M5A88-M

Motherboard

E6562

First Edition (V1)
April 2011

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Notices

Federal Communications Commission Statement

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

*   This device may not cause harmful interference, and
*   This device must accept any interference received including interference that may cause undesired operation.

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

*   Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
*   Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
*   Connect the equipment to an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
*   Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

> The use of shielded cables for connection of the monitor to the graphics card is required to assure compliance with FCC regulations. Changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

Canadian Department of Communications Statement

This digital apparatus does not exceed the Class B limits for radio noise emissions from digital apparatus set out in the Radio Interference Regulations of the Canadian Department of Communications.

This class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

ASUS Recycling/Takeback Services

ASUS recycling and takeback programs come from our commitment to the highest standards for protecting our environment. We believe in providing solutions for you to be able to responsibly recycle our products, batteries, other components as well as the packaging materials. Please go to http://csr.asus.com/english/Takeback.htm for the detailed recycling information in different regions.

REACH

Complying with the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals) regulatory framework, we published the chemical substances in our products at ASUS REACH website at http://csr.asus.com/english/REACH.htm.

DO NOT throw the motherboard in municipal waste. This product has been designed to enable proper reuse of parts and recycling. This symbol of the crossed out wheeled bin indicates that the product (electrical and electronic equipment) should not be placed in municipal waste. Check local regulations for disposal of electronic products.

DO NOT throw the mercury-containing button cell battery in municipal waste. This symbol of the crossed out wheeled bin indicates that the battery should not be placed in municipal waste.

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.

About this guide

This user guide contains the information you need when installing and configuring the motherboard.

How this guide is organized

This guide contains the following parts:

- **Chapter 1: Product introduction**

  This chapter describes the features of the motherboard and the new technology it supports.

- **Chapter 2: Hardware information**

  This chapter lists the hardware setup procedures that you have to perform when installing system components. It includes description of the switches, jumpers, and connectors on the motherboard.

- **Chapter 3: BIOS setup**

  This chapter tells how to change system settings through the BIOS Setup menus. Detailed descriptions of the BIOS parameters are also provided.

- **Chapter 4: Software support**

  This chapter describes the contents of the support DVD that comes with the motherboard package and the software.

- **Chapter 5: ATI® Hybrid CrossFireX™ technology support**

  This chapter describes the ATI® Hybrid CrossFireX™ feature and shows the graphics card installation procedures.

Where to find more information

Refer to the following sources for additional information and for product and software updates.

1. ASUS websites

The ASUS website provides updated information on ASUS hardware and software products. Refer to the ASUS contact information.

2. Optional documentation

Your product package may include optional documentation, such as warranty flyers, that may have been added by your dealer. These documents are not part of the standard package.

Conventions used in this guide

To ensure that you perform certain tasks properly, take note of the following symbols used throughout this manual.

DANGER/WARNING: Information to prevent injury to yourself when trying to complete a task.

CAUTION: Information to prevent damage to the components when trying to complete a task.

IMPORTANT: Instructions that you MUST follow to complete a task.

NOTE: Tips and additional information to help you complete a task.

Typography

Bold text	Indicates a menu or an item to select.
*Italic*s	Used to emphasize a word or a phrase.
<Key>	Keys enclosed in the less-than and greater-than sign means that you must press the enclosed key.
	Example: <Enter> means that you must press the Enter or Return key.
<Key1> + <Key2> + <Key3>	If you must press two or more keys simultaneously, the key names are linked with a plus sign (+).
	Example: <Ctrl> + <Alt> + <Del>

M5A88-M specifications summary

CPU	AMD® Socket AM3+ for AMD® FX™ / Phenom™ II / Athlon™ II / Sempron™ 100 series processors AMD® 140W CPU Support AMD® Cool 'n' Quiet™ Technology Supports 32nm AM3+ CPU * Refer to www.asus.com for the AMD® CPU support list
Chipset	AMD® 880G / SB850
System bus	Up to 5200 MT/s HyperTransport™ 3.0
Memory	4 x DIMM, max. 16 GB, DDR3 2000 (O.C.) / 1866 (O.C.) / 1600 (O.C.)/ 1333 / 1066 MHz, ECC / non-ECC, un-buffered memory Dual channel memory architecture * AMD® FX™ Series CPU on this motherboard supports up to DDR3 1866MHz as its standard memory frequency. ** Due to CPU spec., AMD® 100 and 200 series CPUs support up to DDR3 1066MHz. With ASUS design, this motherboard can support up to DDR3 1333MHz. *** When overclocking, some AMD CPU models may not support DDR3 1600 MHz or higher frequency DIMMs. **** Refer to www.asus.com for the latest Memory QVL (Qualified Vendors List). ***** When you install a total memory of 4GB or more, Windows® 32-bit operating system may only recognize less than 3GB. We recommend a maximum of 3GB system memory if you are using a Windows® 32-bit operating system.

VGA output	Integrated ATI® Radeon™ HD 4250 GPU
	Supports HDMI™ with max. resolution up to 1920x1200 (1080p)
	Supports Dual-link DVI with max. resolution up to 2560 x 1600 @60Hz
	Supports D-Sub with max. resolution up to 2048 x 1536 @85Hz
	Dual independent displays support:
	  • D-Sub & DVI-D
	  • D-Sub & HDMI
	Supports Microsoft® DirectX 10.1, OpenGL 2.0, and Shader Model 4.1
	Hardware Decode Acceleration for H.264, VC-1, and MPEG-2
	Maximum shared memory of 1GB
	Supports Hybrid CrossFireX™
	* Refer to www.amd.com for the discrete GPUs that support Hybrid CrossFireX™.

Expansion slots	1 x PCI Express 2.0 x16 slot 2 x PCI Express 2.0 x1 slots 1 x PCI slot
Storage	**AMD® SB850 southbridge:** - 6 x SATA 6.0 Gb/s ports with RAID 0, 1, 5, and 10 support
LAN	Realtek® 8111E Gigabit LAN controller

Audio	ALC892 8-channel High Definition Audio CODEC
	  - Supports 192khz/24bit BD Lossless Sound
	  - Supports Jack-Detection, Multi-Streaming, and Front Panel Jack-Retasking (HD mode only)
	  - Optical S/PDIF Out port at back I/O

M5A88-M specifications summary

USB	**AMD® SB850 southbridge:** - 12 x USB 2.0 / 1.1 ports (8 ports at midboard, 4 ports at the back panel) **Asmedia USB3.0 controller:** - 2 x USB 3.0 ports (blue, at the back panel)
ASUS unique features	**ASUS Xtreme Design** ASUS Hybrid Processor – TPU - TurboV, Auto Tuning, CPU Level UP, Turbo Unlocker, and GPU Boost ASUS Hybrid Switches: - Core Unlocker - MemOK! button ASUS Power Solutions - ASUS Anti-Surge Protection - ASUS EPU **ASUS Quiet Thermal Solutions** - ASUS Fanless Design: Stylish heatsink solution - ASUS Fan Xpert **ASUS EZ DIY** - ASUS CrashFree BIOS 3 - ASUS EZ Flash 2 - ASUS MyLogo 2™
ASUS exclusive overclocking features	**Intelligent overclocking tools** - TPU - GPU Boost **Precision Tweaker 2** - vCore: Adjustable CPU voltage at 0.003125V increment - vChipset (VDDNB): Adjustable chipset voltage at 0.003125V increment - vDIMM: Adjustable DRAM voltage at 0.015V increment **SFS (Stepless Frequency Selection)** - HT frequency tuning from 100MHz up to 550MHz at 1MHz increment - PCIe frequency tuning from 100MHz up to 150MHz at 1MHz increment **Overclocking protection** - ASUS C.P.R. (CPU Parameter Recall)
Other features	100% All High-quality Conductive Polymer Capacitors
Back panel I/O ports	1 x PS/2 keyboard / mouse combo port 1 x Optical S/PDIF Out port 1 x HDMI Out port 1 x D-Sub port 1 x DVI-D Out port 1 x LAN (RJ-45) port 4 x USB 2.0 / 1.1 ports 2 x USB 3.0 ports (blue) 8-channel audio I/O ports

M5A88-M specifications summary

Internal connectors / switches / buttons	4 x USB 2.0 / 1.1 connectors support additional 8 USB 2.0 / 1.1 ports 1 x COM connector 1 x LPT connector 6 x SATA 6.0 Gb/s connectors 1 x CPU fan connector 1 x Chassis fan connector 1 x S/PDIF Out header 1 x Core Unlocker switch 1 x MemOK! button 1 x Front panel audio connector 1 x System panel connector 1 x 24-pin EATX Power connector 1 x 4-pin ATX 12V Power connector
BIOS features	16 Mb Flash ROM, SPI, AMI BIOS, PnP, DMI 2.0, WfM 2.0, SM BIOS 2.5, ACPI 2.0a, ASUS EZ Flash 2, ASUS CrashFree BIOS 3
Manageability	WOL by PME, WOR by PME, WOR by Ring, PXE
Support DVD contents	Drivers ASUS utilities ASUS Update Anti-virus software (OEM version)
Accessories	2 x Serial ATA 6.0 Gb/s cables 1 x 2-in-1 Q-Connector (retail version only) 1 x I/O Shield 1 x User Manual 1 x Support DVD
Form factor	MicroATX form factor: 9.6 in. x 9.6 in. (24.4 cm x 24.4 cm)

*Specifications are subject to change without notice.

Chapter 1

1.1   Welcome!

Thank you for buying an ASUS® M5A88-M motherboard!

The motherboard delivers a host of new features and latest technologies, making it another standout in the long line of ASUS quality motherboards!

Before you start installing the motherboard, and hardware devices on it, check the items in your package with the list below.

1.2   Package contents

Check your motherboard package for the following items.
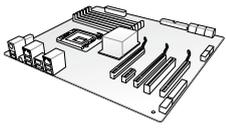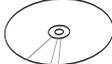
ASUS M5A88-M motherboard	User guide	Support DVD
2 x Serial ATA 6.0 Gb/s cables with 6.0 Gb/s label		1 x ASUS I/O Shield
1 x 2-in-1 ASUS Q-Connector kit		
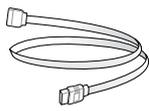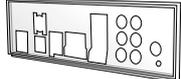
> • If any of the above items is damaged or missing, contact your retailer.
>
> • The illustrated items above are for reference only. Actual product specifications may vary with different models.

1.3 Special features

1.3.1 Product highlights

AMD® FX™ / Phenom™ II / Athlon™ II / Sempron™ 100 series CPU support

This motherboard supports AMD® Socket AM3+ multi-core processors with unique L3 cache and delivers better overclocking capabilities with less power consumption. It features dual-channel DDR3 memory support and accelerates data transfer rate up to 5200MT/s via HyperTransport™ 3.0-based system bus. This motherboard also supports AMD® CPUs in the new 32nm manufacturing process.

AMD® 880G Chipset

AMD® 880G Chipset is designed to support up to 5200MT/s HyperTransport™ 3.0 (HT 3.0) interface speed and PCI Express™ 2.0 x16 graphics. It is optimized with AMD®'s latest AM3+ and multi-core CPUs to provide excellent system performance and overclocking capabilities.

DDR3 2000(O.C.)/1866(O.C.)/1600(O.C.)/1333/1066 support

This motherboard supports DDR3 memory that features data transfer rates of 2000(O.C.)/1866(O.C.)/1600(O.C.)/1333/1066 MHz to meet the higher bandwidth requirements of the latest 3D graphics, multimedia, and Internet applications. The dual-channel DDR3 architecture enlarges the bandwidth of your system memory to boost system performance.

AMD® SB850 Chipset

The AMD® SB850 Southbridge natively supports the next generation SATA 6.0 Gb/s data transfer rate and PCI Express 2.0 interface.

True USB 3.0 Support

Experience ultra-fast data transfers at 4.8 Gb/s with USB 3.0–the latest connectivity standard. Built to connect easily with next-generation components and peripherals, USB 3.0 transfers data 10X faster and is also backward compatible with USB 2.0 components.

Serial ATA 6.0 Gb/s technology

The AMD® SB850 chipset natively supports the next generation SATA 6.0 Gb/s data transfer rate, enhances scalability, provides faster data retrieval, and doubles the bandwidth of the current bus systems.

Hybrid CrossFireX™ support*

ATI Hybrid CrossFireX™ technology greatly boosts graphics performance with an onboard GPU and a discrete GPU.

ErP ready

The motherboard is European Union´s Energy-related Products (ErP) ready, and ErP requires products to meet certain energy efficiency requirements in regards to energy consumptions. This is in line with ASUS vision of creating environment-friendly and energy-efficient products through product design and innovation to reduce carbon footprint of the product and thus mitigate environmental impacts.

1.3.2   ASUS Hybrid Processor - TPU (TurboV Processing Unit)*

TPU

Unleash your performance with ASUS' TurboV utility. ASUS Auto tuning feature can intelligently optimize the system for fast, yet stable clock speeds, and the TurboV gives you the freedom to adjust CPU frequencies and ratios to optimize performance under varied system conditions.

Auto Tuning

Auto Tuning is an intelligent tool that automates overclocking to achieve a total system level up. This tool also provides stability testing. Even O.C. beginners can achieve extreme yet stable overclocking results with Auto Tuning!

ASUS TurboV

Feel the adrenaline rush of real-time OC-now a reality with the ASUS TurboV. This easy OC tool allows you to overclock without exiting or rebooting the OS; and its user-friendly interface makes overclock with just a few clicks away. Moreover, the ASUS OC profiles in TurboV provides the best O.C. settings in different scenarios.

CPU Level Up

CPU Level Up allows you to upgrade your CPU at no additional cost. Simply pick the processor you want to overclock to, and your motherboard will do the rest. See the CPU speed and enjoy better performance instantly. Overclocking is never as easy as this.

Turbo Unlocker

Turbo Unlocker is the next evolution of an exclusive ASUS performance boost feature. One click in the TurboV EVO interface and Turbo Unlocker automatically and dynamically adjusts AMD 6-CORE and Black Edition processor frequencies to speed up performance based on system load. Turbo Unlocker gets you in touch with more power when you need it.

GPU Boost

GPU Boost overclocks the integrated GPU in real time for the best graphics performance. User-friendly UI facilitates flexible frequency and voltage adjustments. Its ability to deliver multiple overclocking profiles also provides rapid and stable system-level upgrades.

1.3.3   ASUS Xtreme Design—Hybrid Switch*

Core Unlocker

ASUS Core Unlocker simplifies the activation of a latent AMD® CPU—with just a simple switch. Enjoy an instant performance boost by simply unlocking the extra cores, without performing complicated BIOS changes.

MemOK!

MemOK! guickly ensures memory boot compatibility. This remarkable memory rescue tool requires a mere push of the button to patch memory issues. MemOK! determines failsafe settings and dramatically improves your system boot success. Get your system up and running in no time.

* The actual overclocking result depends on the system configuration.

1.3.4   ASUS unique features

ASUS Power Solutions

ASUS Power solutions intelligently and automatically provide balanced computing power and energy consumption.

ASUS EPU

The ASUS EPU (Energy Processing Unit) provides total system power management by detecting current PC loadings and intelligently moderating power usage for critical PC components in real-time–helping save power and money!

