A330ION

User Manual

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

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

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Chapter 1 Introduction

Thank you for purchasing ASRock ***A330ION*** motherboard, a reliable motherboard produced under ASRock's consistently stringent quality control. It delivers excellent performance with robust design conforming to ASRock's commitment to quality and endurance.
In this manual, chapter 1 and 2 contain introduction of the motherboard and step-by-step guide to the hardware installation. Chapter 3 and 4 contain the configuration guide to BIOS setup and information of the Support CD.

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

1.1 Package Contents

ASRock ***A330ION*** Motherboard
(Mini-ITX Form Factor: 6.7-in x 6.7-in, 17.0 cm x 17.0 cm)
One Bundled Intel® Dual-Core Atom™ Processor 330
ASRock ***A330ION*** Quick Installation Guide
ASRock ***A330ION*** Support CD
Two Serial ATA (SATA) Data Cables (Optional)
One Serial ATA (SATA) HDD Power Cable (Optional)
One I/O Panel Shield

1.2 Specifications

Platform	- Mini-ITX Form Factor: 6.7-in x 6.7-in, 17.0 cm x 17.0 cm - All Solid Capacitor design (100% Japan-made high-quality Conductive Polymer Capacitors)
CPU	- Intel® Dual-Core Atom™ Processor 330 (1.6 GHz) - Supports Hyper-Threading Technology (see **CAUTION 1**) - Supports Untied Overclocking Technology (see **CAUTION 2**) - Supports EM64T
Chipset	- NVIDIA® MCP7A-ION
Memory	- Dual Channel DDR3 memory technology (see **CAUTION 3**) - 2 x DDR3 DIMM slots - Supports DDR3 1066/800 non-ECC, un-buffered memory - Max. capacity of system memory: 4GB (see **CAUTION 4**)
Expansion Slot	- 1 x PCI Express 2.0 x16 slot
Graphics	- Integrated NVIDIA® GeForce 9 Series - DX10 VGA, Pixel Shader 4.0 - Max. shared memory 512MB (see **CAUTION 5**) - Three VGA Output options: D-Sub, DVI-D and HDMI - Supports HDMI Technology with max. resolution up to 1920x1200 (1080P) - Supports Dual-link DVI with max. resolution up to 2560x1600 @ 75Hz - Supports D-Sub with max. resolution up to 1920x1440 @ 75Hz - Supports HDCP function - Supports Full HD 1080p Blu-ray (BD) / HD-DVD playback
Audio	- 7.1 CH HD Audio (VIA® VT2020 Audio Codec)
LAN	- Gigabit LAN 10/100/1000 Mb/s - Giga PHY RTL8211CL - Supports Wake-On-LAN
Rear Panel I/O	I/O Panel - 1 x PS/2 Keyboard Port - 1 x VGA/D-Sub Port - 1 x VGA/DVI-D Port - 1 x HDMI Port - 1 x Optical SPDIF Out Port - 4 x Ready-to-Use USB 2.0 Ports - 2 x Powered eSATAII/USB Connectors - 1 x RJ-45 LAN Port with LED (ACT/LINK LED and SPEED LED) - HD Audio Jack: Rear Speaker/Central/Bass/Line in/Front Speaker/Microphone (see **CAUTION 6**)

Connector	- 4 x SATAII 3.0 Gb/s connectors, support RAID (RAID 0 and RAID 1), NCQ, AHCI and Hot Plug functions (see **CAUTION 7**) - 1 x IR header - 1 x COM port header - 1 x HDMI_SPDIF header - CPU/Chassis FAN connector - 24 pin ATX power connector - Front panel audio connector - 2 x USB 2.0 headers (support 4 USB 2.0 ports) (see **CAUTION 8**)
BIOS Feature	- 8Mb AMI BIOS - AMI Legal BIOS - Supports "Plug and Play" - ACPI 1.1 Compliance Wake Up Events - Supports jumperfree - AMBIOS 2.3.1 Support - VCCM Voltage Multi-adjustment - Supports Smart BIOS
Support CD	- Drivers, Utilities, AntiVirus Software (Trial Version), ASRock Software Suite (CyberLink DVD Suite and Creative Sound Blaster X-Fi MB) (OEM and Trial Version)
Unique Feature	- ASRock OC Tuner (see **CAUTION 9**) - Instant Boot - ASRock Instant Flash (see **CAUTION 10**) - ASRock OC DNA (see **CAUTION 11**) - Hybrid Booster: - CPU Frequency Stepless Control (see **CAUTION 12**) - ASRock U-COP (see **CAUTION 13**) - Boot Failure Guard (B.F.G.) - Good Night LED
Hardware Monitor	- CPU Temperature Sensing - Chassis Temperature Sensing - CPU Fan Tachometer - Chassis Fan Tachometer - Voltage Monitoring: +12V, +5V, +3.3V, Vcore
OS	- Microsoft® Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit / XP / XP 64-bit compliant
Certifications	- FCC, CE, WHQL - EuP Ready (EuP ready power supply is required) (see **CAUTION 14**)

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

WARNING

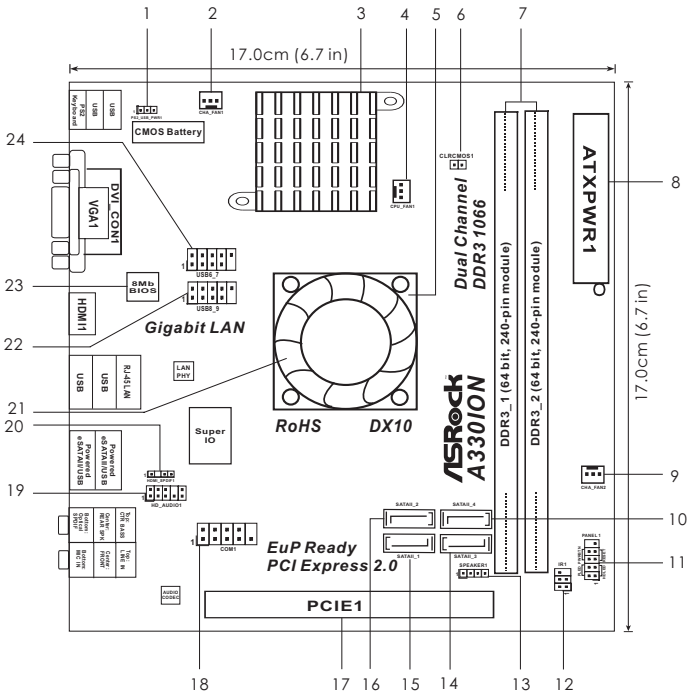
Please realize that there is a certain risk involved with overclocking, including adjusting the setting in the BIOS, applying Untied Overclocking Technology, or using the third-party overclocking tools. Overclocking may affect your system stability, or even cause damage to the components and devices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

CAUTION!

