL

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for TWL. Configuration options: [Auto], [1] to [12].

DRAM RttNom

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for RTTNOM. Configuration options: [Auto], [Disabled], [ODT 20] to [ODT 120].

DRAM RttWr

This controls the number of DRAM clocks for RTTWR. Configuration options: [Auto], [Disabled], [ODT 60] to [ODT 120].

DRAM PD Exit Mode

Use this item to adjust DRAM PD Exit Mode. Configuration options: [Auto], [Slow] and [Fast].

DRAM B2B CAS Delay

Use this item to adjust DRAM B2B CAS Delay. Configuration options: [Auto], [Disabled], [0] to [28].

DRAM Command Rate

Use this item to adjust DRAM Command Rate. Configuration options : [1], [2] and [Auto].

DRAM Enhanced Training

Use this item to adjust DRAM Enhanced Training. Configuration options: [Auto], [Disabled] and [Enabled].

ASRock VDroop Control

Use this to enable or disable ASRock VDroop control. Configuration options: [With VDroop] and [Without VDroop]. The default value is [With VDroop].

CPU Voltage

Use this to select CPU Voltage. Configuration options: [Auto], [Manual] and [Overdrive Offset]. The default value is [Auto].

DRAM Voltage

Use this to select DRAM Voltage. The default value is [Auto].

VTT Voltage

Use this to select VTT Voltage. The default value is [Auto].

PCH Voltage

Use this to select PCH Voltage. The default value is [Auto].

CPU PLL Voltage

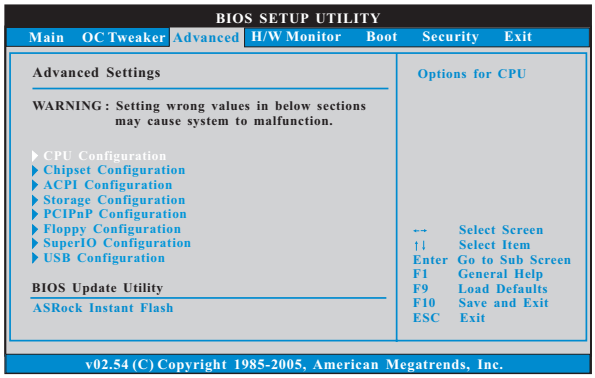
Use this to select CPU PLL Voltage. The default value is [Auto].

Would you like to save current setting user defaults?

In this option, you are allowed to load and save three user defaults according to your own requirements.

3.4 Advanced Screen

In this section, you may set the configurations for the following items: CPU Configuration, Chipset Configuration, ACPI Configuration, Storage Configuration, PCIPnP Configuration, Floppy Configuration, SuperIO Configuration, and USB Configuration.

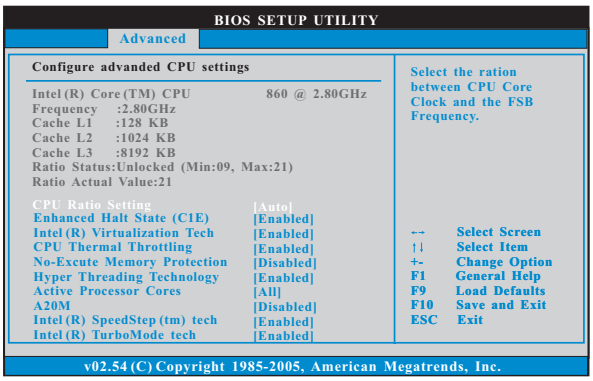


Setting wrong values in this section may cause the system to malfunction.

ASRock Instant Flash

ASRock Instant Flash is a BIOS flash utility embedded in Flash ROM. This convenient BIOS update tool allows you to update system BIOS without entering operating systems first like MS-DOS or Windows®. Just launch this tool and save the new BIOS file to your USB flash drive, floppy disk or hard drive, then you can update your BIOS only in a few clicks without preparing an additional floppy diskette or other complicated flash utility. Please be noted that the USB flash drive or hard drive must use FAT32/16/12 file system. If you execute ASRock Instant Flash utility, the utility will show the BIOS files and their respective information. Select the proper BIOS file to update your BIOS, and reboot your system after BIOS update process completes.