Anti-Surge Protection

This special design protects expensive devices and the motherboard from damage caused by power surges from switching power supply unit (PSU).

ASUS Quiet Thermal Solutions

ASUS Quiet Thermal solution makes system more stable and enhances the overclocking capability.

Fanless Design: stylish heatsink solution

The stylish heatsink features a 0-dB thermal solution that offers users a noiseless PC environment. Not only the beautiful shape upgrades the visual enjoyment for motherboard users, but also the heatsink design lowers the temperature of the chipset and power phase area through high efficient heat-exchange. Combined with usability and aesthetics, the ASUS stylish heatsink will give users an extremely silent and cooling experience with the elegant appearance!

Fan Xpert

ASUS Fan Xpert intelligently allows you to adjust the CPU fan speed according to different ambient temperatures caused by different climate conditions in different geographic regions and your PC's loading. The built-in variety of useful profiles offer flexible controls of fan speed to achieve a quiet and cool environment.

ASUS EZ DIY

ASUS EZ DIY feature collection provides you with easy ways to install computer components, update the BIOS or back up your favorite settings.

ASUS CrashFree BIOS 3

ASUS CrashFree BIOS 3 allows you to restore corrupted BIOS data from a USB flash disk containing the BIOS file. This protection eliminates the need to buy a replacement ROM chip.

ASUS EZ-Flash 2

ASUS EZ Flash 2 is a user-friendly utility that allows you to update the BIOS without using a bootable floppy disk or an OS-based utility.

Precision Tweaker 2

Allows you to fine-tune the VCore / VDDNB voltage in 0.003125V steps and DRAM voltage in 0.015V steps to achieve the most precise setting for the ultimate overclocking configuration.

Chapter 2

2.1   Before you proceed

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

- 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.

2.2 Motherboard overview

2.2.1 Motherboard layout
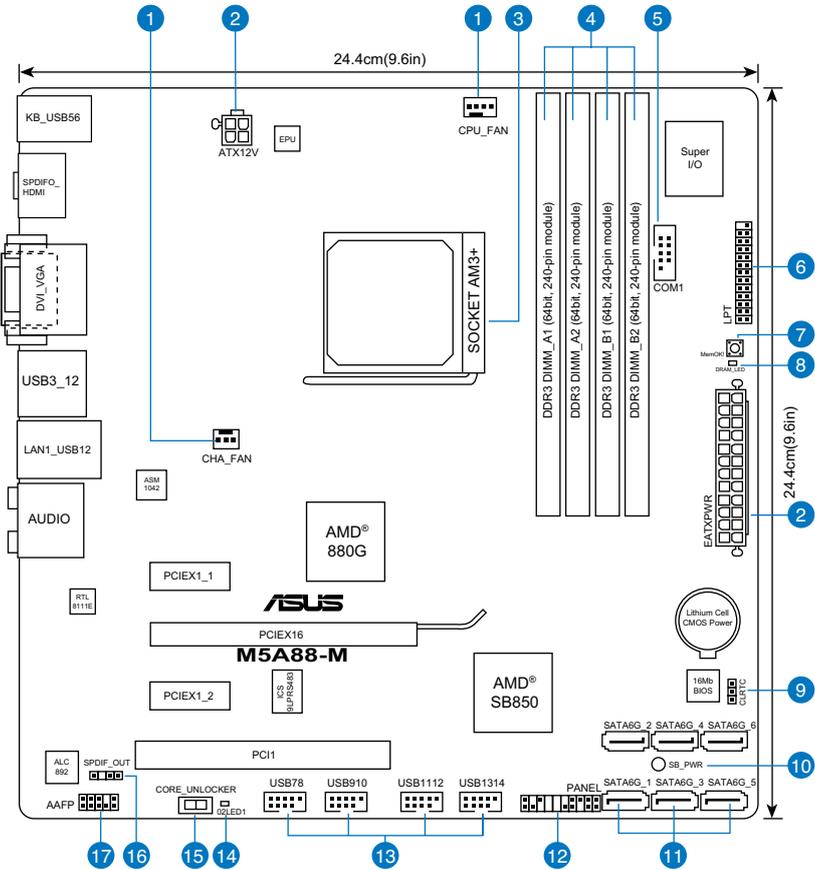
Refer to **2.8 Connectors** for more information about rear panel connectors and internal connectors.

2.2.2 Layout contents

Connectors/Jumpers/Slots		Page
1.	CPU and chassis fan connectors (4-pin CPU_FAN, 3-pin CHA_FAN)	2-27
2.	ATX power connectors (24-pin EATXPWR, 4-pin ATX12V)	2-28
3.	AM3+ CPU Socket	2-5
4.	DDR3 DIMM slots	2-10
5.	Serial port connector (10-1 pin COM1)	2-26
6.	LPT connector (26-1 pin LPT)	2-24
7.	MemOK! switch	2-17
8.	DRAM LED (DRAM_LED)	2-31
9.	Clear RTC RAM (3-pin CLRTC)	2-16
10.	Standby power LED (SB_PWR)	2-31
11.	AMD® SB850 Serial ATA 6.0 Gb/s connectors (7-pin SATA6G_1~6)	2-24
12.	System panel connector (20-8 pin PANEL)	2-29
13.	USB connectors (10-1 pin USB78, USB910, USB1112, USB1314)	2-25
14.	Core Unlocker LED (O2LED1)	2-31
15.	Core Unlocker switch	2-18
16.	Digital audio connector (4-1 pin SPDIF_OUT)	2-27
17.	Front panel audio connector (10-1 pin AAFP)	2-26

Chapter 2

2.2.3 Placement direction

When installing the motherboard, ensure that you place it into the chassis in the correct orientation. The edge with external ports goes to the rear part of the chassis as indicated in the image below.

2.2.4 Screw holes

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

⚠️ DO NOT overtighten the screws! Doing so can damage the motherboard.

Place this side towards the rear of the chassis

M5A88-M
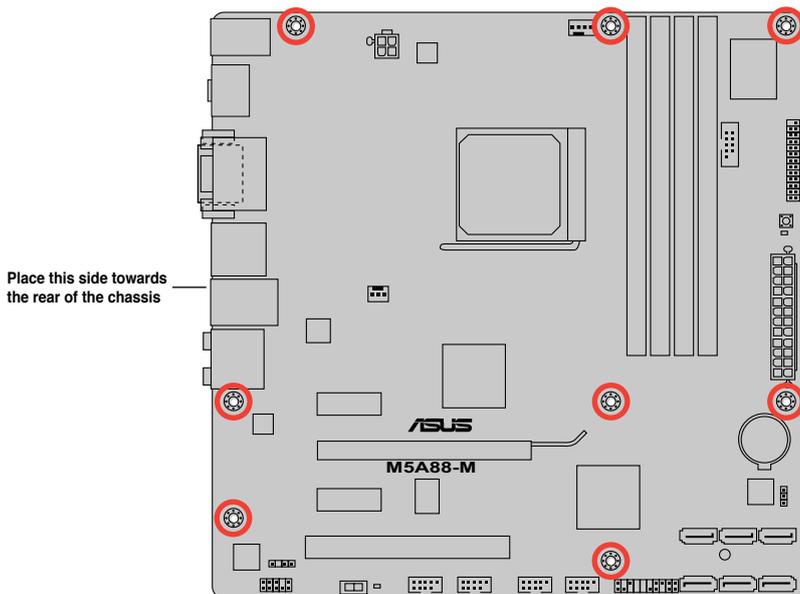
2.3   Central Processing Unit (CPU)

This motherboard comes with an AM3+ socket designed for AMD® FX™ / Phenom™ II / Athlon™ II / Sempron™ 100 series processors.

Ensure that all power cables are unplugged before installing the CPU.

The AM3+ socket has a different pinout from the AM2+/AM2 socket. Ensure that you use a CPU designed for the AM3+ socket. The CPU fits in only one correct orientation. DO NOT force the CPU into the socket to prevent bending the pins and damaging the CPU!

2.3.1   Installing the CPU

To install a CPU:

1.   Locate the CPU socket on the motherboard.
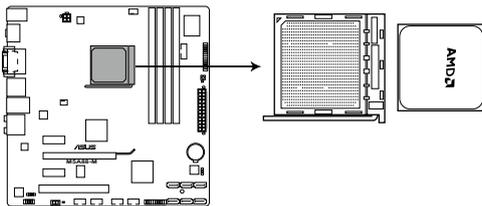
M5A88-M CPU socket AM3+

2.   Press the lever sideways to unlock the socket, then lift it up to a 90º angle.

Ensure that the socket lever is lifted up to a 90º angle. Otherwise, the CPU will not fit in completely.
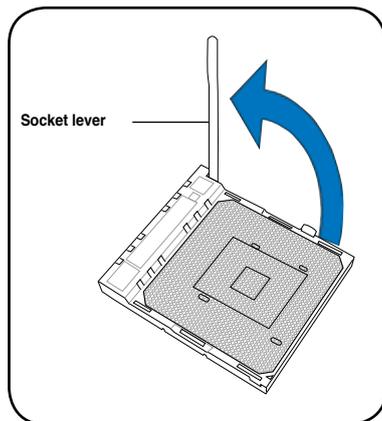
Socket lever

3. Position the CPU above the socket such that the CPU corner with the gold triangle matches the socket corner with a small triangle.

4. Carefully insert the CPU into the socket until it fits in place.

Gold triangle

Small triangle
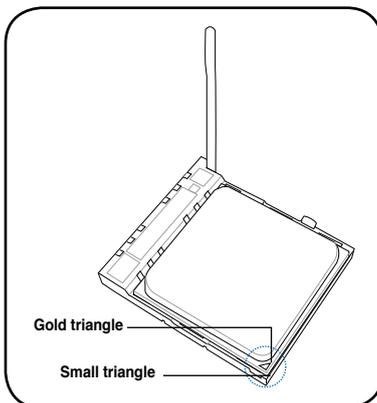
5. When the CPU is in place, push down the socket lever to secure the CPU. The lever clicks on the side tab to indicate that it is locked.
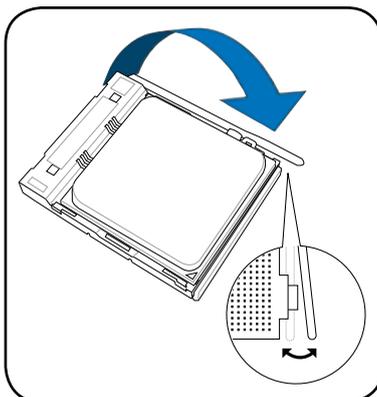
6. Apply some Thermal Interface Material to the exposed area of the CPU that the heatsink will be in contact with, ensuring that it is spread in an even thin layer.

Some heatsinks come with pre-applied thermal paste. If so, skip this step.

The Thermal Interface Material is toxic and inedible. DO NOT eat it. If it gets into your eyes or touches your skin, wash it off immediately, and seek professional medical help.

To prevent contaminating the paste, DO NOT spread the paste with your finger.
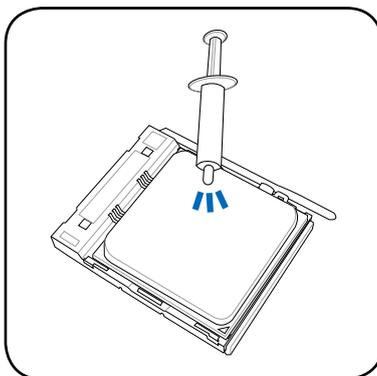
2.3.2 Installing the CPU heatsink and fan

The AMD® AM3+ processor requires a specially designed heatsink and fan assembly to ensure optimum thermal condition and performance.

Ensure that you use only AMD-certified heatsink and fan assembly.

To install the CPU heatsink and fan:

1.   Place the heatsink on top of the installed CPU, ensuring that the heatsink fits properly on the retention module base.

·   The retention module base is already installed on the motherboard upon purchase.

·   You do not have to remove the retention module base when installing the CPU or installing other motherboard components.

·   If you purchased a separate CPU heatsink and fan assembly, ensure that a Thermal Interface Material is properly applied to the CPU heatsink or CPU before you install the heatsink and fan assembly.
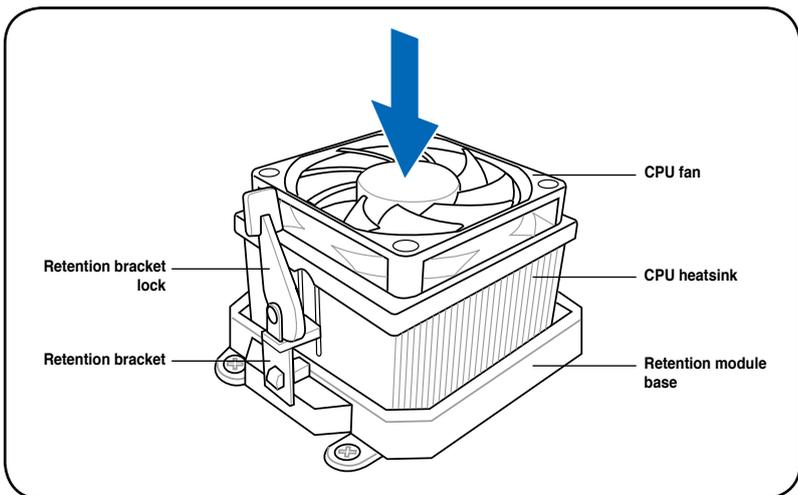
Your boxed CPU heatsink and fan assembly should come with installation instructions for the CPU, heatsink, and the retention mechanism. If the instructions in this section do not match the CPU documentation, follow the latter.

2.	Attach one end of the retention bracket to the retention module base.
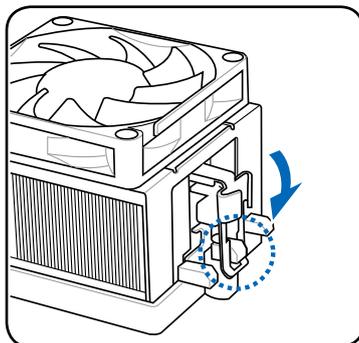
3.	Align the other end of the retention bracket to the retention module base. A clicking sound denotes that the retention bracket is in place.

> Ensure that the fan and heatsink assembly perfectly fits the retention mechanism module base, otherwise you cannot snap the retention bracket in place.
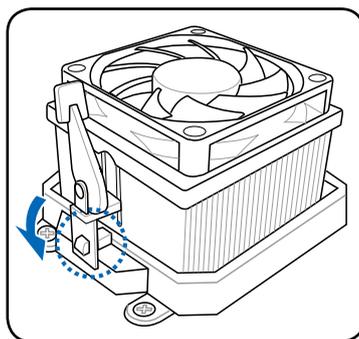
4.	Push down the retention bracket lock on the retention mechanism to secure the heatsink and fan to the module base.
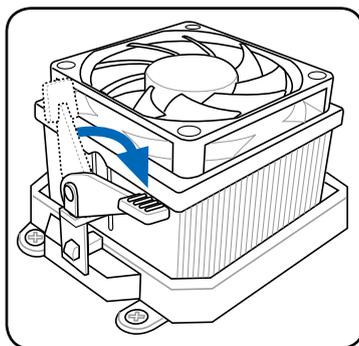
5.   When the fan and heatsink assembly is in place, connect the CPU fan cable to the connector on the motherboard labeled CPU_FAN.