1. About the setting of "Hyper Threading Technology", please check page 33.
2. This motherboard supports Untied Overclocking Technology. Please read "Untied Overclocking Technology" on page 27 for details.
3. This motherboard supports Dual Channel Memory Technology. Before you implement Dual Channel Memory Technology, make sure to read the installation guide of memory modules on page 14 for proper installation.
4. Due to the chipset limitation, the actual memory size may be less than 4GB for the reservation for system usage under Windows® OS.
5. The maximum shared memory size is defined by the chipset vendor and is subject to change. Please check Intel® website for the latest information.
6. For microphone input, this motherboard supports both stereo and mono modes. For audio output, this motherboard supports 2-channel, 4-channel, 6-channel, and 8-channel modes. Please check the table on page 11 for proper connection.
7. Before installing SATAII hard disk to SATAII connector, please read the "SATAII Hard Disk Setup Guide" on page 21 to adjust your SATAII hard disk drive to SATAII mode. You can also connect SATA hard disk to SATAII connector directly.
8. Power Management for USB 2.0 works fine under Microsoft® Windows® 7 64-bit / 7 / Vista™ 64-bit / Vista™ / XP 64-bit / XP SP1 or SP2.
9. It is a user-friendly ASRock overclocking tool which allows you to surveil your system by hardware monitor function and overclock your hardware devices to get the best system performance under Windows® environment. Please visit our website for the operation procedures of ASRock OC Tuner. ASRock website: http://www.asrock.com
10. ASRock Instant Flash is a BIOS flash utility embedded in Flash ROM. This convenient BIOS update tool allows you to update system BIOS without entering operating systems first like MS-DOS or Windows®. With this utility, you can press <F6> key during the POST or press <F2> key to BIOS setup menu to access ASRock Instant Flash. Just launch this tool and save the new BIOS file to your USB flash drive, floppy disk or hard drive, then you can update your BIOS only in a few clicks without preparing an additional floppy diskette or other complicated flash utility. Please be noted that the USB flash drive or hard drive must use FAT32/16/12 file system.

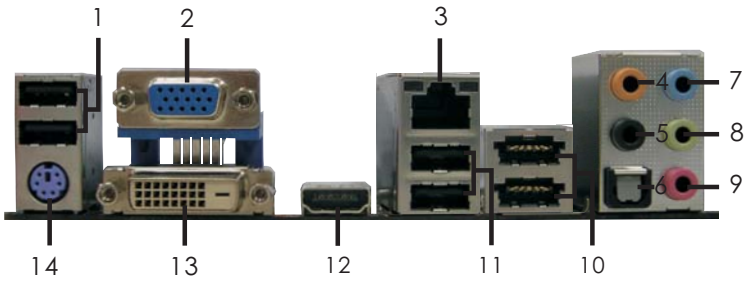
11. The software name itself – OC DNA literally tells you what it is capable of. OC DNA, an exclusive utility developed by ASRock, provides a convenient way for the user to record the OC settings and share with others. It helps you to save your overclocking record under the operating system and simplifies the complicated recording process of overclocking settings. With OC DNA, you can save your OC settings as a profile and share with your friends! Your friends then can load the OC profile to their own system to get the same OC settings as yours! Please be noticed that the OC profile can only be shared and worked on the same motherboard.
12. Although this motherboard offers stepless control, it is not recommended to perform over-clocking. Frequencies other than the recommended CPU bus frequencies may cause the instability of the system or damage the CPU.
13. While CPU overheat is detected, the system will automatically shutdown. Before you resume the system, please check if the CPU fan on the motherboard functions properly and unplug the power cord, then plug it back again. To improve heat dissipation, remember to spray thermal grease between the CPU and the heatsink when you install the PC system.
14. EuP, stands for Energy Using Product, was a provision regulated by European Union to define the power consumption for the completed system. According to EuP, the total AC power of the completed system shall be under 1.00W in off mode condition. To meet EuP standard, an EuP ready motherboard and an EuP ready power supply are required. According to Intel's suggestion, the EuP ready power supply must meet the standard of 5v standby power efficiency is higher than 50% under 100 mA current consumption. For EuP ready power supply selection, we recommend you checking with the power supply manufacturer for more details.

1.3 Motherboard Layout



1	PS2_USB_PWR1 Jumper
2	Chassis Fan Connector (CHA_FAN1)
3	CPU Heatsink
4	CPU Fan Connector (CPU_FAN1)
5	Chipset Heatsink
6	Clear CMOS Jumper (CLRCMOS1)
7	2 x 240-pin DDR3 DIMM Slots (Dual Channel: DDR3_1, DDR3_2; Blue)
8	ATX Power Connector (ATXPWR1)
9	Chassis Fan Connector (CHA_FAN2)
10	Fourth SATAII Connector (SATAII_4; Red)
11	System Panel Header (PANEL1, Orange)
12	Infrared Module Header (IR1)
13	Chassis Speaker Header (SPEAKER 1, Purple)
14	Third SATAII Connector (SATAII_3; Red)
15	Primary SATAII Connector (SATAII_1; Red)
16	Secondary SATAII Connector (SATAII_2; Red)
17	PCI Express 2.0 x16 Slot (PCIE1, Blue)
18	COM Port Header (COM1)
19	Front Panel Audio Header (HD_AUDIO1, Lime)
20	HDMI_SPDIF Header (HDMI_SPDIF1, Yellow)
21	Chipset Fan
22	USB 2.0 Header (USB8_9, Blue)
23	BIOS SPI Chip
24	USB 2.0 Header (USB6_7, Blue)