3.4.1 CPU Configuration



CPU Ratio Setting

If the ratio status is unlocked, you will find this item appear to allow you changing the ratio value of this motherboard.

Enhance Halt State (C1E)

All processors support the Halt State (C1). The C1 state is supported through the native processor instructions HLT and MWAIT and requires no hardware support from the chipset. In the C1 power state, the processor maintains the context of the system caches.

Intel (R) Virtualization Tech

When this option is set to [Enabled], a VMM (Virtual Machine Architecture) can utilize the additional hardware capabilities provided by Vanderpool Technology. This option will be hidden if the installed CPU does not support Intel (R) Virtualization Technology.

CPU Thermal Throttling

You may select [Enabled] to enable CPU internal thermal control mechanism to keep the CPU from overheated.

No-Excute Memory Protection

No-Execution (NX) Memory Protection Technology is an enhancement to the IA-32 Intel Architecture. An IA-32 processor with “No Execute (NX) Memory Protection” can prevent data pages from being used by malicious software to execute code. This option will be hidden if the current CPU does not support No-Excute Memory Protection.

Hyper Threading Technology

To enable this feature, it requires a computer system with an Intel Core™ i7 processor that supports Hyper-Threading technology and an operating system that includes optimization for this technology, such as Microsoft® Windows® XP / Vista™ / 7. Set to [Enabled] if using Microsoft® Windows® XP, Vista™, 7, or Linux kernel version 2.4.18 or higher. This option will be hidden if the installed CPU does not support Hyper-Threading technology.

Active Processor Cores

Use this item to select the number of cores to enable in each processor package. Configuration options: [All], [1] and [2]. The default value is [All].

A20M

Use this item to enable or disable A20M. Legacy OS and AP may need A20M enabled. The default value is [Disabled].

Intel (R) SpeedStep(tm) tech.

Intel (R) SpeedStep(tm) tech. is Intel's new power saving technology. Processor can switch between multiple frequency and voltage points to enable powersavings. The default value is [Enabled]. Configuration options: [Auto], [Enabled] and [Disabled]. If you install Windows® XP and select [Auto], you need to set the "Power Schemes" as "Portable/Laptop" to enable this function. If you install Windows® Vista™ / 7 and want to enable this function, please set this item to [Enabled]. This item will be hidden if the current CPU does not support Intel (R) SpeedStep(tm) tech..

Please note that enabling this function may reduce CPU voltage and lead to system stability or compatibility issue with some power supplies. Please set this item to [Disable] if above issue occurs.

Intel (R) TurboMode tech

Use this item to enable or disable Intel (R) Turbo Boost Technology. Turbo mode allows processor cores to run faster than marked frequency in specific condition. The default value is [Enabled].

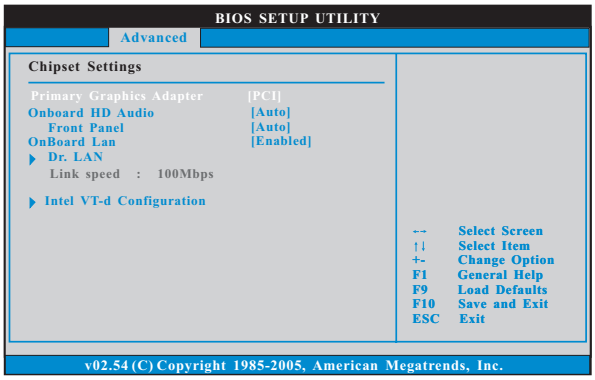
Intel (R) C-STATE tech.

Intel (R) C-STATE tech. is achieved by making the power and thermal control unit part of the core logic and not part of the chipset as before. Migration of the power and thermal management flow into the processor allows us to use a hardware coordination mechanism in which each core can request any C-state it wishes, thus allowing for individual core savings to be maximized. The CPU C-state is determined and entered based on the lowest common denominator of both cores' requests, portraying a single CPU entity to the chipset power management hardware and flows. Thus, software can manage each core independently, while the actual power management adheres to the platform and CPU shared resource restrictions.

