AK76F-400N

Online Manual

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Before You Start

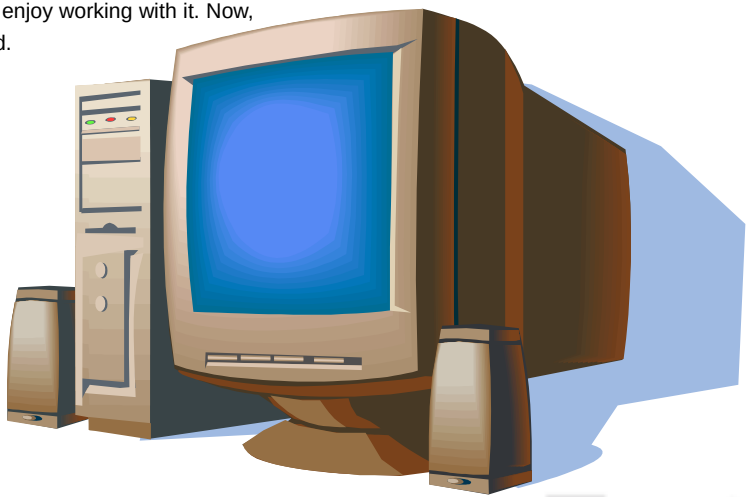
This Online Manual will introduce to the user how this product is installed. All useful information will be described in later chapters. Please keep this manual carefully for future upgrades or system configuration changes. This Online Manual is saved in PDF format, we recommend using Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 for online viewing, it is included in Bonus CD or you can get free download from Adobe web site.

Although this Online Manual is optimized for screen viewing, it is still capable for hardcopy printing, you can print it by A4 paper size and set 2 pages per A4 sheet on your printer. To do so, choose **File > Page Setup** and follow the instruction of your printer driver.

Thanks for the help of saving our earth.

Overview

Thank you for choosing AOpen AK76F-400N motherboard. The AK76F-400N is AMD® Socket 462 motherboard (M/B) based on the ATX form factor featuring the SIS 748 chipset. As high performance chipset built in the M/B, the AK76F-400N motherboard can support AMD® Socket 462 series Athlon™ XP & Athlon™ & Duron™ processor with 266/333/400MHz EV6 system bus. In the AGP performance, it has one AGP slot and supports AGP 2X/4X/8X mode and pipelined spilt-transaction long burst transfer up to 2112MB/sec. With high bandwidth 200/266MB/s 8-bit Multi-threaded I/O Link Host Controller, DDR266(PC2100) , DDR333(PC2700) and DDR400(PC3200) DDR RAM can be applied to the AK76F-400N and the maximum memory size can be up to 3GB. The onboard IDE controller supports Ultra DMA 33/66/100/133 mode and the transfer rate up to 133MB/s. Besides, the AK76F-400N has an AC97 CODEC chipset onboard providing high performance and magic surround stereo sound to let people enjoy working with it. Now, let's enjoy all features from AOpen AK76F-400N motherboard.



Feature Highlight

CPU

Supports AMD® Socket 462 series CPU with 200MHz, 266MHz, 333MHz and 400MHz EV6 Bus designed for Socket 462 technology.

Athlon: 600MHz~1.4GHz

Duron: 600MHz~1.3GHz

AthlonXP: 1500+(1.33GHz)~3200+(2.2GHz)

Chipset

The motherboard is equipped with SIS 748 and SIS 963L chipset. SIS 748 chipset consists of host interface Controller and integrated high performance DDR RAM Host system controller, which provide Dedicated High-Speed Data Paths connecting North-Bridge and Each South-Bridge Masters Including IDE, USB, Audio, and Modem Controllers, which can strongly enhance the system performance.

Expansion Slots

Including five 32-bit/33MHz PCI, and one AGP 2X/4X/8X slots. The PCI local bus throughput can be up to 132MB/s. The Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) specification provides a new level of video display sophistication and speed. The AGP video cards support data transfer rate up to 2112MB/s. AK76F-400N motherboard includes one AGP expansion slot for a bus mastering AGP graphic card. For AD and SBA signaling, AK76F-400N motherboard can support 2X/4X/8X mode. Of five PCI slots provided, AK76F-400N supports all five master PCI slots with arbitration and decoding for all integrated functions and LPC bus.

Memory

With SIS 748 chipset, the AK76F-400N can support Double-Data-Rate (DDR) RAM. The DDR RAM interface allows zero wait state bursting between the SDRAM and the data buffers at 33/66/100MHz. The six banks of DDR RAM can be composed of an arbitrary mixture of 16M/64M/128M/256M/512Mx1GB DDR RAM and maximum up to 3 GB.

Ultra DMA 33/66/100/133 Bus Master IDE

Comes with an on-board PCI Bus Master IDE controller with two connectors that supports four IDE devices in two channels, supports Ultra DMA 33/66/100/133, PIO Modes 3 and 4 and Bus Master IDE DMA Mode 5, and supports Enhanced IDE devices.

On-board AC'97 Sound

AK76F-400N uses the onboard AC'97 CODEC sound chip. This on-board audio includes a complete audio recording and playback system.

S/PDIF Connectors

S/PDIF (Sony/Philips Digital Interface) is a newest audio transfer file format, which provides impressive quality through optical fiber and allows you to enjoy digital audio instead of analog audio.

Six USB Connectors

Provides three ports, six USB connectors for USB interface devices, such as mouse, keyboard, modem, scanner, etc.

1MHz Stepping Frequency Adjustment

Provides “1MHz Stepping Frequency Adjustment” function in the BIOS. This magic function allows you adjust CPU FSB frequency from 100~255 by 1MHz stepping, and lets your system can get maximum performance.

Watch Dog ABS Timer

Includes AOpen “Watch Dog ABS” function that can auto-reset default setting in 4.8 seconds when you fail to system overclocking.

Power Management/Plug and Play

Supports the power management function that confirms to the power-saving standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star program. It also offers Plug-and-Play, which helps save users from configuration problems, thus making the system much user-friendlier.

Hardware Monitoring Management

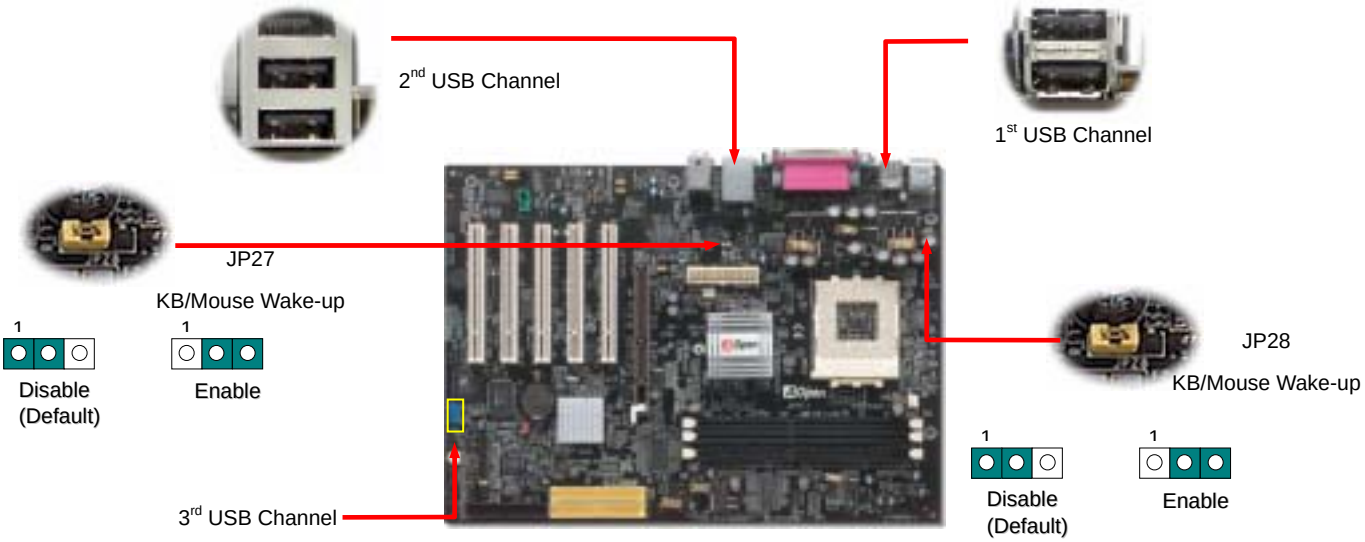
Supports CPU or system fans status, temperature and voltage monitoring and alert, through the on-board hardware monitor module.

Super Multi-I/O

Provides two high-speed UART compatible serial ports and one parallel port with EPP and ECP capabilities. UART can also be directed from COM1 to the Infrared Module for the wireless connections.

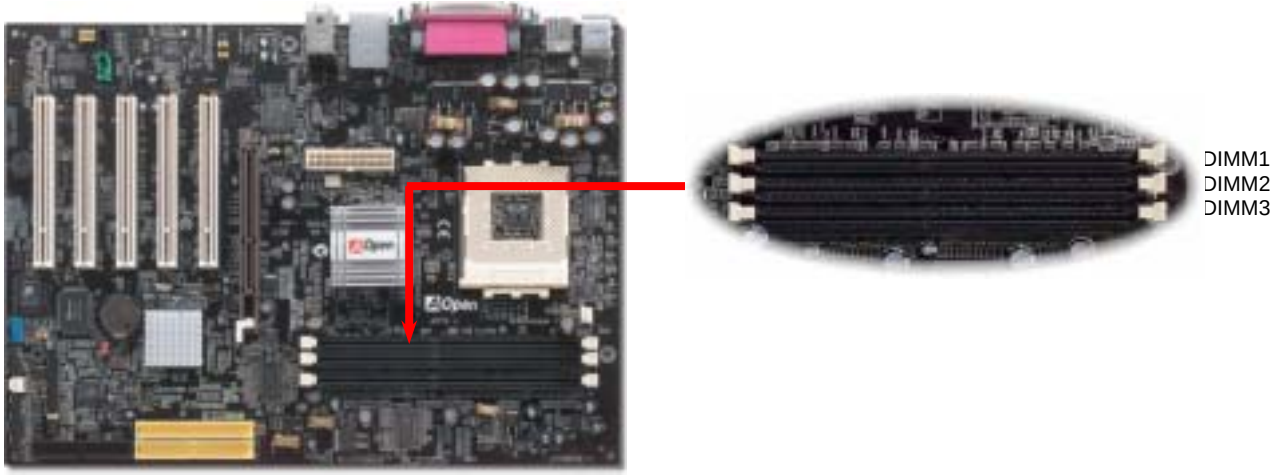
JP27/JP28 Keyboard/Mouse Wake-up Enable/Disable Jumper

This motherboard provides USB and PS2 keyboard / mouse wake-up function. You can use JP27 / JP28 to enable or disable the resuming of your system from suspend mode with any USB keyboard or mouse connected. JP28 controls the 1st USB/PS2 channel, and JP27 controls the 2nd USB channel. The factory default setting is set to “Disable”(1-2), and you may enable this function by setting the jumper to 2-3. Please note that you have to enable USB, PS2 keyboard and PS2 mouse settings in the “Power Management Setup” section in BIOS before you use this function. Please be informed that the 3rd USB channel does not support this function.



DIMM Sockets

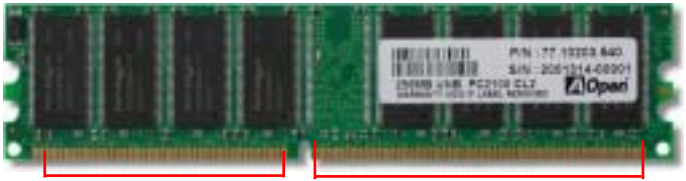
This motherboard has three 184-pin DDR DIMM sockets that allow you to install DDR266 (DIMMx3, Max. to 3GB), DDR333 (DIMMx3, Max. to 3GB) or DDR400 (DIMMx2, Max. to 2GB). Both ECC and Non-ECC DDR RAM are supported, but you can't install them both on DIMM. Otherwise, it will cause serious damage on memory sockets or DDR RAM module. For customers' convenience, we provide sets of adjustable voltage setting of DDR RAM from 2.55V, 2.60V, 2.65V and 2.70V in BIOS.



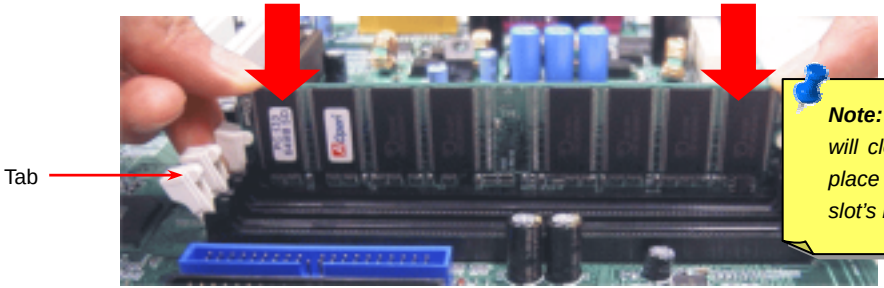
How to Install Memory Modules

Please follow the procedure as shown below to finish memory installation.

1. Make sure the DIMM module's pin face down and match the socket's size as depicted below.



2. Insert the module straight down to the DIMM slot with both hands and press down firmly until the DIMM module is securely in place.



Note: *The tabs of the DIMM slot will close-up to hold the DIMM in place when the DIMM touches the slot's bottom.*

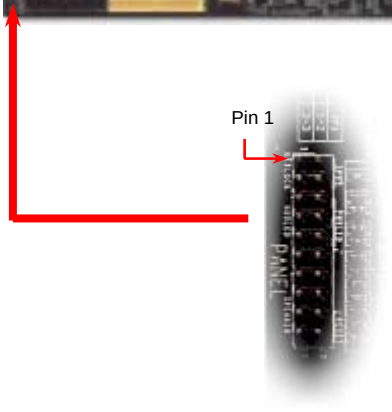
3. Repeat step 2 to finish additional DIMM modules installation.