1.4 I/O Panel



1	USB 2.0 Ports	** 8	Front Speaker (Lime)
2	VGA/D-Sub Port	9	Microphone (Pink)
* 3	LAN RJ-45 Port	*** 10	Powered eSATAII/USB Connectors
4	Central / Bass (Orange)	11	USB 2.0 Ports
5	Rear Speaker (Black)	12	HDMI Port
6	Optical SPDIF Out Port	13	VGA/DVI-D Port
7	Line In (Light Blue)	14	PS/2 Keyboard Port (Purple)

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

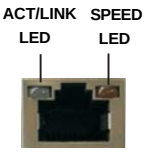
LAN Port LED Indications

Activity/Link LED

Status	Description
Off	No Link
Blinking	Data Activity
On	Link

SPEED LED

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



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

TABLE for Audio Output Connection

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

*** Powered eSATAII function is not supported in IDE mode.

To enable Multi-Streaming function, you need to connect a front panel audio cable to the front panel audio header. After restarting your computer, you will find “VIA HD Audio Deck” tool on your system. Please follow below instructions according to the OS you install.

For Windows® XP / XP 64-bit OS:

Please click “VIA HD Audio Deck” icon , and click “Speaker”. Then you are allowed to select “2 Channel”, “4 Channel”, “6 Channel” or “8 Channel”. Click “Power” to save your change.

For Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit OS:

Please click “VIA HD Audio Deck” icon , and click “Advanced Options” on the left side on the bottom. In “Advanced Options” screen, select “Independent Headphone”, and click “OK” to save your change.

Chapter 2 Installation

A330ION is a Mini-IXT form factor (6.7" x 6.7", 17.0 x 17.0 cm) motherboard. Before you install the motherboard, study the configuration of your chassis to ensure that the motherboard fits into it.

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

2.1 Screw Holes

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

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

2.2 Pre-installation Precautions

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

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

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

2.3 Installation of Memory Modules (DIMM)

A330ION motherboard provides two 240-pin DDR3 (Double Data Rate 3) DIMM slots, and supports Dual Channel Memory Technology. For dual channel configuration, you always need to install two **identical** (the same brand, speed, size and chip-type) memory modules in the DDR3 DIMM slots to activate Dual Channel Memory Technology. Otherwise, it will operate at single channel mode.

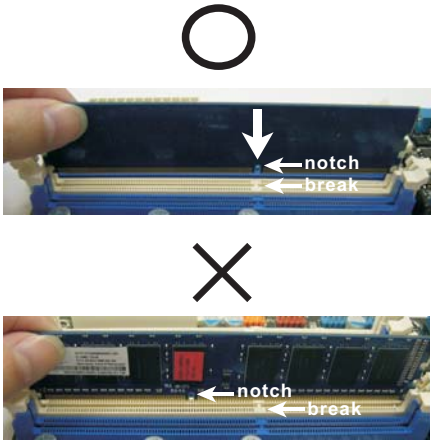
1. It is not allowed to install a DDR or DDR2 memory module into DDR3 slot;otherwise, this motherboard and DIMM may be damaged.
2. If you install only one memory module or two non-identical memory modules, it is unable to activate the Dual Channel Memory Technology.

Installing a DIMM

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

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

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



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

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

2.4 Expansion Slot (PCI Express Slot)

There is 1 PCI Express slot on this motherboard.

PCIE slots:

PCIE1 (PCIE x16 slot; Blue) is used for PCI Express x16 lane width graphics cards.

If you install the add-on PCI Express VGA card to PCIE1 (PCIE x16 slot), the onboard VGA will be disabled. In this situation, please adjust the BIOS option “Share Memory” to enable the onboard VGA, and the primary screen will be onboard VGA.

Installing an expansion card

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

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

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

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

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

Step 6. Replace the system cover.

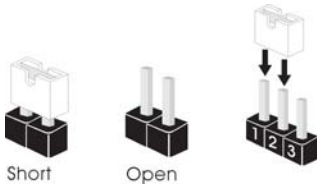
2.5 Surround Display Feature

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

..\ Surround Display Information

2.6 Jumpers Setup

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



Jumper	Setting	Description
PS2_USB_PWR1 (see p.10 No. 1)	1_2 +5V 2_3 +5VSB	Short pin2, pin3 to enable +5VSB (standby) for PS/2 or USB wake up events.

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

Clear CMOS
(CLRCMOS1, 2-pin jumper)
(see p.10 No. 6)

2-pin jumper

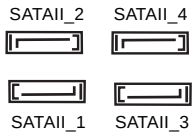
Note: CLRCMOS1 allows you to clear the data in CMOS. The data in CMOS includes system setup information such as system password, date, time, and system setup parameters. To clear and reset the system parameters to default setup, please turn off the computer and unplug the power cord from the power supply. After waiting for 15 seconds, use a jumper cap to short 2 pins on CLRCMOS1 for 5 seconds.

2.7 Onboard Headers and Connectors

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

Serial ATAII Connectors

(SATAII_1: see p.10, No. 15)
(SATAII_2: see p.10, No. 16)
(SATAII_3: see p.10, No. 14)
(SATAII_4: see p.10, No. 10)



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

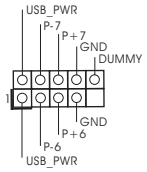
Serial ATA (SATA) Data Cable

(Optional)

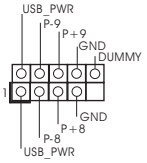
Either end of the SATA data cable can be connected to the SATA / SATAII hard disk or the SATAII connector on the motherboard.

USB 2.0 Headers

(9-pin USB6_7)
(see p.10 No. 24)



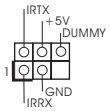
(9-pin USB8_9)
(see p.10 No. 22)



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

Infrared Module Header

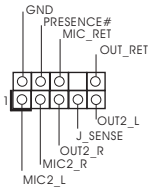
(5-pin IR1)
(see p.10 No. 12)



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

Front Panel Audio Header

(9-pin HD_AUDIO1)
(see p.10 No. 19)



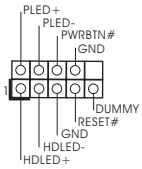
This is an interface for front panel audio cable that allows convenient connection and control of audio devices.