C6 State

Use this item to control C6 state. Configuration options: [Enabled] and [Disabled]. The default value is [Enabled].

3.4.2Chipset Configuration



Primary Graphics Adapter

This allows you to select [PCI] or [PCI Express] as the boot graphic adapter priority. The default value is [PCI].

Onboard HD Audio

Select [Auto], [Enabled] or [Disabled] for the onboard HD Audio feature. If you select [Auto], the onboard HD Audio will be disabled when PCI Sound Card is plugged.

Front Panel

Select [Auto] or [Disabled] for the onboard HD Audio Front Panel.

OnBoard Lan

This allows you to enable or disable the “OnBoard Lan” feature.

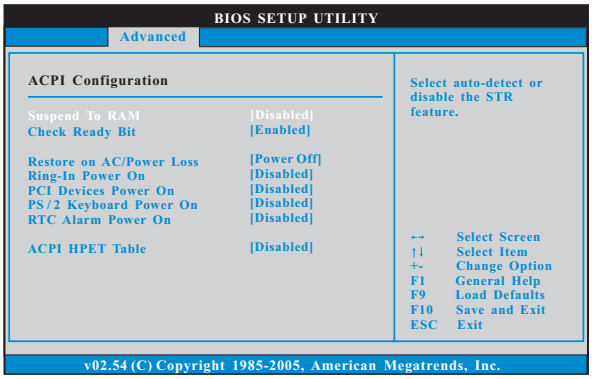
Dr. LAN

This allows you to select “LAN Cable Detection” function.

Intel VT-d configuration

Use this to enable or disable Intel® VT-d technology (Intel® Virtualization Technology for Directed I/O). The default value of this feature is [Disabled].

3.4.3 ACPI Configuration



Suspend to RAM

Use this item to select whether to auto-detect or disable the Suspend-to-RAM feature. Select [Auto] will enable this feature if the OS supports it

Check Ready Bit

Use this item to enable or disable the feature Check Ready Bit.

Restore on AC/Power Loss

This allows you to set the power state after an unexpected AC/power loss. If [Power Off] is selected, the AC/power remains off when the power recovers. If [Power On] is selected, the AC/power resumes and the system starts to boot up when the power recovers.

Ring-In Power On

Use this item to enable or disable Ring-In signals to turn on the system from the power-soft-off mode.

PCI Devices Power On

Use this item to enable or disable PCI devices to turn on the system from the power-soft-off mode.

PS/2 Keyboard Power On

Use this item to enable or disable PS/2 keyboard to turn on the system from the power-soft-off mode.

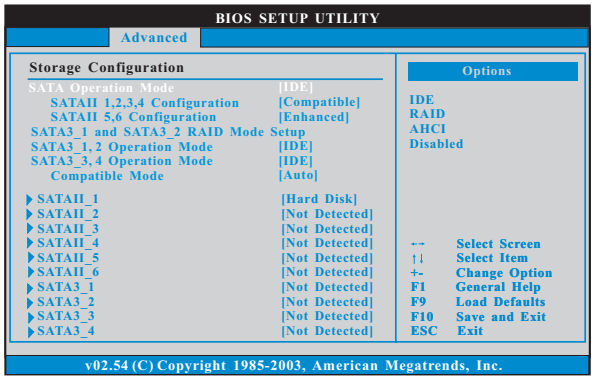
RTC Alarm Power On

Use this item to enable or disable RTC (Real Time Clock) to power on the system.

ACPI HPET Table

Use this item to enable or disable ACPI HPET Table. The default value is [Disabled]. Please set this option to [Enabled] if you plan to use this motherboard to submit Windows® Vista™ certification.

3.4.4 Storage Configuration



SATAII Operation Mode

Use this to select SATAII Operation Mode. Configuration options: [IDE], [RAID], [AHCI] and [Disabled]. The default value is [IDE].

If you select [IDE] mode, the options "SATAII 1,2,3,4 Configuration" and "SATAII 5,6 Configuration" will appear.

If you select [RAID] or [AHCI] mode, the options "Hot Plug" and "Link Power Management" will appear.