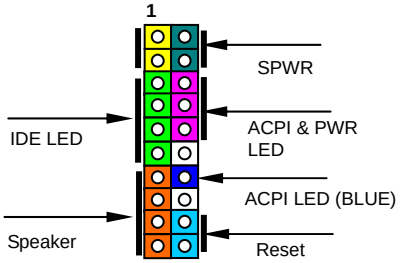
Front Panel Connector

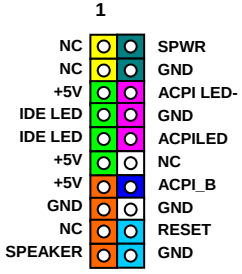
Attach the power LED, Keylock, speaker, power and reset switch connectors to the corresponding pins. If you enable “Suspend Mode” item in BIOS Setup, the ACPI & Power LED will keep flashing while the system is in suspend mode.

Locate the power switch cable from your ATX housing. It is 2-pin female connector from the housing front panel. Plug this connector to the soft-power switch connector marked **SPWR**.

Suspend Type	ACPI LED
Power on Suspend (S2) or Suspend to RAM (S3)	Flashing for every second
Suspend to Disk (S4)	The LED will be turned off

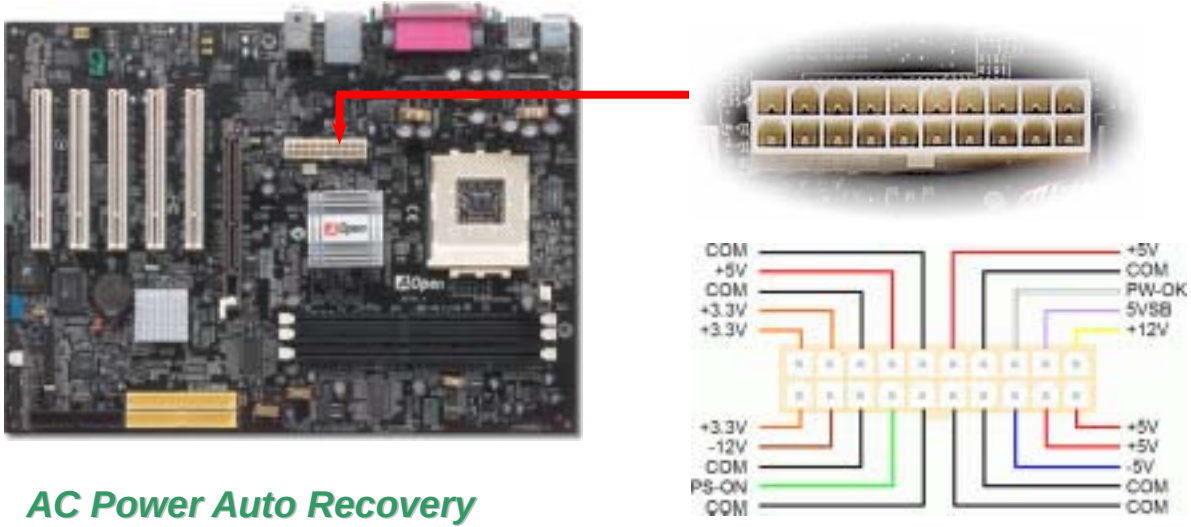






ATX Power Connector

This motherboard comes with a 20-pin ATX power connector as shown below. Make sure you plug in the right direction.

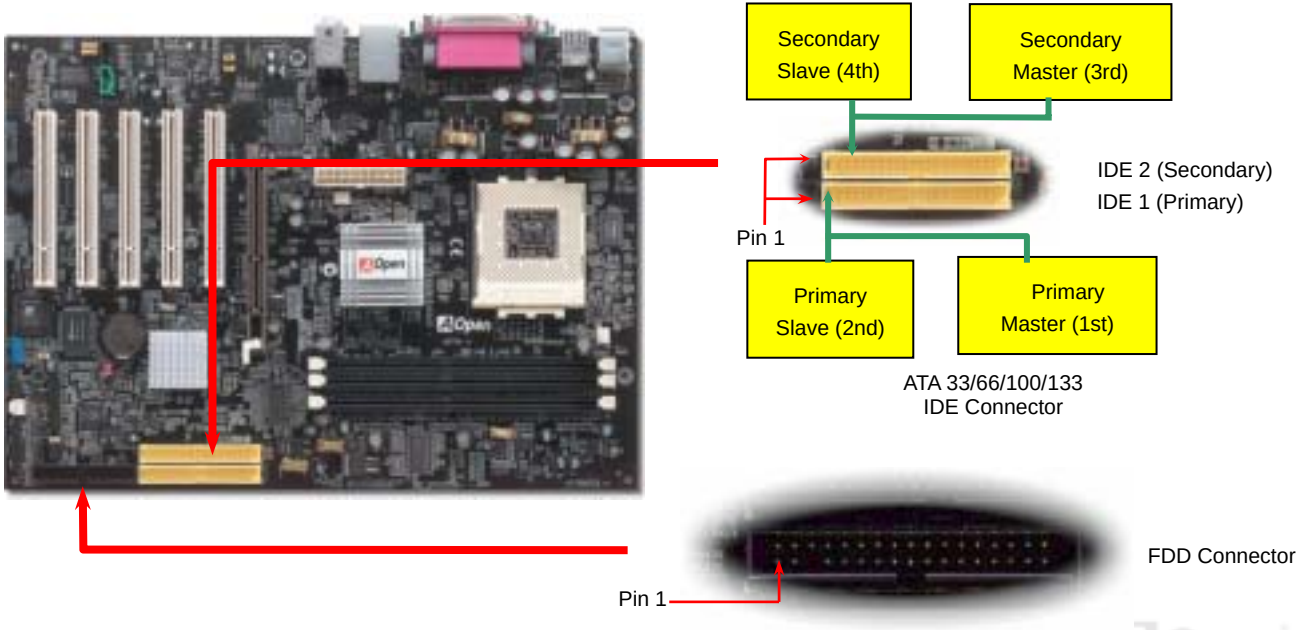


AC Power Auto Recovery

A traditional ATX system should remain at power off stage when AC power resumes from power failure. This design is inconvenient for a network server or workstation, without an UPS, that needs to keep power-on. This motherboard implements an AC Power Auto Recovery function to solve this problem.

IDE and Floppy Connector

Connect 34-pin floppy cable and 40-pin IDE cable to floppy connector FDC and IDE connector. Be careful of the pin1 orientation. Wrong orientation may cause system damage.



IDE1 is also known as the primary channel and IDE2 as the secondary channel. Each channel supports two IDE devices that make a total of four devices. In order to work together, the two devices on each channel must be set differently to **Master** and **Slave** mode. Either one can be the hard disk or the CDROM. The setting as master or slave mode depends on the jumper on your IDE device, so please refer to your hard disk and CDROM manual accordingly.

This motherboard supports ATA33, ATA66, ATA100 or ATA133 IDE devices. Following table lists the transfer rate of IDE PIO and DMA modes. The IDE bus is 16-bit, which means every transfer is two bytes.

Mode	Clock Period	Clock Count	Cycle Time	Data Transfer Rate
PIO mode 0	30ns	20	600ns	(1/600ns) x 2byte = 3.3MB/s
PIO mode 1	30ns	13	383ns	(1/383ns) x 2byte = 5.2MB/s
PIO mode 2	30ns	8	240ns	(1/240ns) x 2byte = 8.3MB/s
PIO mode 3	30ns	6	180ns	(1/180ns) x 2byte = 11.1MB/s
PIO mode 4	30ns	4	120ns	(1/120ns) x 2byte = 16.6MB/s
DMA mode 0	30ns	16	480ns	(1/480ns) x 2byte = 4.16MB/s
DMA mode 1	30ns	5	150ns	(1/150ns) x 2byte = 13.3MB/s
DMA mode 2	30ns	4	120ns	(1/120ns) x 2byte = 16.6MB/s
UDMA 33	30ns	4	120ns	(1/120ns) x 2byte x2 = 33MB/s
UDMA 66	30ns	2	60ns	(1/60ns) x 2byte x2 = 66MB/s
UDMA100	20ns	2	40ns	(1/40ns) x 2byte x2 = 100MB/s
ATA 133	15ns	2	30ns	(1/30ns) x 2byte x2= 133MB/s

Tip:

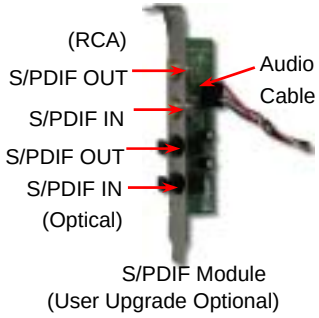
1. *For better signal quality, it is recommended to set the far end side device to master mode and follow the suggested sequence to install your new device. Please refer to above diagram*
2. *To achieve the best performance of Ultra DMA 66/100 hard disks, a special **80-wires IDE cable** for Ultra DMA 66/100 is required.*

***Warning:** The specification of the IDE cable is a maximum of 46cm (18 inches); make sure your cable does not exceed this length.*

S/PDIF (Sony/Philips Digital Interface) Connector

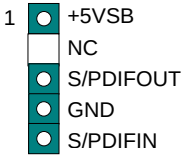
NEW!

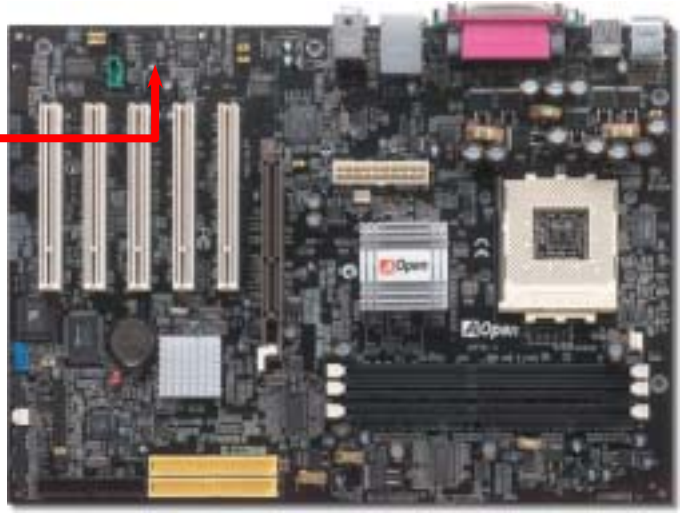
S/PDIF (Sony/Philips Digital Interface) is a newest audio transfer file format, which provides impressive quality through optical fiber and allows you to enjoy digital audio instead of analog audio. Normally there are two S/PDIF outputs as shown, one for RCA connector, the most common one used for consumer audio products, and the other for optical connector with better audio quality. Through a specific audio cable, you can connect the S/PDIF connector to other end of the S/PDIF audio module, which bears S/PDIF digital output. However, you must have a S/PDIF supported speaker with S/PDIF digital input to connect to the S/PDIF digital output to make the most out of this function.



S/PDIF Module
(User Upgrade Optional)

S/PDIF Connector

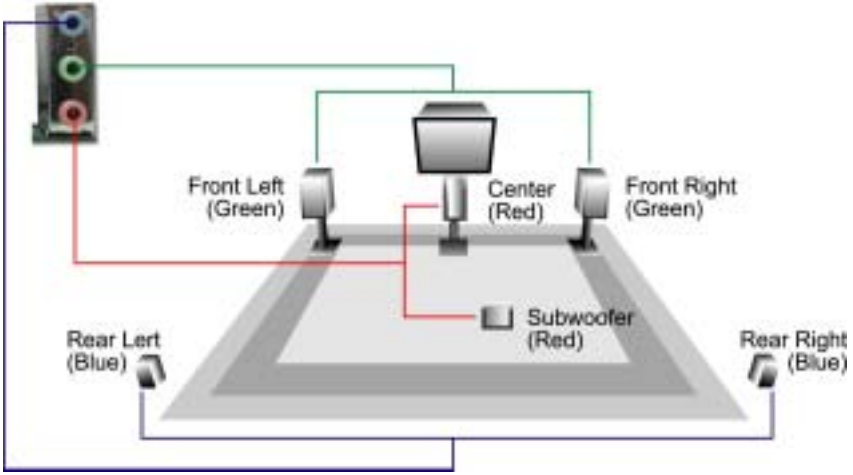




Super 5.1 Channel Audio Effect

NEW!

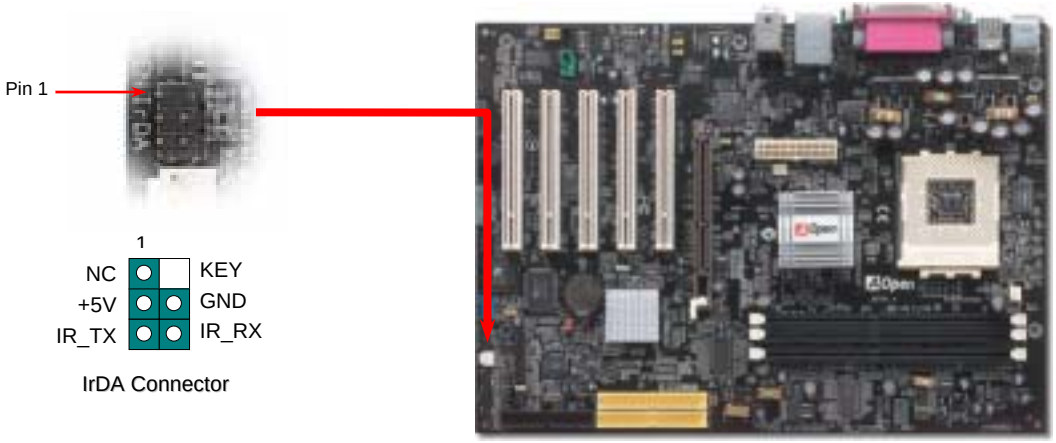
This motherboard comes with an ALC650 Codec which supports high quality of 5.1 Channel audio effect, bringing you a brand new audio experience. On the strength of the innovative design of ALC650, you're able to use standard line-jacks for surround audio output without connecting any external module. To apply this function, you have to install the audio driver in the Bonus Pack CD as well as an audio application supporting 5.1 Channel. Picture below represents the standard location of all speakers in 5.1 Channel sound track. Please connect the plug of your front speakers to the green “Speaker out” port, rear speakers’ plug to the blue “Line in” port and both of the center and subwoofer speakers to the red “MIC in” port.