CPU_FAN

GND
CPU FAN PWR
CPU FAN IN
CPU FAN PWM
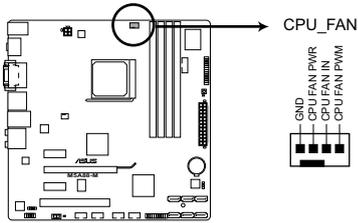
M5A88-M CPU fan connector

•   Do not forget to connect the CPU fan connector! Hardware monitoring errors can occur if you fail to plug this connector.

•   This connector is backward compatible with old 3-pin CPU fan.

2.4 System memory

2.4.1 Overview

The motherboard comes with four Double Data Rate 3 (DDR3) Dual Inline Memory Modules (DIMM) sockets.

A DDR3 module has the same physical dimensions as a DDR2 DIMM but is notched differently to prevent installation on a DDR2 DIMM socket. DDR3 modules are developed for better performance with less power consumption.

The figure illustrates the location of the DDR3 DIMM sockets:
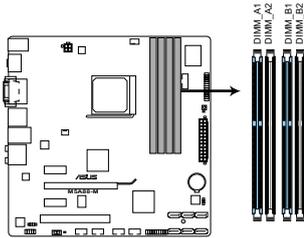
M5A88-M 240-pin DDR3 DIMM sockets

Recommended memory configurations

One DIMM:

Install one memory module in any slot as a single-channel operation.

Two DIMMs (dual-channel operation):
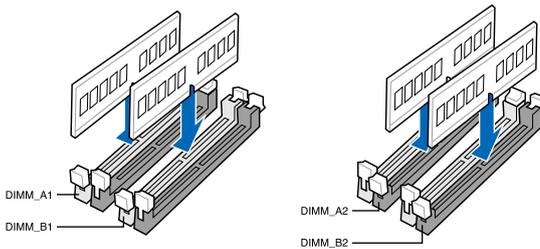
Four DIMMs (dual-channel operation):
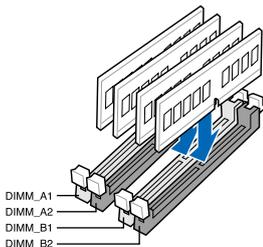
2.4.2   Memory configurations

You may install 512MB, 1GB, 2GB, and 4GB unbuffered ECC and non-ECC DDR3 DIMMs into the DIMM sockets.

- 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.

- We recommend that you install the memory modules from the blue slots for better overclocking capability.

- Always install DIMMs with the same CAS latency. For optimum compatibility, we recommend that you obtain memory modules from the same vendor.

- AMD® FX™ Series CPU on this motherboard supports up to DDR3 1866MHz as its standard memory frequency.

- Due to CPU spec., AMD® 100 and 200 series CPUs support up to DDR3 1066MHz. With ASUS design, this motherboard can support up to DDR3 1333MHz.

- When overclocking, some AMD CPU models may not support DDR3 1600 MHz or higher frequency DIMMs.

- 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:
  - Use a maximum of 3GB system memory if you are using a 32-bit Windows OS.
  - Install a 64-bit Windows OS when you want to install 4GB or more on the motherboard.
    For more details, refer to the Microsoft® support site at
    http://support.microsoft.com/kb/929605/en-us.

- This motherboard does not support DIMMs made up of 512Mb (64MB) chips or less (Memory chip capacity counts in Megabit, 8 Megabit/Mb = 1 Megabyte/MB).

- 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. To operate at the vendor-marked or at a higher frequency, refer to section **3.5 Ai Tweaker menu** for manual memory frequency adjustment.

- For system stability, use a more efficient memory cooling system to support a full memory load (4 DIMMs) or overclocking condition.

Visit the ASUS website for the latest QVL.

2.4.3   Installing a DIMM

Ensure to unplug the power supply before adding or removing DIMMs or other system components. Failure to do so may cause severe damage to both the motherboard and the components.

1. Unlock a DIMM socket by pressing the retaining clips outward.
2. Align a DIMM on the socket such that the notch on the DIMM matches the DIMM slot key on the socket.

DIMM notch

Unlocked retaining clip   **DIMM slot key**
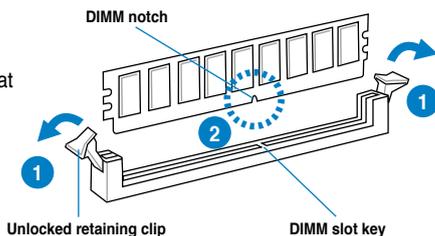
A DIMM is keyed with a notch so that it fits in only one direction. DO NOT force a DIMM into a socket in the wrong direction to avoid damaging the DIMM.

3. Hold the DIMM by both of its ends, then insert the DIMM vertically into the socket. Apply force to both ends of the DIMM simultaneously until the retaining clip snaps back into place, and the DIMM cannot be pushed in any further to ensure proper sitting of the DIMM.

Locked Retaining Clip
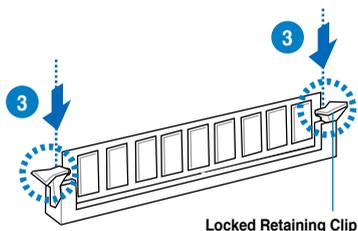
Always insert the DIMM into the socket VERTICALLY to prevent DIMM notch damage.

2.4.4   Removing a DIMM

1. Simultaneously press the retaining clip outward to unlock the DIMM.

Support the DIMM lightly with your fingers when pressing the retaining clips. The DIMM might get damaged when it flips out with extra force.
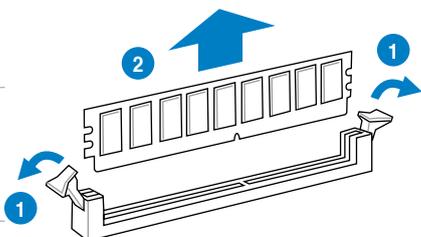
2. Remove the DIMM from the socket.

2.5 Expansion slots

In the future, you may need to install expansion cards. The following subsections describe the slots and the expansion cards that they support.

Ensure to unplug the power cord before adding or removing expansion cards. Failure to do so may cause you physical injury and damage motherboard components.

2.5.1 Installing an expansion card

To install an expansion card:

1. Before installing the expansion card, read the documentation that came with it and make the necessary hardware settings for the card.
2. Remove the system unit cover (if your motherboard is already installed in a chassis).
3. Remove the bracket opposite the slot that you intend to use. Keep the screw for later use.
4. Align the card connector with the slot and press firmly until the card is completely seated on the slot.
5. Secure the card to the chassis with the screw you removed earlier.
6. Replace the system cover.

2.5.2 Configuring an expansion card

After installing the expansion card, configure it by adjusting the software settings.

1. Turn on the system and change the necessary BIOS settings, if any. See Chapter 3 for information on BIOS setup.
2. Assign an IRQ to the card. Refer to the tables on the next page.
3. Install the software drivers for the expansion card.

When using PCI cards on shared slots, ensure that the drivers support "Share IRQ" or that the cards do not need IRQ assignments. Otherwise, conflicts will arise between the two PCI groups, making the system unstable and the card inoperable. Refer to the table on the next page for details.

2.5.3   Interrupt assignments

Standard interrupt assignments

IRQ	Priority	Standard function
0	1	System Timer
1	2	Keyboard Controller
2	–	Redirect to IRQ#9
4	12	Communications Port (COM1)*
5	13	IRQ Holder for PCI Steering*
6	14	Reserved
7	15	Reserved
8	3	System CMOS/Real Time Clock
9	4	IRQ Holder for PCI Steering*
10	5	IRQ Holder for PCI Steering*
11	6	IRQ Holder for PCI Steering*
12	7	Reserved
13	8	Numeric Data Processor
14	9	Primary IDE Channel

* These IRQs are usually available for PCI devices.

IRQ assignments for this motherboard

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
PCIE x16	–	–	shared	–	–	–	–	–
PCIE x1_1	–	shared	–	–	–	–	–	–
PCIE x1_2	–	–	shared	–	–	–	–	–
PCI1	–	–	–	–	shared	–	–	–
LAN	–	–	shared	–	–	–	–	–
Onboard 880G Video Controller	–	–	shared	–	–	–	–	–
USB 3.0 controller	–	–	–	shared	–	–	–	–
Onchip SATA Controller	–	–	–	shared	–	–	–	–
HD Audio	shared	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

2.5.4   PCI slot

The PCI slot supports cards such as a LAN card, SCSI card, USB card, and other cards that comply with PCI specifications. Refer to the figure below for the location of the slots.

2.5.5   PCI Express 2.0 x1 slots

This motherboard supports PCI Express x1 network cards, SCSI cards and other cards that comply with the PCI Express specifications. Refer to the figure below for the location of the slots.

2.5.6   PCI Express 2.0 x16 slot

This motherboard has a PCI Express 2.0 x16 slot that supports PCI Express 2.0 x16 graphics cards complying with the PCI Express specifications. Refer to the figure below for the location of the slots.

PCIe 2.0 x1_1 slot
PCIe 2.0 x16 slot
PCIe 2.0 x1_2 slot
PCI slot
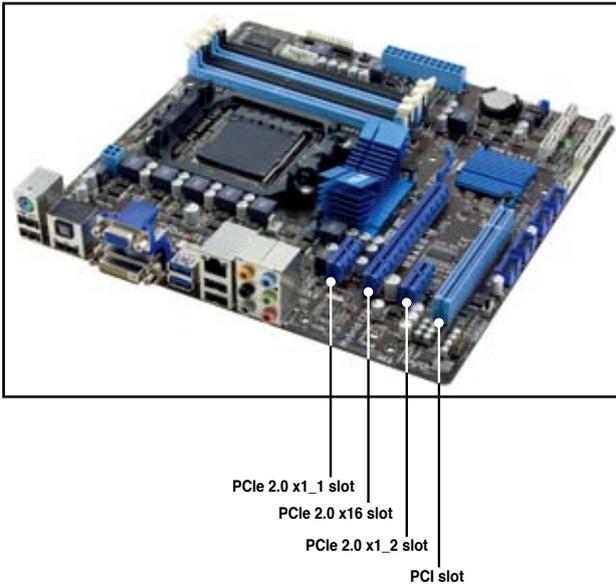
2.6   Jumper

Clear RTC RAM (3-pin CLRTC)

This jumper allows you to clear the Real Time Clock (RTC) RAM in CMOS. You can clear the CMOS memory of date, time, and system setup parameters by erasing the CMOS RTC RAM data. The onboard button cell battery powers the RAM data in CMOS, which include system setup information such as system passwords.
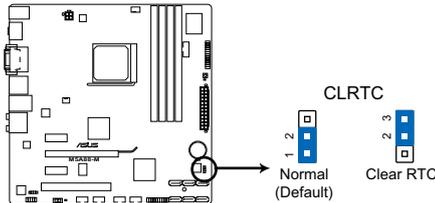
M5A88-M Clear RTC RAM

To erase the RTC RAM

1.   Turn OFF the computer and unplug the power cord.

2.   Move the jumper cap from pins 1-2 (default) to pins 2-3. Keep the cap on pins 2-3 for about 5–10 seconds, then move the cap back to pins 1-2.

3.   Plug the power cord and turn ON the computer.

4.   Hold down the <Del> key during the boot process and enter BIOS setup to re-enter data.

> Except when clearing the RTC RAM, never remove the cap on CLRTC jumper default position. Removing the cap will cause system boot failure!

> •   If the steps above do not help, remove the onboard battery and move the jumper again to clear the CMOS RTC RAM data. After clearing the CMOS, reinstall the battery.
>
> •   You do not need to clear the RTC when the system hangs due to overclocking. For system failure due to overclocking, use the C.P.R. (CPU Parameter Recall) feature. Shut down and reboot the system so the BIOS can automatically reset parameter settings to default values.

2.7 Onboard switches

Onboard 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. **MemOK! switch**

   Installing DIMMs that are incompatible with the motherboard may cause system boot failure, and the DRAM_LED near the MemOK! switch lights continuously. Press and hold the MemOK! switch until the DRAM_LED starts blinking to begin automatic memory compatibility tuning for successful boot.
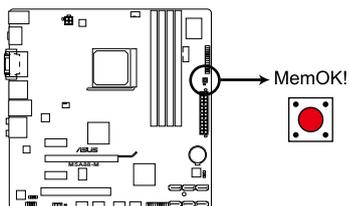
M5A88-M MemOK! switch

- Refer to section **2.9 Onboard LEDs** for the exact location of the DRAM_LED.

- The DRAM_LED also lights when the DIMM is not properly installed. Turn off the system and reinstall the DIMM before using the MemOK! function.

- The MemOK! switch 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 on the ASUS website 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 fail to boot due to BIOS overclocking, press the MemOK! switch to boot and load 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 the ASUS website at www.asus.com after using the MemOK! function.

2. Core Unlocker switch

This switch allows you to unlock the extra cores of your CPU.

> For ensuring the system performance, turn the switch setting to **Enable** when the system is powered off.

CORE_UNLOCKER

Enable   Disable (Default)
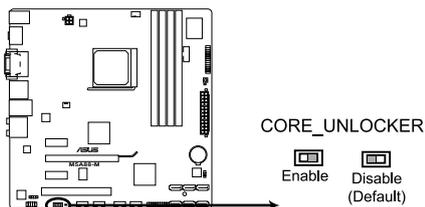
M5A88-M Core Unlocker switch

- The **O2LED1** LED near the Core Unlocker switch lights when the switch setting is turned to **Enable**. Refer to section **2.9 Onboard LEDs** for the exact location of the **O2LED1** LED.
- If you clear the CMOS or load the BIOS setup defaults, the **ASUS Core Unlocker** item in the BIOS menu follows the current setting of the Core Unlocker switch.
- You may also press <4> during the Power-On-Self-Test (POST) or enable the **ASUS Core Unlocker** item in the BIOS menu to activate the Core Unlocker function.
- The system will use the last setting you have made.