AHCI (Advanced Host Controller Interface) supports NCQ and other new features that will improve SATA disk performance but IDE mode does not have these advantages.

SATA3_1 and SATA3_2 RAID Mode Setup

SATA3_1, 2 Operation Mode

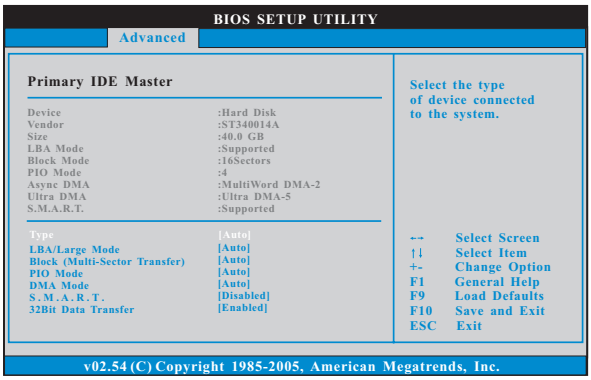
Use this to select SATA3_1, 2 Operation Mode. Configuration options: [IDE], [AHCI] and [Disabled]. The default value is [IDE].

SATA3_3, 4 Operation Mode

Use this to select SATA3_3, 4 Operation Mode. Configuration options: [IDE], [AHCI] and [Disabled]. The default value is [IDE].

IDE Device Configuration

You may set the IDE configuration for the device that you specify. We will use the “Primary IDE Master” as the example in the following instruction.



TYPE

Use this item to configure the type of the IDE device that you specify. Configuration options: [Not Installed], [Auto], [CD/DVD], and [ARMD].

[Not Installed]: Select [Not Installed] to disable the use of IDE device.

[Auto]: Select [Auto] to automatically detect the hard disk drive.

After selecting the hard disk information into BIOS, use a disk utility, such as FDISK, to partition and format the new IDE hard disk drives. This is necessary so that you can write or read data from the hard disk. Make sure to set the partition of the Primary IDE hard disk drives to active.

[CD/DVD]: This is used for IDE CD/DVD drives.

[ARMD]: This is used for IDE ARMD (ATAPI Removable Media Device), such as MO.

LBA/Large Mode

Use this item to select the LBA/Large mode for a hard disk > 512 MB under DOS and Windows; for Netware and UNIX user, select [Disabled] to disable the LBA/Large mode.

Block (Multi-Sector Transfer)

The default value of this item is [Auto]. If this feature is enabled, it will enhance hard disk performance by reading or writing more data during each transfer.

PIO Mode

Use this item to set the PIO mode to enhance hard disk performance by optimizing the hard disk timing.

DMA Mode

DMA capability allows the improved transfer-speed and data-integrity for compatible IDE devices.

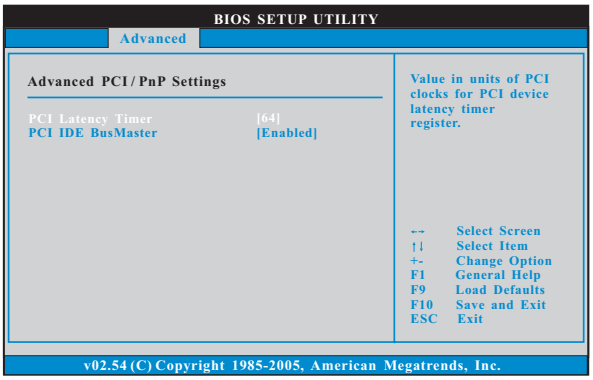
S.M.A.R.T.

Use this item to enable or disable the S.M.A.R.T. (Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology) feature. Configuration options: [Disabled], [Auto], [Enabled].

32-Bit Data Transfer

Use this item to enable 32-bit access to maximize the IDE hard disk data transfer rate.