IrDA Connector

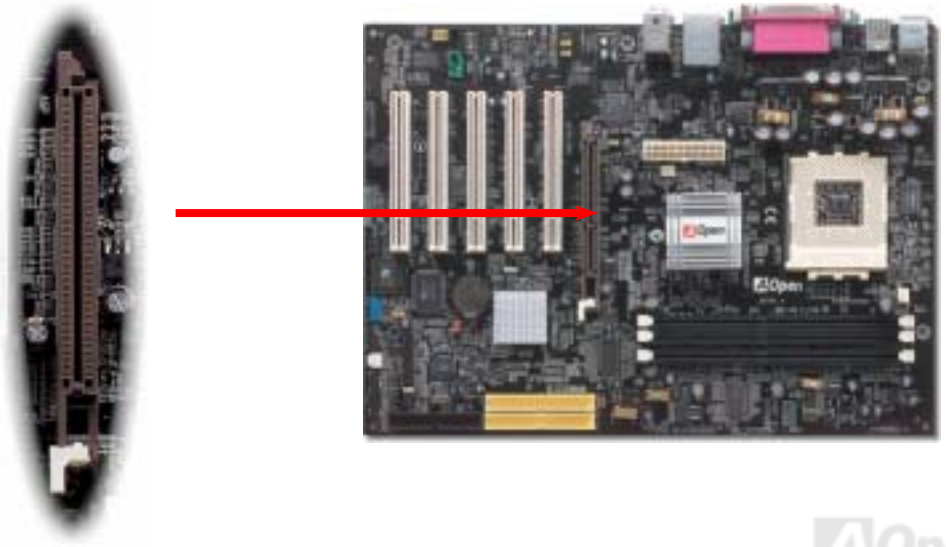
The IrDA connector can be configured to support wireless infrared module, with this module and application software such as Laplink or Windows 95 Direct Cable Connection, the user can transfer files to or from laptops, notebooks, PDA devices and printers. This connector supports HPSIR (115.2Kbps, 2 meters) and ASK-IR (56Kbps).

Install the infrared module onto the **IrDA** connector and enable the infrared function from BIOS Setup, UART Mode, make sure to have the correct orientation when you plug in the IrDA connector.



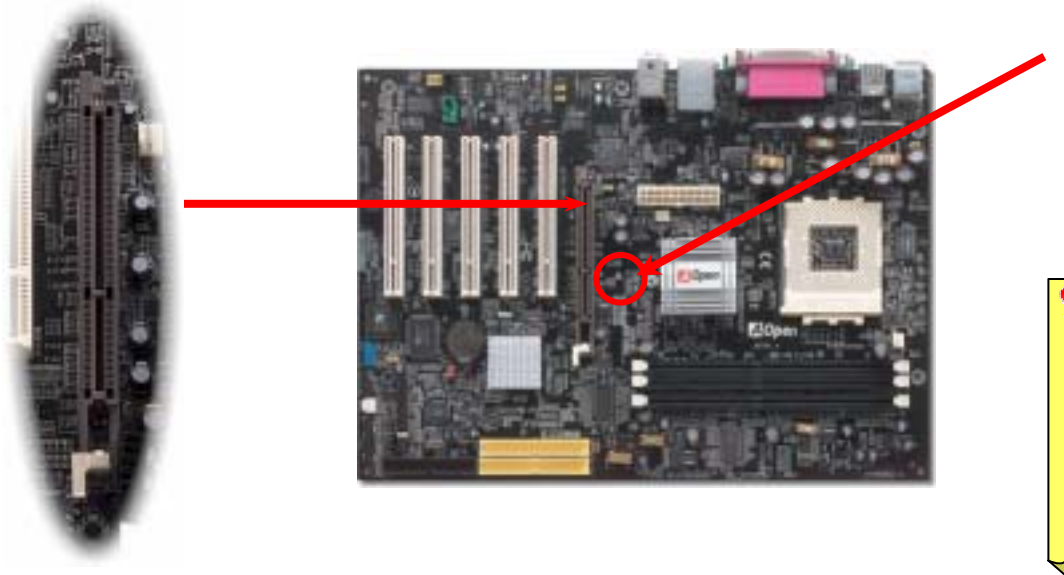
AGP (Accelerated Graphic Port) Expansion Slot

The AK76F-400N provides an AGP 2X/4X/8X slot. The AGP 8X is a bus interface targeted for high-performance 3D graphics. AGP supports only memory read/write operation and single-master single-slave one-to-one only. AGP uses both rising and falling edge of the 66MHz clock, for 2X AGP, the data transfer rate is 66MHz x 4bytes x 2 = 528MB/s. AGP is now moving to AGP 8x mode, 66MHz x 4bytes x 8 = 2112MB/s. Please be noticed that the AGP expansion slot supports 1.5V AGP cards only. The system will be protected and not able to boot up if a 3.3V AGP card is installed. The AGP slot voltage can be adjusted to 1.50V, 1.53V, 1.56V and 1.60V.



AGP Protection Technology

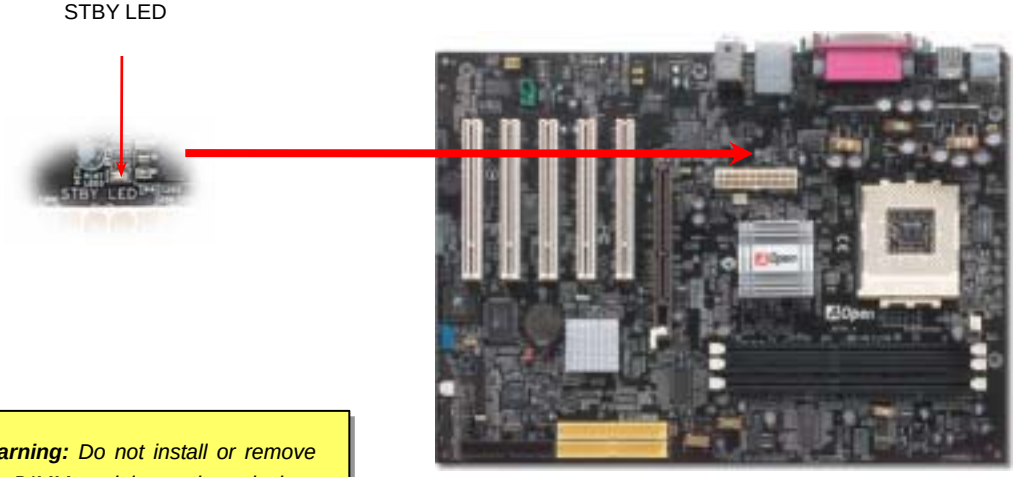
With the outstanding R&D ability of AOpen and its specially developed circuit, AK76F-400N implements a brand new technology to protect your motherboard from being damaged by over-voltaging of AGP card. When AGP Protection Technology is implemented, this motherboard will automatically detect the voltage of AGP card and prevent your chipsets from being burnt out. Please note that if you install an AGP card with 3.3V, which is not supported by the chipset, the AGPLED will light up to warn you the possible damage of the exceeding voltage. You may contact your AGP card vendor for further support.



Warning: *It is strongly recommended not to install a 3.3V AGP card, which is not supported by the chipset. When you do so, the AGPLED will light up to warn you the possible damage.*

STBY LED

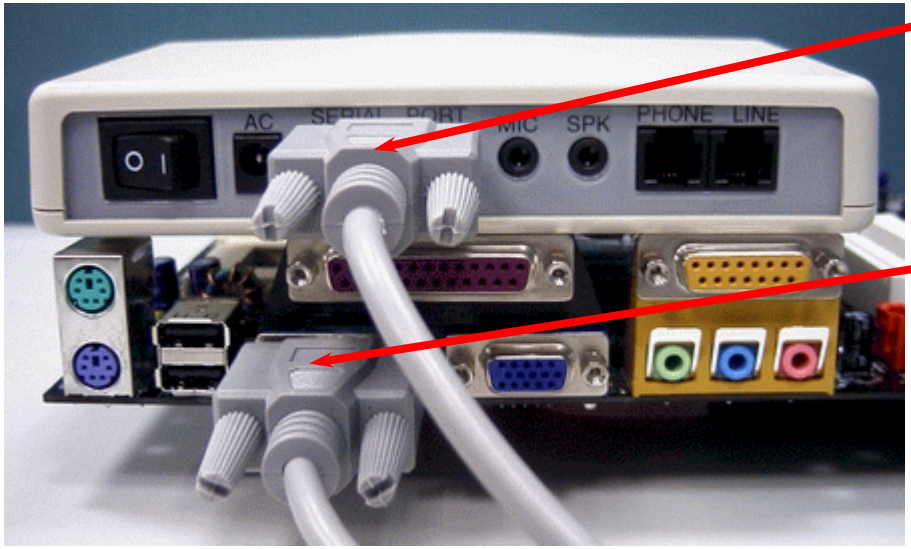
STBY LED is AOpen's considerate designs that we aim at providing you friendly system information. The STBY LED will light up when power is provided to the motherboard. This is a convenient indication for you to check the system power status in many circumstances such as power on/off, stand-by mode and RAM power status during Suspend to RAM mode.



Warning: *Do not install or remove the DIMM module or others devices when the STBY LED lights on.*

WOM by External BOX Modem

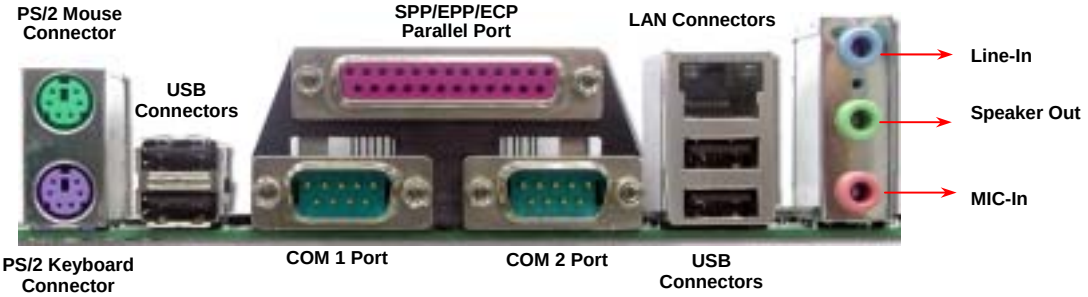
Traditional Green PC suspend mode does not really turn off the system power supply, it uses external box modem to trigger MB COM port and resume back to active.



Note: This picture is for example only; it may not exactly be the same motherboard.

PC99 Color Coded Back Panel

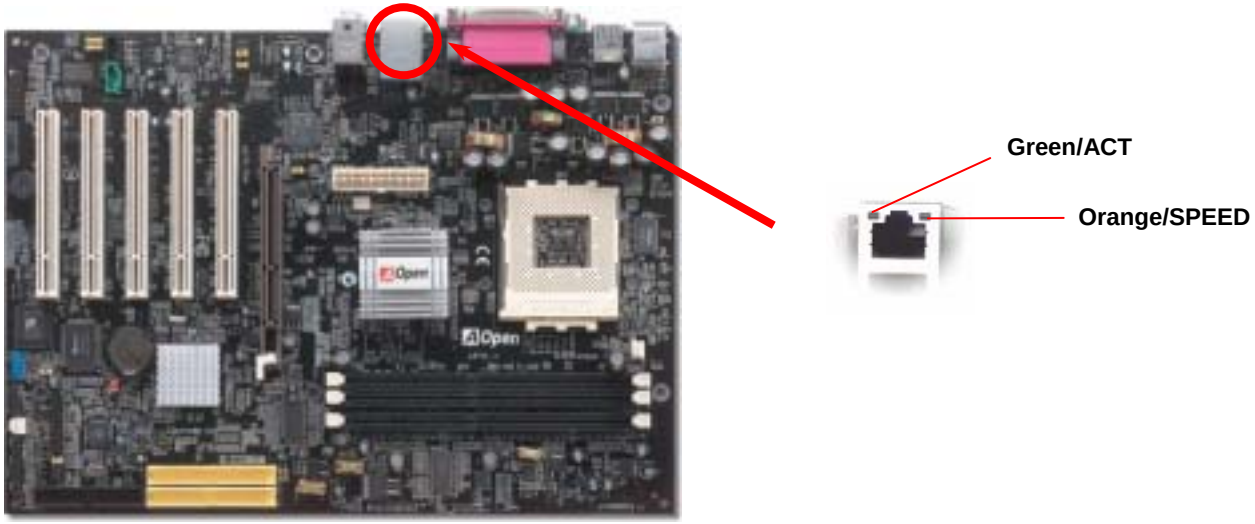
The onboard I/O devices are PS/2 Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse, COM1 and COM2, Printer, USB, AC97 sound and game ports. The view angle of drawing shown here is from the back panel of the housing.



PS/2 Keyboard:	For standard keyboard, which is using a PS/2 plug.
PS/2 Mouse:	For PC-Mouse, which is using a PS/2 plug.
USB Port:	Available for connecting USB devices.
Parallel Port:	To connect with SPP/ECP/EPP printer.
COM1/COM2 Port:	To connect with pointing devices, modem or others serial devices.
Speaker Out:	To External Speaker, Earphone or Amplifier.
Line-In:	Comes from the signal sources, such as CD/Tape player.
MIC-In:	From Microphone.

Support 10/100 Mbps LAN onboard

On the strength of Realtek 8100BL LAN controller on board, which is a highly-integrated Platform LAN Connect device, it provides 10/100Mbps Ethernet for office and home use, the Ethernet RJ45 connector is located on top of USB connectors. The green LED indicates the link mode, it lights when linking to network and blinking when transferring data. The orange LED indicates the transfer mode, and it lights when data is transferring in 100Mbps mode. To enable or disable this function, you may simply adjust it through JP13 LAN Disable/Enable jumper.

