

Safety information

Electrical safety

- To prevent electrical shock hazard, disconnect the power cable from the electrical outlet before relocating the system.
- When adding or removing devices to or from the system, ensure that the power cables for the devices are unplugged before the signal cables are connected. If possible, disconnect all power cables from the existing system before you add a device.
- Before connecting or removing signal cables from the motherboard, ensure that all power cables are unplugged.
- Seek professional assistance before using an adapter or extension cord. These devices could interrupt the grounding circuit.
- Ensure that your power supply is set to the correct voltage in your area. If you are not sure about the voltage of the electrical outlet you are using, contact your local power company.
- If the power supply is broken, do not try to fix it by yourself. Contact a qualified service technician or your retailer.

Operation safety

- Before installing the motherboard and adding devices on it, carefully read all the manuals that came with the package.
- Before using the product, ensure all cables are correctly connected and the power cables are not damaged. If you detect any damage, contact your dealer immediately.
- To avoid short circuits, keep paper clips, screws, and staples away from connectors, slots, sockets and circuitry.
- Avoid dust, humidity, and temperature extremes. Do not place the product in any area where it may become wet.
- Place the product on a stable surface.
- If you encounter technical problems with the product, contact a qualified service technician or your retailer.

Product Introduction

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1.1 Motherboard overview

1.1.1 Before you proceed

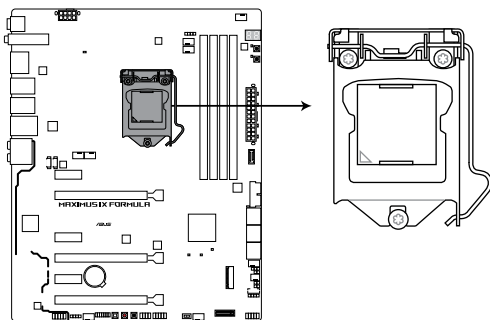
Take note of the following precautions before you install motherboard components or change any motherboard settings.



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- Unplug the power cord from the wall socket before touching any component.
 - Before handling components, use a grounded wrist strap or touch a safely grounded object or a metal object, such as the power supply case, to avoid damaging them due to static electricity.
 - Hold components by the edges to avoid touching the ICs on them.
 - Whenever you uninstall any component, place it on a grounded antistatic pad or in the bag that came with the component.
 - Before you install or remove any component, ensure that the ATX power supply 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, or components.
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1.1.3 Central Processing Unit (CPU)

This motherboard supports the New 7th / 6th Gen Intel® Core™ processors on the LGA1151 package, with memory and PCI Express controllers integrated to support dual-channel (4 DIMM) DDR4 memory and 16 PCI Express 3.0/2.0 lanes.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA CPU LGA1151



Ensure that you install the correct CPU designed for LGA1151 socket only. **DO NOT** install a CPU designed for LGA1150, LGA1155, and LGA1156 sockets in the LGA1151 socket.



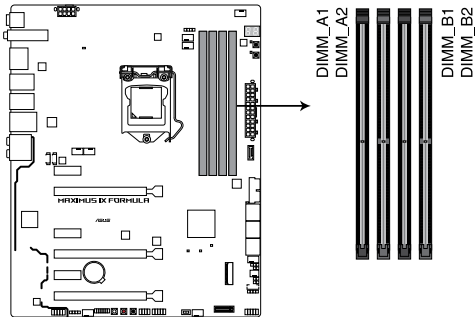
- Ensure that all power cables are unplugged before installing the CPU.
 - Upon purchase of the motherboard, ensure that the PnP cap is on the socket and the socket contacts are not bent. Contact your retailer immediately if the PnP cap is missing, or if you see any damage to the PnP cap/socket contacts/motherboard components. ASUS will shoulder the cost of repair only if the damage is shipment/transit-related.
 - Keep the cap after installing the motherboard. ASUS will process Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) requests only if the motherboard comes with the cap on the LGA1151 socket.
 - The product warranty does not cover damage to the socket contacts resulting from incorrect CPU installation/removal, or misplacement/loss/incorrect removal of the PnP cap.
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1.1.4 System memory

The motherboard comes with four Double Data Rate 4 (DDR4) Dual Inline Memory Modules (DIMM) slots.

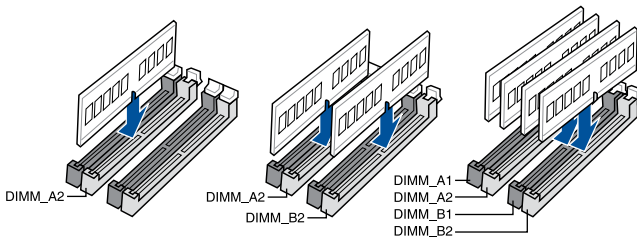


A DDR4 module is notched differently from a DDR, DDR2, or DDR3 module. DO NOT install a DDR, DDR2, or DDR3 memory module to the DDR4 slot.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA 288-pin DDR4 DIMM socket

Recommended memory configurations



Memory configurations

You may install 1 GB, 2 GB, 4 GB, 8 GB and 16 GB unbuffered and non-ECC DDR4 DIMMs into the DIMM sockets.



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- You may install varying memory sizes in Channel A and Channel B. The system maps the total size of the lower-sized channel for the dual-channel configuration. Any excess memory from the higher-sized channel is then mapped for single-channel operation.
 - Due to the memory address limitation on 32-bit Windows OS, when you install 4GB or more memory on the motherboard, the actual usable memory for the OS can be about 3GB or less. For effective use of memory, we recommend that you do any of the following:
 - a) Use a maximum of 3GB system memory if you are using a 32-bit Windows OS.
 - b) Install a 64-bit Windows OS when you want to install 4GB or more on the motherboard.
 - c) For more details, refer to the Microsoft® support site at <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/929605/en-us>.
 - The design of the DIMM fan may vary. Ensure that the DIMM fan fits to the motherboard.
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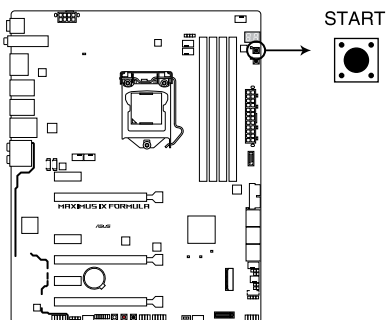
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- The default memory operation frequency is dependent on its Serial Presence Detect (SPD), which is the standard way of accessing information from a memory module. Under the default state, some memory modules for overclocking may operate at a lower frequency than the vendor-marked value.
 - For system stability, use a more efficient memory cooling system to support a full memory load (4 DIMMs) or overclocking condition.
 - Memory modules with memory frequency higher than 2133MHz and their corresponding timing or the loaded XMP profile is not the JEDEC memory standard. The stability and compatibility of the memory modules depend on the CPU's capabilities and other installed devices.
 - Always install the DIMMS with the same CAS latency. For an optimum compatibility, we recommend that you install memory modules of the same version or data code (D/C) from the same vendor. Check with the vendor to get the correct memory modules.
 - ASUS exclusively provides hyper DIMM support function.
 - Hyper DIMM support is subject to the physical characteristics of individual CPUs. Load the X.M.P. or D.O.C.P. settings in the BIOS for the hyper DIMM support.
 - Visit the ASUS website for the latest QVL.
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1.1.6 Onboard buttons and switches

Onboard buttons and switches allow you to fine-tune performance when working on a bare or open-case system. This is ideal for overclockers and gamers who continually change settings to enhance system performance.

1. Power-on button (START)

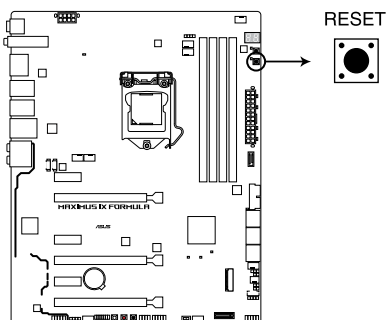
The motherboard comes with a power-on button that allows you to power up or wake up the system. The LED near the button also lights up when the system is plugged to a power source indicating that you should shut down the system and unplug the power cable before removing or installing any motherboard component.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA Power on button

2. RESET button (RESET)

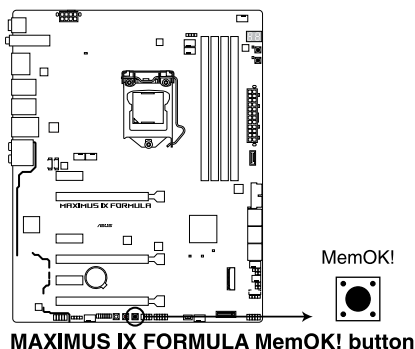
Press the reset button to reboot the system.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA Reset button

3. MemOK! button (MemOK!)

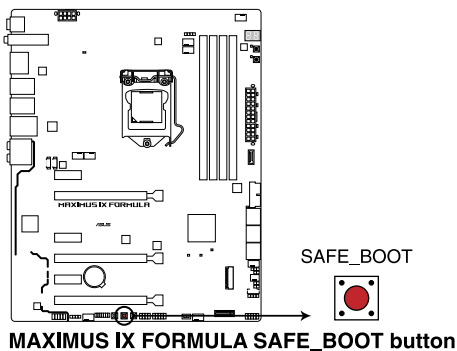
Installing DIMMs that are not compatible with the motherboard may cause system boot failure, and the DRAM_LED near the MemOK! button lights continuously. Press and hold the MemOK! button until the DRAM_LED starts blinking to begin automatic memory compatibility tuning for successful boot.



- Refer to section 1.1.7 **Onboard LEDs** for the exact location of the DRAM_LED.
- The DRAM_LED also lights up when the DIMM is not properly installed. Turn off the system and reinstall the DIMM before using the MemOK! function.
- The MemOK! button does not function under Windows® OS environment.
- During the tuning process, the system loads and tests failsafe memory settings. It takes about 30 seconds for the system to test one set of failsafe settings. If the test fails, the system reboots and test the next set of failsafe settings. The blinking speed of the DRAM_LED increases, indicating different test processes.
- Due to memory tuning requirement, the system automatically reboots when each timing set is tested. If the installed DIMMs still fail to boot after the whole tuning process, the DRAM_LED lights continuously. Replace the DIMMs with ones recommended in the Memory QVL (Qualified Vendors Lists) in this user manual or at www.asus.com.
- If you turn off the computer and replace DIMMs during the tuning process, the system continues memory tuning after turning on the computer. To stop memory tuning, turn off the computer and unplug the power cord for about 5–10 seconds.
- If your system fails to boot up due to BIOS overclocking, press the MemOK! button to boot and load the BIOS default settings. A message will appear during POST reminding you that the BIOS has been restored to its default settings.
- We recommend that you download and update to the latest BIOS version from www.asus.com after using the MemOK! function.