1. High Definition Audio supports Jack Sensing, but the panel wire on the chassis must support HDA to function correctly. Please follow the instruction in our manual and chassis manual to install your system.
2. If you use AC'97 audio panel, please install it to the front panel audio header as below:
   A. Connect Mic_IN (MIC) to MIC2_L.
   B. Connect Audio_R (RIN) to OUT2_R and Audio_L (LIN) to OUT2_L.
   C. Connect Ground (GND) to Ground (GND).
   D. MIC_RET and OUT_RET are for HD audio panel only. You don't need to connect them for AC'97 audio panel.
   E. Enter BIOS Setup Utility. Enter Advanced Settings, and then select Chipset Configuration. Set the Front Panel Control option from [Auto] to [Enabled].

System Panel Header

(9-pin PANEL1)

(see p.10 No. 11)

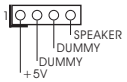


This header accommodates several system front panel functions.

Chassis Speaker Header

(4-pin SPEAKER 1)

(see p.10 No. 13)

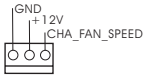


Please connect the chassis speaker to this header.

Chassis Fan Connectors

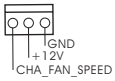
(3-pin CHA_FAN1)

(see p.10 No. 2)



(3-pin CHA_FAN2)

(see p.10 No. 9)

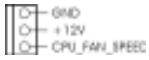


Please connect a chassis fan cable to this connector and match the black wire to the ground pin.

CPU Fan Connector

(3-pin CPU_FAN1)

(see p.10 No. 4)

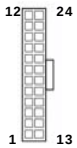


Please connect a CPU fan cable to this connector and match the black wire to the ground pin.

ATX Power Connector

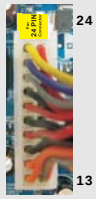
(24-pin ATXPWR1)

(see p.10, No. 8)



Please connect an ATX power supply to this connector.

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

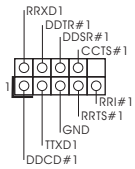


20-Pin ATX Power Supply Installation

Serial port Header

(9-pin COM1)

(see p.10 No.18)



This COM1 header supports a serial port module.

HDMI_SPDIF Header

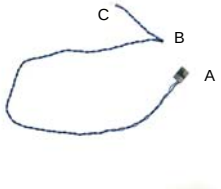
(3-pin HDMI_SPDIF1)

(see p.10 No. 20)

HDMI_SPDIF header, providing SPDIF audio output to HDMI VGA card, allows the system to connect HDMI Digital TV/ projector/LCD devices. Please connect the HDMI_SPDIF connector of HDMI VGA card to this header.

HDMI_SPDIF Cable

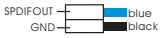
(Optional)



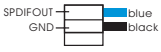
Please connect the black end (A) of HDMI_SPDIF cable to the HDMI_SPDIF header on the motherboard. Then connect the white end (B or C) of HDMI_SPDIF cable to the HDMI_SPDIF connector of HDMI VGA card.

A. black end

B. white end (2-pin)



C. white end (3-pin)



2.8 HDMI_SPDIF Header Connection Guide

HDMI (High-Definition Multi-media Interface) is an all-digital audio/video specification, which provides an interface between any compatible digital audio/ video source, such as a set-top box, DVD player, A/V receiver and a compatible digital audio or video monitor, such as a digital television (DTV). A complete HDMI system requires a HDMI VGA card and a HDMI ready motherboard with a HDMI_SPDIF header. This motherboard is equipped with a HDMI_SPDIF header, which provides SPDIF audio output to HDMI VGA card, allows the system to connect HDMI Digital TV/projector/LCD devices. To use HDMI function on this motherboard, please carefully follow the below steps.

Step 1. Install the HDMI VGA card to the PCI Express Graphics slot on this motherboard. For the proper installation of HDMI VGA card, please refer to the installation guide on page 15.

Step 2. Connect the black end (A) of HDMI_SPDIF cable to the HDMI_SPDIF header (HDMI_SPDIF1, yellow, see page 10, No. 20) on the motherboard.

Make sure to correctly connect the HDMI_SPDIF cable to the motherboard and the HDMI VGA card according to the same pin definition. For the pin definition of HDMI_SPDIF header and HDMI_SPDIF cable connectors, please refer to page 19. For the pin definition of HDMI_SPDIF connectors on HDMI VGA card, please refer to the user manual of HDMI VGA card vendor. Incorrect connection may cause permanent damage to this motherboard and the HDMI VGA card.

Step 3. Connect the white end (B or C) of HDMI_SPDIF cable to the HDMI_SPDIF connector of HDMI VGA card. (There are two white ends (2-pin and 3-pin) on HDMI_SPDIF cable. Please choose the appropriate white end according to the HDMI_SPDIF connector of the HDMI VGA card you install.

white end (2-pin) (B)

white end (3-pin) (C)

Please do not connect the white end of HDMI_SPDIF cable to the wrong connector of HDMI VGA card or other VGA card. Otherwise, the motherboard and the VGA card may be damaged. For example, this picture shows the wrong example of connecting HDMI_SPDIF cable to the fan connector of PCI Express VGA card. Please refer to the VGA card user manual for connector usage in advance.

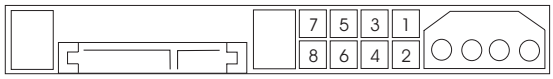
Step 4. Connect the HDMI output connector on HDMI VGA card to HDMI device, such as HDTV. Please refer to the user manual of HDTV and HDMI VGA card vendor for detailed connection procedures.

Step 5. Install HDMI VGA card driver to your system.