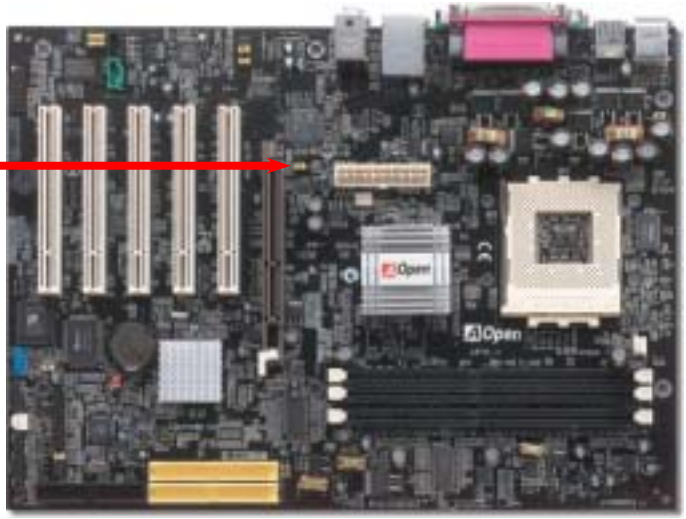


JP13 LAN Enable/Disable Jumper

JP13 is used to enable or disable onboard LAN. If you don't want to enable the Onboard LAN, you should set this jumper to 2-3.

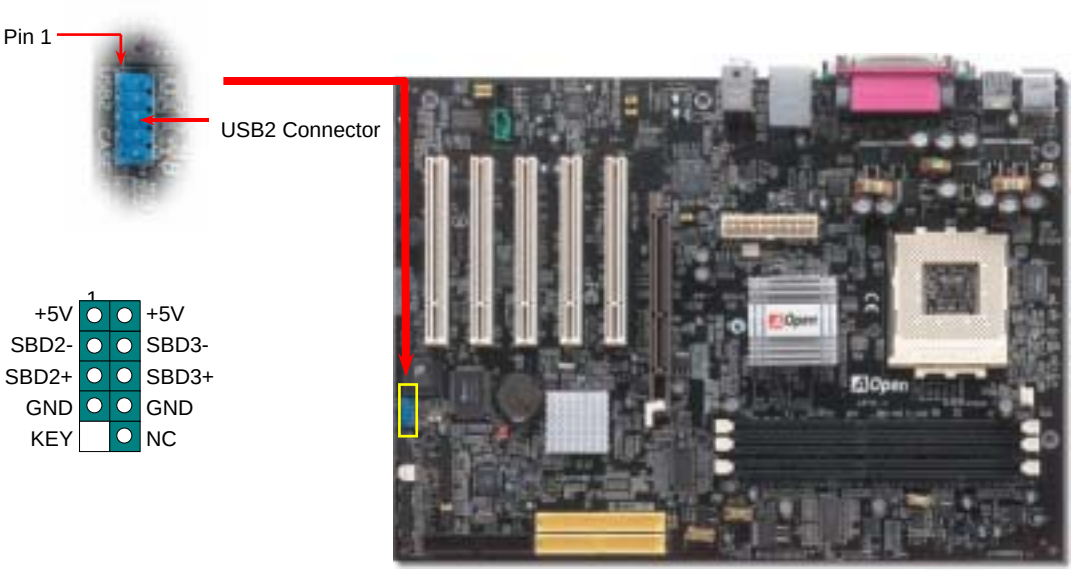
Enable
(Default)

Disable



Support Six USB Connectors

This motherboard provides six USB connectors to connect USB devices, such as mouse, keyboard, modem, printer, etc. There are two connectors on the PC99 back panel. You can use proper cable to connect other USB connectors to the back panel or front panel of chassis.



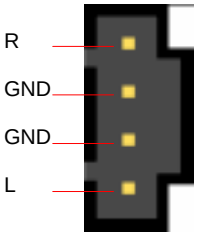
Chassis Intrusion Connector

The “CASE OPEN” header provides chassis intrusion-monitoring function. To make this function works, you have to enable it in the system BIOS, connect this header to a sensor somewhere on the chassis. So, whenever the sensor is triggered by lights or the opening of the chassis, the system will send out beep sound to inform you. Please be informed that this useful function only applies to advanced chassis, you may purchase an extra sensor, attach it on your chassis, and make a good use of this function.

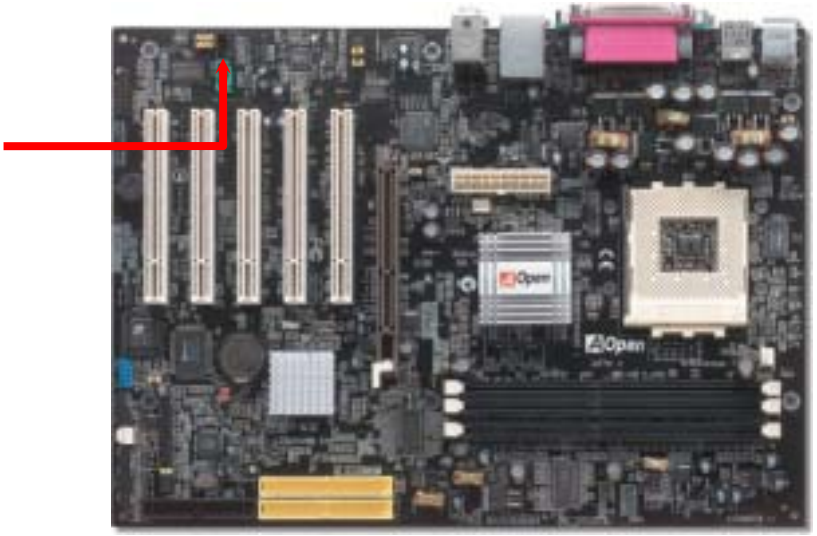
Chassis Intrusion Connector

CD Audio Connector

This connector is used to connect CD Audio cable from CDROM or DVD drive to onboard sound.

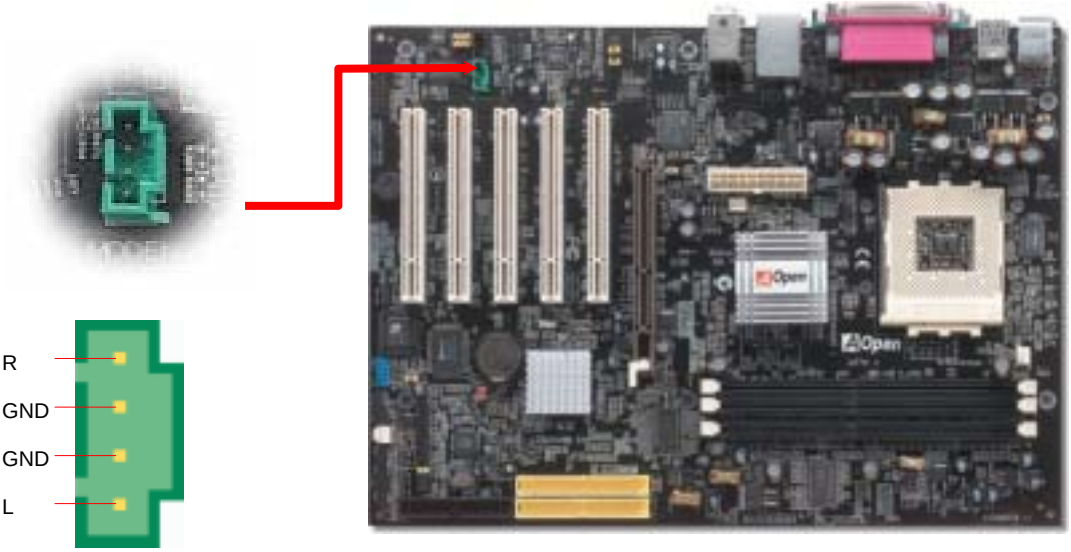


CD-IN Connector



AUX-IN Connector

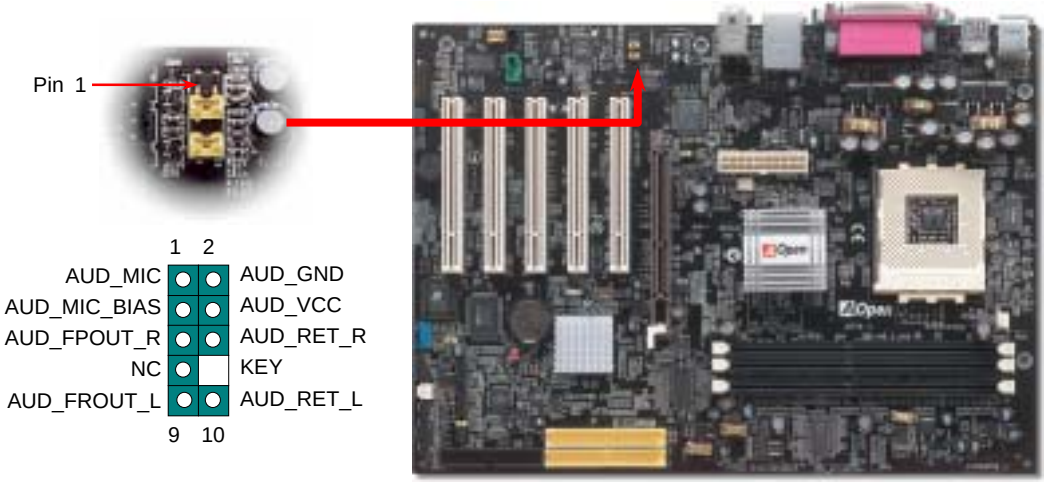
This connector is used to connect MPEG Audio cable from MPEG card to onboard sound.



AUX-IN Connector

Front Audio Connector

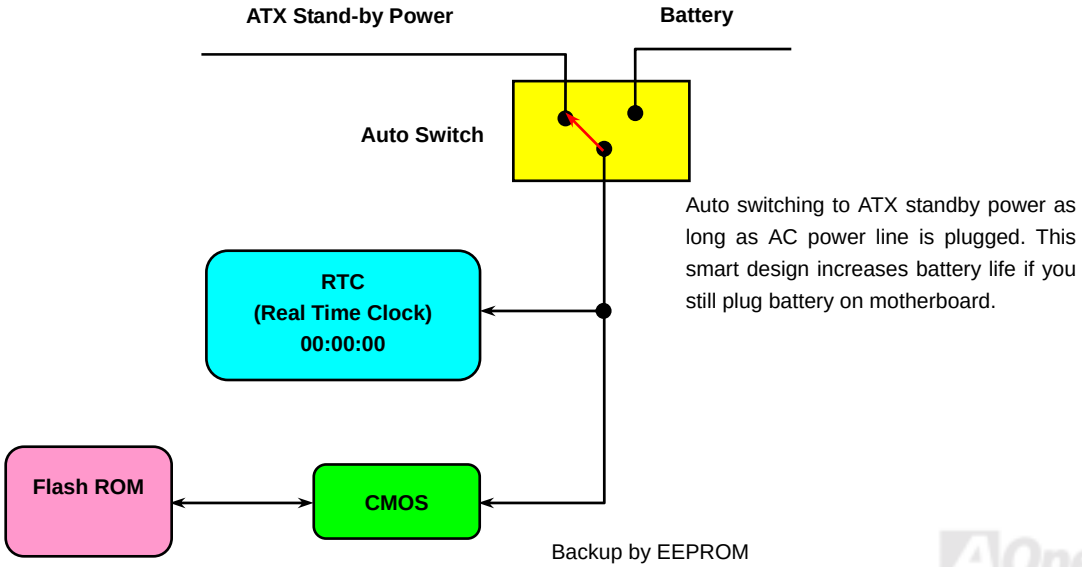
If the housing has been designed with an audio port on the front panel, you'll be able to connect onboard audio to front panel through this connector. By the way, please remove 5-6 and 9-10 jumper caps from the Front Audio Connector before connecting the cable. Please do not remove these 5-6 and 9-10 yellow jumper caps if there's no audio port on the front panel.



Note: *Please remove the jumper cap from the Front Panel Audio Connector before you connect the cable. Do not remove this yellow jumper cap if housing without an audio port on the front panel.*

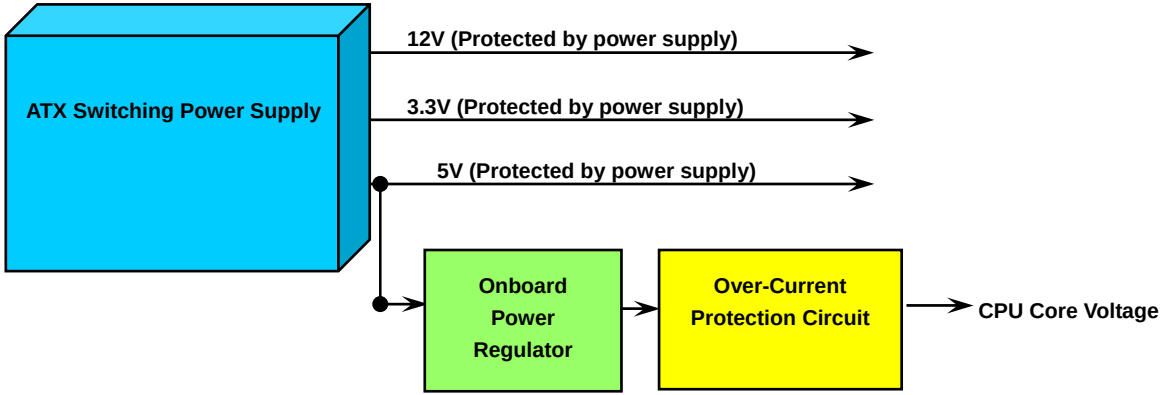
Battery-less and Long Life Design

This Motherboard implements Flash ROM and a special circuit that allows you to save your current CPU and CMOS Setup configurations without the need of a battery. The RTC (real time clock) can also keep running as long as the power cord is plugged. If you lose your CMOS data by accident, you can just reload the CMOS configurations from Flash ROM and the system will recover as usual.



Over-current Protection

The Over Current Protection was very popular implemented on ATX 3.3V/5V/12V switching power supply. However, the new generation CPU uses different voltage that has regulator to transfer 5V to CPU voltage (for example, 2.0V), and makes 5V over current protection useless. This motherboard is with switching regulator onboard supports CPU over-current protection; in conjunction with 3.3V/5V/12V power supply provide the full line over-current protection.