Chapter 2

2.8 Connectors

2.8.1 Rear panel connectors

USB compatible devices
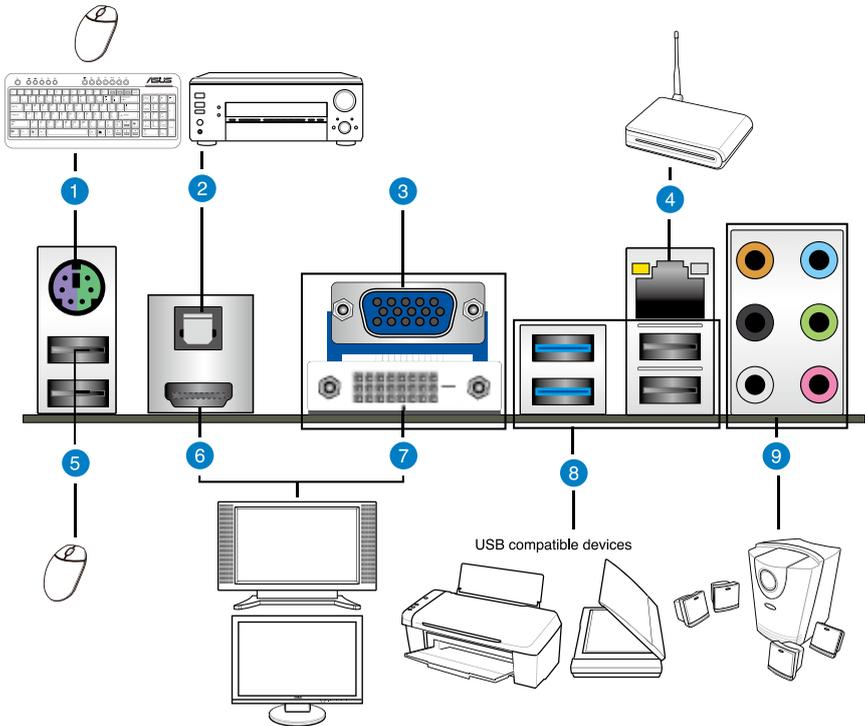
Rear panel connectors	
1. PS/2 keyboard / Mouse Combo port (purple)	6. HDMI Out port***
2. Optical S/PDIF Out port	7. DVI-D Out pot
3. D-Sub Out port	8. USB 3.0 ports 1 and 2 (blue), USB 2.0 ports 1 and 2
4. LAN (RJ-45) port*	
5. USB 2.0 ports 5 and 6	9. Audio I/O ports**

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

***: Refer to the notes and troubleshooting on HDTV overscaling or underscaling on the next pages.

* LAN port 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

ACT/LINK   SPEED
LED   LED

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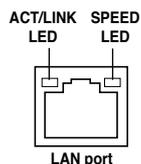
** Audio 2, 4, 6, or 8-channel configuration

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

Dual display table

This table indicates whether the dual display you want to use is supported or not.

Dual display output	Supported	Not supported
DVI + D-Sub	•	
HDMI + D-Sub	•	
DVI + HDMI		•

Playback of Blu-ray Discs

For better playback quality, we suggest that you follow the system requirements in the suggested list below.

Suggested list	
CPU	AMD® Phenom II X4 805
DIMM	DDR3 1333 2G x 2
BIOS setup	Frame Buffer Size – 256MB or higher
Playback software	CyberLink® PowerDVD 9

File format	Best resolution		
	Windows XP	Windows Vista	Windows 7
Non-protected clips	1920 x 1080p	1920 x 1080p	1920 x 1080p
Blu-ray	1920 x 1080p	1920 x 1080p	1920 x 1080p

Chapter 2

Troubleshooting on HDTV overscaling or underscaling:

If your desktop is extending beyond the viewable display area or the desktop or image is not filling the entire display area while using the onboard HDMI out port and the HDMI cable, you can resize the desktop appearing on your HDTV screen.

To resize your HDTV desktop:

1. Install **AMD Chipset Driver** from the motherboard support DVD.

2. Right-click the desktop and select **ATI CATALYST(R) Control Center**.

3. From the **Graphics Settings** tree, expand **DTV (HDMI™) 1**.

4. Click **Scaling Options**.

5. Move the **Underscan/Overscan** slider to adjust the overall size of the display on the HDMI™ DTV.
   Using this slider increases or decreases any black borders that may be visible around the outside of the display.

6. To ensure that forcing a custom display mode through the ATI Displays Manager does not create conflicting resolutions, select the **Use the scaling values instead of the customized settings when the desktop resolution does not match your DFP resolution** check box.

> The **Scaling Options** function of the **DTV (HDMI™) 1** item in the ATI CATALYST Control Center is adjustable only when you are using an HDTV compliance resolution such as 480i, 720i, or 1080i.

2.8.2 Audio I/O connections

Audio I/O ports

orange

black

gray

light blue

lime

pink

Connect to Headphone and Mic

Connect to Stereo / 2.1-channel Speakers

AUDIO
INPUTS
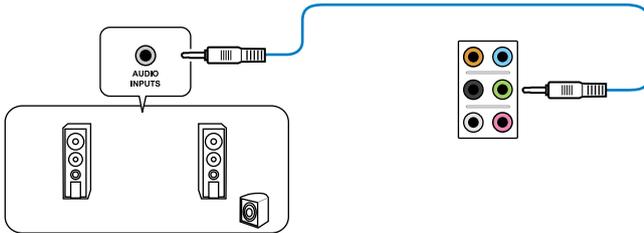
Connect to 4.1 channel Speakers
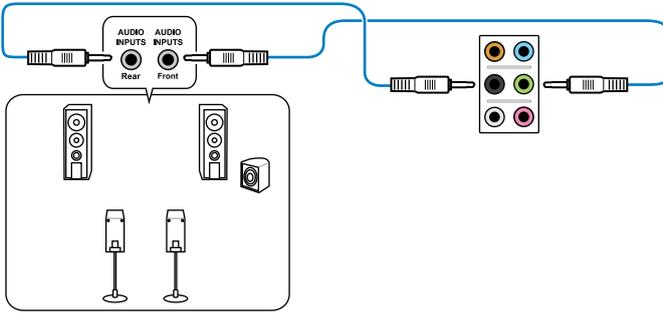
Connect to 5.1 channel Speakers
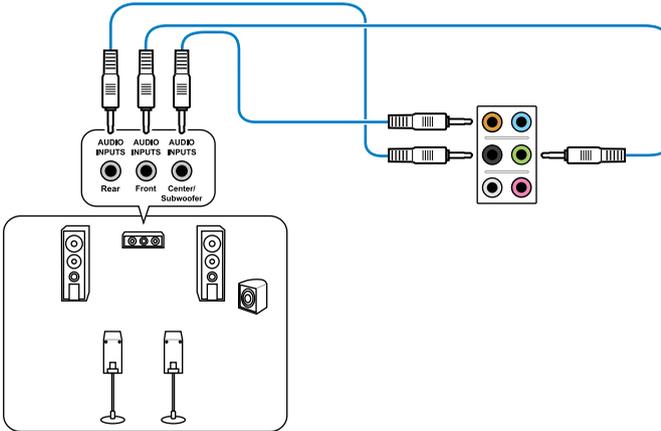
Connect to 7.1 channel Speakers
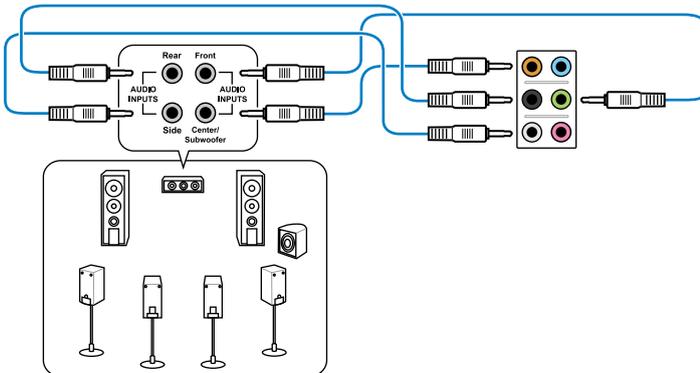
2.8.3 Internal connectors

1. **AMD® SB850 Serial ATA Serial ATA 6.0 Gb/s connectors (7-pin SATA6G_1~6)**

   These connectors are for the Serial ATA 6.0 Gb/s signal cables for Serial ATA hard disk drives and optical disc drives.

   If you installed Serial ATA hard disk drives, you can create a RAID 0, RAID 1, RAID 5, or RAID 10 configuration through the onboard AMD® SB850 controller.
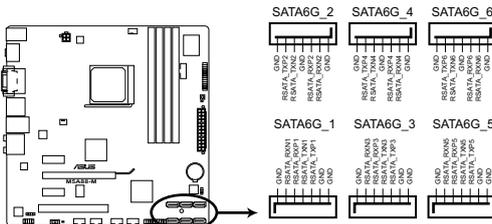
M5A88-M Intel® SATA 6.0Gb/s connectors

- These connectors are set to **IDE** mode by default. In **IDE** mode, you can connect Serial ATA boot/data hard disk drives to these connectors. If you intend to create a Serial ATA RAID set using these connectors, set the type of the SATA connectors to **[RAID]** in the BIOS. See section **3.4.2 SATA Configuration** for details.

- You must install Windows® XP Service Pack 3 or later version before using Serial ATA hard disk drives. The Serial ATA RAID feature is available only if you are using Windows® XP SP3 or later version.

- When using hot-plug and NCQ, set the type of the SATA connectors to **[AHCI]** in the BIOS. See section **3.4.2 SATA Configuration** for details.

2. **LPT connector (26-1 pin LPT)**

   The LPT (Line Printing Terminal) connector supports devices such as a printer. LPT is standardized as IEEE 1284, which is the parallel port interface on IBM PC-compatible computers.
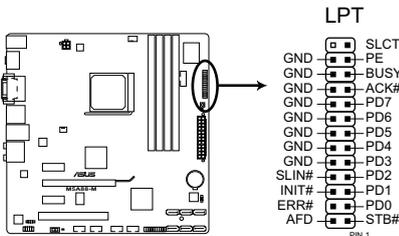
M5A88-M LPT connector

3. USB connectors (10-1 pin USB78; USB910; USB1112; USB1314)

These connectors are for USB 2.0 ports. Connect the USB module cable to any of these connectors, then install the module to a slot opening at the back of the system chassis. These USB connectors comply with USB 2.0 specification that supports up to 480 Mbps connection speed.

M5A88-M USB2.0 connectors
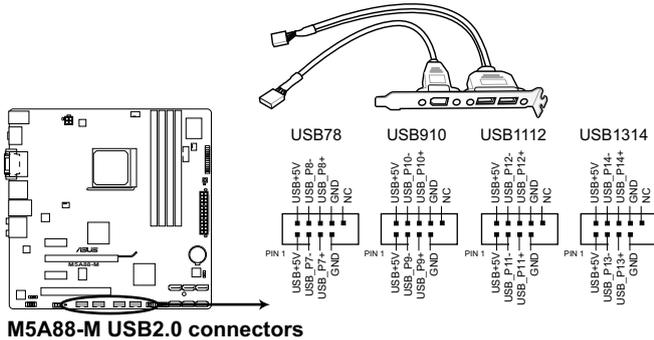
Never connect a 1394 cable to the USB connectors. Doing so will damage the motherboard!

You can connect the front panel USB cable to the ASUS Q-Connector (USB, blue) first, and then install the Q-Connector (USB) to the USB connector onboard if your chassis supports front panel USB ports.

The USB module cable is purchased separately.

4. Serial port connector (10-1 pin COM1)

This connector is for a serial (COM) port. Connect the serial port module cable to this connector, then install the module to a slot opening at the back of the system chassis.

COM1

PIN 1
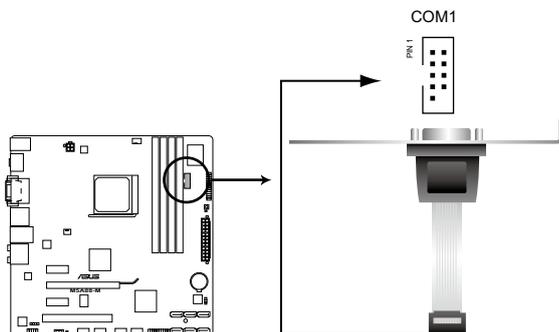
M5A88-M Serial port (COM1) connector

The COM module is purchased separately.

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

This connector is for a chassis-mounted front panel audio I/O module that supports either HD Audio or legacy AC`97 audio standard. Connect one end of the front panel audio I/O module cable to this connector.

AAFP

PIN 1

GND
PRESENCE#
SENSE1_RETUR
SENSE2_RETUR

PORT1 L
PORT1 R
PORT2 R
SENSE_SEND
PORT2 L

HD-audio-compliant
pin definition

PIN 1

AGND
NC
NC

MIC2
MICPWR
Line out_R
NC
Line out_L

Legacy AC'97
compliant definition
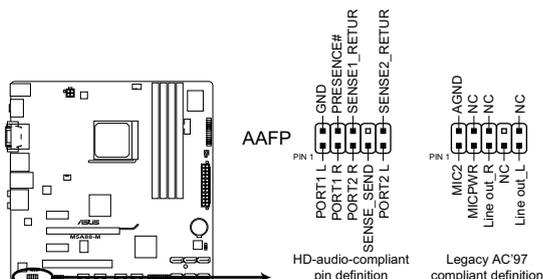
M5A88-M Front panel audio connector

- 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.

- If you want to connect a high-definition front panel audio module to this connector, set the **Front Panel Select** item in the BIOS setup to **[HD Audio]**; if you want to connect an AC'97 front panel audio module to this connector, set the item to **[AC 97]**. By default, this connector is set to [HD]. Refer to **3.6.3 Onboard Devices Configuration** for details.

6. Digital audio connector (4-1 pin SPDIF_OUT)

This connector is for an additional Sony/Philips Digital Interface (S/PDIF) port. Connect the S/PDIF Out module cable to this connector, then install the module to a slot opening at the back of the system chassis.

M5A88-M Digital audio connector
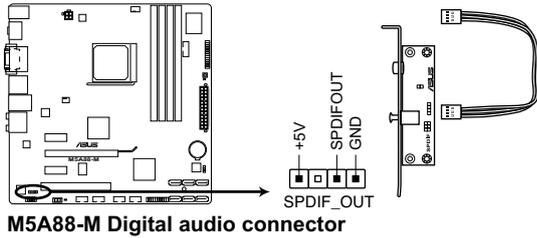
The S/PDIF module is purchased separately.

7. CPU and chassis fan connectors (4-pin CPU_FAN; 3-pin CHA_FAN)

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.

M5A88-M fan connectors
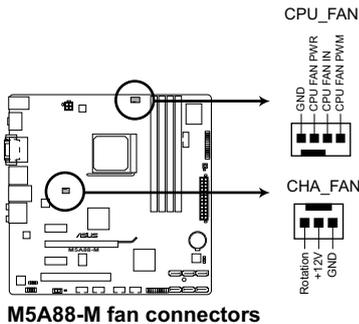
Do not forget to connect the fan cables to the fan connectors. Insufficient air flow inside the system may damage the motherboard components. These are not jumpers! Do not place jumper caps on the fan connectors!

- The CPU_FAN connector supports the CPU fan of maximum 2A (24 W) fan power.

- Only the 4-pin CPU_FAN connector supports the ASUS Fan Xpert feature.

8.   ATX power connectors (24-pin EATXPWR; 4-pin ATX12V)

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.

ATX12V   EATXPWR

+3 Volts	GND
+12 Volts	+5 Volts
+12 Volts	+5 Volts
+5V Standby	+5 Volts
Power OK	-5 Volts
GND	GND
+5 Volts	GND
GND	GND
+5 Volts	PSON#
GND	GND
+3 Volts	-12 Volts
+3 Volts	+3 Volts

ATX12V pins: +12V DC, +12V DC, GND, GND, PIN 1

PIN 1
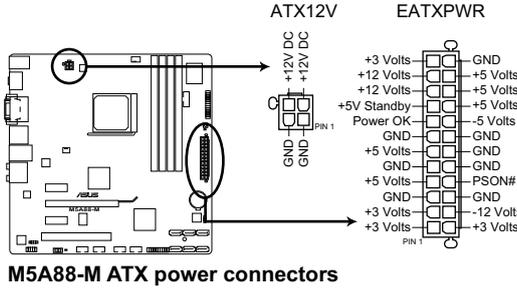
M5A88-M ATX power connectors

- 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 450 W.