2.9 SATAII Hard Disk Setup Guide

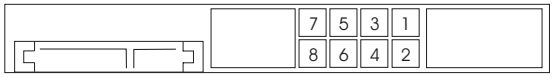
Before installing SATAII hard disk to your computer, please carefully read below SATAII hard disk setup guide. Some default setting of SATAII hard disks may not be at SATAII mode, which operate with the best performance. In order to enable SATAII function, please follow the below instruction with different vendors to correctly adjust your SATAII hard disk to SATAII mode in advance; otherwise, your SATAII hard disk may fail to run at SATAII mode.

Western Digital



If pin 5 and pin 6 are shorted, SATA 1.5Gb/s will be enabled.
On the other hand, if you want to enable SATAII 3.0Gb/s, please remove the jumpers from pin 5 and pin 6.

SAMSUNG



If pin 3 and pin 4 are shorted, SATA 1.5Gb/s will be enabled.
On the other hand, if you want to enable SATAII 3.0Gb/s, please remove the jumpers from pin 3 and pin 4.

HITACHI

Please use the Feature Tool, a DOS-bootable tool, for changing various ATA features. Please visit HITACHI's website for details:
http://www.hitachigst.com/hdd/support/download.htm

The above examples are just for your reference. For different SATAII hard disk products of different vendors, the jumper pin setting methods may not be the same. Please visit the vendors' website for the updates.

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

This motherboard adopts NVIDIA® MCP7A-ION chipset that supports Serial ATA (SATA) / Serial ATAII (SATAII) hard disks and RAID functions. You may install SATA / SATAII hard disks on this motherboard for internal storage devices. This section will guide you to install the SATA / SATAII hard disks.

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

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

This motherboard supports Hot Plug and Hot Swap functions for SATA / SATAII in RAID / AHCI mode. NVIDIA® MCP7A-ION chipset provides hardware support for Advanced Host controller Interface (AHCI), a new programming interface for SATA host controllers developed thru a joint industry effort.

NOTE

What is Hot Plug Function?

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

What is Hot Swap Function?

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

For Powered eSATA function, Hot Plug function is supported in RAID / AHCI mode only.

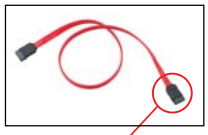
2.12 SATA / SATAII HDD Hot Plug Feature and Operation Guide

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

A. 7-pin SATA data cable

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

A. SATA data cable (Red)



SATA 7-pin connector

B. SATA power cable

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

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

Caution

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

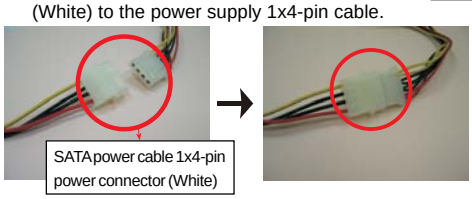
Points of attention, before you process the Hot Plug:

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

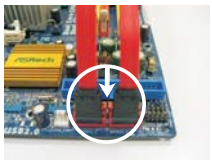
How to Hot Plug a SATA / SATAII HDD:

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

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



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



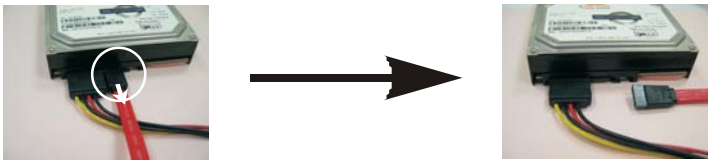
Step *3* Connect SATA 15-pin power cable connector (Black) end to SATA / SATAII HDD.

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

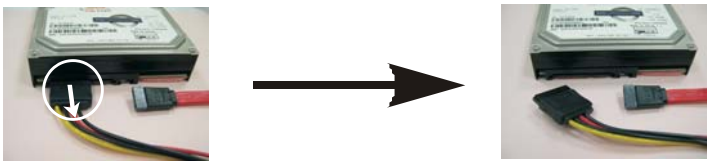
How to Hot Unplug a SATA / SATAII HDD:

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

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



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



2.13 Driver Installation Guide

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

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

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

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

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

AHCI mode is not supported under Windows® XP / XP 64-bit OS.

Using SATA / SATAII HDDs in IDE Mode

STEP 1: Set up BIOS.

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

B. Set the option “SATA Operation Mode” to [IDE].

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

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

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

Using SATA / SATAII HDDs in AHCI Mode

STEP 1: Set Up BIOS.

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

B. Set the option “SATA Operation Mode” to [AHCI].

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

Using SATA / SATAII HDDs in IDE Mode

STEP 1: Set up BIOS.

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

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

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

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

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

RAID mode is not supported under Windows® XP / XP 64-bit OS.

STEP 1: Set Up BIOS.

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

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

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

Before you start to configure RAID function, you need to check the RAID installation guide in the Support CD for proper configuration. Please refer to the BIOS RAID installation guide part of the document in the following path in the Support CD:

.. \ RAID Installation Guide

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

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

.. \ I386 (For Windows® 7 / Vista™ OS)

.. \ AMD64 (For Windows® 7 64-bit / Vista™ 64-bit OS)

After that, please insert Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit optical disk into the optical drive again to continue the installation.

NOTE. If you install Windows® 7 / 7 64-bit / Vista™ / Vista™ 64-bit on IDE HDDs and want to manage (create, convert, delete, or rebuild) RAID functions on SATA / SATAII HDDs, you still need to set up "SATA Operation Mode" to [RAID] in BIOS first. Then, please set the RAID configuration by using the Windows RAID installation guide in the following path in the Support CD:
.. \ RAID Installation Guide

2.16 Untied Overclocking Technology

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

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

Chapter 3 BIOS SETUP UTILITY

3.1 Introduction

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

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

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

3.1.1 BIOS Menu Bar

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

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

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

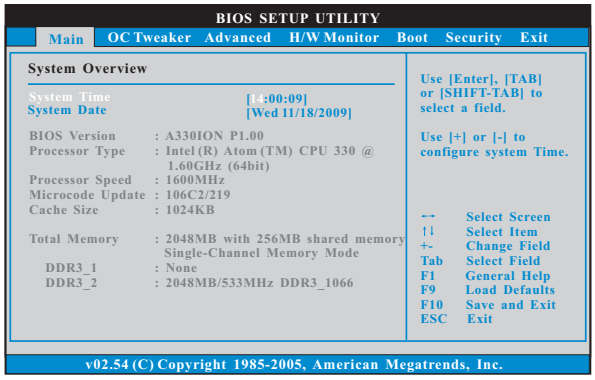
3.1.2 Navigation Keys

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

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

3.2 Main Screen

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



System Time [Hour:Minute:Second]