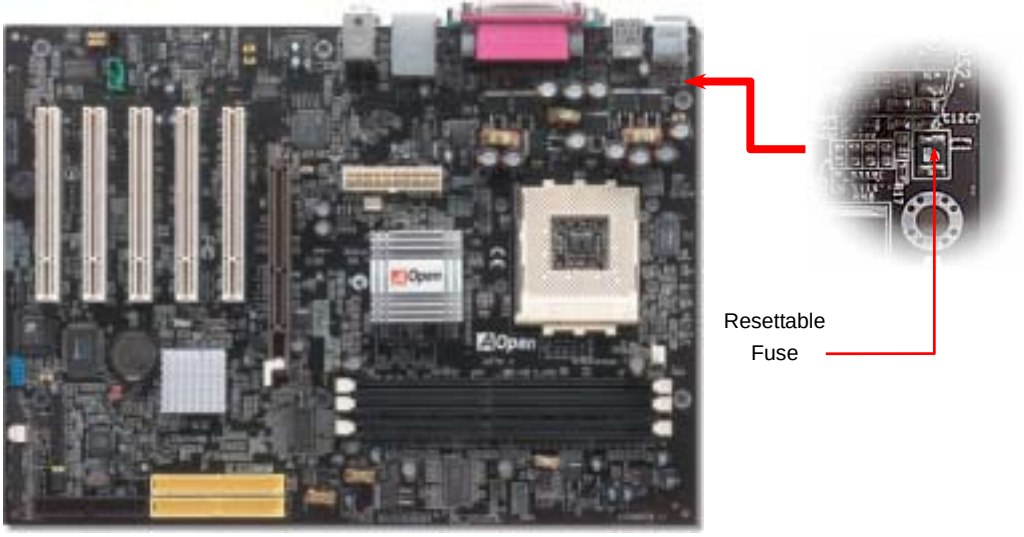


Note: *Although we have implemented protection circuit try to prevent any human operating mistake, there is still certain risk that CPU, memory, IDE, add-on cards installed on this motherboard may be damaged because of component failure, human operating error or unknown nature reason.* ***AOpen cannot guaranty the protection circuit will always work perfectly.***

Resettable Fuse

Traditional motherboard has fuse for Keyboard and USB port to prevent over-current or shortage. These fuses are soldered onboard that when it is broken (function as protecting the motherboard), user still cannot replace it and the motherboard is still malfunctioning.

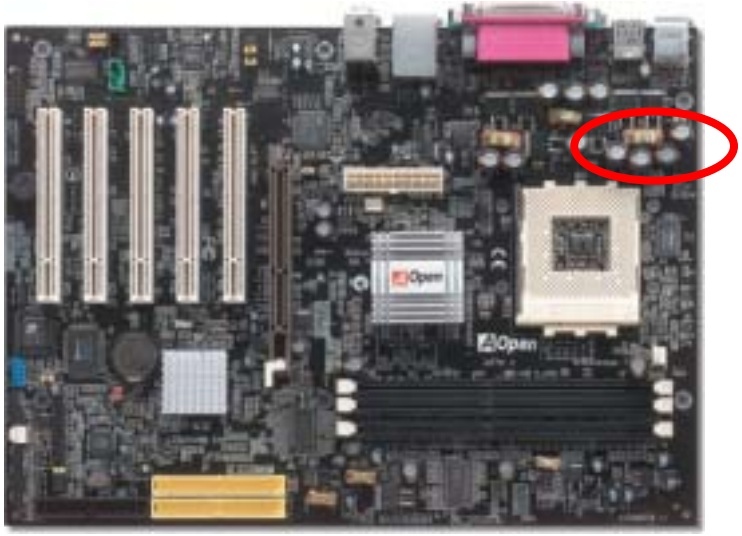
With expensive Resettable Fuse, the motherboard can be resumed back to normal function after the fuse had done its protection job.



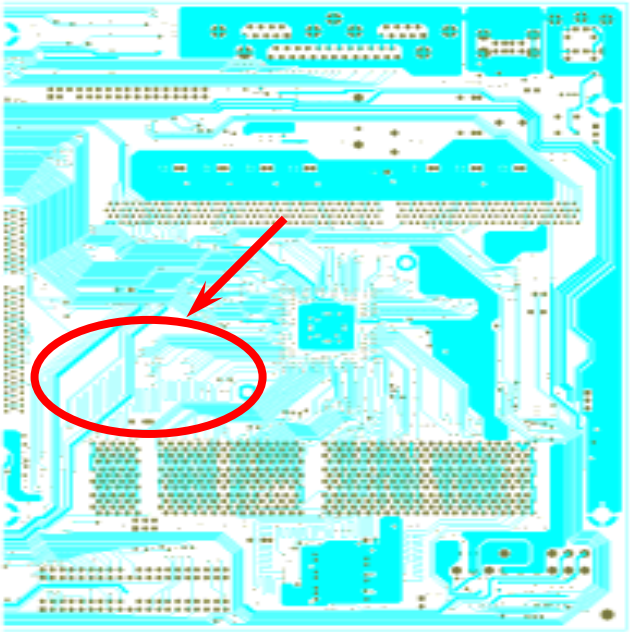
2200 μF Low ESR Capacitor

The quality of low ESR capacitor (Low Equivalent Series Resistance) during high frequency operation is very important for the stability of CPU power. The idea of where to put these capacitors is another know-how that requires experience and detail calculation.

Not only that, AK76F-400N implements 2200 μF capacitors, which is much larger than normal capacitor (1000 & 1500 μf) and it provides better stability for CPU power.



Layout (Frequency Isolation Wall)

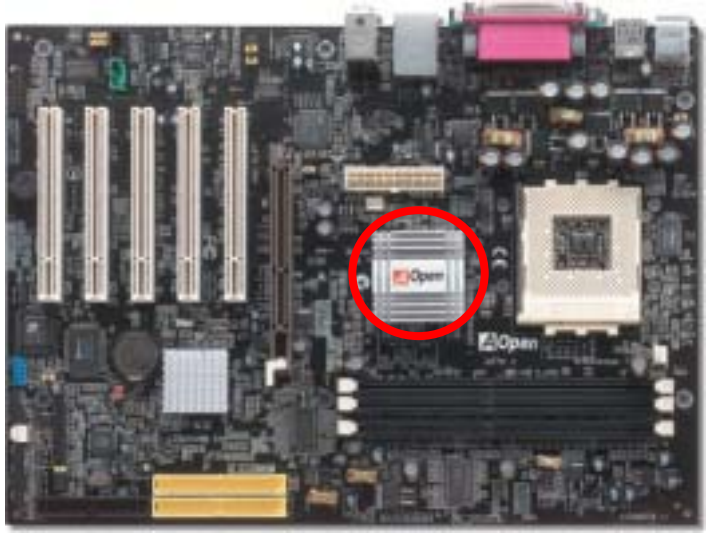


For high frequency operation, especially overclocking, layout is the most important factor to make sure chipset and CPU working in stable condition. The layout of this motherboard implements AOpen's unique design called " Frequency Isolation Wall". Separating each critical portion of motherboard into regions where each region operates in a same or similar frequency range to avoid cross talk and frequency interference between each region's operations and condition. The trace length and route must be calculated carefully. For example, the clock trace must be equal length (not necessarily as short as possible) so that clock skew will be controlled within few a pico second ($1/10^{12}$ Sec)

Note: This diagram for example only, it may not be exactly the same as this motherboard.

Pure Aluminum Heatsink

Cool down CPU and Chipset is important for system reliability. Aluminum heat sink provides better heat consumption especially when you are trying to over clocking the CPU.



Vivid BIOS technology

Have you been fed up with the conservative and immutable POST screen? Let's rule out the tradition idea that POST screen are stiff and frigid, and let AOpen show you the newly developed VividBIOS to experience the lively vivid colorful POST screen!

Unlike earlier graphic POST screen which could occupy the whole screen and mask text information during POST, AOpen VividBIOS deals with graphics and texts separately, and makes them running simultaneously during POST. With this innovative design, VividBios now brings you a beautiful and sleek 256 colors screen without missing any important information shown on POST screen.

In addition, the limited space of BIOS ROM is another big issue. When all of the traditional BIOS can only show space-consuming and uncompressed Bitmap, AOpen has considerately tuned the BIOS to next generation, to recognize the smaller-sized GIF format and even dynamic-showing GIF animation.

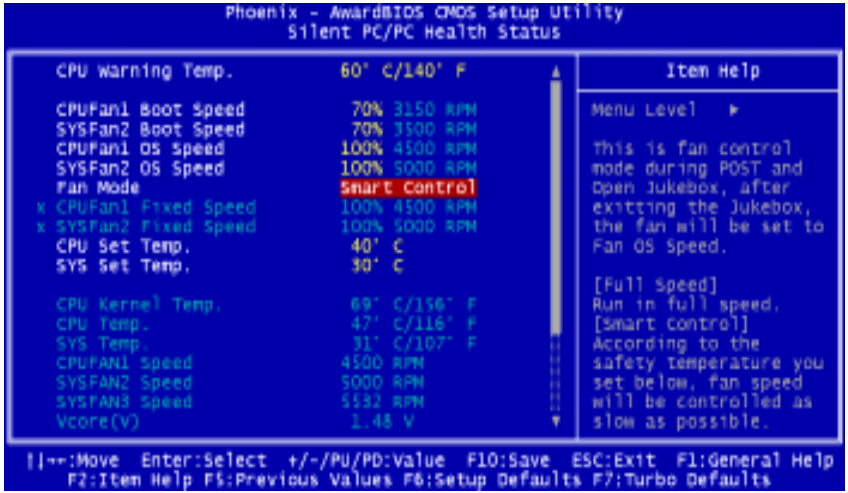
Vivid BIOS shares the same fundamental technology with Open JukeBox CD Player, you may use the same EzSkin utility to change your Vivid BIOS screen or to download your favorite Open JukeBox skin. If you see this little logo Skin shown beside your model name on the BIOS download page, http://english.aopen.com.tw/tech/download/skin, it is assured that your motherboard supports this innovative feature!

The noise is gone!! ---- SilentTek

NEW!

As the clock of CPU keeps rocketing higher and higher, it inevitably brings higher heat and system temperature in a relative way. The way we deal with this heat problem, however, is to spare no effort to add one fan after another to protect our pampered system, expecting these fans could cool down our machine as much as they could.

But at the same time, we believe that same users are affected terribly by the irritating noises of these fans while working with their PC. As a matter of fact, we do not have to get our fans running at such a high speed in most cases; on the contrary, we discovered that having your fans running at appropriate time and speed not only reduces the noise, but also consumes the least power the system needs, so as to prevent over-wasting of energy resource.

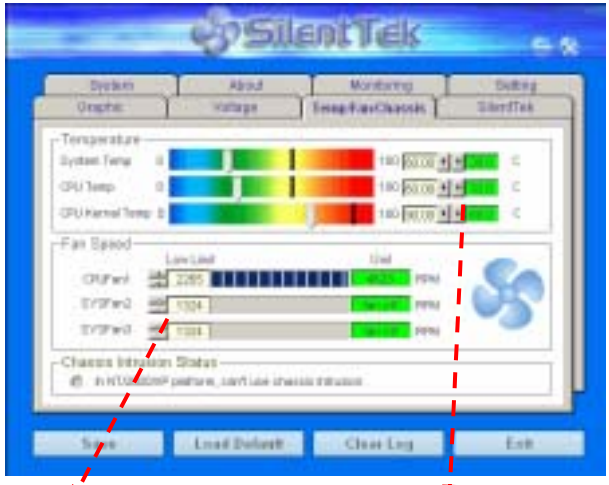


Today, AOpen Motherboard is honored to bring you a new overall solution, SilentTek, to make your system quiet. To collocate with hardware circuit, BIOS and the utility under Windows, SilentTek combined “Hardware-Status Monitoring”, “Overheat Warning” and “Fan Speed Control” with user-friendly interfaces to provide you a perfect balance among noises, system performance and stability.

The first image you have here is the Voltage Status page. You can find current status of all voltages and set your expected margins of warning level.

You may check your system voltage from the indicating bar here.

In “Temp/Fan/Case” page, you may get aware of the current temperature of CPU and the heat inside chassis.



Of course, you may set your defaulted lowest margin for your fans and the SilentTek would also pop up a message box and alarm you when the fan is rotating slower than this specified speed.

You may set the highest margin of your CPU and system temperature as default, and SilentTek would pop up a message box and alert you with alarm when the temperature goes beyond the specified margin.

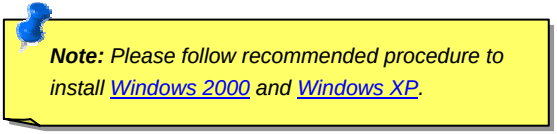
The following page is sure to be the most important part of this utility, you may control the rotation speed of specific fans you got with options inside in this page. Respectively illustrate as follow:

1. **Smart FAN Control**: This is the default setting of this utility and also the most easy-to-set one, which can be applied to any housing. It can automatically adjust the fan speed by exerting algorithm similar to “Fuzzy Logic”. All you got to do is to set the margin of the temperature, and then SilentPC would judge automatically for your system, lifting or lowering the rotation speed.
2. **Fix FAN Control**: In this setting, you may set a fixed rotation speed for each fan you installed.
3. **Multiple Control**: This is the most unconstrained setting, which allows you to be on top of all details and set different rotation speed for different temperature.
4. **AOpen Recommend Setting**: This is the best setting to fit in with AOpen housing; SilentPC would keep your system under the least quiet situation, and would only lift the fan rotation speed for heat-dissipation when necessary. According to our practical testing, we found that in most cases, the fan would remain still when the CPU is not in full loading.