3.4.5PCIPnP Configuration



PCI Latency Timer

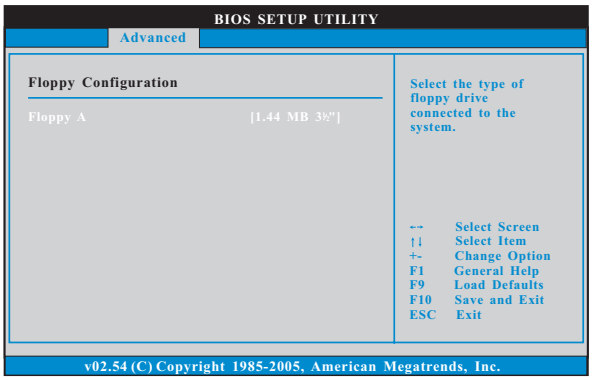
The default value is 32. It is recommended to keep the default value unless the installed PCI expansion cards' specifications require other settings.

PCI IDE BusMaster

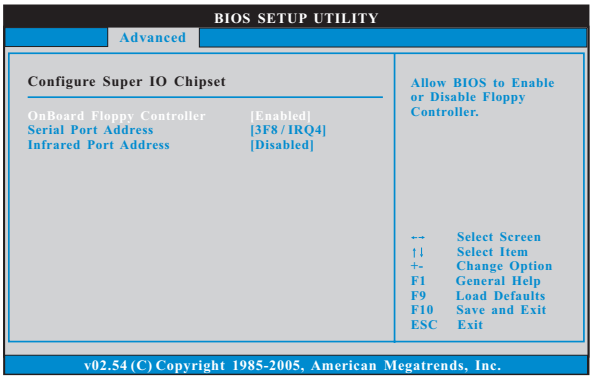
Use this item to enable or disable the PCI IDE BusMaster feature.

3.4.6 Floppy Configuration

In this section, you may configure the type of your floppy drive.



3.4.7 Super IO Configuration



OnBoard Floppy Controller

Use this item to enable or disable floppy drive controller.

Serial Port Address

Use this item to set the address for the onboard serial port or disable it.

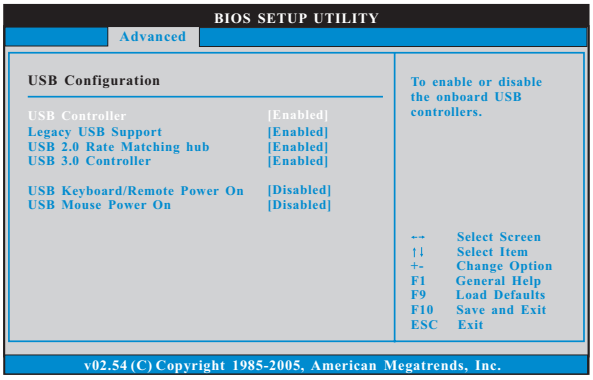
Configuration options: [Disabled], [3F8 / IRQ4], [2F8 / IRQ3], [3E8 / IRQ4], [2E8 / IRQ3].

Infrared Port Address

Use this item to set the address for the onboard infrared port or disable it.

Configuration options: [Disabled], [2F8 / IRQ3], and [2E8 / IRQ3].

3.4.8 USB Configuration



USB Controller

Use this item to enable or disable the use of USB controller.

Legacy USB Support

Use this option to select legacy support for USB devices. There are four configuration options: [Enabled], [Auto], [Disabled] and [BIOS Setup Only]. The default value is [Enabled]. Please refer to below descriptions for the details of these four options:

[Enabled] - Enables support for legacy USB.

[Auto] - Enables legacy support if USB devices are connected.

[Disabled] - USB devices are not allowed to use under legacy OS and BIOS setup when [Disabled] is selected. If you have USB compatibility issue, it is recommended to select [Disabled] to enter OS.

[BIOS Setup Only] - USB devices are allowed to use only under BIOS setup and Windows / Linux OS.

USB 2.0 Rate Matching hub

Use this item to enable or disable the USB 2.0 Rate Matching hub.

USB 3.0 Controller

Use this item to enable or disable the USB 3.0 controller.