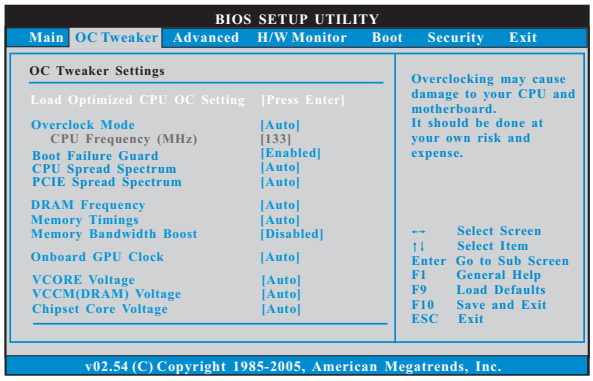
Use this item to specify the system time.

System Date [Day Month/Date/Year]

Use this item to specify the system date.

3.3 OC Tweaker Screen

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



Load Optimized CPU OC Setting

You can use this option to load the optiomized CPU overclocking setting. Configuration options: [Press Enter], [1700 MHz] to [2100 MHz]. Please note that overclocking may cause damage to your CPU and motherboard. It should be done at your own risk and expense.

Overclock Mode

Use this to select Overclock Mode. The default value is [Auto]. Configuration options: [Auto], [Manual] and [Optimized].

CPU Frequency (MHz)

Use this option to adjust CPU frequency.

Boot Failure Guard

Enable or disable the feature of Boot Failure Guard.

CPU Spread Spectrum

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

PCIE Spread Spectrum

Use this to adjust PCIE Clock Spread Spectrum control. The default value is [Auto].

DRAM Frequency

If [Auto] is selected, the motherboard will detect the memory module(s) inserted and assigns appropriate frequency automatically. You may select [Auto], [400MHz DDR3_800] and [533MHz DDR3_1066].

Memory Timings

Use this item to select Memory Timings. The default value is [Auo].

Memory Bandwidth Boost

Use this item to enable or disable Memory Bandwidth Boost. The default value is [Disabled].

Onboard GPU Clock

This allows you to adjust Onboard GPU Clock feature. Configuration options: [Auto] and [Manual]. The default value is [Auo].

VCORE Voltage

Use this to select VCORE Voltage. Configuration options: [Auto], [1.113V] to [1.232V]. The default value of this feature is [Auto].

VCCM(DRAM) Voltage

Use this to select VCCM(DRAM) Voltage. Configuration options: [Auto], [1.366V] to [1.978V]. The default value of this feature is [Auto].

Chipset Core Voltage

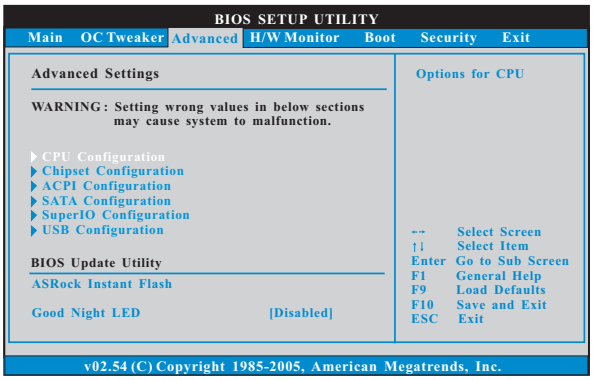
Use this to select chipset core Voltage. Configuration options: [Auto], [1.004V] to [1.173V]. The default value of this feature is [Auto].

Would you like to save current setting user defaults?

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

3.4 Advanced Screen

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



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

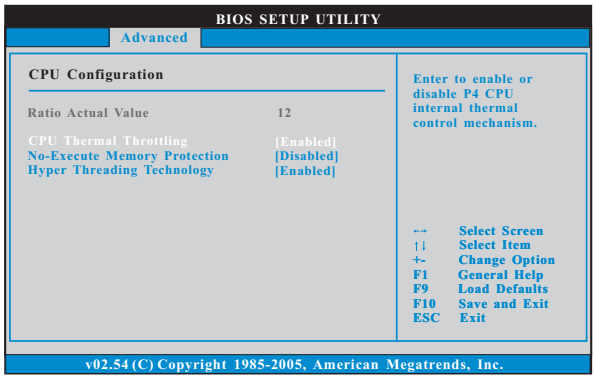
ASRock Instant Flash

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

Good Night LED

Use this to adjust Good Night LED function. Enable this option to turn off power LED, LAN LED and SATA LED after power on the system.

3.4.1 CPU Configuration



Ratio Actual Value

This is a read-only item, which displays the ratio actual value of this motherboard.

CPU Thermal Throttling

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

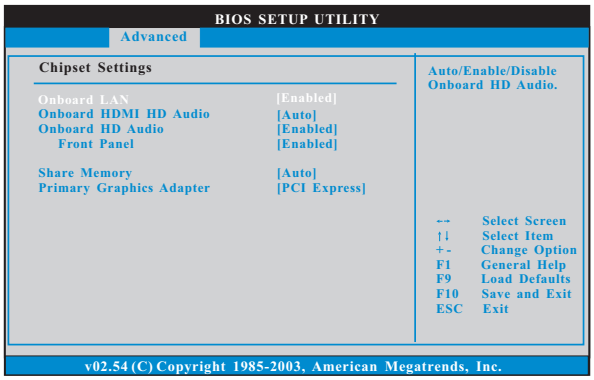
No-Excute Memory Protection

No-Execution (NX) Memory Protection Technology is an enhancement to the IA-32 Intel Architecture. An IA-32 processor with “No Execute (NX) Memory Protection” can prevent data pages from being used by malicious software to execute code.