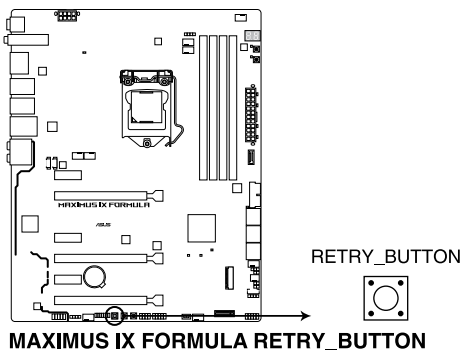
4. Safe Boot button (SAFE_BOOT)

The Safe Boot button can be pressed anytime to force the system to reboot into the BIOS safe mode. This button temporarily applies safe settings to the BIOS while retaining any overlocked settings allowing you to modify the settings causing boot failure. Use this button when overclocking or tweaking the settings of your system.



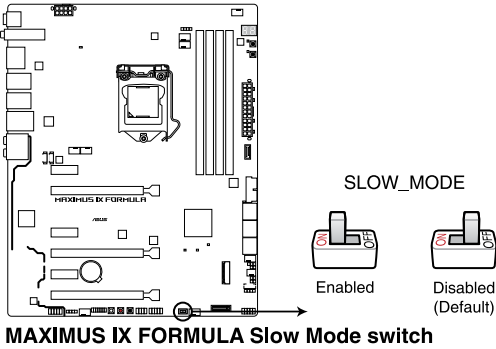
5. ReTry button (RETRY_BUTTON)

The ReTry button is specially designed for overclockers and is most useful during the booting process where the Reset button is rendered useless. When pressed, it forces the system to reboot while retaining the same settings to be retried in quick succession to achieve a successful POST.



6. Slow Mode Switch (SLOW_MODE)

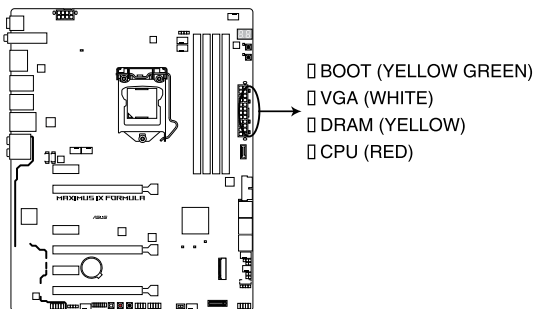
Slow Mode Switch is employed during LN2 benching. The system may crash due to the CPU being unstable when using extreme overclocking, enabling slow mode will decrease the processor frequency and stabilize the system, allowing overclockers to keep track of their overclocking data.



1.1.7 Onboard LEDs

1. Q LEDs (BOOT_DEVICE_LED, VGA_LED, DRAM_LED, CPU_LED)

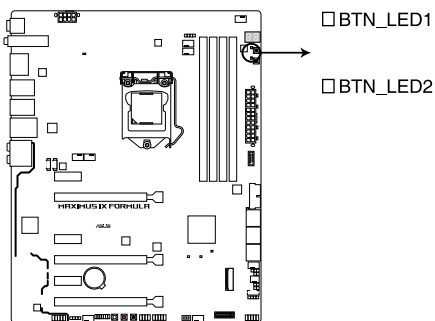
Q LEDs check key components (CPU, DRAM, VGA card, and booting devices) in sequence during motherboard booting process. If an error is found, the corresponding LED remains lit until the problem is solved. This user-friendly design provides an intuitive way to locate the root problem within seconds.



**MAXIMUS IX FORMULA CPU/ DRAM/
BOOT_DEVICE/ VGA LED**

2. Button LEDs (BTN_LED1-2)

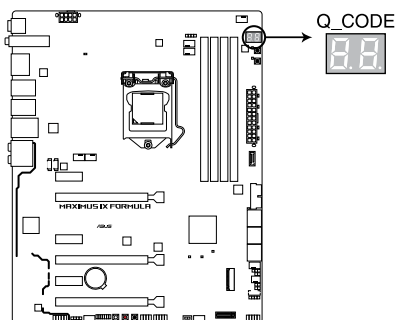
These LEDs are designed to indicate the location of the START and RESET buttons.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA BTN_LED

3. Q-Code LED

The Q-Code LED design provides you with a 2-digit error code that displays the system status. Refer to the Q-Code table on the following page for details.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA Q-Code LED

Q-Code table

Code	Description
00	Not used
01	Power on. Reset type detection (soft/hard).
02	AP initialization before microcode loading
03	System Agent initialization before microcode loading
04	PCH initialization before microcode loading
06	Microcode loading
07	AP initialization after microcode loading
08	System Agent initialization after microcode loading
09	PCH initialization after microcode loading
0B	Cache initialization
0C – 0D	Reserved for future AMI SEC error codes
0E	Microcode not found
0F	Microcode not loaded
10	PEI Core is started
11 – 14	Pre-memory CPU initialization is started
15 – 18	Pre-memory System Agent initialization is started
19 – 1C	Pre-memory PCH initialization is started
2B – 2F	Memory initialization
30	Reserved for ASL (see ASL Status Codes section below)
31	Memory Installed
32 – 36	CPU post-memory initialization
37 – 3A	Post-Memory System Agent initialization is started
3B – 3E	Post-Memory PCH initialization is started
4F	DXE IPL is started
50 – 53	Memory initialization error. Invalid memory type or incompatible memory speed
54	Unspecified memory initialization error
55	Memory not installed
56	Invalid CPU type or Speed
57	CPU mismatch
58	CPU self test failed or possible CPU cache error
59	CPU micro-code is not found or micro-code update is failed

(continued on the next page)

Q-Code table

Code	Description
5A	Internal CPU error
5B	Reset PPI is not available
5C – 5F	Reserved for future AMI error codes
E0	S3 Resume is started (S3 Resume PPI is called by the DXE IPL)
E1	S3 Boot Script execution
E2	Video repost
E3	OS S3 wake vector call
E4 – E7	Reserved for future AMI progress codes
E8	S3 Resume Failed
E9	S3 Resume PPI not Found
EA	S3 Resume Boot Script Error
EB	S3 OS Wake Error
EC – EF	Reserved for future AMI error codes
F0	Recovery condition triggered by firmware (Auto recovery)
F1	Recovery condition triggered by user (Forced recovery)
F2	Recovery process started
F3	Recovery firmware image is found
F4	Recovery firmware image is loaded
F5 – F7	Reserved for future AMI progress codes
F8	Recovery PPI is not available
F9	Recovery capsule is not found
FA	Invalid recovery capsule
FB – FF	Reserved for future AMI error codes
60	DXE Core is started
61	NVRAM initialization
62	Installation of the PCH Runtime Services
63 – 67	CPU DXE initialization is started
68	PCI host bridge initialization
69	System Agent DXE initialization is started
6A	System Agent DXE SMM initialization is started
6B – 6F	System Agent DXE initialization (System Agent module specific)

(continued on the next page)

Q-Code table

Code	Description
70	PCH DXE initialization is started
71	PCH DXE SMM initialization is started
72	PCH devices initialization
73 – 77	PCH DXE Initialization (PCH module specific)
78	ACPI module initialization
79	CSM initialization
7A – 7F	Reserved for future AMI DXE codes
90	Boot Device Selection (BDS) phase is started
91	Driver connecting is started
92	PCI Bus initialization is started
93	PCI Bus Hot Plug Controller Initialization
94	PCI Bus Enumeration
95	PCI Bus Request Resources
96	PCI Bus Assign Resources
97	Console Output devices connect
98	Console input devices connect
99	Super IO Initialization
9A	USB initialization is started
9B	USB Reset
9C	USB Detect
9D	USB Enable
9E – 9F	Reserved for future AMI codes
A0	IDE initialization is started
A1	IDE Reset
A2	IDE Detect
A3	IDE Enable
A4	SCSI initialization is started
A5	SCSI Reset
A6	SCSI Detect
A7	SCSI Enable
A8	Setup Verifying Password

(continued on the next page)

Q-Code table

Code	Description
A9	Start of Setup
AA	Reserved for ASL (see ASL Status Codes section below)
AB	Setup Input Wait
AC	Reserved for ASL (see ASL Status Codes section below)
AD	Ready To Boot event
AE	Legacy Boot event
AF	Exit Boot Services event
B0	Runtime Set Virtual Address MAP Begin
B1	Runtime Set Virtual Address MAP End
B2	Legacy Option ROM Initialization
B3	System Reset
B4	USB hot plug
B6	Clean-up of NVRAM
B7	Configuration Reset (reset of NVRAM settings)
B8– BF	Reserved for future AMI codes
D0	CPU initialization error
D1	System Agent initialization error
D2	PCH initialization error
D3	Some of the Architectural Protocols are not available
D4	PCI resource allocation error. Out of Resources
D5	No Space for Legacy Option ROM
D6	No Console Output Devices are found
D7	No Console Input Devices are found
D8	Invalid password
D9	Error loading Boot Option (LoadImage returned error)
DA	Boot Option is failed (StartImage returned error)
DB	Flash update is failed
DC	Reset protocol is not available
B5	PCI bus hot plug

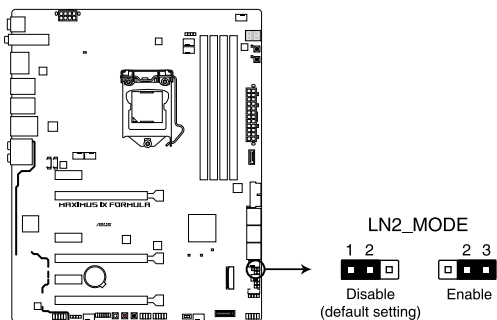
ACPI/ASL Checkpoints

Code	Description
0x01	System is entering S1 sleep state
0x02	System is entering S2 sleep state
0x03	System is entering S3 sleep state
0x04	System is entering S4 sleep state
0x05	System is entering S5 sleep state
0x10	System is waking up from the S1 sleep state
0x20	System is waking up from the S2 sleep state
0x30	System is waking up from the S3 sleep state
0x40	System is waking up from the S4 sleep state
0xAC	System has transitioned into ACPI mode. Interrupt controller is in PIC mode.
0xAA	System has transitioned into ACPI mode. Interrupt controller is in APIC mode.

1.1.8 Jumper

1. LN2 Mode jumper (3-pin LN2_MODE)

With LN2 mode activated, the ROG motherboard is optimized to remedy the cold-boot bug during POST and help the system boot successfully.