Note: *Due to there are hundreds different brands of fan on the market, there might be some inaccuracy occurred when you have had adjusted your rotation speed; this is still under criterion and please assured that it won’t cause any problem to your system.*

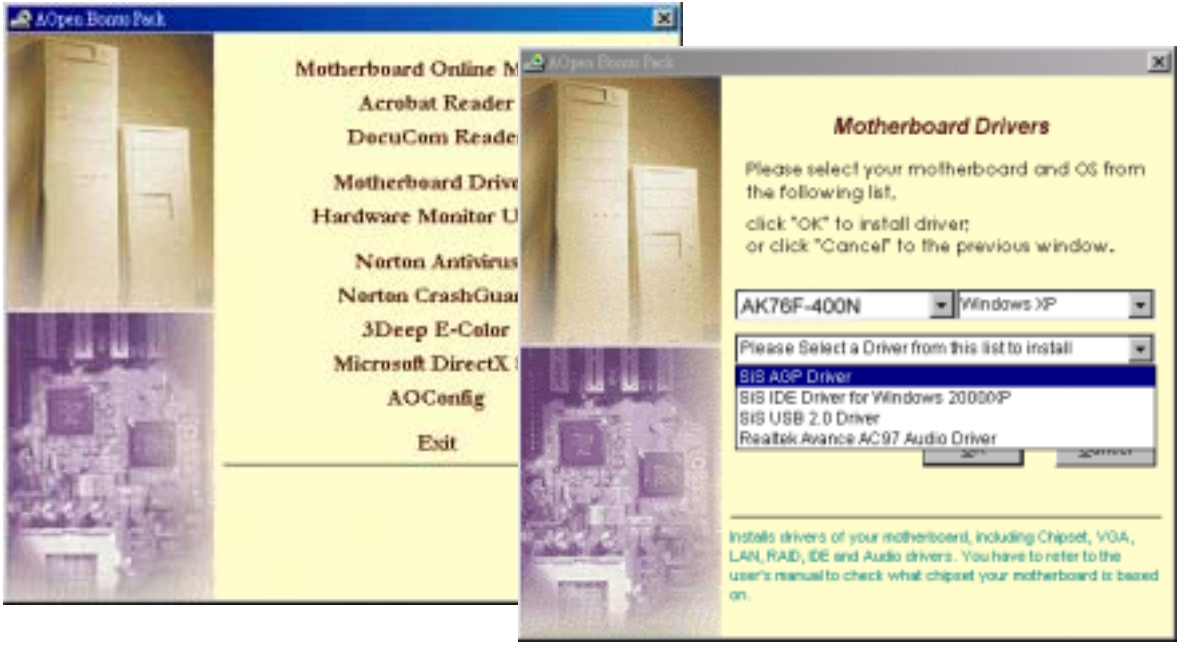
Driver and Utility

There are motherboard drivers and utilities included in AOpen Bonus CD disc. You don't need to install all of them in order to boot your system. But after you finish the hardware installation, you have to install your operation system first (such as Windows 98) before you can install any drivers or utilities. Please refer to your operation system's installation guide.



Auto-run Menu from Bonus CD Disc

You can use the auto-run menu of Bonus CD disc. Choose the utility and driver and select model name.



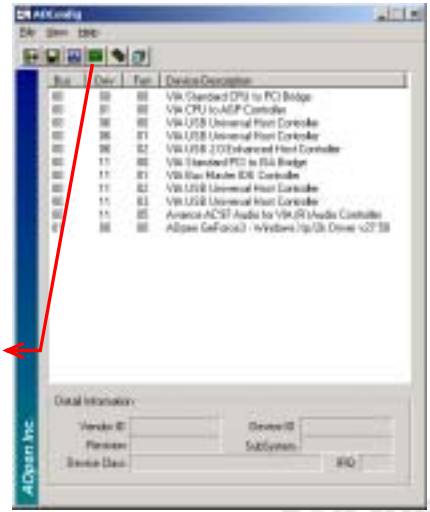
AOConfig Utility

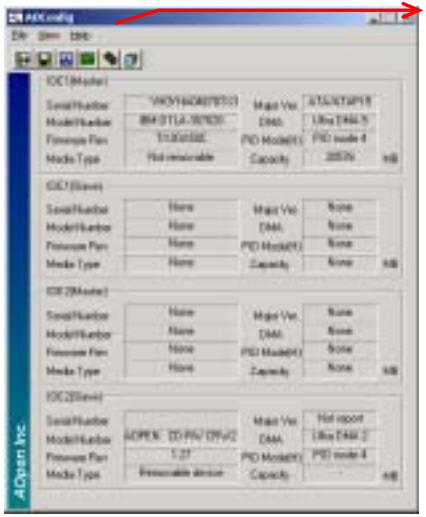
AOpen always dedicated to provide users a much friendly computer environment. We now bring you a comprehensive system detection utility. AOConfig is a Windows based utility with user-friendly interface that allows users to obtain information of the operation system and hardware such as motherboard, CPU, memory, PCI devices and IDE devices. The powerful utility also displays the version of BIOS and firmware for your convenience of maintenance.

Moreover, AOConfig allows users to save information in *.BMP or *.TXT format which users may collect the system information in detail and send them to AOpen directly for technical support or for further diagnose of system problems.

1. The system page shows the detailed information of the motherboard, operating system, processor, and BIOS version.

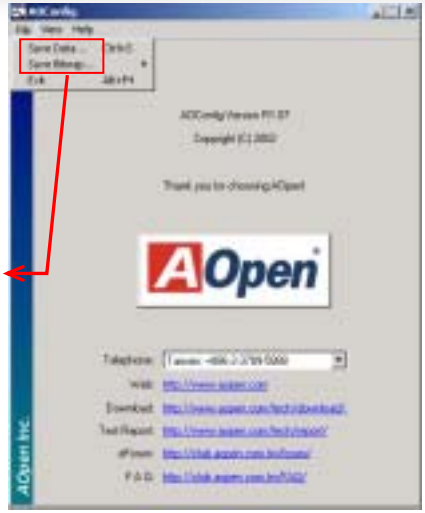
2. The PCI device page shows the configurations of all PCI devices installed in your motherboard.





3. This page presents the IDE device information, such as serial number, manufacturer, firmware version, and capacity.

4. From this page, users can obtain the technical support information of AOpen. Moreover, detailed information could be saved in .bmp or .txt format.



NOTE:

AOConfig can be used under Windows 98SE/ME, NT4.0/2000, or even the latest Windows XP. Please also note that AOConfig can only be operated in a system equipped with an AOpen motherboard. Before running AOConfig, all applications must be closed.

Installing Onboard Sound Driver

This motherboard comes with an AC97 CODEC. You can find the audio driver from the Bonus Pack CD disc auto-run menu.

Installing SiS AGP Driver

This motherboard comes with an AGP driver. You can find the audio driver from the Bonus Pack CD disc auto-run menu.

PHOENIX-AWARD BIOS

System parameters can be modified by going into BIOS Setup menu, this menu allows you to configure the system parameters and save the configuration into the 128 bytes CMOS area, (normally in the RTC chip or in the main chipset).

The Phoinix-AwardBIOS™ that installed in the Flash ROM of the motherboard is a custom version of an industry standard BIOS. The BIOS provides critical low-level support for standard devices such as hard disk drives, serial and parallel ports.

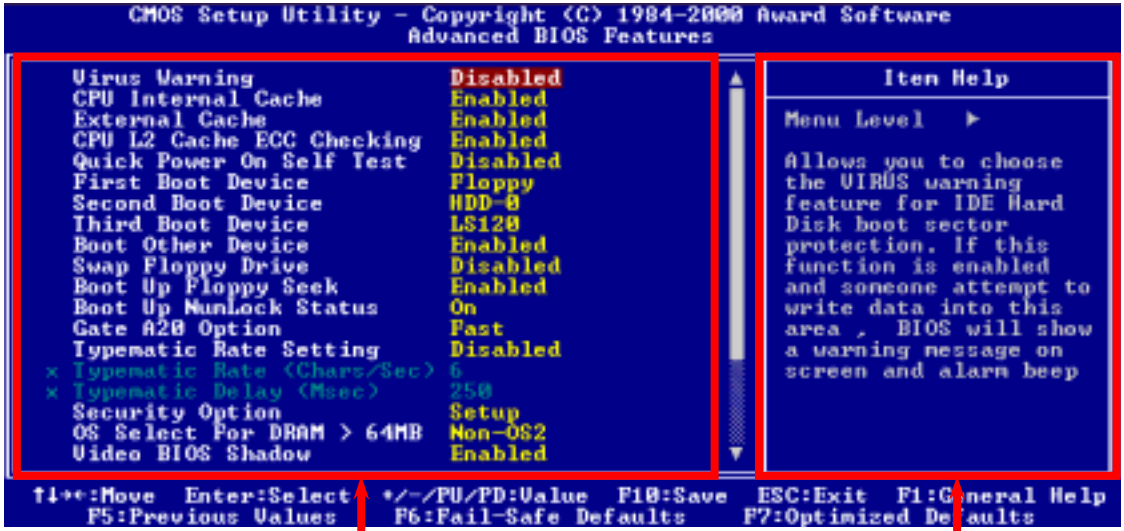
Most BIOS setting had optimized by AOpen's R&D engineering team. But, the default setting of BIOS still can't fine-tune the chipset controlling entire system. Hence, the rest of this chapter is intended to guide you through the process of configuring your system using setup.

To enter to BIOS setup menu, press <Del> when POST (Power-On Self Test) screen is shown on your monitor.

Note: *Because the BIOS code is the most often changed part of the motherboard design, the BIOS information contained in this manual may be different with actual BIOS that come with your motherboard.*

About PHOENIX-AWARD BIOS Function Description…

AOpen always dedicates to give users a more friendly computer system. Now, we include all function descriptions of BIOS setup program into the BIOS Flash ROM. When you select one function of BIOS setup program, the function description will appeared at right side of screen. Hence, you don't need read this manual while you changing the BIOS setting.



Menu Items Select Window

Item Function Description Window

How To Use Phoenix-Award™ BIOS Setup Program

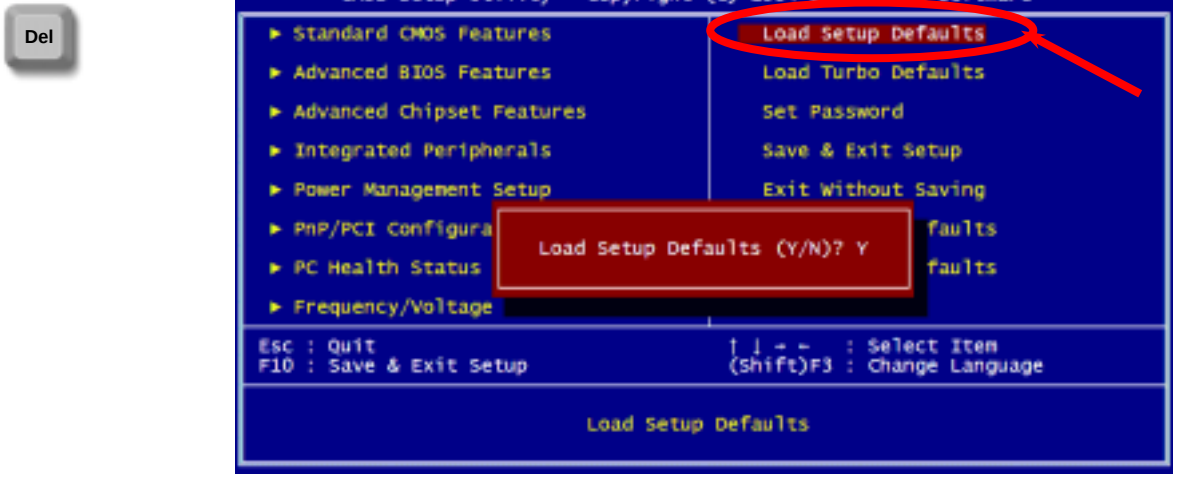
Generally, you can use the arrow keys to highlight items that you want to choose, then press <Enter> key to select, and use the <Page Up> and <Page Down> key to change setting value. You also can press <F1> key for help and press <Esc> key to quit Phoinix-Award™ BIOS setup program. The following table provides details about how to use keyboard in the Phoinix-Award™ BIOS setup program. By the way, all products of AOpen also provides a special function in the BIOS setup, you can press <F3> key selecting preferred menu language to display.

Key	Description
Page Up or +	Changing setting to next value or increase the value.
Page Down or -	Changing setting to previous value or decrease value.
Enter	Select the item.
Esc	1. In main menu: Quit and don't save any change. 2. In sub menu: Exit current menu to main menu.
Up Arrow	Highlight previous item.
Down Arrow	Highlight next item.
Left Arrow	Move the light bar to left side of menu.
Right Arrow	Move the light bar to right side of menu.
F1	Get menu or item help description.
F3	Changing menu language.
F5	Load previous setting value from CMOS.

Key	Description
F6	Load setup default setting value from CMOS.
F7	Load turbo setting value from CMOS.
F10	Save changed setting and exit setup program.

How To Enter BIOS Setup

After you finish the setting of jumpers and connect correct cables. Power on and enter the BIOS Setup, press <Del> during POST (Power-On Self Test). Choose "Load Setup Defaults" for recommended optimal performance.

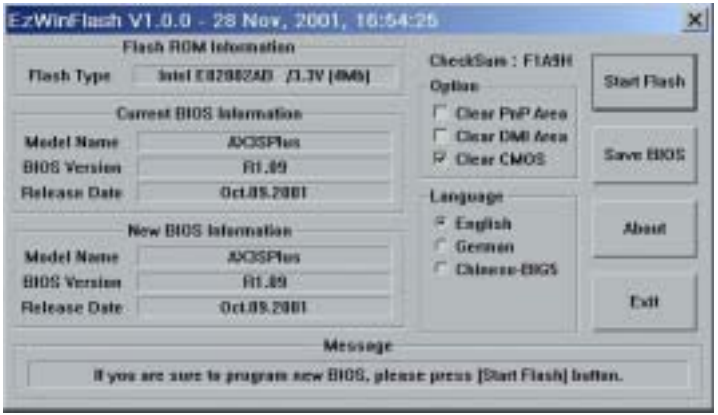


Warning: *Please avoid of using "Load Turbo Defaults", unless you are sure your system components (CPU, DRAM, HDD, etc.) are good enough for turbo setting.*

BIOS Upgrade under Windows environment

With outstanding R&D ability of AOpen, we now bring you a whole new BIOS Flash wizard ---- EzWinFlash. With an eye to users convenience, EzWinFlash combines the BIOS binary code and flash module together, so the only thing you have to do is just clicking on the utility you downloaded from web and let it helps you complete the flash process automatically. EzWinFlash detects your motherboard and checks the BIOS version cleverly to prevent your system from any possible failure. Moreover, EzWinFlash has been taken into consideration to go with any windows platform you might be using, no matter if you're using Windows 95/98, 98SE/ME, NT4.0/2000, or even the latest Windows XP.

In the meanwhile, in order to provide a much more user-friendly operating environment, AOpen EZWinFlash is natively designed to have multi-language function to provide easier way for users' usage in changing BIOS setting.