Hyper Threading Technology

To enable this feature, it requires a computer system with an Intel® processor that supports Hyper-Threading technology and an operating system that includes optimization for this technology, such as Microsoft® Windows® XP. Set to [Enabled] if using Microsoft® Windows® XP, or Linux kernel version 2.4.18 or higher.

3.4.2 Chipset Configuration



Onboard LAN

This allows you to enable or disable the “Onboard LAN” feature.

Onboard HDMI HD Audio

This allows you to enable or disable the “Onboard HDMI HD Audio” feature.

Onboard HD Audio

Select [Enabled] or [Disabled] for the onboard HD Audio feature.

Front Panel

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

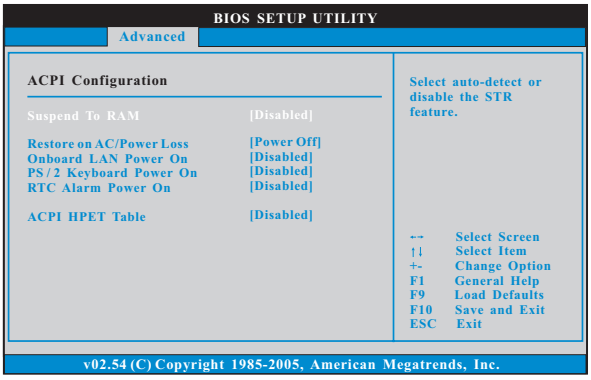
Share Memory

This allows you to set share memory feature. The default value is [Auto]. Configuration options: [Auto], [32MB], [64MB], [128MB] and [256MB].

Primary Graphics Adapter

This item will switch the PCI Bus scanning order while searching for video card. It allows you to select the type of Primary VGA in case of multiple video controllers. The default value of this feature is [PCI Express]. Configuration options: [Onboard] and [PCI Express].

3.4.3 ACPI Configuration



Suspend to RAM

This field allows you to select whether to auto-detect or disable the Suspend-to-RAM feature. Select [Auto] will enable this feature if the system supports it.

Check Ready Bit

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

Restore on AC/Power Loss

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

Onboard LAN Power On

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

PS/2 Keyboard Power On

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

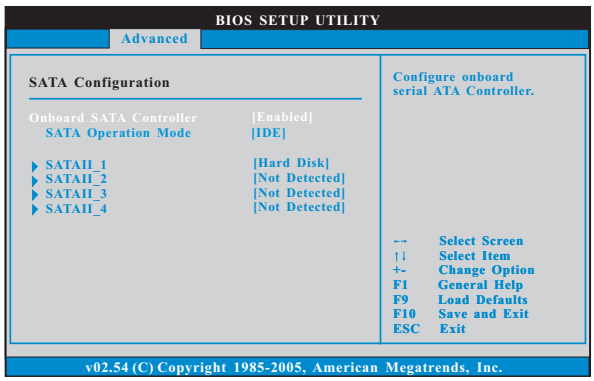
RTC Alarm Power On

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

ACPI HPET Table

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

3.4.4 SATA Configuration



Onboard SATA Controller

Use this item to enable or disable the “Onboard SATA Controller” feature.

SATA Operation Mode

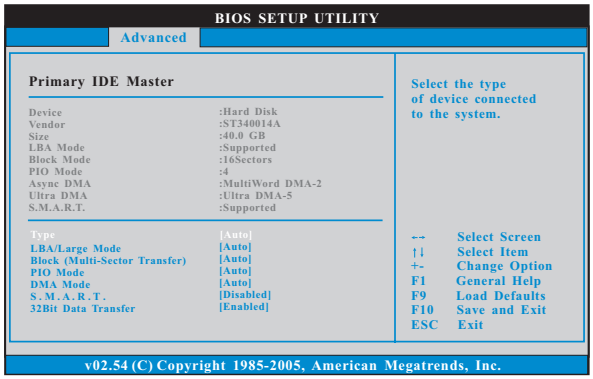
Use this item to adjust SATA Operation Mode. The default value of this option is [IDE]. If you want to operate RAID function on SATA / SATAII HDDs, please select [RAID]. Configuration options: [IDE], [AHCI] and [RAID].

* If you select [RAID] mode, SATA / SATAII HDDs can not be accessed until you finish configuring RAID functions in NVIDIA BIOS / Windows RAID Utility.
* If you install OS on SATA / SATAII HDDs, please do not change the setting of this item after OS installation.

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

IDE Device Configuration

You may set the IDE configuration for the device that you specify. We will use the “IDE1 Master” as the example in the following instruction, which can be applied to the configurations of “IDE1 Slave” as well.



TYPE

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

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

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

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

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

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

LBA/Large Mode

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

Block (Multi-Sector Transfer)

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

PIO Mode

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

DMA Mode

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

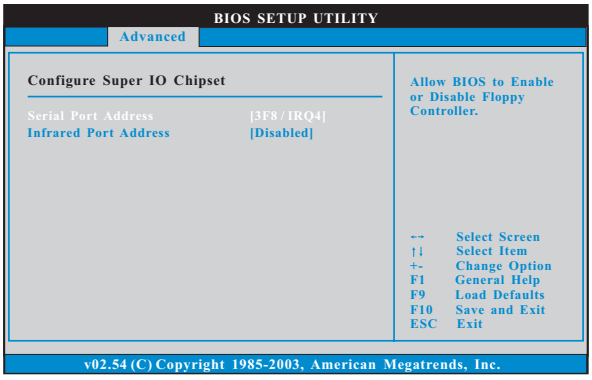
S.M.A.R.T.

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

32-Bit Data Transfer

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

3.4.5 Super IO Configuration



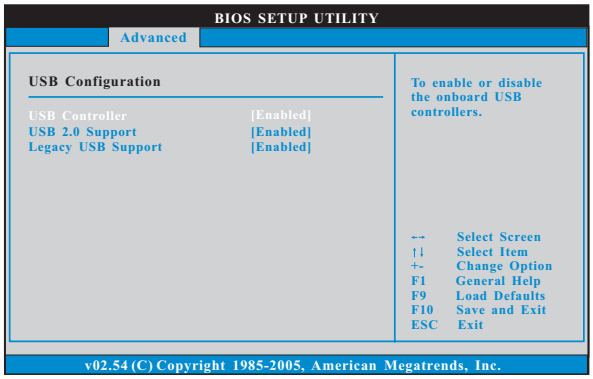
Serial Port Address

Use this item to set the address for the onboard serial port or disable it. Configuration options: [Disabled], [3F8 / IRQ4], [2F8 / IRQ3], [3E8 / IRQ4], [2E8 / IRQ3].