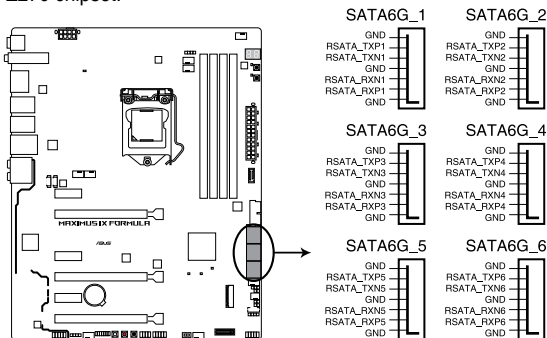
MAXIMUS IX FORMULA LN2_MODE setting

1.1.9 Internal connectors

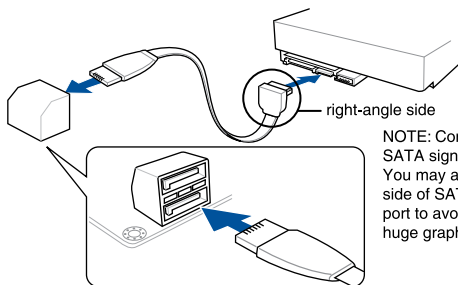
1. Intel® Z270 Serial ATA 6 Gb/s connectors (7-pin SATA6G_12; SATA6G_34; SATA6G_56)

These connectors connect to Serial ATA 6 Gb/s hard disk drives via Serial ATA 6 Gb/s signal cables.

If you installed Serial ATA hard disk drives, you can create a RAID 0, 1, 5, and 10 configuration with the Intel® Rapid Storage Technology through the onboard Intel® Z270 chipset.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA Intel® SATA 6 Gb/s connectors



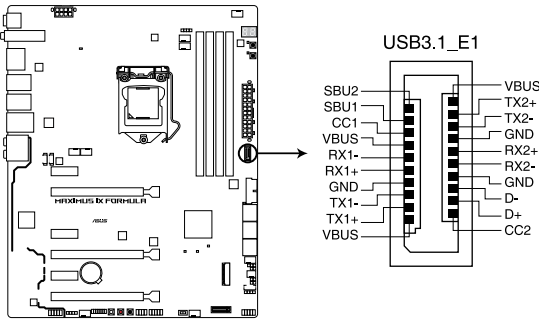
NOTE: Connect the right-angle side of SATA signal cable to SATA device. You may also connect the right-angle side of SATA cable to the onboard SATA port to avoid mechanical conflict with huge graphics cards.



- These connectors are set to **[AHCI]** by default. If you intend to create a Serial ATA RAID set using these connectors, set the SATA Mode Selection item in the BIOS to **[Intel RST Premium With Intel Optane System Acceleration (RAID)]**.
- Before creating a RAID set, refer to section **RAID configurations** or the manual bundled in the motherboard support DVD.
- When using NCQ, set the SATA Mode in the BIOS to **[AHCI]**.

2. USB 3.1 front panel connector (USB3.1_E1)

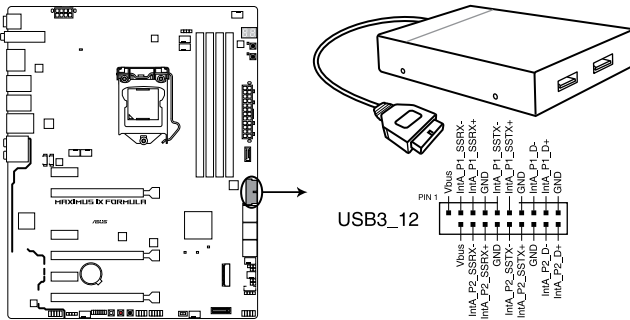
This connector allows you to connect a USB 3.1 module for additional USB 3.1 ports. The latest USB 3.1 connectivity provides data transfer speeds of up to 10 Gbps. The next-generation standard is completely backward-compatible with your existing USB devices.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA USB 3.1 front panel connector

3. USB 3.0 connector (20-pin USB3_12)

This connector allows you to connect a USB 3.0 module for additional USB 3.0 front or rear panel ports. With an installed USB 3.0 module, you can enjoy all the benefits of USB 3.0 including faster data transfer speeds of up to 5 Gbps, faster charging time for USB-chargable devices, optimized power efficiency, and backward compatibility with USB 2.0.



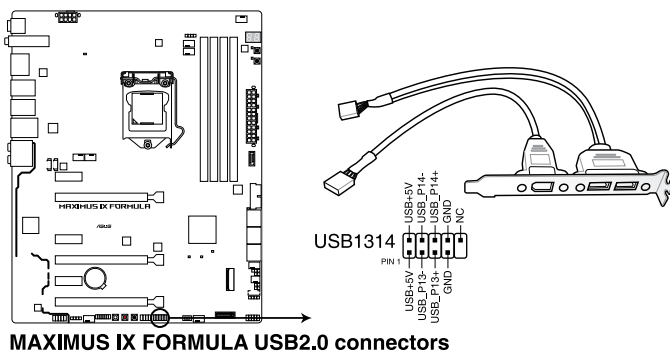
MAXIMUS IX FORMULA USB3.0 connector



The USB 3.0 module is purchased separately.

4. USB 2.0 connector (10-1 pin USB1314)

This connector is for USB 2.0 port. Connect the USB module cable to this connector, then install the module to a slot opening at the back of the system chassis. This USB connector complies with USB 2.0 specification that supports up to 480 MBps connection speed.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA USB2.0 connectors



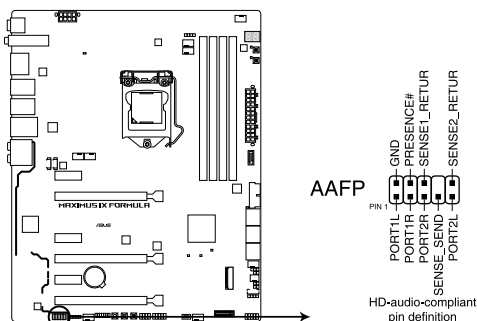
Never connect a 1394 cable to the USB connectors. Doing so will damage the motherboard!



1 x USB 2.0 port (USB1314) at mid-board shares pins with ROG extension (ROG_EXT) port.

5. Front panel audio connector (10-1 pin AAFP)

This connector is for a chassis-mounted front panel audio I/O module that supports HD Audio standard. Connect one end of the front panel audio I/O module cable to this connector.



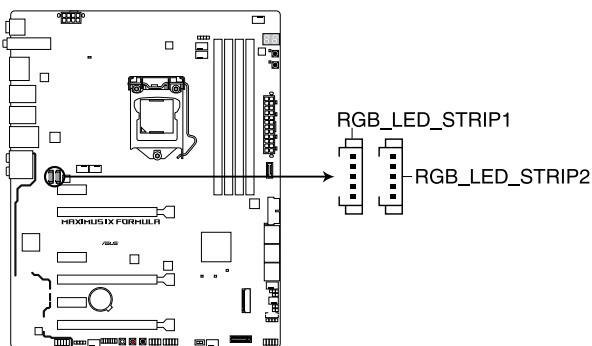
MAXIMUS IX FORMULA Analog front panel connector



We recommend that you connect a high-definition front panel audio module to this connector to avail of the motherboard's high-definition audio capability.

6. LED connectors (5-pin RGB_LED_STRIP1; RGB_LED_STRIP2)

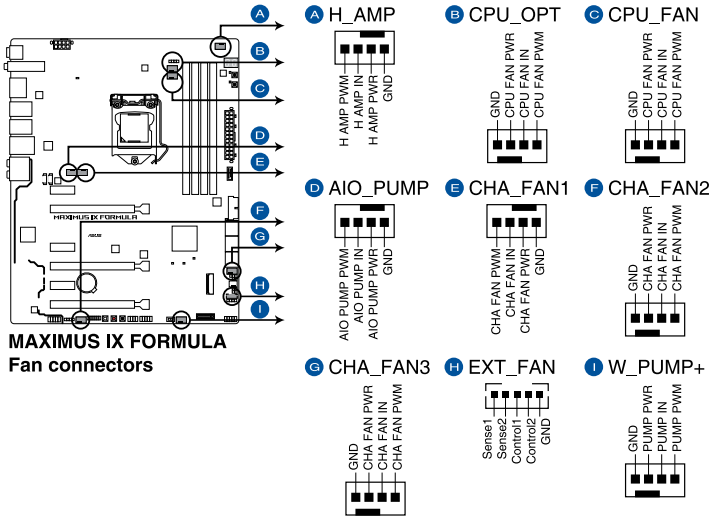
These LED connectors are for connecting LED strips on your cover and PCH.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA RGB_LED_STRIP

7. CPU, CPU optional, high amp, extension, water pump+, AIO pump, and chassis fan connectors (4-pin CPU_FAN; 4-pin CPU_OPT; 4-pin H_AMP; 5-pin EXT_FAN; 4-pin W_PUMP+; 4-pin AIO_PUMP; 4-pin CHA_FAN1-3)

Connect the fan cables to the fan connectors on the motherboard, ensuring that the black wire of each cable matches the ground pin of the connector.



- DO NOT forget to connect the fan cables to the fan connectors. Insufficient air flow inside the system may damage the motherboard components. These are not jumpers! Do not place jumper caps on the fan connectors!
- Ensure to fully insert the 4-pin CPU fan cable to the CPU fan connector.

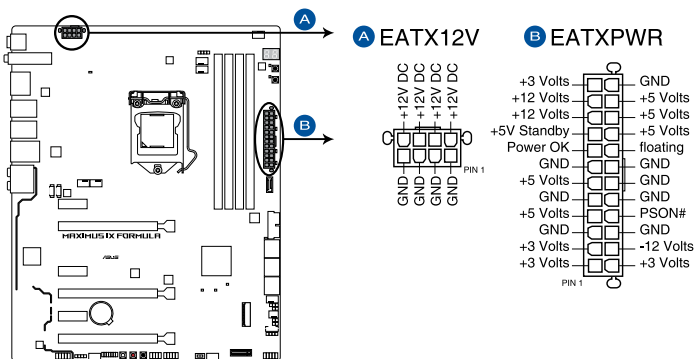


- For better Q-Fan functions, we recommend using 4-pin PWM fans when you connect powerful fans (1A or above) onto the H_AMP_FAN connector.
- Ensure to disable Q-Fan functions if you want to connect powerful 3-pin DC fans (1A or above) onto the H_AMP_FAN connector.
- W_PUMP+ function support depends on water cooling device.

Header	Max. Current	Max. Power	Default Speed	Shared Control
CPU_FAN	1A	12W	Q-Fan Controlled	A
CPU_OPT	1A	12W	Q-Fan Controlled	A
CHA_FAN1	1A	12W	Q-Fan Controlled	-
CHA_FAN2	1A	12W	Q-Fan Controlled	-
CHA_FAN3	1A	12W	Q-Fan Controlled	-
AIO_PUMP	1A	12W	Full Speed	B
W_PUMP+	3A	36W	Full Speed	B
H_AMP	3A	36W	Q-Fan Controlled	-

8. ATX power connectors (24-pin EATXPWR; 8-pin EATX12V)

These connectors are for ATX power supply plugs. The power supply plugs are designed to fit these connectors in only one orientation. Find the proper orientation and push down firmly until the connectors completely fit.