Caution: *By updating your motherboard, you are taking a risk of BIOS flash failure. If your motherboard is working stable, and there are no major bugs that had been fixed by a latter BIOS revision, we recommend that you DO NOT try to upgrade your BIOS.*

If you intent on upgrading, PLEASE BE SURE to get the right BIOS revision for the right motherboard model to avoid any possibility failure.

Note: The model name on this BIOS picture is for reference only. It may not be the exact model name.

You may accomplish BIOS upgrade procedure with EZWinFlash by the following steps, and it's STRONGLY RECOMMANDED to close all the applications before you start the upgrading.

1. Download the new version of BIOS package zip file from AOpen official web site. (ex: http://www.aopen.com)
2. Unzip the download BIOS package (ex: WAK76F400N102.ZIP) with WinZip (http://www.winzip.com) in Windows environment.
3. Save the unzipped files into a folder, for example, WAK76F400N102.EXE & WAK76F400N102.BIN.
4. Double click on the WAK76F400N102.EXE, EZWinFlash will detect the model name and BIOS version of your motherboard. If you had got the wrong BIOS, you will not be allowed to proceed with the flash steps.
5. You may select preferred language in the main menu, then click [Start Flash] to start the BIOS upgrade procedure.
6. EZWinFlash will complete all the process automatically, and a dialogue box will pop up to ask you to restart Windows. You may click [YES] to reboot Windows.
7. Press <Del> at POST to enter BIOS setup, choose "Load Setup Defaults", then "Save & Exit Setup". Done!

It is strongly recommended NOT to turn off the power or run any application during FLASH PROCESS.

Warning: *The new BIOS upgrade will permanently replace your original BIOS's settings when flashing. You may need to reconfigure your BIOS setting so that your system can go back to work as normal.*

VGA Card & Hard Disk

VGA and HDD is key components for overclocking, for your reference, the following list are what have been successful overclocked in our lab. Please note that AOpen can not guaranty they can be successful overclocked again. Please check the **Available Vendor List (AVL)** by link to our official website.

VGA: http://english.aopen.com.tw/tech/report/overclk/mb/vga-oc.htm

HDD: http://english.aopen.com.tw/tech/report/overclk/mb/hdd-oc.htm

Glossary

AC97 CODEC

Basically, AC97 CODEC is the standard structure of PCI sound card. As we know, computer is digital-based, but music is based on analog-based. Therefore, there must be a process to turn digital into analog during the last stage processing of sound in computer. Hence, the component on sound card that play this important task is what we called CODEC.

Audio CODEC 97 (briefly called AC97) is the specification regulated by Intel, and it's about the structure of audio conversion. The special place about CODEC is that it is separated from sound card (CODEC is an independent chipset). Therefore, PCI sound card could possess with 90db and do other application process as well. We called CODEC that meets this structure AC97 CODEC.

ACPI (Advanced Configuration & Power Interface)

ACPI is the power management specification of PC97 (1997). It intends to save more power by taking full control of power management to operating system and bypass BIOS. The chipset or super I/O chip needs to provide standard register interface to operating system (such as Windows 98). This is a bit similar as the PnP register interface. ACPI defines ATX momentary soft power switch to control the power state transition.

ACR (Advanced Communication Riser)

Building on the PC motherboard riser architecture, ACR slot is backward compatible with AMR but beyond the limitation of it. The ACR specification is designed to support modem, audio, Local Area Network (LAN) and Digital Subscriber Line (DSL).

AGP (Accelerated Graphic Port)

The main function of AGP simply put is to tell monitor what screen information had to be shown, a visual transmission device actually. With the rapid developing of AGP card, we can see that it had been developed from single colorful AGP card to 2D and 3D graphic. AGP supports only memory read/write operation and single-master single-slave one-to-one only. Though AGP and PCI share the same algorithm of 32-bit, its frequencies are 66MHz and 33MHz respectively. AGP interface had been developed from 2X to 8x.

1X AGP, data transfer rate is 66MHz x 4byte x 1 = 264MB/s

2X AGP, data transfer rate is 66MHz x 4byte x 2 = 528MB/s

4X AGP, data transfer rate is 66MHz x 4byte x 4 = 1056MB/s.

8X AGP, data transfer rate is 66MHz x 4byte x 8 = 2112MB/s.

AMR (Audio/Modem Riser)

The CODEC circuit of AC97 sound/modem solution can be put on motherboard or put on a riser card (AMR card) that connects to motherboard through AMR connector.

ATA (AT Attachment)

Before talking about ATA (AT Attachment), we must understand **DMA** (Direct Memory Access), which allows devices to skip the CPU devices and access memory directly. DMA specification could not only eliminate the workload of CPU, but also accelerate the transmission of data. DMA begins with a data transfer rate of 16.6MB/Sec, but afterward developed to new data rate of 33.3MB/Sec, which is twice the data rate and we called it **Ultra DMA**. **ATA** details power and data signals between the drive and integrated drive controller and the computer's motherboard. Two drives (master and slave) are supported. The ATA specification allows the drive to connect directly to the ISA bus on the computer. ATA transfer rate then had been developed to 133MHz/Sec and would come out with fastest rate later (please refer to

Serial ATA).

DMA, data transfer rate is 16.6MHz/s.

Ultra DMA, data transfer rate is 16.6MHz x 2 = 33MB/s.

ATA/66, data transfer rate is 16.6MHz x 4 = 66MB/s.

ATA/100, data transfer rate is 16.6MHz x 6 = 100MB/s.

ATA/133, data transfer rate is 16.6MHz x 8 = 133MB/s.

(ATA/133 uses both rising edge and falling edge as ATA/66 but clock cycle time is reduced to 30ns.)

BIOS (Basic Input/Output System)

BIOS, is a set of assembly routine/program that reside in EPROM or Flash ROM. BIOS controls Input/output devices and other hardware devices of motherboard. In general, to provide hardware independent portability, operation system and drivers is required to access BIOS without directly access hardware devices.

Bluetooth

Bluetooth is a wireless transferring technology that enables short-range wireless connections between desktop and laptop computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), cellular phones, printers, scanners, digital cameras and even home appliances. The principle of Bluetooth (a chipset) is to transfer information and voices at the frequency of ISM Band. Every Bluetooth technology devices do come with a standard address for you to connect one-to-one or one-to-seven (to form a Pico-net), with transferring range up to 10 meters (100 meters to follow), using low power radio. Bluetooth do not only possess high transfer rate of 1MB/s, it also could be encrypted with pin code. With hopping rate of 1600 hops per second, it's difficult to be intercepted and are less interrupted by electromagnetic wave.

CNR (Communication and Networking Riser)

The CNR specification provides the PC industry the opportunity to deliver a flexible and cost reduced method of implementing LAN, home networking, DSL, USB, wireless, audio and modem subsystems widely used in today's "connected PCs". The CNR specification is an open industry specification and is supported by OEMs, IHV card manufacturers, silicon supplier and Microsoft.

DDR (Double Data Rate) RAM

DDR RAM utilizes the existing SDRAM (For ex, PC-100, PC-133) infrastructure and technology while doubling the nominal bandwidth available to systems in an easy to design and simple to adopt way. Based on FSB frequency, DDR RAM on the market are DDR200, DDR266 and DDR333 with more coming around soon.

DDR200, transfer bandwidth up to 200x64/8=1600MB/s (PC1600)

DDR266, transfer bandwidth up to 266x64/8=2100MB/s (PC2100)

DDR333, transfer bandwidth up to 333x64/8=2700MB/s (PC2700)

DDR400, transfer bandwidth up to 400x64/8=3200MB/s (PC3200)

ECC (Error Checking and Correction)

The ECC mode needs 8 ECC bits for 64-bit data. Each time memory is accessed; ECC bits are updated and checked by a special algorithm. The ECC algorithm has the ability to detect double-bit error and automatically correct single-bit error while parity mode can only detect single-bit error.

EEPROM (Electronic Erasable Programmable ROM)

Also known as E^2PROM. Both EEPROM and Flash ROM can be re-programmed by electronic signals, but the interface technology is different. Size of EEPROM is much smaller than flash ROM.

EPROM (Erasable Programmable ROM)

Traditional motherboard stores BIOS code in EPROM. EPROM can only be erased by ultra-violet (UV) light. If BIOS has to be upgraded, you need to remove EPROM from motherboard, clear by UV light, re-program, and then insert back.

EV6 Bus

EV6 Bus is the technology of Alpha processor from Digital Equipment Corporation. EV6 bus uses both rising and falling clock edge to transfer data, similar as DDR RAM or ATA/66 IDE bus.
EV6 Bus Speed = CPU external bus clock x 2.

200 MHz EV6 bus, 200MHz = 100 MHz external bus clock x 2

FCC DoC (Declaration of Conformity)

The DoC is component certification standard of FCC EMI regulations. This standard allows DIY component (such as motherboard) to apply DoC label separately without a shielding of housing.

FC-PGA (Flip Chip-Pin Grid Array)

FC means Flip Chip, FC-PGA is a package of Intel for Pentium III for 0.18µm process CPU, which can be plugged into SKT370 socket.

FC-PGA2 (Flip Chip-Pin Grid Array)

After FC-PGA, FC-PGA2 is the package for 0.13µm process CPU developed by Intel, which can be plugged into SKT423/478 socket as well.

Flash ROM

Flash ROM can be re-programmed by electronic signals. It is easier for BIOS to upgrade by a flash utility, but it is also easier to be infected by virus. Because of increase of new functions, BIOS size is increased from 64KB to 512KB (4M bit).

Hyper Threading

Hyper-Threading technology is an innovative design from Intel that enables multi-threaded software applications to process threads in parallel within each processor resulting in increased utilization of processor execution resources. As a result, an average improvement of ~40% in CPU resource utilization yields higher processing throughput.

IEEE 1394

IEEE 1394, which also called Firewire, is a serial data transfer protocol and interconnection system. The main feature of the Firewire that assures its adoption for the digital video and audio (A/V) consumer application is its low cost. Fire wire interface is capable of supporting various high-end digital A/V applications, such as consumer A/V device control and signal routing, Digital Video (DV) editing, home networking, and more than 32 channels of digital mixing. Gone are those days of expensive video capture cards. Firewire allows for video capture from both newer DV camcorders with Firewire ports and older analog equipment using A/V to Firewire converters.

The advantages of the IEEE1394:

High data transfer rate – Start from 400 Mbps, (with 800/1600/3200 Mbps coming soon), which is about 30 times faster than USB 1.1.

Supports up to 63 devices (16 - daisy chained) with cable length up to about 4.5 m (14 feet).

Hot-pluggable (like USB). No need to turn of your device to connect or disconnect, and you don't need to reboot your PC. Also, it is a plug-and-play bus.

IEEE1394 is very easy to connect (Like USB1.1/2/0).

Parity Bit

The parity mode uses 1 parity bit for each byte, normally it is even parity mode, that is, each time the memory data is updated, parity bit will be adjusted to have even count "1" for each byte. When next time, if memory is read with odd number of "1", the parity error is occurred and this is called single bit error detection.

PCI (Peripheral Component Interface) Bus

Developed by Intel, Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) is a local bus standard. A bus is a channel used to transfer data to (input) and from (output) a computer and to or from a peripheral device. Most PCs have a PCI bus usually implemented at 32-bits providing a 33 MHz clock speed with a throughput rate of 133 MBps.

PDF Format

With PDF file, it is easy to do universal document exchange. Virtually any document may be converted in Portable Document Format (PDF). Contents in PDF documents are exactly the same as the original file, including fonts and graphics, and they can be distributed by e-mail or

stored on the World Wide Web, an intranet, a file system, or a CD-ROM for other users to view on any platforms. You may download Acrobat Reader in order to read PDF file from its website (www.adobe.com).

PnP (Plug and Play)

Oversimplified, Plug-and-Play automatically tells the software (device drivers) where to find various pieces of hardware (devices) such as modems, network cards, sound cards, etc. Plug-and-Play's task is to match up physical devices with the software (device drivers) that operates them and to establish channels of communication between each physical device and its driver.

POST (Power-On Self Test)

The BIOS self-test procedure after power-on, sometimes, it is the first or the second screen shown on your monitor during system boot.

PSB (Processor System Bus) Clock

PSB Clock means the external bus clock of CPU.
CPU internal clock = CPU PSB Clock x CPU Clock Ratio

RDRAM (Rambus Dynamic Random Access Memory)

A DRAM technology developed by Rambus Corporation*, to achieve high speed of memory through the use of multiple channels in parallel by 16-bits. Basically, RDRAM uses new structure of Multibank, which is quite different from FPM, EDO, SDRAM. Using different memory module as well, RDRAM uses “RIMM” with transfer rate of 600/700/800MHz, providing bandwidth as high to 1.6GB.

RIMM (Rambus Inline Memory Module)

184-pin memory module that supports RDRAM memory technology. A RIMM memory module may contain up to maximum of 16 RDRAM devices.

SDRAM (Synchronous DRAM)

SDRAM is one of the DRAM technologies that allow DRAM to use the same clock as the CPU host bus (EDO and FPM are asynchronous and do not have clock signal). It is similar as PBSRAM to use burst mode transfer. SDRAM comes in 64-bit 168-pin DIMM and operates at 3.3V, and have been gradually replaced by DDR RAM.

SATA (Serial ATA)

The Serial ATA specification is designed to overcome speed limitations while enabling the storage interface to scale with the growing media rate demands of PC platforms. Serial ATA is to replace parallel ATA with the compatibility with existing operating systems and drivers, adding performance headroom for years to come. It is developed with data transfer rate of 150 Mbytes/second, and 300M/bs, 600M/bs to come. It reduces voltage and pins count requirements and can be implemented with thin and easy to route cables.

SMBus (System Management Bus)

SMBus is also called I^2C bus. It is a two-wire bus developed for component communication (especially for semiconductor IC). For example, set clock of clock generator for jumper-less motherboard. The data transfer rate of SMBus is only 100Kbit/s, it allows one host to communicate with CPU and many masters and slaves to send/receive message.

SPD (Serial Presence Detect)

SPD is a small ROM or EEPROM device resided on the DIMM or RIMM. SPD stores memory module information such as DRAM timing and chip parameters. SPD can be used by BIOS to decide best timing for this DIMM or RIMM.