USB Keyboard/Remote Power On

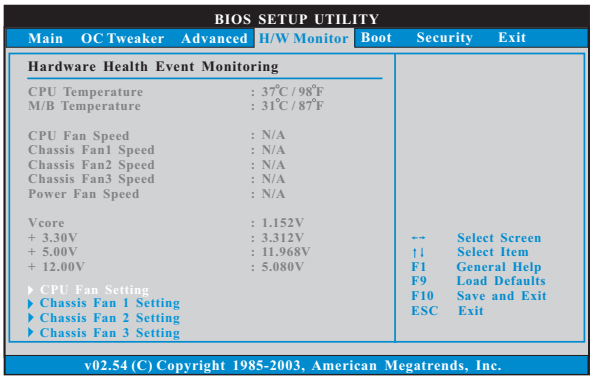
Use this item to enable or disable USB Keyboard/Remote Power On on the system.

USB Mouse Power On

Use this item to enable or disable USB Mouse Power On on the system.

3.5 Hardware Health Event Monitoring Screen

In this section, it allows you to monitor the status of the hardware on your system, including the parameters of the CPU temperature, motherboard temperature, CPU fan speed, chassis fan speed, and the critical voltage.



CPU Fan Setting

This allows you to set the CPU fan speed. Configuration options: [Full On] and [Automatic mode]. The default is value [Full On].

Chassis Fan 1 Setting

This allows you to set the chassis fan 1 speed. Configuration options: [Full On] and [Manual Mode]. The default is value [Full On].

Chassis Fan 2 Setting

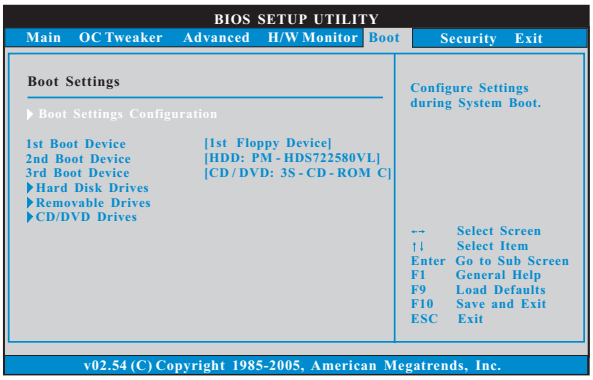
This allows you to set the chassis fan 2 speed. Configuration options: [Level 1], [Level 2], [Level 3] and [Level 4]. The default is value [Level 4].

Chassis Fan 3 Setting

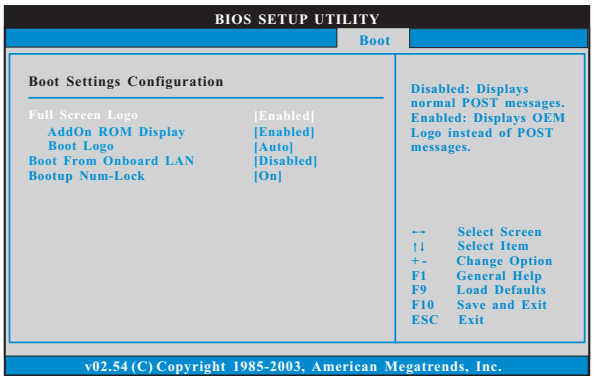
This allows you to set the chassis fan 3 speed. Configuration options: [Full On] and [Manual mode]. The default is value [Full On].

3.6 Boot Screen

In this section, it will display the available devices on your system for you to configure the boot settings and the boot priority.



3.6.1 Boot Settings Configuration



Full Screen Logo

Use this item to enable or disable OEM Logo. The default value is [Enabled].

AddOn ROM Display

Use this option to adjust AddOn ROM Display. If you enable the option "Full Screen Logo" but you want to see the AddOn ROM information when the system boots, please select [Enabled]. Configuration options: [Enabled] and [Disabled]. The default value is [Enabled].

Boot Logo

Use this option to select logo in POST screen. This option only appears when you enable the option “Full Screen Logo”. Configuration options: [Auto], [EuP], [Scenery] and [ASRock]. The default value is [Auto].