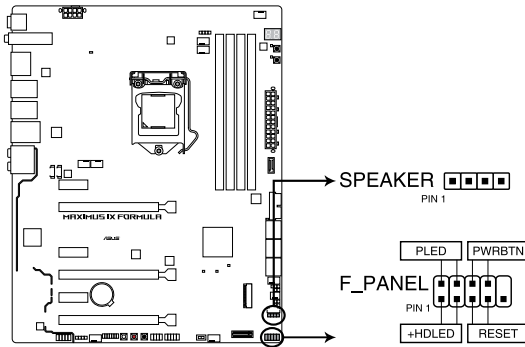
MAXIMUS IX FORMULA ATX power connectors



- For a fully configured system, we recommend that you use a power supply unit (PSU) that complies with ATX 12 V Specification 2.0 (or later version) and provides a minimum power of 350 W.
- Do not forget to connect the 8-pin EATX12 V power plug. Otherwise, the system will not boot.
- We recommend that you use a PSU with a higher power output when configuring a system with more power-consuming devices. The system may become unstable or may not boot up if the power is inadequate.
- If you want to use two or more high-end PCIe x16 cards, use a PSU with 1000W power or above to ensure the system stability.

9. System panel connectors (10-1 pin F_PANEL; 4-pin SPEAKER)

These connectors supports several chassis-mounted functions.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA SPEAKER & F_PANEL connectors

- **System power LED (2-pin PLED)**

This 2-pin connector is for the system power LED. Connect the chassis power LED cable to this connector. The system power LED lights up when you turn on the system power, and blinks when the system is in sleep mode.

- **Hard disk drive activity LED (2-pin HDD_LED)**

This 2-pin connector is for the HDD Activity LED. Connect the HDD Activity LED cable to this connector. The HDD LED lights up or flashes when data is read from or written to the HDD.

- **System warning speaker (4-pin SPEAKER)**

This 4-pin connector is for the chassis-mounted system warning speaker. The speaker allows you to hear system beeps and warnings.

- **ATX power button/soft-off button (2-pin PWRBTN)**

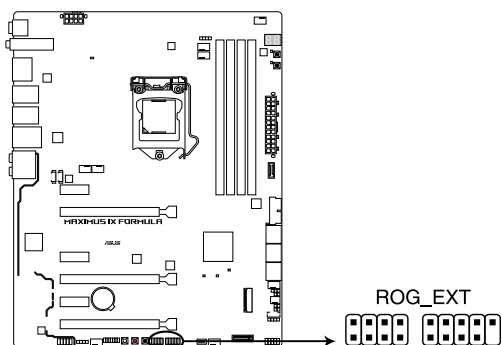
This connector is for the system power button. Pressing the power button turns the system on or puts the system in sleep or soft-off mode depending on the BIOS settings. Pressing the power button for more than four seconds while the system is ON turns the system OFF.

- **Reset button (2-pin RESET)**

This 2-pin connector is for the chassis-mounted reset button for system reboot without turning off the system power.

10. ROG extension connector (18-1 pin ROG_EXT)

This connector is for the OC Panel I/II.



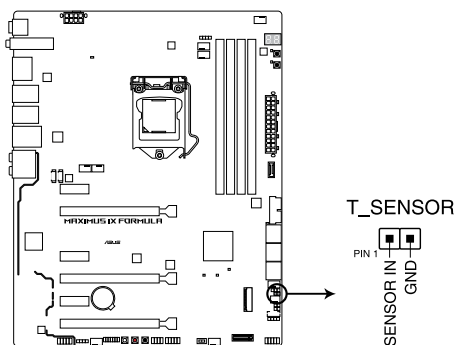
MAXIMUS IX FORMULA ROG_EXT connectors



- The OC Panel I/II and Front Base are purchased separately.
- Support for OC Panel I/II and Front Base varies over different platforms
- Visit www.asus.com for more information about the devices and the latest compatibility list.

11. Thermal sensor connector (2-pin T_SENSOR)

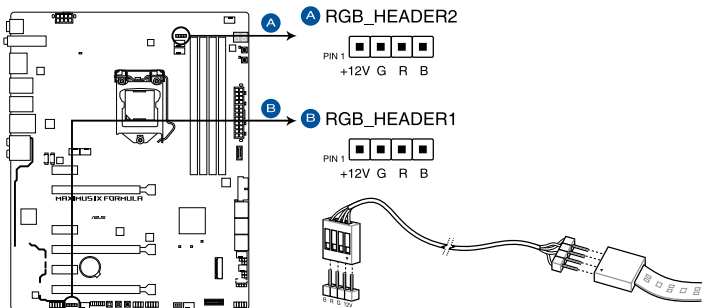
This connector is for the thermistor cable that allows you to monitor the temperature of your motherboard's critical components and connected devices.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA T_SENSOR connector

12. AURA RGB headers (4-pin RGB_HEADER1-2)

These connectors are for RGB LED strips.



MAXIMUS IX FORMULA RGB_HEADER connectors



The RGB header supports 5050 RGB multi-color LED strips (12V/G/R/B), with a maximum power rating of 2A (12V), and no longer than 2 m.



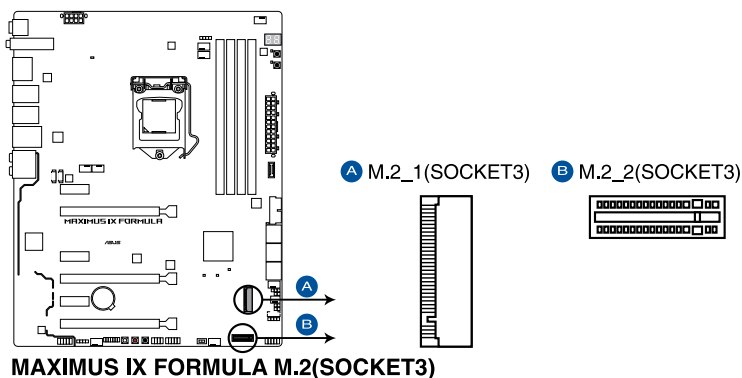
Before you install or remove any component, ensure that the ATX power supply is switched off or the power cord is detached from the power supply. Failure to do so may cause severe damage to the motherboard, peripherals, or components.



- Actual lighting and color will vary with LED strips.
- If your LED strip does not light up, check if the RGB LED extension cable and the RGB LED strip is connected in the correct orientation, and the 12V connector is aligned with the 12V header on the motherboard.
- The LED strip will only light up when the system is operating.
- The LED strips are purchased separately.

13. M.2 sockets (M.2_1; M.2_2)

These sockets allow you to install M.2 SSD modules.



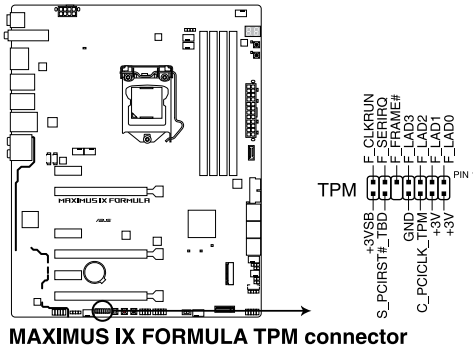
- M.2_1 socket supports PCIe 3.0 x4 and SATA mode M Key design and type 2242 / 2260 / 2280 / 22110 PCIe and SATA storage devices.
- M.2_2 socket supports PCIe 3.0 x4 M Key design and type 2242 / 2260 / 2280 PCIe storage devices.
- These sockets support IRST (Intel® Rapid Storage Technology).
- Intel® Optane™ Technology is only supported when using 7th Generation Intel® Optane™ memory modules, ensure that you have updated your motherboard drivers and BIOS to the latest version from the ASUS support website.



- When the M.2_1(Socket 3) is operating in SATA mode, SATA port 1 (SATA6G_1) will be disabled.
- The M.2 SSD module is purchased separately.

14. TPM connector (14-1 pin TPM)

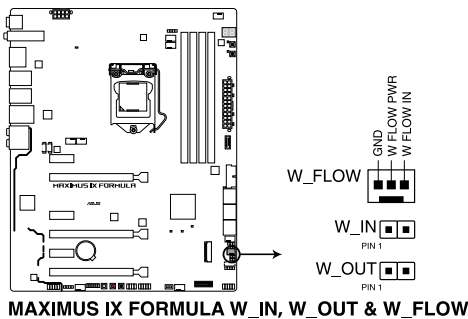
This connector supports a Trusted Platform Module (TPM) system, which securely stores keys, digital certificates, passwords and data. A TPM system also helps enhance network security, protect digital identities, and ensures platform integrity.



The TPM module is purchased separately.

15. Water in, water out, and water flow connectors (2-pin W_IN; 2-pin W_OUT; 3-pin W_FLOW)

These connectors allow you to connect sensors to monitor the temperature and flow rate of your liquid cooling system. You can manually adjust the fans and water pump to optimize the thermal efficiency of your liquid cooling system.



Basic Installation

2

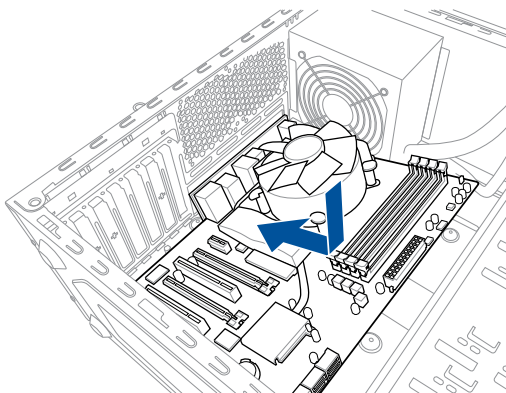
2.1 Building your PC system

2.1.1 Motherboard installation

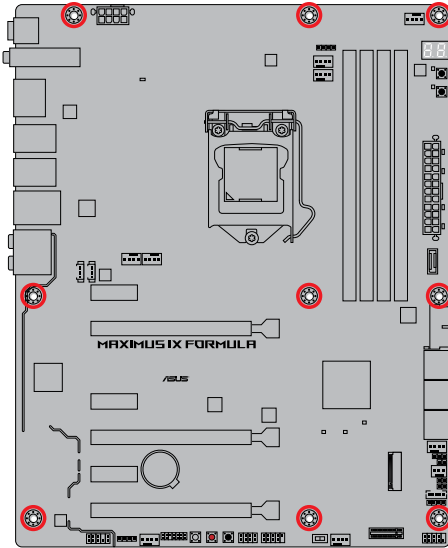
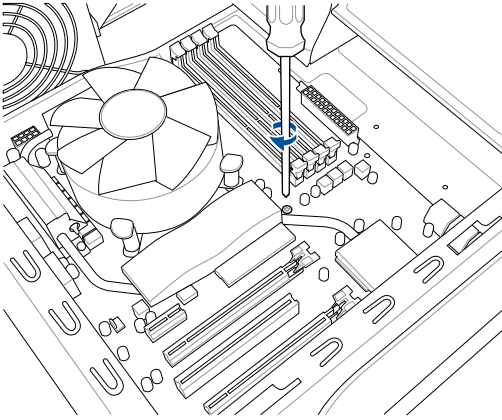


The diagrams in this section are for reference only. The motherboard layout may vary with models, but the installation steps are the same for all models.