- Do not forget to connect the 4-pin ATX12 V power plug; otherwise, the system will not boot.

- We recommend that you use a PSU with 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 are uncertain about the minimum power supply requirement for your system, refer to the **Recommended Power Supply Wattage Calculator** at http://support. asus.com/PowerSupplyCalculator/PSCalculator.aspx?SLanguage=en-us for details.

9. System panel connector (20-8 pin PANEL)

This connector supports several chassis-mounted functions.
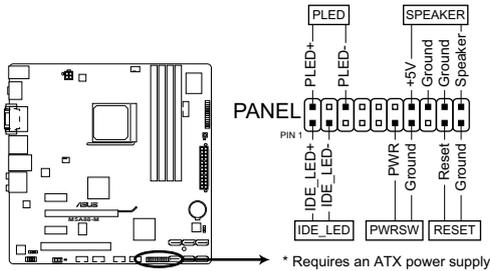
M5A88-M System panel connector

* Requires an ATX power supply

- **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 IDE_LED)**

  This 2-pin connector is for the HDD Activity LED. Connect the HDD Activity LED cable to this connector. The IDE 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 PWRSW)**

  This connector is for the system power button.

- **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.

2.8.4.   ASUS Q-Connector (system panel)

Use the ASUS Q-Connector to connect/disconnect the chassis front panel cables.

To install the ASUS Q-Connector:

1.   Connect the front panel cables to the ASUS Q-Connector.

   Refer to the labels on the Q-Connector to know the detailed pin definitions, and then match them to their respective front panel cable labels.

   The labels on the front panel cables may vary depending on the chassis model.
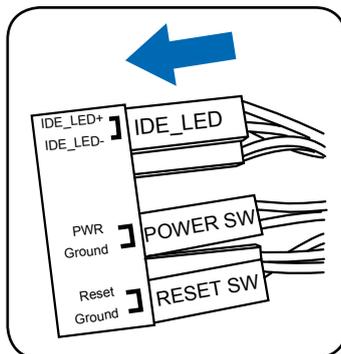
2.   Install the ASUS Q-Connector to the system panel connector, ensuring the orientation matches the labels on the motherboard.
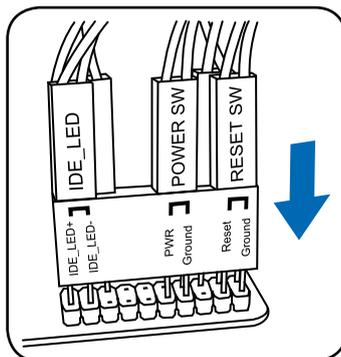
3.   The front panel functions are now enabled. The figure shows the Q-Connector is properly installed on the motherboard.
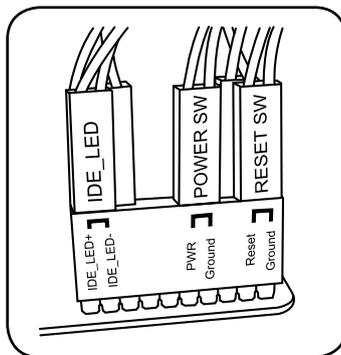
2.9 Onboard LEDs

1. **Standby Power LED**

   The motherboard comes with a standby power LED. The green LED lights up to indicate that the system is ON, in sleep mode, or in soft-off mode. This is a reminder that you should shut down the system and unplug the power cable before removing or plugging in any motherboard component. The illustration below shows the location of the onboard LED.
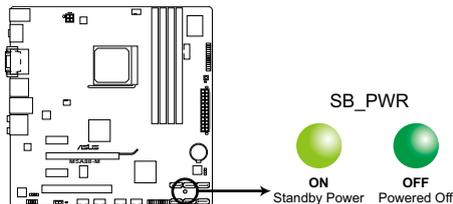
M5A88-M Onboard LED

2. **DRAM LED**

   DRAM LED checks the DRAM in sequence during motherboard booting process. If an error is found, the LED next to the error device will continue lighting until the problem is solved. This user-friendly design provides an intuitional way to locate the root problem within a second.
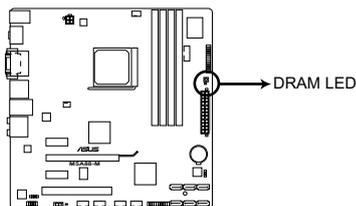
M5A88-M DRAM LED

3. **Core Unlocker LED**

   The Core Unlocker LED lights when the Core Unclocker switch is turned to **Enable**.
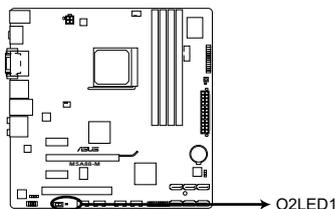
M5A88-M Core Unlocker LED

The Core Unlocker LED keeps on lighting even though the **ASUS Core Unlocker** item in the BIOS menu is set to **[Disabled]**.

2.10 Starting up for the first time

1. After making all the connections, replace the system case cover.
2. Be sure 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 or POST. While the tests are running, the BIOS beeps (see the BIOS beep codes table below) 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.

2.11 Turning off the computer

While the system is ON, pressing the power switch for less than four seconds puts the system on sleep mode or soft-off mode, depending on the BIOS setting. Pressing the power switch for more than four seconds lets the system enter the soft-off mode regardless of the BIOS setting. Refer to section **3.7 Power menu** in Chapter 3 for details.

Chapter 3

3.1   Knowing BIOS

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

3.2   Updating BIOS

The ASUS website publishes the latest BIOS versions to provide enhancements on system stability, compatibility, or performance. However, BIOS updating is potentially risky. If there is no problem using the current version of BIOS, **DO NOT manually update the BIOS**. Inappropriate BIOS updating may result in the system's failure to boot. Carefully follow the instructions of this chapter to update your BIOS if necessary.

> Visit the ASUS website (www.asus.com) to download the latest BIOS file for this motherboard.

The following utilities allow you to manage and update the motherboard BIOS setup program.

1.   **ASUS Update:** Updates the BIOS in Windows® environment.
2.   **ASUS EZ Flash 2:** Updates the BIOS using a USB flash drive.
3.   **ASUS CrashFree BIOS 3 utility:** Restores the BIOS using the motherboard support DVD or a USB flash drive when the BIOS file fails or gets corrupted.
4.   **ASUS BIOS Updater:** Updates and backups the BIOS in DOS environment using the motherboard support DVD and a USB flash drive.

Refer to the corresponding sections for details on these utilities.

> Save a copy of the original motherboard BIOS file to a USB flash disk in case you need to restore the BIOS in the future. Copy the original motherboard BIOS using the **ASUS Update** utility.

3.2.1 ASUS Update utility

The ASUS Update is a utility that allows you to manage, save, and update the motherboard BIOS in Windows® environment. The ASUS Update utility allows you to:

- Save the current BIOS file
- Download the latest BIOS file from the Internet
- Update the BIOS from an updated BIOS file
- Update the BIOS directly from the Internet
- View the BIOS version information

This utility is available in the support DVD that comes with the motherboard package.

> ASUS Update requires an Internet connection either through a network or an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

Installing ASUS Update

To install ASUS Update:

1. Place the support DVD in the optical drive.
2. From the **Main** menu, click the **Utilities** tab, then click **ASUS Update VX.XX.XX**.
3. The ASUS Update utility is copied to your system.

> Quit all Windows® applications before you update the BIOS using this utility.

Updating the BIOS through the Internet

To update the BIOS through the Internet:

1. From the Windows® desktop, click **Start > Programs > ASUS > ASUSUpdate > ASUSUpdate.** The ASUS Update main window appears.

2. Select **Update BIOS from the Internet** from the drop-down menu, and then click **Next**.
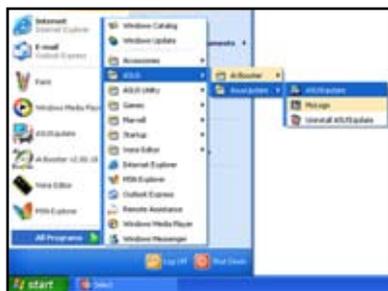
3. Select the ASUS FTP site nearest you to avoid network traffic, or click **Auto Select**. Click **Next**.

4. From the FTP site, select the BIOS version that you wish to download. Click **Next**.

5. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the update process.

The ASUS Update utility is capable of updating itself through the Internet. Always update the utility to avail all its features.

Updating the BIOS through a BIOS file

To update the BIOS through a BIOS file:

1. Fom the Windows® desktop, click **Start** > **Programs** > **ASUS** > **ASUSUpdate** > **ASUSUpdate**. The ASUS Update main window appears.

2. Select **Update BIOS from a file** from the dropdown menu, then click **Next**.

3. Locate the BIOS file from the Open window, then click **Open**.

4. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the update process.
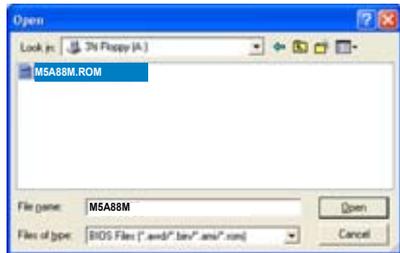
Ensure to load the BIOS default settings to ensure system compatibility and stability. Select the **Load Setup Defaults** item under the Exit menu. See section **3.10 Exit Menu** for details.

3.2.2 ASUS EZ Flash 2 utility

The ASUS EZ Flash 2 feature allows you to update the BIOS without having to use a bootable floppy disk or an OS-based utility.

> Before you start using this utility, download the latest BIOS from the ASUS website at www.asus.com.

To update the BIOS using EZ Flash 2:

1. Insert the USB flash disk that contains the latest BIOS file to the USB port, and then launch EZ Flash 2 in any of these two ways:

    •   Press <Alt> + <F2> during POST to display the following.

    •   Enter the BIOS setup program. Go to the **Tools** menu to select **EZ Flash 2** and press <Enter> to enable it.

```
              ASUSTek EZ Flash 2 BIOS ROM Utility V4.14

        ┌─ Current ROM ─────────┐    ┌─ Update ROM ──────────┐
        │ BOARD: M5A88-M        │    │ BOARD: Unknown        │
        │ VER:  0303 (H:00 B:01)│    │ VER:  Unknown         │
        │ DATE: 03/29/2011      │    │ DATE: Unknown         │
        └───────────────────────┘    └───────────────────────┘
        PATH: A:\

        ┌ A:          ┐ ┌                                     ┐
        │             │ │                                     │
        │             │ │                                     │
        │             │ │                                     │
        │             │ │                                     │
        │             │ │                                     │
        │             │ │                                     │
        └─ Note ──────┘ └                                     ┘
          [Enter] Select or Load    [Tab] Switch    [V] Drive Info
          [Up/Down/Home/End] Move    [B] Backup      [Esc] Exit
```
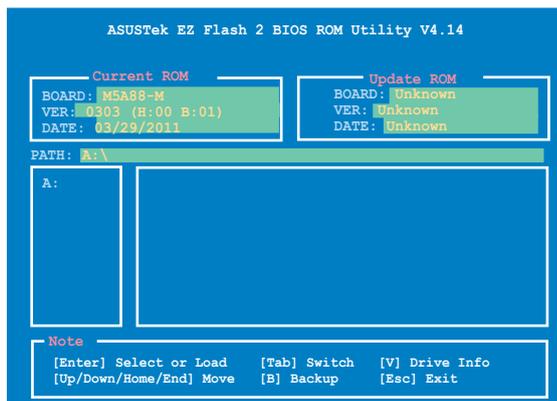
2. Press <Tab> to switch between drives until the correct BIOS file is found. When the correct BIOS file is found, EZ Flash 2 performs the BIOS update process and automatically reboots the system when done.

> •   This function can support devices such as a USB flash disk with FAT 32/16 format and single partition only.
>
> •   DO NOT shut down or reset the system while updating the BIOS to prevent system boot failure!

> Ensure to load the BIOS default settings to ensure system compatibility and stability. Select the **Load Setup Defaults** item under the **Exit** menu. See section **3.10 Exit Menu** for details.

3.2.3 ASUS CrashFree BIOS 3 utility

The ASUS CrashFree BIOS 3 utility is an auto recovery tool that allows you to restore the BIOS file when it fails or gets corrupted during the updating process. You can restore a corrupted BIOS file using the motherboard support DVD or a USB flash drive that contains the BIOS file.

- Before using this utility, rename the BIOS file in the USB flash drive into **M5A88M. ROM**.
- The BIOS file in the motherboard support DVD may be older than the BIOS file published on the ASUS official website. If you want to use the newer BIOS file, download the file at support.asus.com and save it to a USB flash drive.

Recovering the BIOS

To recover the BIOS:

1. Turn on the system.
2. Insert the motherboard support DVD to the optical drive, or the USB flash drive containing the BIOS file to the USB port.
3. The utility automatically checks the devices for the BIOS file. When found, the utility reads the BIOS file and starts flashing the corrupted BIOS file.
4. Turn off the system after the utility completes the updating process and power on again.
5. The system requires you to enter BIOS Setup to recover BIOS setting. To ensure system compatibility and stability, we recommend that you press <F2> to load default BIOS values.

DO NOT shut down or reset the system while updating the BIOS! Doing so can cause system boot failure!

Chapter 3

3.2.4   ASUS BIOS Updater

The ASUS BIOS Updater allows you to update BIOS in DOS environment. This utility also allows you to copy the current BIOS file that you can use as a backup when the BIOS fails or gets corrupted during the updating process.

The succeeding utility screens are for reference only. The actual utility screen displays may not be same as shown.

Before updating BIOS

1.   Prepare the motherboard support DVD and a USB flash drive in FAT32/16 format and single partition.

2.   Download the latest BIOS file and BIOS Updater from the ASUS website at http:// support.asus.com and save them on the USB flash drive.

- •   NTFS is not supported under DOS environment. Do not save the BIOS file and BIOS Updater to a hard disk drive or USB flash drive in NTFS format.

- •   Do not save the BIOS file to a floppy disk due to low disk capacity.

3.   Turn off the computer and disconnect all SATA hard disk drives (optional).

Booting the system in DOS environment

1.   Insert the USB flash drive with the latest BIOS file and BIOS Updater to the USB port.

2.   Boot your computer. When the ASUS Logo appears, press <F8> to show the **BIOS Boot Device Select Menu**. Insert the support DVD into the optical drive and select the optical drive as the boot device.

```
        Please select boot device:

    SATA:XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
    CDROM:XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
    USB:XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
    Network:XXXXXXXXXXXXX


       ↑ and ↓ to move selection
      ENTER to select boot device
        ESC to boot using defaults
```
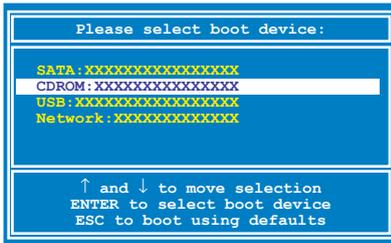
3.   When the **Make Disk** menu appears, select the **FreeDOS command prompt** item by pressing the item number.

4.   At the FreeDOS prompt, type **d:** and press <Enter> to switch the disk from Drive C (optical drive) to Drive D (USB flash drive).

```
Welcome to FreeDOS (http://www.freedos.org)!
C:\>d:
D:\>
```

Backing up the current BIOS

To backup the current BIOS file using the BIOS Updater

Ensure that the USB flash drive is not write-protected and has enough free space to save the file.