Boot From Onboard LAN

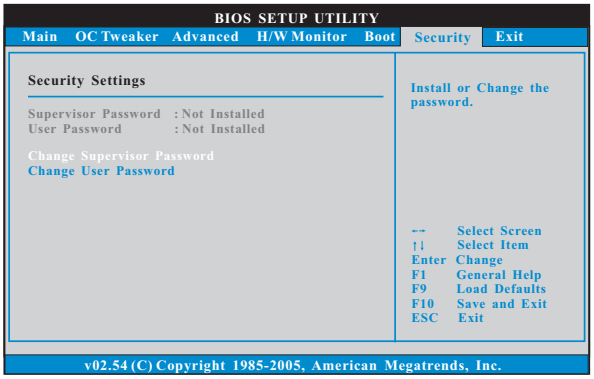
Use this item to enable or disable the Boot From Onboard LAN feature.

Boot Up Num-Lock

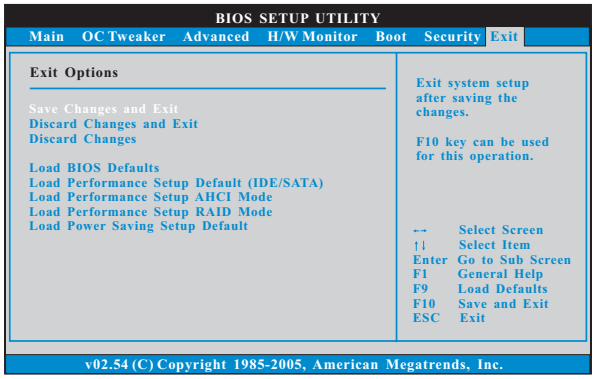
If this item is set to [On], it will automatically activate the Numeric Lock function after boot-up.

3.7 Security Screen

In this section, you may set or change the supervisor/user password for the system. For the user password, you may also clear it.



3.8 Exit Screen



Save Changes and Exit

When you select this option, it will pop-out the following message, "Save configuration changes and exit setup?" Select [OK] to save the changes and exit the BIOS SETUP UTILITY.

Discard Changes and Exit

When you select this option, it will pop-out the following message, "Discard changes and exit setup?" Select [OK] to exit the BIOS SETUP UTILITY without saving any changes.

Discard Changes

When you select this option, it will pop-out the following message, "Discard changes?" Select [OK] to discard all changes.

Load BIOS Defaults

Load BIOS default values for all the setup questions. F9 key can be used for this operation.

Load Performance Setup Default (IDE/SATA)

This performance setup default may not be compatible with all system configurations. If system boot failure occurs after loading, please resume optimal default settings. F5 key can be used for this operation.

Load Performance Setup AHCI Mode

This performance setup AHCI mode may not be compatible with all system configurations. If system boot failure occurs after loading, please resume optimal default settings. F3 key can be used for this operation.

Load Performance Setup RAID Mode

This performance setup RAID mode may not be compatible with all system configurations. If system boot failure occurs after loading, please resume optimal default settings. F4 key can be used for this operation.

Load Power Saving Setup Default

Load power saving setup default. F6 key can be used for this operation.

Chapter 4: Software Support

4.1 Install Operating System

This motherboard supports various Microsoft® Windows® operating systems: 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / XP / XP 64-bit. Because motherboard settings and hardware options vary, use the setup procedures in this chapter for general reference only. Refer to your OS documentation for more information.

4.2 Support CD Information

The Support CD that came with the motherboard contains necessary drivers and useful utilities that enhance the motherboard features.

4.2.1 Running The Support CD

To begin using the support CD, insert the CD into your CD-ROM drive. The CD automatically displays the Main Menu if "AUTORUN" is enabled in your computer. If the Main Menu did not appear automatically, locate and double click on the file "ASSETUP.EXE" from the BIN folder in the Support CD to display the menus.

4.2.2 Drivers Menu

The Drivers Menu shows the available devices drivers if the system detects installed devices. Please install the necessary drivers to activate the devices.

4.2.3 Utilities Menu

The Utilities Menu shows the applications software that the motherboard supports. Click on a specific item then follow the installation wizard to install it.

4.2.4 Contact Information

If you need to contact ASRock or want to know more about ASRock, welcome to visit ASRock's website at http://www.asrock.com; or you may contact your dealer for further information.