1. Place the motherboard into the chassis, ensuring that its rear I/O ports are aligned to the chassis' rear I/O panel.



2. Place nine (9) screws into the holes indicated by circles to secure the motherboard to the chassis.

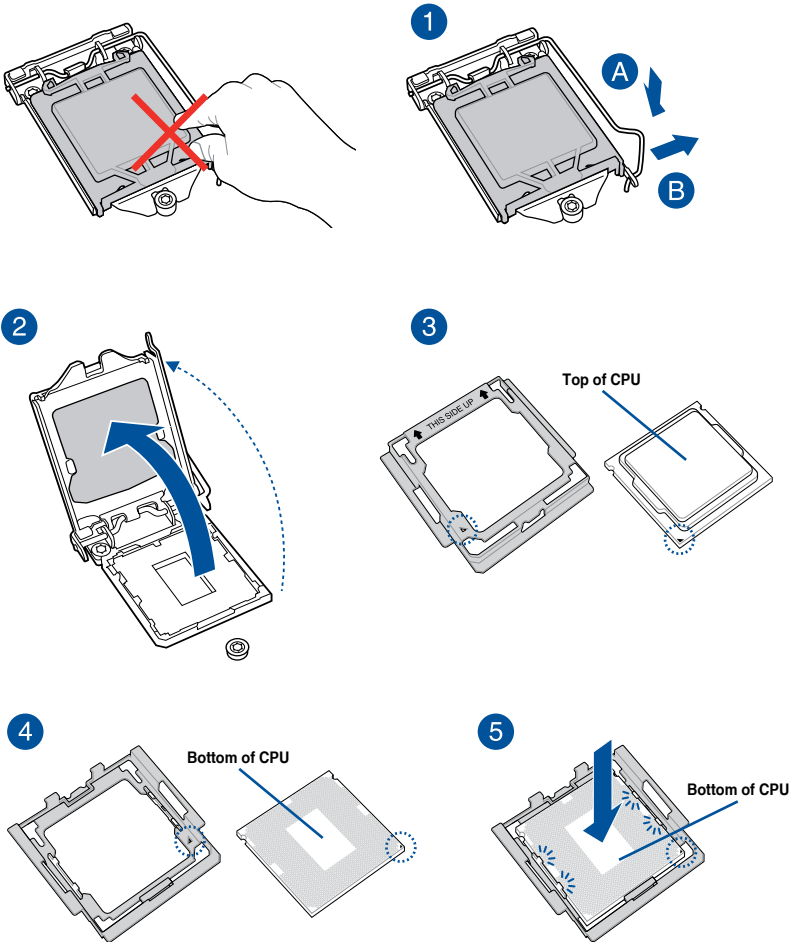


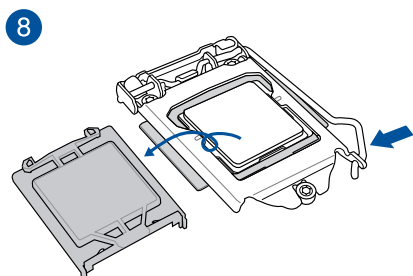
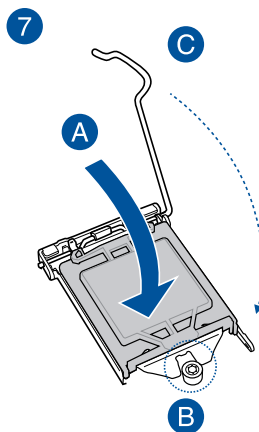
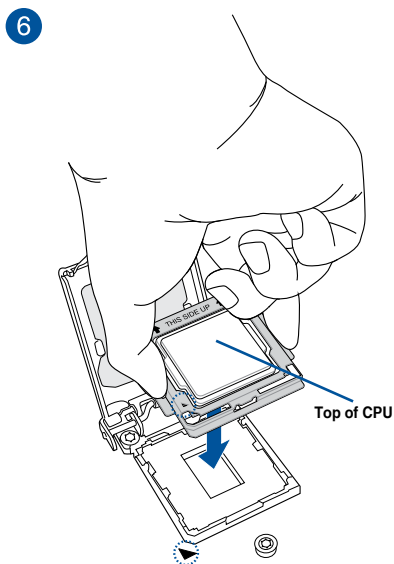
DO NOT over tighten the screws! Doing so can damage the motherboard.

2.1.2 CPU installation



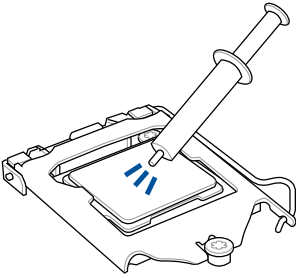
Ensure that you install the correct CPU designed for LGA1151 socket only. DO NOT install a CPU designed for LGA1155 and LGA1156 sockets on the LGA1151 socket.





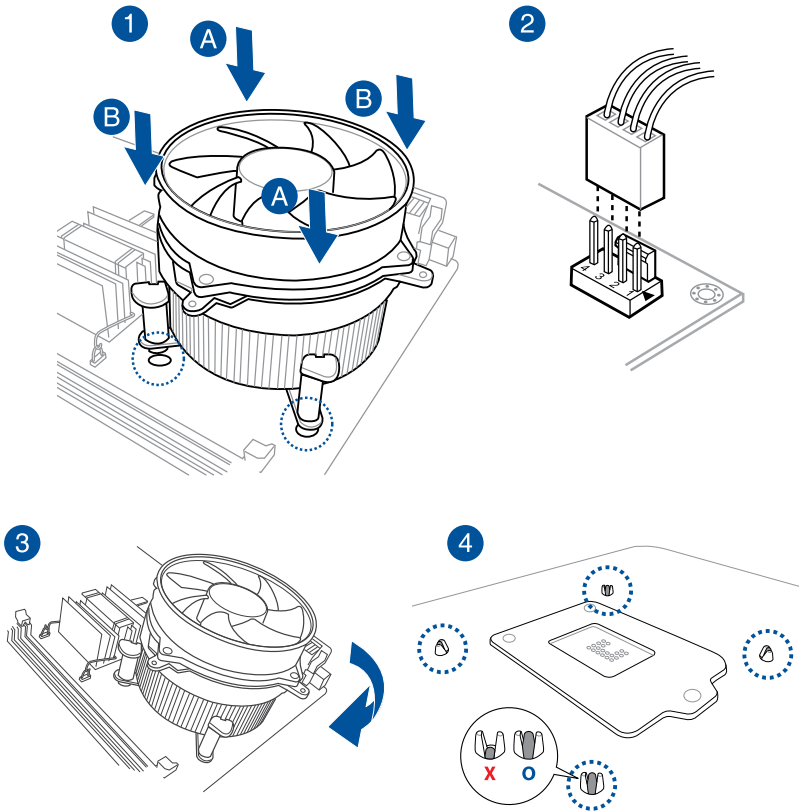
- The CPU Installation Tool is only compatible on ASUS motherboards with a Intel® LGA1151 socket.
- Ensure that the CPU is firmly clicked into place before installing it onto the CPU socket on the motherboard.
- Use the CPU Installation Tool for installing the CPU only. DO NOT damage or bend the CPU Installation Tool.
- Always firmly hold both sides of the CPU Installation Tool when installing, removing, or picking up the CPU Installation Tool.
- Ensure to use a soft stable surface when installing the CPU to the CPU Installation Tool to prevent CPU damage.
- ASUS will not cover damages resulting from incorrect CPU installation/removal, incorrect CPU orientation/placement, or other damages resulting from negligence by the user.

2.1.3 CPU heatsink and fan assembly installation

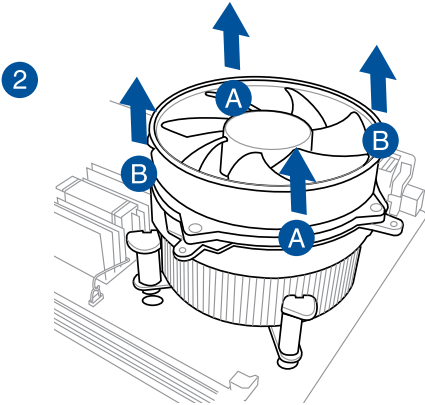
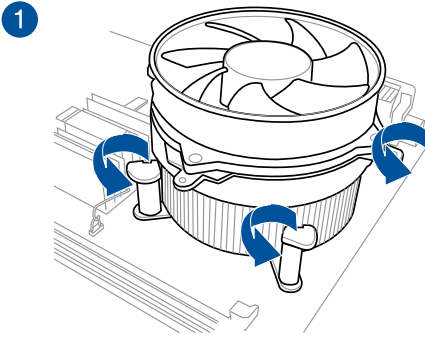


Apply the Thermal Interface Material to the CPU heatsink and CPU before you install the heatsink and fan, if necessary.

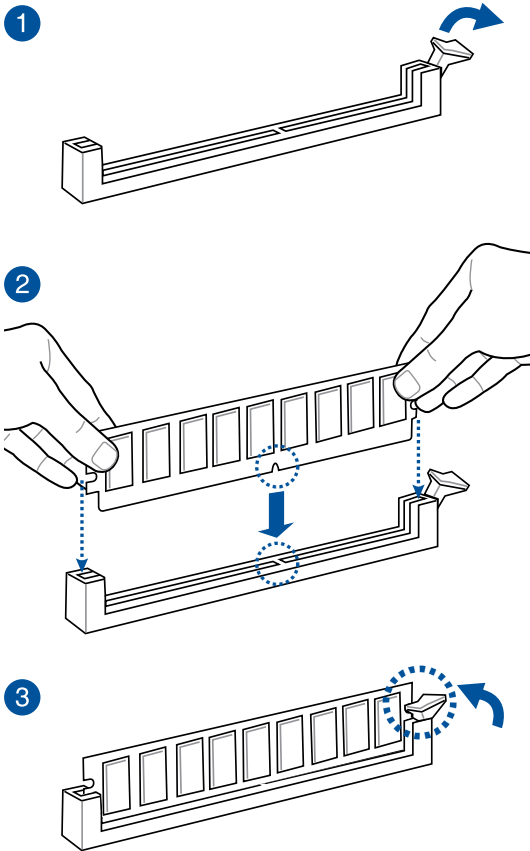
To install the CPU heatsink and fan assembly



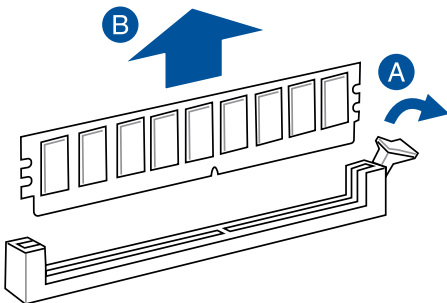
To uninstall the CPU heatsink and fan assembly