1. At the FreeDOS prompt, type **bupdater /o[filename]** and press <Enter>.

```
D:\>bupdater /oOLDBIOS1.rom
```

        Filename   Extension

The [filename] is any user-assigned filename with no more than eight alphanumeric characters for the filename and three alphanumeric characters for the extension.

2. The BIOS Updater backup screen appears indicating the BIOS backup process. When BIOS backup is done, press any key to return to the DOS prompt.

```
        ASUSTek BIOS Updater for DOS V1.18 [09/06/22]

    ┌─── Current ROM ───┐        ┌─── Update ROM ───┐
    BOARD: M5A88-M              BOARD: Unknown
    VER:  0303 (H:00 B:01)      VER:  Unknown
    DATE: 03/29/2011            DATE: Unknown

    PATH: A:\

    ┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
    │   BIOS backup is done! Press any key to continue. │
    └─────────────────────────────────────────────────┘



    ┌─ Note ──────────────────────────────────────────┐
    Saving BIOS:
    └─────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```
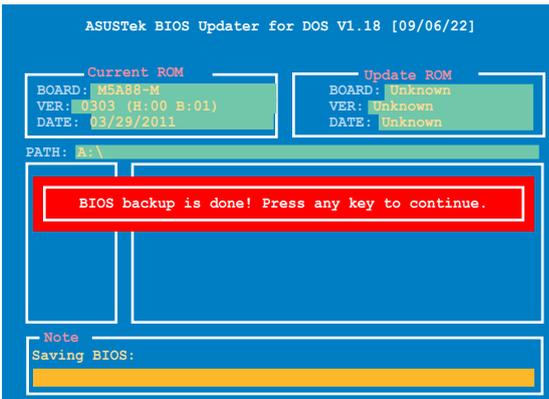
Updating the BIOS file

To update the BIOS file using BIOS Updater

1.   At the FreeDOS prompt, type **bupdater /pc /g** and press <Enter>.

```
D:\>bupdater /pc /g
```

2.   The BIOS Updater screen appears as below.

```
        ASUSTek BIOS Updater for DOS V1.18 [09/06/22]

       Current ROM                          Update ROM
  BOARD: M5A88-M                       BOARD: Unknown
  VER: 0303 (H:00 B:01)                VER: Unknown
  DATE: 03/29/2011                     DATE: Unknown
  PATH: A:\

   A:          M5A88M.ROM     2097152 2010-01-11 17:30:48




   Note
   [Enter] Select or Load     [Tab] Switch     [V] Drive Info
   [Up/Down/Home/End] Move     [B] Backup       [Esc] Exit
```
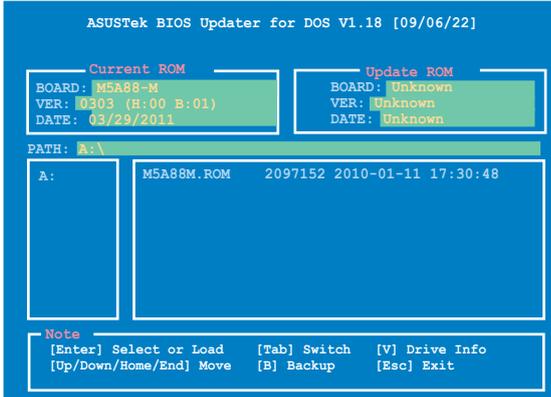
3.   Press <Tab> to switch between screen fields and use the <Up/Down/Home/End> keys to select the BIOS file and press <Enter>. BIOS Updater checks the selected BIOS file and prompts you to confirm BIOS update.

```
        Are you sure to update BIOS?
                  Yes      No
```

4.   Select **Yes** and press <Enter>. When BIOS update is done, press <ESC> to exit BIOS Updater. Restart your computer.

> ⚠️ DO NOT shut down or reset the system while updating the BIOS to prevent system boot failure!

> ✎ •   For BIOS Updater version 1.04 or later, the utility automatically exits to the DOS prompt after updating BIOS.
>
> •   Ensure to load the BIOS default settings to ensure system compatibility and stability. Select the **Load Setup Defaults** item under the **Exit** BIOS menu. See Chaper 3 of your motherboard user manual for details.
>
> •   Ensure to connect all SATA hard disk drives after updating the BIOS file if you have disconnected them.

Chapter 3

3.3 BIOS setup program

A BIOS Setup program is provided for BIOS item modification. When you start up the computer, the system provides you with the opportunity to run this program. Press <Del> during the Power-On Self-Test (POST) to enter the Setup utility. Otherwise, POST continues with its test routines.

If you wish to enter Setup after POST, restart the system by pressing <Ctrl> + <Alt> + <Delete>, or by pressing the reset button on the system chassis. You can also restart by turning the system off and then back on. Do this last option only if the first two failed.

The Setup program is designed to make it as easy to use as possible. Being a menu-driven program, it lets you scroll through the various submenus and select from the available options using the navigation keys.

> • The BIOS setup screens shown in this section are for reference purposes only, and may not exactly match what you see on your screen.
>
> • If the system becomes unstable after changing any BIOS setting, load the default settings to ensure system compatibility and stability. Select the **Load Setup Defaults** item under the **Exit** menu. 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 **2.6 Jumper** for details.

3.3.1 BIOS menu screen

Menu items   Menu bar   Configuration fields   General help

```
                           M5A88-M BIOS Setup                      Version 0303
   Main     Ai Tweaker     Advanced    Power     Boot     Tools     Exit

  Main Settings                                          Use [ENTER], [TAB]
  System Time              [13:51:25]                    or [SHIFT-TAB] to
  System Date              [Mon 01/14/2002]              select a field.

                                                         Use [+] or [-] to
  ▶ SATA6G_1               [Not Detected]                configure system Time.
  ▶ SATA6G_2               [Not Detected]
  ▶ SATA6G_3               [Not Detected]
  ▶ SATA6G_4               [Not Detected]
  ▶ SATA6G_5               [Not Detected]
  ▶ SATA6G_6               [Not Detected]                ←→    Select Screen
  ▶ SATA Configuration                                   ↑↓    Select Item
                                                         +-    Change Field
  ▶ System Information                                   Tab   Select Field
                                                         F1    General Help
                                                         F10   Save and Exit
                                                         ESC   Exit

       v02.61 (C)Copyright 1985-2011, American Megatrends, Inc.
```

Submenu items   Navigation keys

3.3.2 Menu bar

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

Main	For changing the basic system configuration
Ai Tweaker	For changing the overclocking settings
Advanced	For changing the advanced system settings
Power	For changing the advanced power management (APM) configuration
Boot	For changing the system boot configuration
Tools	For configuring options for special functions
Exit	For selecting the exit options and loading default settings

3.3.3   Navigation keys

At the bottom right corner of a menu screen are the navigation keys for that particular menu. Use the navigation keys to select items in the menu and change the settings.

> The navigation keys may differ from one screen to another.

3.3.4   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 (Ai Tweaker, Advanced, Power, Boot, Tools, and Exit) on the menu bar have their respective menu items.

3.3.5   Submenu items

A solid triangle before each item on any menu screen means that the item has a submenu. To display the submenu, select the item and press <Enter>.

3.3.6   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 enclosed in brackets, and is highlighted when selected. To change the value of a field, select it and press <Enter> to display a list of options. Refer to **3.3.7 Pop-up window.**

3.3.7   Pop-up window

Select a menu item and press <Enter> to display a pop-up window with the configuration options for that item.

3.3.8   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.
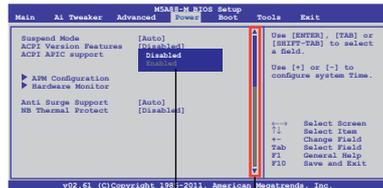
Scroll bar

Pop-up window

3.3.9   General help

At the top right corner of the menu screen is a brief description of the selected item.

3.4   Main menu

When you enter the BIOS Setup program, the Main menu screen appears, giving you an overview of the basic system information. Select an item and press <Enter> to display the submenu.

Refer to **section 3.3.1 BIOS menu screen** for information on the menu screen items and how to navigate through them.

```
                              M5A88-M BIOS Setup                      Version 0303
   Main    Ai Tweaker    Advanced    Power    Boot    Tools    Exit

  Main Settings                                        Use [ENTER], [TAB]
                                                       or [SHIFT-TAB] to
  System Time              [13:51:25]                  select a field.
  System Date             [Mon 01/14/2002]
                                                       Use [+] or [-] to
 ▶ SATA6G_1               [Not Detected]               configure system Time.
 ▶ SATA6G_2               [Not Detected]
 ▶ SATA6G_3               [Not Detected]
 ▶ SATA6G_4               [Not Detected]
 ▶ SATA6G_5               [Not Detected]
 ▶ SATA6G_6               [Not Detected]               ←→   Select Screen
 ▶ SATA Configuration                                  ↑↓   Select Item
                                                       +-   Change Field
 ▶ System Information                                  Tab  Select Field
                                                       F1   General Help
                                                       F10  Save and Exit
                                                       ESC  Exit

     v02.61 (C)Copyright 1985-2011, American Megatrends, Inc.
```

3.4.1   SATA6G_1~6

While entering Setup, the BIOS automatically detects the presence of SATA devices. There is a separate submenu for each SATA device. Select a device item and press <Enter> to display the SATA device information.

```
                              M5A88-M BIOS Setup                      Version 0303
   Main

  SATA6G_1                                             Disabled: Disables
  Device         : Not Detected                        LBA Mode.
                                                       Auto: Enables LBA
  LBA/Large Mode              [Auto]                   Mode if the device
  Block(Multi-Sector Transfer)M[Auto]                  supports it and the
  PIO Mode                    [Auto]                   device is not already
  DMA Mode                    [Auto]                   formatted with LBA
  SMART Monitoring            [Auto]                   Mode disabled.
  32Bit Data Transfer         [Enabled]

                                                       ←→   Select Screen
                                                       ↑↓   Select Item
                                                       +-   Change Field
                                                       F1   General Help
                                                       F10  Save and Exit

     v02.61 (C)Copyright 1985-2011, American Megatrends, Inc.
```

The BIOS automatically detects the values opposite the dimmed items (Device, Vendor, Size, LBA Mode, Block Mode, PIO Mode, Async DMA, Ultra DMA, and SMART Monitoring). These values are not user-configurable. These items show **Not Detected** if no SATA device is installed in the system.

Type [Auto]

Allows you to select the type of device installed.

[Not Installed]   Select this option if no device is installed.

[Auto]   Allows automatic selection of the appropriate device type.

[CDROM]   Select this option if you are specifically configuring a CD-ROM drive.

[ARMD]   Select [ARMD] (ATAPI Removable Media Device) if your device is either a
                   ZIP, LS-120, or MO drive.

This item appears in **SATA6G_5/6** menus only.

LBA/Large Mode [Auto]

[Auto]   Select [Auto] to enable the LBA mode (Logical Block Addressing mode)
                   if the device supports this mode, and if the device was not previously
                   formatted with LBA mode disabled.

[Disabled]   Disables this function.

Block (Multi-Sector Transfer) M [Auto]

[Auto]   When set to [Auto], the data transfer from and to the device occurs in
                   multiple sectors at a time if the device supports multi-sector transfer feature.

[Disabled]   When set to [Disabled], the data transfer from and to the device occurs one
                   sector at a time.

PIO Mode [Auto]

[Auto]   Allows automatic selection of the PIO (Programmed input/output) modes,
                   which correspond to different data transfer rates.

[0] [1] [2] [3] [4]   Sets the PIO mode to Mode 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

DMA Mode [Auto]

DMA (Direct Memory Access) allows your computer to transfer data to and from the hardware
devices installed with much less CPU overhead.

The DMA mode consists of SDMA (single-word DMA), MDMA (multi-word DMA), and UDMA
(Ultra DMA). Setting to [Auto] allows automatic selection of the DMA mode.

SMART Monitoring [Auto]

[Auto]   Allows automatic selection of the S.M.A.R.T (Smart Monitoring, Analysis,
                   and Reporting Technology).

[Enabled]   Enables the S.M.A.R.T feature.

[Disabled]   Disables the S.M.A.R.T feature.

32Bit Data Transfer [Enabled]

[Enabled]   Sets the controller to combine two 16-bit reads from the hard disk into
                   a single 32-bit double word transfer to the processor. This makes more
                   efficient use of the PCI bus as fewer transactions are needed for the
                   transfer of a particular amount of data.

[Disabled]   Disables this function.

3.4.2   SATA Configuration

The SATA Configuration menu allows you to configure your storage devices. Select an item then press <Enter> to display the submenu.

```
                             M5A88-M BIOS Setup                    Version 0303
    Main

  SATA Configuration                                          Options

 OnChip SATA Speed             [Auto]                    Disabled
 OnChip SATA Channel           [Enabled]                 Enabled
   SATA Port1 - Port4          [IDE]
   SATA Port5 - Port6          [IDE]
```

OnChip SATA Speed [Auto]

[Auto]   Allows automatic selection of the SATA speed.

[SATA 3.0Gb/s] Set the SB850 SATA speed to [SATA 3.0Gb/s] to support SATA 3.0Gb/s HDDs with max. speed at 3.0Gb/s.

[SATA 6.0Gb/s] Set the SB850 SATA speed to [SATA 6.0Gb/s] to support SATA 6.0Gb/s HDDs with max. speed at 6.0Gb/s.

OnChip SATA Channel [Enabled]

[Enabled]   Enables the onboard channel SATA port.

[Disabled]   Disables the onboard channel SATA port.

> The following two items appear only when you set the **OnChip SATA Channel** item to [Enabled].

SATA Port1 - Port4 [IDE]

Allows you to set the SATA configuration.

[IDE]   Set to [IDE] when you want to use the Serial ATA hard disk drives as Parallel ATA physical storage devices.

[RAID]   Set to [RAID] when you want to create a RAID configuration from the SATA hard disk drives.

[AHCI]   Set to [AHCI] when you want the SATA hard disk drives to use the AHCI (Advanced Host Controller Interface). The AHCI allows the onboard storage driver to enable advanced Serial ATA features that increases storage performance on random workloads by allowing the drive to internally optimize the order of commands.

> •   When this item is set to [AHCI], the information of the SATA connectors 1~6 can be seen only under the OS environment or during POST.
>
> •   For Windows® XP OS, you have to install the AHCI driver, so that you could use the SATA connectors 1~6 in AHCI mode under the OS environment.

SATA Port5 - Port6 [IDE]

Setting this item to [IDE] instead of [RAID] or [AHCI] allows the system to recognize the optical dirves connected to the SATA connectors 5 or 6 when installing OS.

> If you use a SATA optical drive to run the OS installation disk, we strongly recommend that you install the optical dirve to the SATA connectors 5/6 and set them to [IDE] mode.

3.4.3 System Information

This menu gives you an overview of the general system specifications. The BIOS automatically detects the BIOS information, CPU specification, and system memory in this menu.