Infrared Port Address

Use this item to set the address for the onboard infrared port or disable it. Configuration options: [Disabled], [2F8 / IRQ3], and [2E8 / IRQ3].

3.4.6 USB Configuration



USB Controller

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

USB 2.0 Support

Use this item to enable or disable the USB 2.0 support.

Legacy USB Support

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

[Enabled] - Enables support for legacy USB.

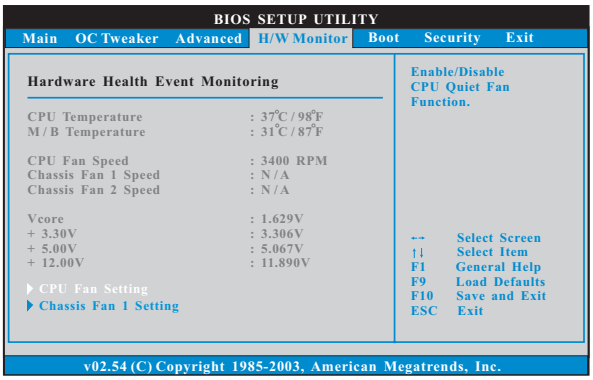
[Auto] - Enables legacy support if USB devices are connected.

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

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

3.5 Hardware Health Event Monitoring Screen

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



CPU Fan Setting

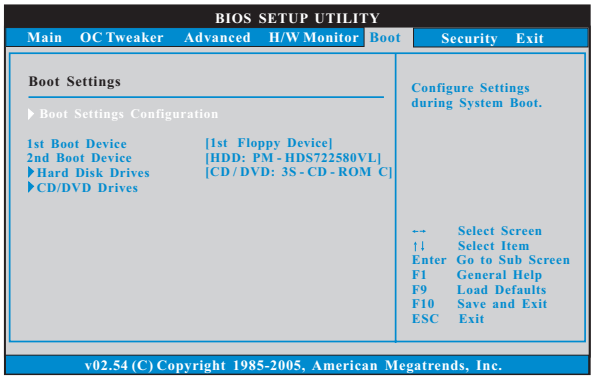
This allows you to set the CPU fan speed. Configuration options: [Full On] and [Automatic mode]. The default is value [Full On].

Chassis Fan 1 Setting

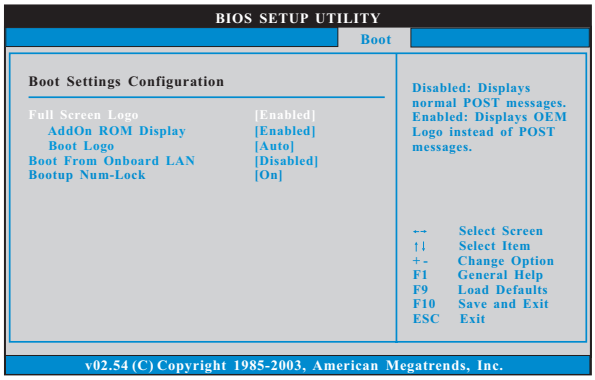
This allows you to set the chassis fan speed. Configuration options: [Full On] and [Manual mode]. The default is value [Full On].

3.6 Boot Screen

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



3.6.1 Boot Settings Configuration



Full Screen Logo

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

AddOn ROM Display

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

Boot Logo

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

Boot From Onboard LAN

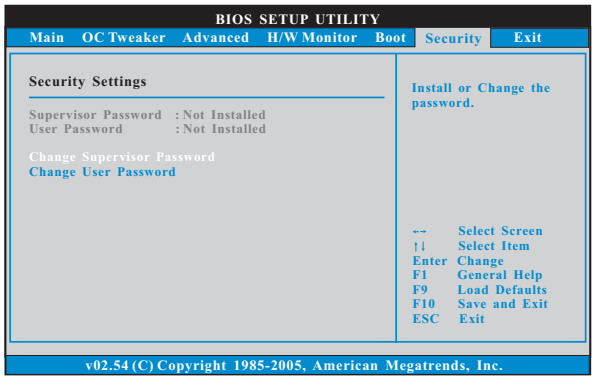
Use this item to enable or disable the Boot From Onboard LAN feature.

Boot Up Num-Lock

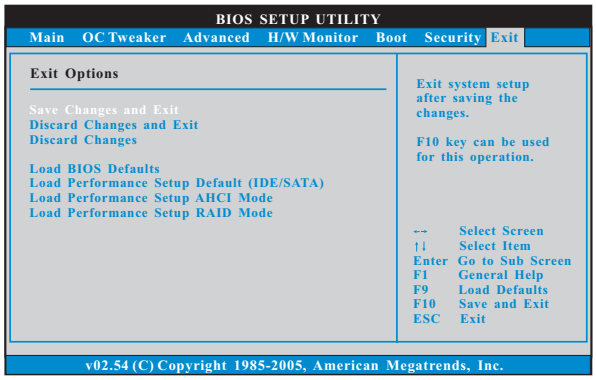
If this item is set to [On], it will automatically activate the Numeric Lock function after boot-up.

3.7 Security Screen

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



3.8 Exit Screen



Save Changes and Exit

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

Discard Changes and Exit

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

Discard Changes

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

Load BIOS Defaults

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

Load Performance Setup Default (IDE/SATA)

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

Load Performance Setup AHCI Mode

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

Load Performance Setup RAID Mode

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

Chapter 4 Software Support

4.1 Install Operating System

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

4.2 Support CD Information

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

4.2.1 Running The Support CD

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

4.2.2 Drivers Menu

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

4.2.3 Utilities Menu

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

4.2.4 Contact Information

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