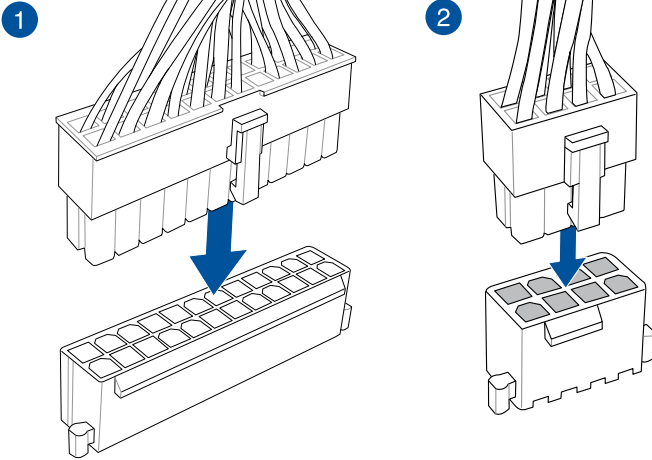
2.1.4 DIMM installation



To remove a DIMM

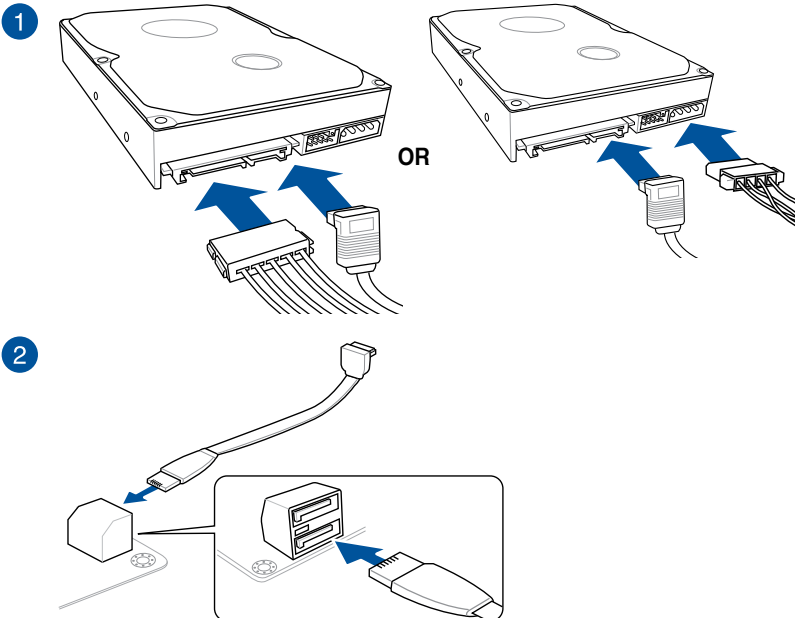


2.1.5 ATX power connection



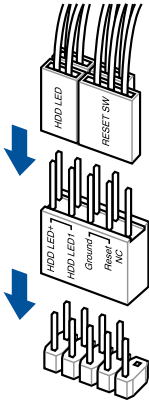
Ensure to connect the 8-pin power plug.

2.1.6 SATA device connection

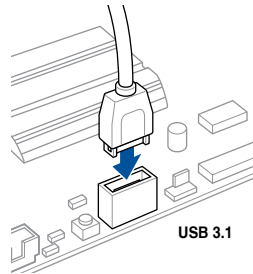


2.1.7 Front I/O connector

To install ASUS Q-Connector

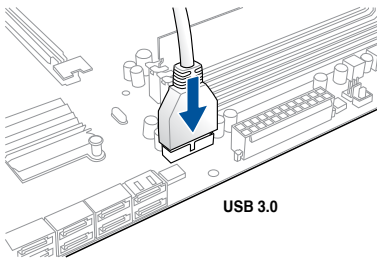


To install USB 3.1 connector

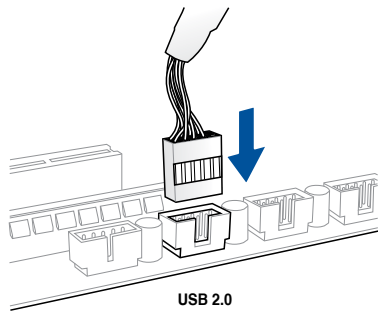


This connector will only fit in one orientation. Push the connector until it clicks into place.

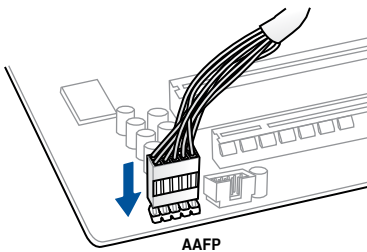
To install USB 3.0 connector



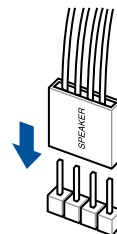
To install USB 2.0 connector



To install front panel audio connector

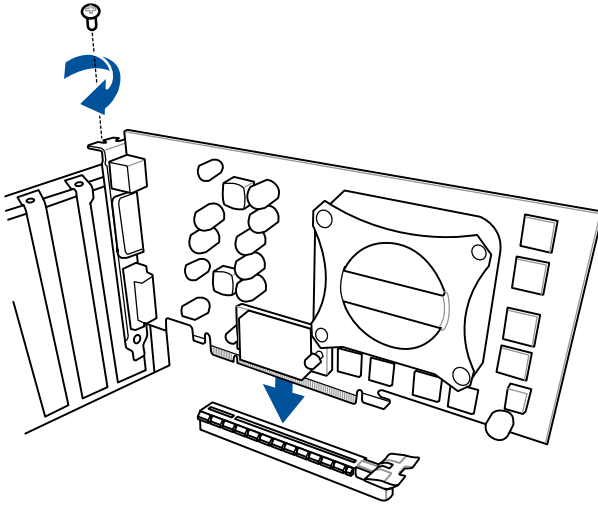


To install system speaker connector

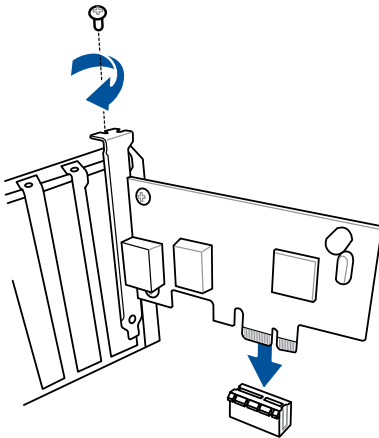


2.1.8 Expansion card installation

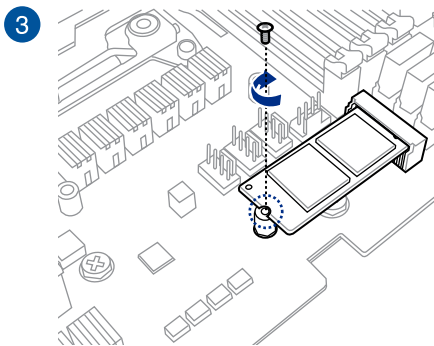
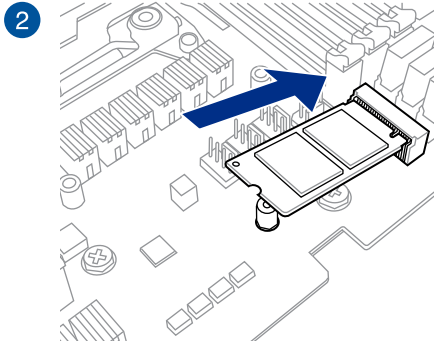
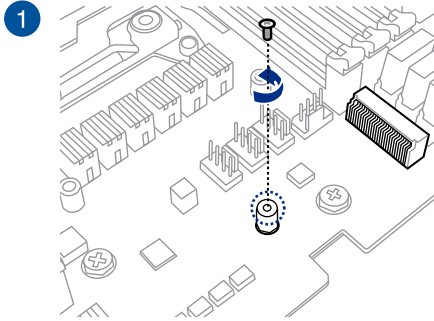
To install PCIe x16 cards



To install PCIe x1 cards



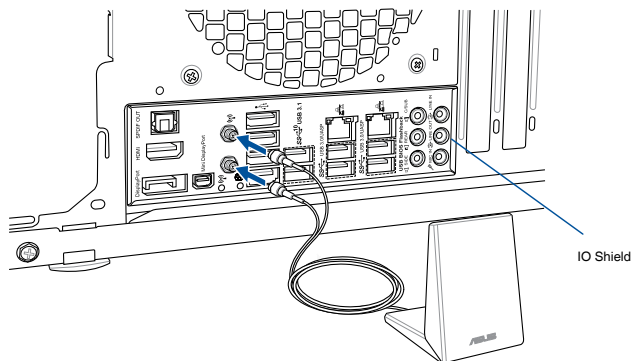
2.1.9 M.2 installation



2.1.10 Wi-Fi antenna installation

Installing the ASUS 2x2 dual band W-Fi antenna

Connect the bundled ASUS 2x2 dual band Wi-Fi antenna connector to the Wi-Fi ports at the back of the chassis.



- Ensure that the ASUS 2x2 dual band Wi-Fi antenna is securely installed to the Wi-Fi ports.
- Ensure to install the Bluetooth driver before installing the Wi-Fi GO! software.
- Ensure that the antenna is at least 20 cm away from all persons.



The illustration above is for reference only. The I/O port layout may vary with models, but the Wi-Fi antenna installation procedure is the same for all models.

2.2 BIOS update utility

USB BIOS Flashback

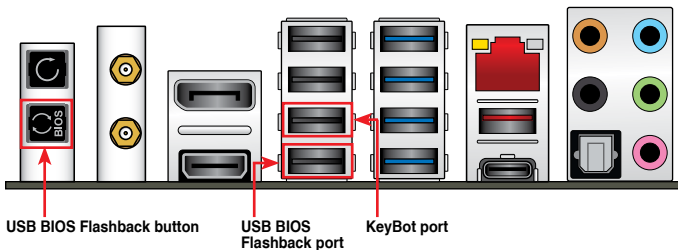
USB BIOS Flashback allows you to easily update the BIOS without entering the existing BIOS or operating system. Simply insert a USB storage device to the USB port, press the USB BIOS Flashback button for three seconds, and the BIOS is updated automatically.

To use USB BIOS Flashback:

1. Download the latest BIOS file from the ASUS website.
2. Extract and rename the BIOS image file to **M9F.CAP**.
3. Copy **M9F.CAP** to the root directory of your USB storage device.
4. Turn off the system and connect the USB storage device to the USB BIOS Flashback port.
5. Press the USB BIOS Flashback button.



A flashing light indicates that the BIOS Flashback function is enabled. The light goes out when the process of updating the BIOS is complete.



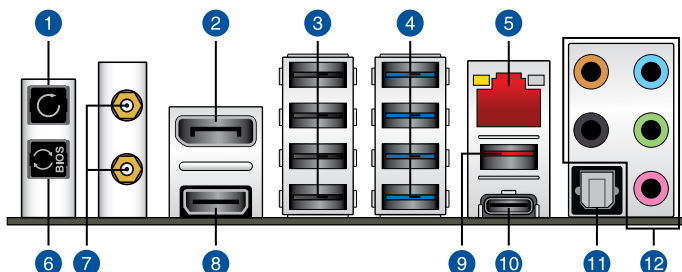
- For more BIOS update utilities in BIOS setup, refer to the section **Updating BIOS** in Chapter 3.
- Connect your USB keyboard on the KeyBot port if you want to use the KeyBot feature.