```
                            M5A88-M BIOS Setup               Version 0303
  Main

 BIOS Information
 Version   : 0303
 Build Date: 03/29/11


 Processor
 Type      : AMD Phenom(tm) II X4 945 Processor
 Speed     : 3000MHz


 System Memory
 Installed Size: 1024MB
 Usable Size   : 768MB
```
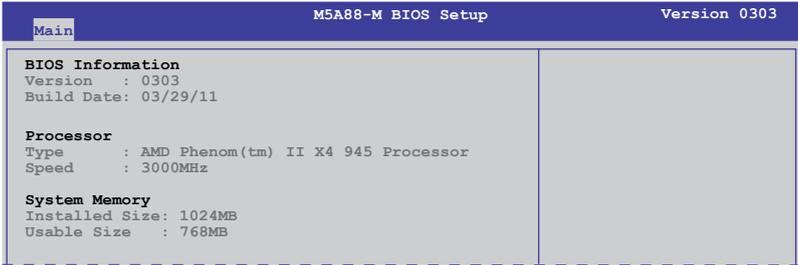
3.5 Ai Tweaker menu

The Ai Tweaker menu items allow you to configure overclocking-related items.

> ⚠️ Be cautious when changing the settings of the Ai Tweaker menu items. Incorrect field values can cause the system to malfunction.

> 🖉 The configuration options for this chapter vary depending on the CPU and DIMM model you installed on the motherboard.

```
                              M5A88-M BIOS Setup                        Version 0303
    Main    Ai Tweaker    Advanced    Power    Boot    Tools    Exit

  Configure System Performance Settings              Warning: this function
                                                     belongs to overclock-
  Target CPU Frequency : 3000MHz                     ing, and it may cause
  Target DRAM Frequency: 1333MHz                     instability.
                                                     Select a CPU level,
  CPU Level UP                  [Auto]               and the rest will be
  ------------------------------------------------   auto-adjusted. If you
  CPU Overclocking              [Auto]               want to adjust more,
  CPU Ratio                     [Auto]               set Ai Overclock Tuner
  DRAM Frequency                [Auto]               to Manual after you
  CPU/NB Frequency              [Auto]               select a CPU level.
  HT Link Speed                 [Auto]
  GPU Booster                   [Enabled]
    Enhanced iGPU SpeedStep     [Auto]               ←→   Select Screen
    GPU Power Saving Mode       [Disabled]           ↑↓   Select Item
  OC Tuner Utility                                   +-   Change Option
  ▶ DRAM Timing Configuration                        F1   General Help
  ▶ DRAM Driving Configuration                       F10  Save and Exit
  ******* Please key in numbers directly! *******   ESC  Exit
  CPU & NB Voltage Mode         [Offset]

          v02.61 (C)Copyright 1985-2011, American Megatrends, Inc.
```

Scroll down to display the following items:

```
    CPU Offset Voltage      1.350 [Auto]
    CPU/NB Offset Voltage   1.100 [Auto]
  CPU VDDA Voltage          2.500 [Auto]
  DRAM Voltage              1.500 [Auto]
  HT Voltage                1.200 [Auto]
  NB Voltage                1.100 [Auto]
  NB 1.8V Voltage           1.800 [Auto]
  SB Voltage                1.100 [Auto]               ←→   Select Screen
  ************************************************     ↑↓   Select Item
  CPU Load-Line Calibration       [Auto]              +-   Change Option
  CPU/NB Load-Line Calibration    [Auto]              F1   General Help
                                                      F10  Save and Exit
  PCI/PCIe CLK Status             [Enabled]

          v02.61 (C)Copyright 1985-2011, American Megatrends, Inc.
```

3.5.1 CPU Level UP [Auto]

Allows you to select a CPU level, and the related parameters will be automatically adjusted according to the selected CPU level. If you want to manually configure the settings in detail, set **CPU Overclocking** to [Manual] after selecting a CPU level.
Configuration options: [Auto] [Phenom II-955] [Phenom II-3.4G] [Phenom II-3.6G]

> 🖉 • The configuration options vary depending on the CPU model you install on the motherboard.
>
> • The CPU Level UP function support depends on CPU types.

3.5.2 CPU OverClocking [Auto]

Allows you to select the CPU overclocking options to achieve the desired CPU internal frequency. Select any of these preset overclocking configuration options:

Manual	Allows you to individually set overclocking parameters.
Auto	Loads the optimal settings for the system.
D.O.C.P	Allows you to select a DRAM O.C. profile, and the related parameters will be adjusted automatically.
Overclock Profile	Allows you to select an overclocking profile.

The configuration options for the following sub-items vary depending on the CPU/DIMMs you install on the motherboard.

CPU/HT Reference Clock (MHz) [200]

This item appears only when you set the **CPU OverClocking** item to [Manual] and displays the frequency sent by the clock generator to the system bus and PCI bus. Use the <+> and <-> keys to adjust the CPU Bus frequency. You can also key in the desired frequency using the numeric keypad. The values range from 100MHz to 550MHz.

PCIE Frequency [100]

This item appears only when you set the **CPU OverClocking** item to [Manual] and allows you to set the PCI Express frequency. Use the <+> and <-> keys to adjust the PCIE frequency. You can also key in the desired value using the numeric keypad. The values range from 100MHz to 150MHz.

DRAM O.C. Profile [DDR3-1600MHz]

This item appears only when you set the **CPU OverClocking** item to [D.O.C.P.] and allows you to select a DRAM O.C. profile, which applies different settings to DRAM frequency, DRAM timing and DRAM voltage. Configuration options: [DDR3-1600MHz] [DDR3-1800MHz] [DDR3-1866MHz] [DDR3-2000MHz]

Profile Info : xxxxMHz–x-x-x-xx

This item appears only when you set the **CPU OverClocking** item to [D.O.C.P.] and displays the current DRAM profile information. The profile information varies according to the **DRAM O.C. Profile** you have selected.

Overclock Options [Auto]

This item appears only when you set the **CPU OverClocking** item to [Overclock Profile] and allows you to select an overclocking profile. Configuration options: [Auto] [Overclock 2%] [Overclock 5%] [Overclock 8%] [Overclock 10%]

3.5.3 CPU Ratio [Auto]

Allows you to set the ratio between the CPU Core Clock and the CPU Bus Frequency. Use the <+> and <-> keys to adjust the ratio. The valid value ranges vary according to your CPU model.

The following two items only appear when you install a 6-core CPU.

AMD Turbo CORE technology [Enabled]

Enables or disables the AMD Turbo Core technology. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Turbo CORE Ratio [Auto]

Sets the Turbo Core ratio. Use the <+> / <-> keys to adjust the ratio. The valid value ranges vary depending on your CPU model. Configuration options: [Auto]

3.5.4 DRAM Frequency [Auto]

Allows you to set the DDR3 operating frequency. Configuration options: [Auto] [800MHz] [1067MHz] [1333MHz] [1600MHz]

Selecting a very high DRAM frequency may cause the system to become unstable! If this happens, revert to the default setting.

3.5.5 CPU/NB Frequency [Auto]

Allows you to set the ratio between the NB (in CPU) Clock and the CPU Bus Frequency. Configuration options: [Auto] [1400MHz] [1600MHz] [1800MHz] [2000MHz]

3.5.6 HT Link Speed [Auto]

Allows you to select the HyperTransport link speed. Configuration options: [Auto] [200MHz] [400MHz] [600MHz] [800MHz] [1000MHz] [1200MHz] [1400MHz] [1600MHz] [1800MHz] [2000MHz]

3.5.7 GPU Booster [Enabled]

[Enabled]   Select [Enabled] to automatically optimize the iGPU frequency.

[Disabled]   Select [Disabled] to use a fixed iGPU frequency.

Enhanced iGPU SpeedStep [Auto]

This item appears only when you set the **GPU Booster** item to [Enabled] and allows you to set the iGPU clock speed for better 3D performance. Configuration options: [Auto] [Extreme] [Turbo] [Manual]

GPU Engine Clock [700]

This item appears only when you set the **GPU Booster** item to [Disabled] or set the **Enhanced iGPU SpeedStep** item to [Manual]. Allows you to set the GPU Engine Clock. Use the <+> and <-> keys to adjust the value. You can also key in the desired value using the numeric keypad. The values range from 200MHz to 2000MHz.

GPU Power Saving Mode [Disabled]

This item appears only when you set the **GPU Booster** item to [Enabled].

[Enabled]   Select [Enabled] to reduce the iGPU power consumption when the system is idle.

[Disabled]   Disables this function.

3.5.8 OC Tuner Utility

OC Tuner utility automatically overclocks the frequency and voltage of the CPU and DRAM. Press <Enter> to start auto tuning. It takes around five minutes, and the system will reboot for several times until auto tuning is completed.

3.5.9 DRAM Timing Configuration

The configuration options for some of the following items vary depending on the DIMMs you install on the motherboard.

DRAM CAS# Latency [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [4 CLK] – [12 CLK]

DRAM RAS# to CAS# Delay [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [5 CLK] – [12 CLK]

DRAM RAS# PRE Time [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [5 CLK] – [12 CLK]

DRAM RAS# ACT Time [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [15 CLK] – [30 CLK]

DRAM READ to PRE Time [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [4 CLK] [5 CLK] [6 CLK] [7 CLK]

DRAM Row Cycle Time [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [12 CLK] – [42 CLK]

DRAM WRITE Recovery Time [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [5 CLK] [6 CLK] [7 CLK] [8 CLK] [10 CLK] [12 CLK]

DRAM RAS# to RAS# Delay [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [4 CLK] [5 CLK] [6 CLK] [7 CLK]

DRAM READ to WRITE Delay [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [3 CLK] – [17 CLK]

DRAM WRITE to READ Delay(DD) [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [2 CLK] – [10 CLK]

DRAM WRITE to READ Delay(SD) [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [4 CLK] [5 CLK] [6 CLK] [7 CLK]

DRAM WRITE to WRITE Timing [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [2 CLK] – [10 CLK]

DRAM READ to READ Timing [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [3 CLK] – [10 CLK]

DRAM REF Cycle Time [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [90ns] [110ns] [160ns] [300ns] [350ns]

DRAM Refresh Rate [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [Every 7.8ms] [Every 3.9ms]

DRAM Command Rate [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [1T] [2T]

3.5.10   DRAM Driving Configuration

The configuration options for some of the following items vary depending on the DIMMs you install on the motherboard.

CKE drive strength [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [1x] [1.25x] [1.5x] [2x]

CS/ODT drive strength [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [1x] [1.25x] [1.5x] [2x]

ADDR/CMD drive strength [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [1x] [1.25x] [1.5x] [2x]

MEMCLK drive strength [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [0.75x] [1x] [1.25x] [1.5x]

Data drive strength [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [0.75x] [1x] [1.25x] [1.5x]

DQS drive strength [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [0.75x] [1x] [1.25x] [1.5x]

Processor ODT [Auto]

Configuration options: [Auto] [240 ohms +/- 20%] [120 ohms +/- 20%] [60 ohms +/- 20%]

Some of the following items are adjusted by typing the desired values using the numeric keypad and press the <Enter> key. You can also use the <+> and <-> keys to adjust the value. To restore the default setting, type [auto] using the keyboard and press the <Enter> key.

3.5.11 CPU & NB Voltage Mode [Offset]

Allows you to set the CPU & CPU/NB Voltage Mode. Different sub-items appear according to the **CPU & NB Voltage Mode** item setting. Configuration options: [Offset] [Manual]

CPU Offset Voltage [Auto]

This item appears only when you set the **CPU & NB Voltage Mode** item to [Offset] and allows you to set the CPU Offset voltage. The values range from -0.300000V to +0.500000V with a 0.003125V interval.

CPU/NB Offset Voltage [Auto]

This item appears only when you set the **CPU & NB Voltage Mode** item to [Offset] and allows you to set the CPU/NB Offset voltage. The values range from -0.300000V to +0.500000V with a 0.003125V interval.

CPU Voltage [Auto]

This item appears only when you set the **CPU & NB Voltage Mode** item to [Manual] and allows you to set a fixed CPU voltage.

CPU/NB Voltage [Auto]

This item appears only when you set the **CPU & NB Voltage Mode** item to [Manual] and allows you to set a fixed CPU/NB voltage.

3.5.12 CPU VDDA Voltage [Auto]

Allows you to set the CPU VDDA voltage. The values range from 2.50V to 2.80V with a 0.10V interval.

3.5.13 DRAM Voltage [Auto]

Allows you to set the DRAM voltage. The values range from 1.20000V to 2.44000V with a 0.01000V interval.

3.5.14 HT Voltage [Auto]

Allows you to set the HyperTransport voltage. The values range from 1.20000V to 1.40000V with a 0.01000V interval.

3.5.15 NB Voltage [Auto]

Allows you to set the Northbridge voltage. The values range from 1.10000V to 1.73000V with a 0.01000V interval.

3.5.16 NB 1.8V Voltage [Auto]

Allows you to set the Northbridge 1.8V voltage. The values range from 1.80V to 1.90V with a 0.10V interval.

3.5.17 SB Voltage [Auto]

Allows you to set the Southbridge voltage. The values range from 1.10V to 1.40V with a 0.10V interval.

3.5.18 CPU Load-Line Calibration [Auto]

Allows you to select the CPU Load-Line mode.
Configuration options: [Auto] [Disabled] [Enabled]

3.5.19 CPU/NB Load-Line Calibration [Auto]

Allows you to select the CPU/NB Load-Line mode.
Configuration options: [Auto] [Disabled] [Enabled]

3.5.20 PCI/PCIe CLK Status [Enabled]

Allows you to enable and disable clock for the PCI/PCIe slot.
Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

3.6 Advanced menu

The Advanced menu items allow you to change the settings for the CPU and other system devices.

⚠️ Be cautious when changing the settings of the Advanced menu items. Incorrect field values can cause the system to malfunction.

```
                        M5A88-M BIOS Setup                        Version 0303
   Main      Ai Tweaker     Advanced     Power     Boot      Tools     Exit

  ▶  CPU Configuration                                  Configure CPU.
  ▶  Chipset
  ▶  Onboard Devices Configuration
  ▶  PCIPnP
  ▶  USB Configuration
```
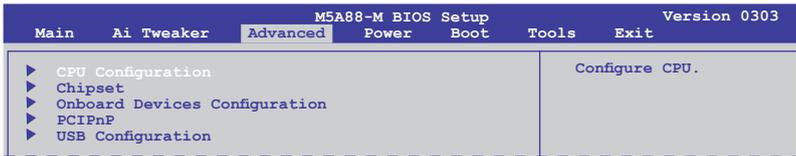
3.6.1 CPU Configuration

The items in this menu show the CPU-related information that the BIOS automatically detects.

✎ The items shown in this screen may be different due to the CPU you installed.