USB 2.0 (Universal Serial Bus)

A Universal Serial Bus (USB) is an external bus (an interconnection) standard that supports data transfer rates of 12 Mbps. A single USB port can be used to connect up to 127 peripheral devices, such as mouse, modems and keyboards. Introduced in 1996, USB has completed replaced serial and parallel ports. It also supports plug-and-play installations and hot plugging Plug-and-play is the ability to add and remove devices to a computer while the computer is running and have the operating system automatically recognize the change. USB 2.0, which supports data transfer rates of 480 Mbps, has been widely used in motherboard these days.

VCM (Virtual Channel Memory)

NEC's Virtual Channel Memory (VCM) is a new DRAM core architecture that dramatically improves the memory system's ability to service multimedia requirements. VCM increases memory bus efficiency and performance of any DRAM technology by providing a set of fast static registers between the memory core and I/O pins. Using VCM technology results in reduced data access latency and reduced power consumption.

Wireless LAN – 802.11b

802.11 is a specification developed by IEEE and Wireless LAN technology, which is an interface between a wireless client and a base station or between two wireless clients.

802.11 family includes the following specifications and with more coming:

802.11 = 1 or 2 Mbps transmission in the 2.4 GHz band, using either frequency hopping spread spectrum (FHSS) or direct sequence spread spectrum (DSSS)).

802.11a = 54 Mbps in the 5GHz band, using orthogonal frequency division multiplexing)

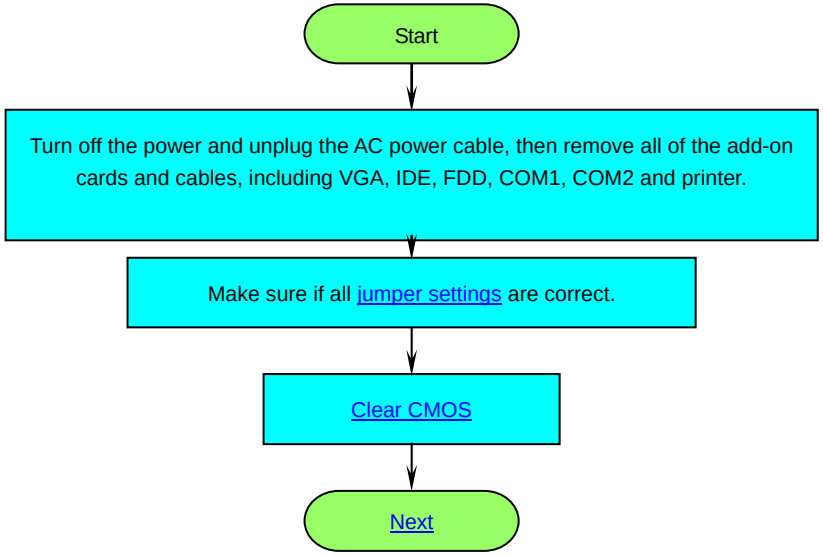
802.11b (11 Mbps transmission in the 2.4 GHz band, using direct sequence spread spectrum (DSSS).

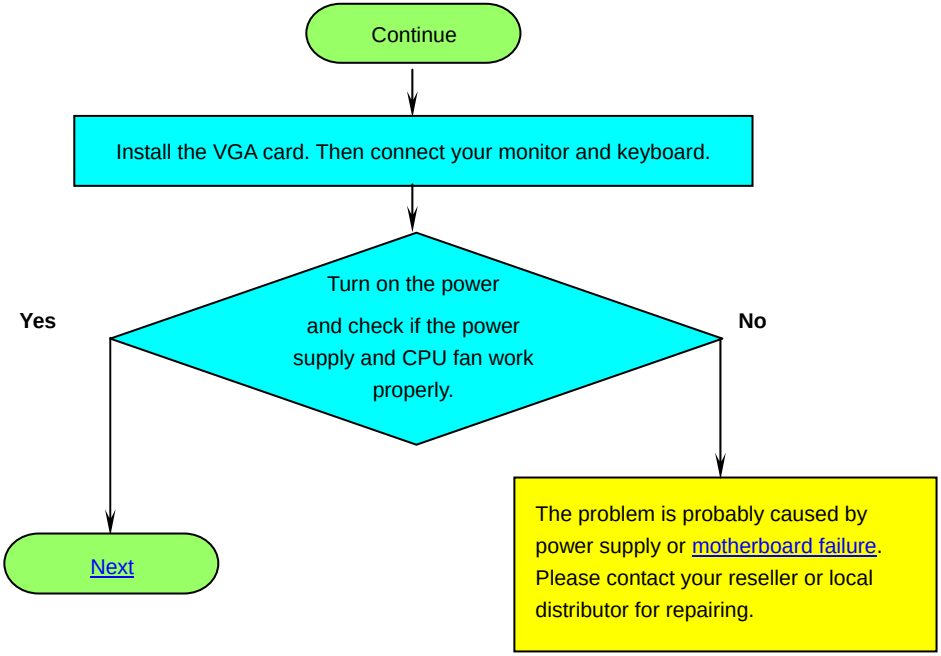
ZIP file

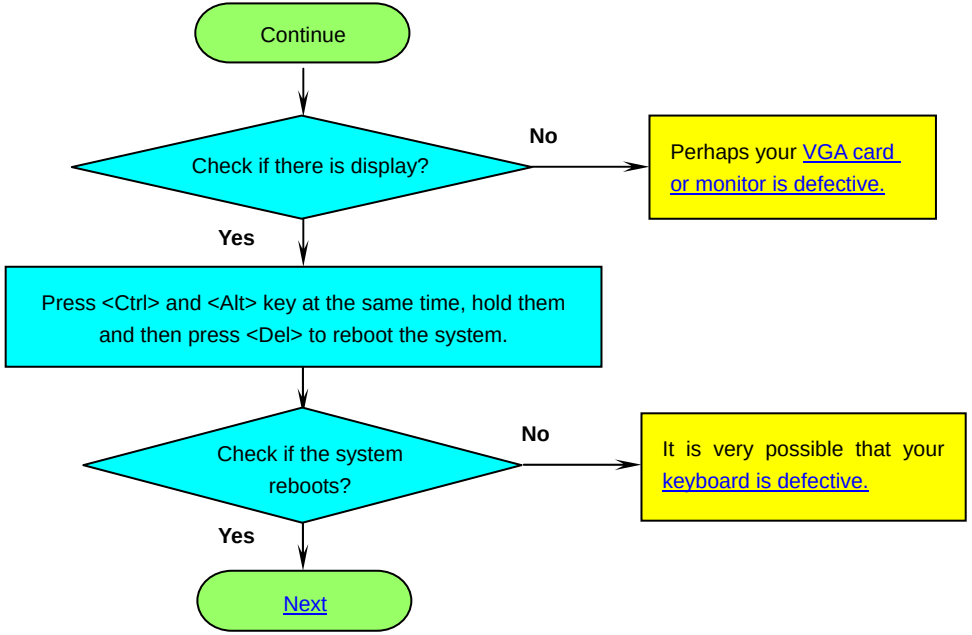
A compressed file format to reduce file size. To unzip file, run shareware PKUNZIP (http://www.pkware.com/) for DOS and other operating system or WINZIP (http://www.winzip.com/) for windows environment.

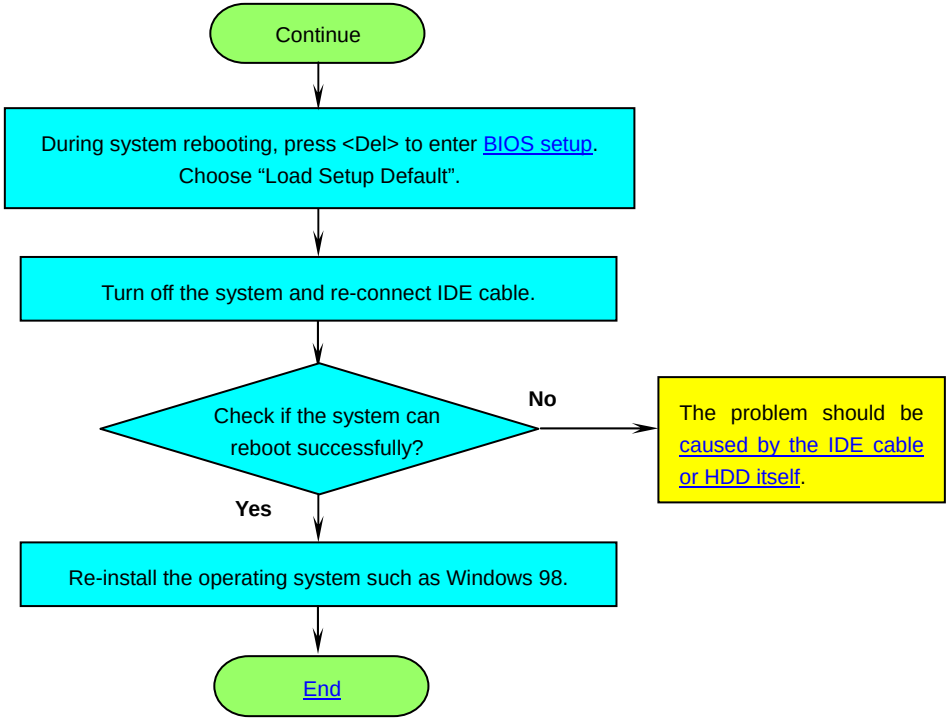
Troubleshooting

If you encounter any trouble to boot you system, follow the procedures accordingly to resolve the problem.




Continue
Install the VGA card. Then connect your monitor and keyboard.
Turn on the power and check if the power supply and CPU fan work properly.
Yes
No
Next
The problem is probably caused by power supply or motherboard failure. Please contact your reseller or local distributor for repairing.


Continue
Check if there is display?
No
Perhaps your VGA card or monitor is defective.
Yes
Press <Ctrl> and <Alt> key at the same time, hold them and then press <Del> to reboot the system.
Check if the system reboots?
No
It is very possible that your keyboard is defective.
Yes
Next


Continue
During system rebooting, press <Del> to enter BIOS setup.
Choose “Load Setup Default”.
Turn off the system and re-connect IDE cable.
Check if the system can reboot successfully?
No
The problem should be caused by the IDE cable or HDD itself.
Yes
Re-install the operating system such as Windows 98.
End

Technical Support

Dear Customer,

Thanks for choosing AOpen products. To provide the best and fastest service to our customer is our first priority. However, we receive numerous emails and phone-calls worldwide everyday, it is very hard for us to serve everyone on time. We recommend you follow the procedures below and seek help before contact us. With your help, we can then continue to provide the best quality service to more customers.

Thanks very much for your understanding!

AOpen Technical Supporting Team

1. **Online Manual:** To download manual, please log on and then select your preferred language. Under “Type” directory, choose “Manuals” to go to our manual database. You can also find the manual and EIG in AOpen Bonus Pack.
   http://club.aopen.com.tw/downloads

2. **Test Report:** We recommend you to choose board/card/device from the compatibility test reports for assembling your PC. It may prevent incompatibility problems.
   http://english.aopen.com.tw/tech/report/default.htm

3. **FAQ:** Here we list problems that users often encounter and FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions). You may be able to find a solution to your problem.
   http://club.aopen.com.tw/faq/

4. **Download Software:** After log on and having language selected, you may get the latest updated BIOS/utility and drivers you need under “Type” directory. In most case, newer versions of drivers and BIOS have solved earlier bugs or compatibility problems.
   http://club.aopen.com.tw/downloads

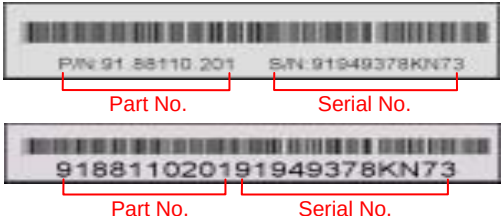
5 **eForum:** AOpen eForum is provided to discuss our products with other users, in which your problem probably had been discussed before or will be answered. After log on, you may select your preferred language under “Multi-language”.
http://club.aopen.com.tw/forum/

6 **Contact Distributors/Resellers:** We sell our products through resellers and integrators. They should know your system configuration very well and should be able to solve your problem efficiently and provide important reference for you.

7 **Contact Us**: Please prepare detail system configuration and error symptom before contacting us. The **part number**, **serial number** and **BIOS version** are also very helpful.

Part Number and Serial Number

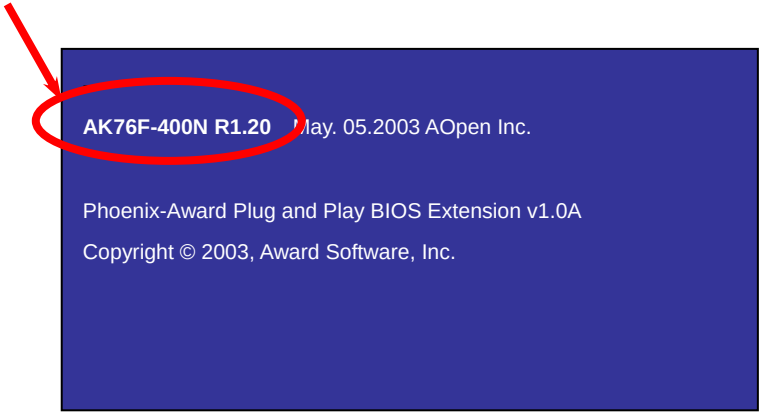
The Part Number and Serial number are printed on bar code label. You can find this bar code label on the outside packing, or on component side of PCB. For example:



P/N: 91.88110.201 is part number, **S/N: 91949378KN73** is serial number.

Model name and BIOS version

Model name and BIOS version can be found on upper left corner of first boot screen (POST screen). For example:



AK76F-400N is model name of motherboard; **R1.20** is BIOS version.

Product Registration

Thank you for choosing AOpen product. AOpen encourages you to spend few minutes in completing the following product registration. To register your product will ensure the high quality of services from AOpen. After the registration, you will:

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- Be upgraded to gold membership of Club AOpen program.
- Receive email notification about product safety alerts. Its purpose is to alert consumers quickly and conveniently when products contain technical issues.
- Receive email notification about latest product's announcements.
- Be able to personalize your AOpen web pages.
- Receive e-mail notification about latest BIOS/Driver/Software release information.
- Have opportunities to participate special product promotional programs.
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