Updating BIOS may have risks. If the BIOS program is damaged during the process and results to the system's failure to boot up, please contact your local ASUS Service Center.

2.3 Motherboard rear and audio connections

2.3.1 Rear I/O connection



Rear panel connectors

1.	Clear CMOS button (CLR_CMOS). Press this button to clear the BIOS setup information only when the systems hangs due to overclocking.
2.	DisplayPort
3.	Intel® USB 2.0 ports 7, 8, 9, and 10
4.	Intel® USB 3.0 ports 3, 4, 5, and 6
5.	LAN (RJ-45) port*
6.	USB BIOS Flashback button
7.	Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac, Bluetooth V4.1
8.	HDMI port
9.	USB 3.1 Type-A port EA3
10.	USB 3.1 Type-C port EC2
11.	Optical S/PDIF OUT port
12.	Audio I/O ports**

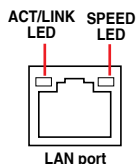
* and ** : Refer to the tables on the next page for LAN port LEDs, and audio port definitions.



- Due to USB 3.0 controller limitation, USB 3.0 devices can only be used under Windows® 7 and after the USB 3.0 driver installation.
- USB 3.0 devices can only be used as data storage only.
- We strongly recommend that you connect USB 3.0 devices to USB 3.0 ports for faster and better performance for your USB 3.0 devices.
- Due to the design of the Intel chipset, all USB devices connected to the USB 2.0 and USB 3.0 ports are controlled by the xHCI controller. Some legacy USB devices must update their firmware for better compatibility.
- When KeyBot II is activated, USB hot plug function of the KeyBot port (USB 3.0 port 5) will be temporarily disabled.

* LAN ports LED indications

Activity Link LED		Speed LED	
Status	Description	Status	Description
OFF	No link	OFF	10 Mbps connection
ORANGE	Linked	ORANGE	100 Mbps connection
BLINKING	Data activity	GREEN	1 Gbps connection

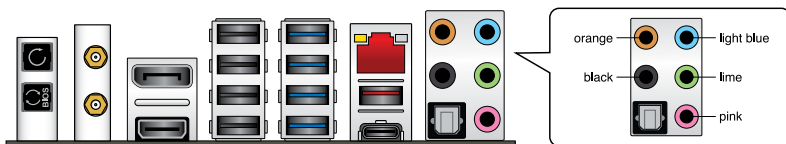


** Audio 2, 4, 6 or 8-channel configuration

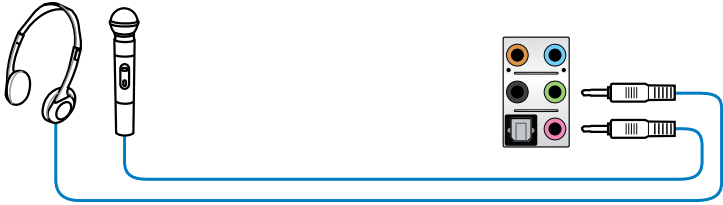
Port	Headset 2-channel	4-channel	6-channel	8-channel
Light Blue	Line In	Line In	Line In	Side Speaker Out
Lime	Line Out	Front Speaker Out	Front Speaker Out	Front Speaker Out
Pink	Mic In	Mic In	Mic In	Mic In
Orange	–	–	Center/Sub woofer	Center/Sub woofer
Black	–	Rear Speaker Out	Rear Speaker Out	Rear Speaker Out

2.3.2 Audio I/O connections

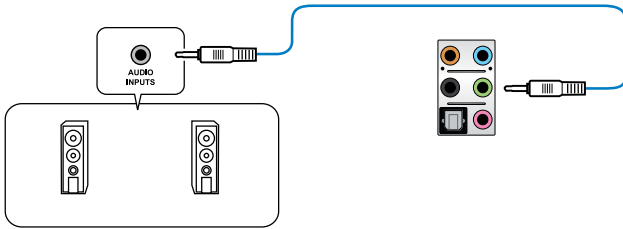
Audio I/O ports



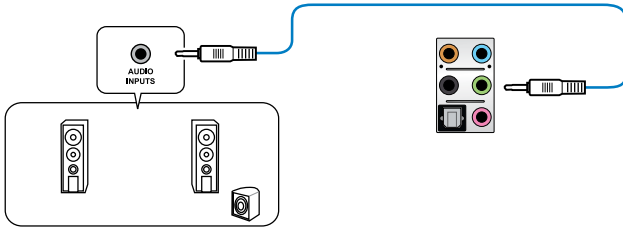
Connect to Headphone and Mic



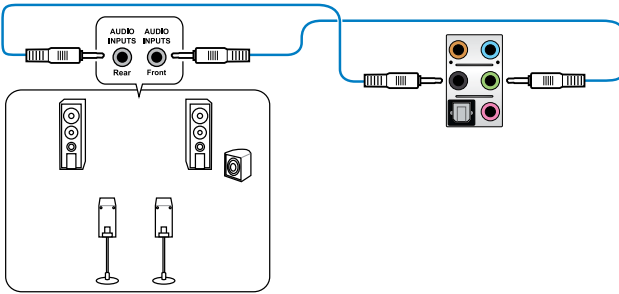
Connect to Stereo Speakers



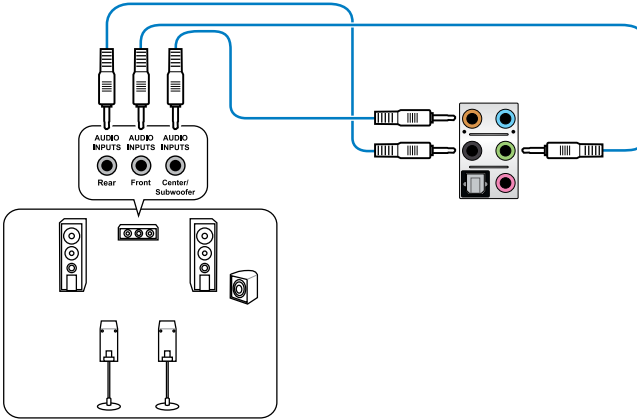
Connect to 2 channel Speakers



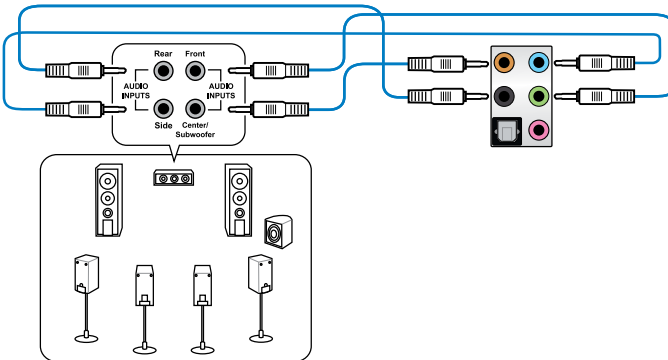
Connect to 4 channel Speakers



Connect to 6 channel Speakers



Connect to 8 channel Speakers



2.4 Starting up for the first time

1. After making all the connections, replace the system case cover.
2. Ensure that all switches are off.
3. Connect the power cord to the power connector at the back of the system chassis.
4. Connect the power cord to a power outlet that is equipped with a surge protector.
5. Turn on the devices in the following order:
 - a. Monitor
 - b. External SCSI devices (starting with the last device on the chain)
 - c. System power
6. After applying power, the system power LED on the system front panel case lights up. For systems with ATX power supplies, the system LED lights up when you press the ATX power button. If your monitor complies with the “green” standards or if it has a “power standby” feature, the monitor LED may light up or change from orange to green after the system LED turns on.

The system then runs the power-on self tests (POST). While the tests are running, the BIOS beeps (refer to the BIOS beep codes table) or additional messages appear on the screen. If you do not see anything within 30 seconds from the time you turned on the power, the system may have failed a power-on test. Check the jumper settings and connections or call your retailer for assistance.

BIOS Beep	Description
One short beep	VGA detected Quick boot set to disabled No keyboard detected
One continuous beep followed by two short beeps then a pause (repeated)	No memory detected
One continuous beep followed by three short beeps	No VGA detected
One continuous beep followed by four short beeps	Hardware component failure

7. At power on, hold down the <Delete> key to enter the BIOS Setup. Follow the instructions in Chapter 3.

2.5 Turning off the computer

While the system is ON, press the power button for less than four seconds to put the system on sleep mode or soft-off mode, depending on the BIOS setting. Press the power button for more than four seconds to let the system enter the soft-off mode regardless of the BIOS setting.

BIOS Setup

3

3.1 Knowing BIOS



The new ASUS UEFI BIOS is a Unified Extensible Interface that complies with UEFI architecture, offering a user-friendly interface that goes beyond the traditional keyboard-only BIOS controls to enable a more flexible and convenient mouse input. You can easily navigate the new UEFI BIOS with the same smoothness as your operating system. The term “BIOS” in this user manual refers to “UEFI BIOS” unless otherwise specified.

BIOS (Basic Input and Output System) stores system hardware settings such as storage device configuration, overclocking settings, advanced power management, and boot device configuration that are needed for system startup in the motherboard CMOS. In normal circumstances, the default BIOS settings apply to most conditions to ensure optimal performance. **DO NOT change the default BIOS settings** except in the following circumstances:

- An error message appears on the screen during the system bootup and requests you to run the BIOS Setup.
- You have installed a new system component that requires further BIOS settings or update.



Inappropriate BIOS settings may result to instability or boot failure. **We strongly recommend that you change the BIOS settings only with the help of a trained service personnel.**



When downloading or updating the BIOS file, rename it as **M9F.CAP** for this motherboard.

3.2 BIOS setup program

Use the BIOS Setup to update the BIOS or configure its parameters. The BIOS screen include navigation keys and brief onscreen help to guide you in using the BIOS Setup program.

Entering BIOS at startup

To enter BIOS Setup at startup, press <Delete> or <F2> during the Power-On Self Test (POST). If you do not press <Delete> or <F2>, POST continues with its routines.

Entering BIOS Setup after POST

To enter BIOS Setup after POST:

- Press <Ctrl>+<Alt>+<Delete> simultaneously.
- Press the reset button on the system chassis.
- Press the power button to turn the system off then back on. Do this option only if you failed to enter BIOS Setup using the first two options.

After doing either of the three options, press <Delete> key to enter BIOS.



-
- The BIOS setup screens shown in this section are for reference purposes only, and may not exactly match what you see on your screen.
 - Ensure that a USB mouse is connected to your motherboard if you want to use the mouse to control the BIOS setup program.
 - If the system becomes unstable after changing any BIOS setting, load the default settings to ensure system compatibility and stability. Select the **Load Optimized Defaults** item under the **Exit** menu or press hotkey <F5>. See section 3.10 **Exit Menu** for details.
 - If the system fails to boot after changing any BIOS setting, try to clear the CMOS and reset the motherboard to the default value. See section 1.1.6 **Onboard buttons and switches** for information on how to erase the RTC RAM via the Clear CMOS button.
 - The BIOS setup program does not support the Bluetooth devices.
-



Please visit ASUS website for the detailed BIOS content manual.

BIOS menu screen

The BIOS Setup program can be used under two modes: **EZ Mode** and **Advanced Mode**. You can change modes from **Setup Mode** in **Boot menu** or by pressing the <F7> hotkey.

3.2.1 EZ Mode

By default, the EZ Mode screen appears when you enter the BIOS setup program. The EZ Mode provides you an overview of the basic system information, and allows you to select the display language, system performance, mode and boot device priority. To access the Advanced Mode, select **Advanced Mode** or press the <F7> hotkey for the advanced BIOS settings.



The default screen for entering the BIOS setup program can be changed. Refer to the **Setup Mode** item in section **Boot menu** for details.

Displays the system properties of the selected mode. Click < or > to switch EZ System Tuning modes

Displays the CPU/motherboard temperature, CPU voltage output, CPU/chassis/power fan speed, and SATA information

Selects the display language of the BIOS setup program

Creates storage RAID and configures system overclocking

Enables or disables the SATA RAID mode for Intel Rapid Storage Technology

Displays the CPU Fan's speed. Click the button to manually tune the fans

Loads optimized default settings

Saves the changes and resets the system

Click to go to Advanced mode

Search on the FAQ

Click to display boot devices

Selects the boot device priority



The boot device options vary depending on the devices you installed to the system.

3.2.2 Advanced Mode

The Advanced Mode provides advanced options for experienced end-users to configure the BIOS settings. The figure below shows an example of the Advanced Mode. Refer to the following sections for the detailed configurations.



To switch from EZ Mode to Advanced Mode, click **Advanced Mode(F7)** or press the <F7> hotkey.

The screenshot shows the BIOS Advanced Mode interface with the following labels and descriptions:

- Configuration fields**: Points to the top navigation bar.
- Pop-up Menu**: Points to the 'My Favorite(F3)' button.
- Menu bar**: Points to the top menu items: My Favorites, Main, Extreme Tweaker, Advanced, Monitor, Boot, Tool, Exit.
- Language**: Points to the 'Language' dropdown.
- MyFavorite(F3)**: Points to the 'MyFavorite(F3)' button.
- Qfan Control(F6)**: Points to the 'Qfan Control(F6)' button.
- EZ Tuning Wizard(F11)**: Points to the 'EZ Tuning Wizard(F11)' button.
- Hot Keys**: Points to the 'Hot Keys' button.
- Scroll bar**: Points to the right-side scroll bar.
- Hardware Monitor**: Points to the 'Hardware Monitor' tab on the right.
- Menu items**: Points to the 'My Favorites', 'Main', 'Extreme Tweaker', 'Advanced', 'Monitor', 'Boot', 'Tool', 'Exit' menu items.
- General help**: Points to the help icon (i) in the bottom left.
- Last modified settings**: Points to the 'Last Modified' text at the bottom.
- Go back to EZ Mode**: Points to the 'EZ Mode(F7)' button at the bottom.
- Search on the FAQ**: Points to the 'Search on FAQ' text at the bottom.
- Displays the CPU temperature, CPU, and memory voltage output**: Points to the 'Hardware Monitor' section on the right.

Menu bar

The menu bar on top of the screen has the following main items:

My Favorites	For saving the frequently-used system settings and configuration.
Main	For changing the basic system configuration
Extreme Tweaker	For changing the overclocking settings
Advanced	For changing the advanced system settings
Monitor	For displaying the system temperature, power status, and changing the fan settings.
Boot	For changing the system boot configuration
Tool	For configuring options for special functions
Exit	For selecting the exit options and loading default settings

Menu items

The highlighted item on the menu bar displays the specific items for that menu. For example, selecting **Main** shows the Main menu items.

The other items (My Favorites, Ai Tweaker, Advanced, Monitor, Boot, Tool, and Exit) on the menu bar have their respective menu items.

Submenu items

A greater than sign (>) before each item on any menu screen means that the item has a submenu. To display the submenu, select the item and press <Enter>.

Language

This button above the menu bar contains the languages that you can select for your BIOS. Click this button to select the language that you want to display in your BIOS screen.

My Favorites(F3)

This button above the menu bar shows all BIOS items in a Tree Map setup. Select frequently-used BIOS settings and save it to MyFavorites menu.



Refer to section **3.3 My Favorites** for more information.

Q-Fan Control(F6)

This button above the menu bar displays the current settings of your fans. Use this button to manually tweak the fans to your desired settings.



Refer to section **3.2.3 QFan Control** for more information.

EZ Tuning Wizard(F11)

This button above the menu bar allows you to view and tweak the overclocking settings of your system. It also allows you to change the motherboard's SATA mode from AHCI to RAID mode.



Refer to section **3.2.4 EZ Tuning Wizard** for more information.

Search on FAQ

Move your mouse over this button to show a QR code, scan this QR code on your mobile device to connect to the BIOS FAQ web page of the ASUS support website. You can also scan the following QR code:



Hot keys

This button above the menu bar contains the navigation keys for the BIOS setup program. Use the navigation keys to select items in the menu and change the settings.

Scroll bar

A scroll bar appears on the right side of a menu screen when there are items that do not fit on the screen. Press the Up/Down arrow keys or <Page Up> / <Page Down> keys to display the other items on the screen.

General help

At the bottom of the menu screen is a brief description of the selected item. Use <F12> key to capture the BIOS screen and save it to the removable storage device.

Configuration fields

These fields show the values for the menu items. If an item is user-configurable, you can change the value of the field opposite the item. You cannot select an item that is not user-configurable.

A configurable field is highlighted when selected. To change the value of a field, select it and press <Enter> to display a list of options.

Last Modified button

This button shows the items that you last modified and saved in BIOS Setup.

3.2.3 QFan Control

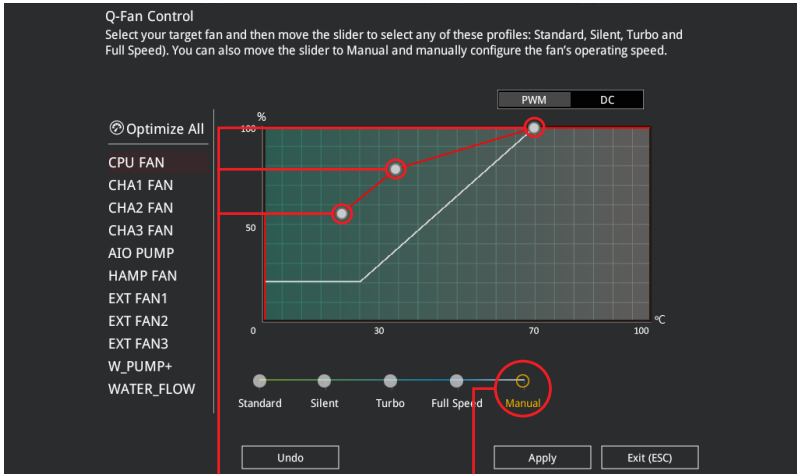
The QFan Control allows you to set a fan profile or manually configure the operating speed of your CPU and chassis fans.

The screenshot shows the Q-Fan Control interface with the following elements and annotations:

- Q-Fan Control** header and introductory text: "Select your target fan and then move the slider to select any of these profiles: Standard, Silent, Turbo and Full Speed). You can also move the slider to Manual and manually configure the fan's operating speed."
- Mode Selection:** "PWM" and "DC" buttons at the top right. An annotation "Click to activate DC Mode" points to the "DC" button.
- Profile List:** A list on the left includes "Optimize All", "CPU FAN", "CHA1 FAN", "CHA2 FAN", "CHA3 FAN", "AIO PUMP", "HAMP FAN", "EXT FAN1", "EXT FAN2", "EXT FAN3", "W_PUMP+", and "WATER_FLOW". An annotation "Click to select a fan to be configured" points to this list.
- Graph:** A line graph showing fan speed (%) vs temperature (°C). The y-axis ranges from 0 to 100, and the x-axis from 0 to 100. A red line shows a profile that is constant at ~25% until 30°C, then rises to ~70% at 70°C, and stays constant at 100% until 100°C.
- Profile Selection:** A row of radio buttons for "Standard", "Silent", "Turbo", "Full Speed", and "Manual". An annotation "Click to activate PWM Mode" points to the "Standard" button. An annotation "Select a profile to apply to your fans" points to the "Manual" button.
- Control Buttons:** "Undo", "Apply", and "Exit (ESC)" buttons at the bottom. Annotations include: "Click to undo the changes" pointing to "Undo", "Click to apply the fan setting" pointing to "Apply", and "Click to go back to main menu" pointing to "Exit (ESC)".
- Manual Configuration:** A red box highlights the "Manual" radio button and a slider below it. An annotation "Select to manually configure your fans" points to this area.

Configuring fans manually

Select **Manual** from the list of profiles to manually configure your fans' operating speed.



Speed points

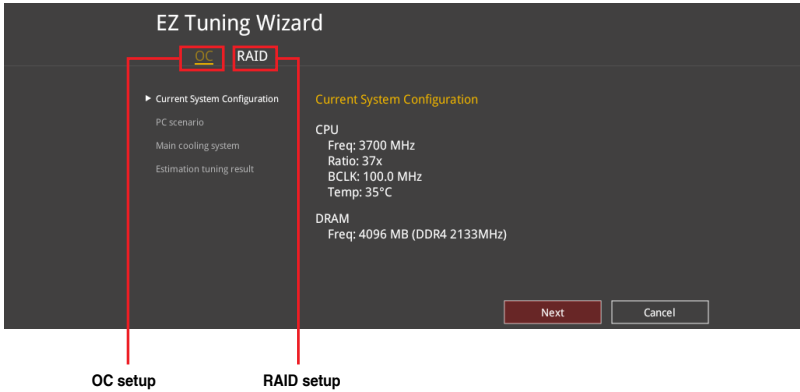
Select to manually
configure your fans

To configure your fans:

1. Select the fan that you want to configure and to view its current status.
2. Click and drag the speed points to adjust the fans' operating speed.
3. Click **Apply** to save the changes then click **Exit (ESC)**.

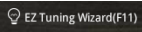
3.2.4 EZ Tuning Wizard

EZ Tuning Wizard allows you to easily overclock your CPU and DRAM, computer usage, and CPU fan to their best settings. You can also set RAID in your system using this feature.



OC Tuning

To start OC Tuning:

1. Press <F11> on your keyboard or click  from the BIOS screen to open EZ Tuning Wizard screen.
2. Click **OC** then click **Next**.
3. Select a PC scenario **Daily Computing** or **Gaming/Media Editing**, then click **Next**.