```
                        M5A88-M BIOS Setup                        Version 0303
                           Advanced

  CPU Configuration
  Module Version: OrochiPI 0.0.7.3-1                   This option should
                                                       remain disabled for
  AMD Phenom(tm) II X4 945 Processor                   the normal operation.
  Revision: C2                                         The driver developer
  Cache L1: 512KB                                      may enable it for
  Cache L2: 2048KB                                     testing purpose.
  Cache L3: 6MB
  Speed   : 3000MHz,
  uCode Patch Level    : 0x10000C6


  Secure Virtual Machine Mode    [Disabled]
  Cool'n'Quiet                   [Enabled]
  C1E Support                    [Auto]
  ASUS Core Unlocker             [Disabled]
  CPU Core Activation            [Auto]
```

Secure Virtual Machine Mode [Disabled]

[Enabled]   Enables the AMD Secure Virtual Machine mode.

[Disabled]   Disables this function.

Cool'n'Quiet [Enabled]

[Enabled]   Enables the AMD Cool'n'Quiet function.

[Disabled]   Disables this function.

C1E Support [Auto]

[Auto]   Allows automatic selection of C1E support function.

[Disabled]   Disables this function.

ASUS Core Unlocker [Disabled]

[Enabled]   Enables the ASUS Core Unlocker to get the full computing power of the
                processor.

[Disabled]   Disables this function.

CPU Core Activation [Auto]

[Auto]   Allows automatic activation of cores.

[Manual]   Manually turn off a specific core.

The following items appear only when you set **CPU Core Activation** to **[Manual]**.

2nd Core [On]

Enables or disables the second CPU core. Configuration options: [On] [Off]

3rd Core [On]

Enables or disables the third CPU core. Configuration options: [On] [Off]

4th Core [On]

Enables or disables the fourth CPU core. Configuration options: [On] [Off]

3.6.2   Chipset

The Chipset menu allows you to change the advanced chipset settings. Select an item then press <Enter> to display the submenu.

```
                        M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                   Advanced

Chipset Configuration                              Memory Options &
                                                   Information
►  NorthBridge Configuration
►  Internal Graphics
```

NorthBridge Chipset Configuration

```
                        M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                   Advanced

NorthBridge Chipset Configuration
►  DRAM Controller Configuration
►  ECC Configuration
```

DRAM Controller Configuration

```
                        M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                   Advanced

DRAM Controller Configuration                      Enable Bank Memory
                                                   Interleaving
Bank Interleaving          [Auto]
Node Interleaving          [Disabled]
Channel Interleaving       [Auto]
CS Sparing Enable          [Disabled]
Bank Swizzle Mode          [Enabled]
```

Bank Interleaving [Auto]

Allows you to enable the bank memory interleaving. Configuration options: [Auto] [Disabled]

Node Interleaving [Disabled]

Allows you to enable the node memory interleaving. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Auto]

Channel Interleaving [Disabled]

Allows you to enable the channel memory interleaving. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Auto]

CS Sparing Enable [Disabled]

Enables this item to reserve a spare memory rank in each node. Configuraiton options: [Enabled] [Disabled]

Bank Swizzle Mode [Enabled]

Allows you to enable or disable the bank swizzle mode. Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Chapter 3

ECC Configuration

```
                           M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                    Advanced

  ECC Configuration                                     Set the level of ECC
                                                        protection. Note: The
  ECC Mode                       [Disabled]             'Super' ECC mode
    DRAM ECC Enable              [Disabled]             dynamically sets the
                                                        DRAM scrub rate so
                                                        all of memory is
                                                        scrubbed in 8 hours.
```
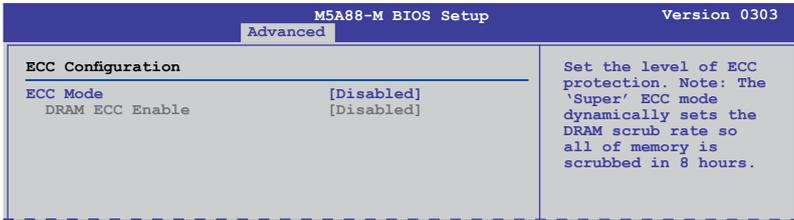
ECC Mode [Disabled]

Disables or sets the DRAM ECC mode that allows the hardware to report and correct memory errors.

[Disabled]   Disables the DRAM ECC mode.

[Basic]   Set to [Basic] to adjust ECC mode automatically.

[Good]   Set to [Good] to adjust ECC mode automatically.

[Super]   Set to [Super] to adjust the **DRAM BG Scrub** sub-item manually.

[Max]   Set to [Max] to adjust ECC mode automatically.

[User]   Set to [User] to adjust all the subitems manually.

Internal Graphics

```
                           M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                    Advanced

  Internal Graphics                                          Options

  Primary Video Controller    [GFX0-GPP-IGFX-PCI]    GFX0-GPP-IGFX-PCI
  Internal Graphics Mode      [UMA]                  GPP-GFX0-IGFX-PCI
    UMA Frame Buffer Size     [Auto]                 PCI-GFX0-GPP-IGFX
  Surround View               [Auto]                 IGFX-GFX0-GPP-PCI
  Frame Buffer Location       [Above 4G]
  AMD HDMI Audio              [Enabled]
```
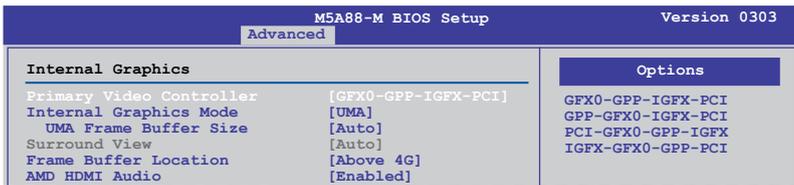
Primary Video Controller [GFX0-GPP-IGFX-PCI]

Configuration options: [GFX0-GPP-IGFX-PCI] [GPP-GFX0-IGFX-PCI]
[PCI-GFX0-GPP-IGFX] [IGFX-GFX0-GPP-PCI]

Internal Graphics Mode [UMA]

Selects the internal graphics mode. Configuration options: [Disabled] [UMA]

UMA Frame Buffer Size [Auto]
This item appears only when you set the Internal Graphics Mode item to [UMA]. Configuration options: [Auto] [32MB] [64MB] [128MB] [256MB] [512MB] [1024MB]

- The [512MB] option only appears when you install 1GB or higher capacity DIMMs.
- The [1024MB] option only appears when you install 2GB or higher capacity DIMMs.

Surround View [Auto]

If you set the PCI Express device as the primary display and enable this item, you may use the internal graphics as the secondary display. This item appears only when you set the **Internal Graphics Mode** item to [UMA]. Configuration options: [Auto] [Enabled] [Disabled]

> When set to [Auto], only the primary display could be activated.

Frame Buffer Location [Above 4G]

Allows you to select the FB Location. Configuration options: [Below 4G] [Above 4G]

AMD HDMI Audio [Enabled]

Allows you to disable or enable the AMD HDMI Audio.
Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

3.6.3   Onboard Devices Configuration

```
                        M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                   Advanced

  Onboard Devices Configuration                   Allows BIOS to select
                                                  Serial Port1 Base
  Serial Port1 Address          [3F8/IRQ4]        Addresses.
  Parallel Port Address         [378]
  Parallel Port Mode            [Normal]
     Parallel Port IRQ          [IRQ7]

  HDAudio Controller            [Enabled]
     Front Panel Select         [HD Audio]
  OnBoard LAN Controller        [Enabled]
     Onboard LAN Boot ROM       [Disabled]
  USB 3.0 Controller            [Enabled]
```

Serial Port1 Address [3F8/IRQ4]

Allows you to select the Serial Port1 base address.
Configuration options: [3F8/IRQ4] [2F8/IRQ3] [3E8/IRQ4] [2E8/IRQ3]

Parallel Port Address [378]

Selects the Parallel Port base addresses. Configuration options: [Disabled] [378] [278] [3BC]

Parallel Port Mode [Normal]

Selects the Parallel Port mode. Configuration options: [Normal] [EPP] [ECP] [EPP + ECP]

> *Parallel Port IRQ [IRQ7]*
> Allows BIOS to select the Parallel Port IRQ. Configuration options: [IRQ5] [IRQ7]

HDAudio Controller [Enabled]

Allows you to enable or disable the HD Audio controller.
Configuration options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Front Panel Select [HD Audio]

Allows you to set the front panel audio connector (AAFP) mode to legacy AC'97 or high-definition audio depending on the audio standard that the front panel audio module supports.

[AC 97]   Sets the front panel audio connector (AAFP) mode to legacy AC'97

[HD Audio] Sets the front panel audio connector (AAFP) mode to high definition audio.

Onboard LAN Controller [Enabled]

[Enabled]   Enables the onboard LAN controller.

[Disabled]   Disables the controller.

Onboard LAN Boot ROM [Disabled]

This item appears only when you set the previous item to [Enabled].

[Enabled]   Enables the onboard Gigabit LAN Boot ROM.

[Disabled]   Disables the LAN Boot ROM.

USB 3.0 Controller [Enabled]

[Enabled]   Enables the onboard USB 3.0 controller.

[Disabled]   Disables the controller.

3.6.4   PCIPnP

The PCI PnP menu items allow you to change the advanced settings for PCI/PnP devices.

```
                      M5A88-M BIOS Setup                    Version 0303
                 Advanced

  Advanced PCI/PnP Settings                         NO: lets the BIOS
                                                    configure all the
  WARNING: Setting wrong values in below sections   devices in the system.
           may cause system to malfunction.         YES: lets the
                                                    operating system
  Plug And Play O/S          [No]                    configure Plug and
```
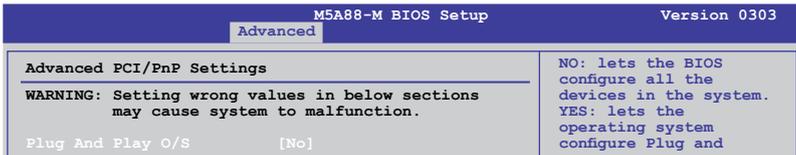
Plug And Play O/S [No]

[Yes]   When set to [Yes] and if you install a Plug and Play operating system, the operating system configures the Plug and Play devices not required for boot.

[No]   When set to [No], BIOS configures all the devices in the system.

3.6.5 USB Configuration

The items in this menu allow you to change the USB-related features. Select an item and press <Enter> to display the configuration options.

```
                           M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                    Advanced

   USB Configuration                                    ┌──────────────────┐
                                                        │    Options       │
   Module Version - 2.24.5-13.4                         ├──────────────────┤
                                                        │ Disabled         │
   USB Devices Enabled:                                 │ Enabled          │
           None                                         │                  │
                                                        │                  │
   USB Functions              [Enabled]                 │                  │
   Legacy USB Support         [Auto]                    │                  │
   USB 2.0 Controller Mode    [HiSpeed]                 │                  │
                                                        └──────────────────┘
```
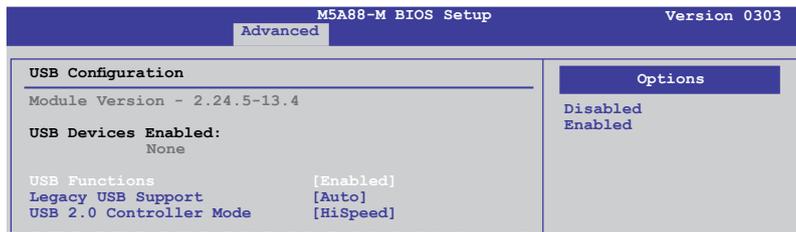
> The **USB Devices Enabled** item shows the auto-detected values. If no USB device is detected, the item shows **None**.

USB Functions [Enabled]

[Enabled]   Enables the USB Host Controllers.

[Disabled]   Disables the controllers.

> The following items appear only when you set **USB Support** to [Enabled].

Legacy USB Support [Auto]

[Auto]   Allows the system to detect the presence of USB devices at startup. If detected, the USB controller legacy mode is enabled. If no USB device is detected, the legacy USB support is disabled.

[Enabled]   Enables the support for USB devices on legacy operating systems (OS).

[Disabled]   Disables the function.

USB 2.0 Controller Mode [HiSpeed]

[FullSpeed]   Sets the USB 2.0 controller mode to FullSpeed (12 Mbps).

[HiSpeed]   Sets the USB 2.0 controller mode to HiSpeed (480 Mbps).

> The following items only appear when a USB storage device is plugged in.

USB Mass Storage Device Configuration

```
                           M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                    Advanced

   USB Mass Storage Device Configuration                ┌──────────────────┐
                                                        │ Number of seconds│
   USB Mass Storage Reset Delay [20 Sec]                │ POST waits for the│
                                                        │ USB mass storage │
      Device #1              Kingston DataTraveler      │ device after start│
      Emulation Type             [Auto]                 │ unit command.    │
                                                        └──────────────────┘
```
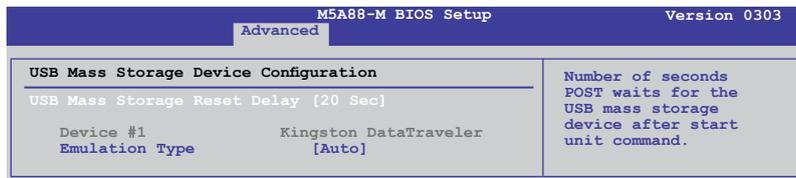
USB Mass Storage Reset Delay [20 Sec]

Sets the maximum time that the BIOS waits for the USB storage device to initialize.
Configuration options: [10 Sec] [20 Sec] [30 Sec] [40 Sec]

> *Emulation Type [Auto]*
> Allows you to set the emulation type. Configuration options: [Auto] [Floppy]
> [Forced FDD] [Hard Disk] [CDROM]

3.7   Power menu

The Power menu items allow you to change the settings for the Advanced Power
Management (APM). Select an item then press <Enter> to display the configuration options.

```
                            M5A88-M BIOS Setup                   Version 0303
   Main     Ai Tweaker    Advanced    Power    Boot    Tools    Exit

   Power Settings                                      Select the ACPI state
                                                       used for System
   Suspend Mode               [Auto]                   Suspend.
   ACPI 2.0 Support           [Enabled]
   ACPI APIC Support          [Enabled]

   ▶  APM Configuration
   ▶  HW Monitor Configuration

   Anti Surge Support         [Enabled]
   NB Thermal Protect         [Enabled]
                                                       ←→    Select Screen
                                                       ↑↓    Select Item
                                                       Enter Go to Sub Screen
                                                       F1    General Help
                                                       F10   Save and Exit
                                                       ESC   Exit

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```

3.7.1   Suspend Mode [Auto]

Allows you to select the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) state to be used
for system suspend.

[Auto]   The system automatically configures the ACPI suspend mode.

[S1 (POS) only]   Sets the ACPI suspend mode to S1/POS (Power On Suspend).

[S3 only]   Sets the ACPI suspend mode to S3/STR (Suspend To RAM).

3.7.2   ACPI 2.0 Support [Enabled]

[Disabled]   The system will not add additional tables as per ACPI 2.0 specifications.

[Enabled]   The system adds additional tables as per ACPI 2.0 specifications.

3.7.3   ACPI APIC Support [Enabled]

[Disabled]   The system disables the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface
                  (ACPI) support in the Advanced Programmable Interrupt Controller (APIC).

[Enabled]   The ACPI APIC table pointer is included in the RSDT pointer list.

3.7.4   APM Configuration

```
                          M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                             Power

  APM Configuration
                                                          Options
  Restore on AC Power Loss    [Power Off]
  Power On From S5 By PME#     [Disabled]        Power Off
  Power On From S5 By Ring     [Disabled]        Power On
  Power On By PS/2 Keyboard    [Disabled]        Last State
  Power On From S5 By RTC Alarm[Disabled]
```
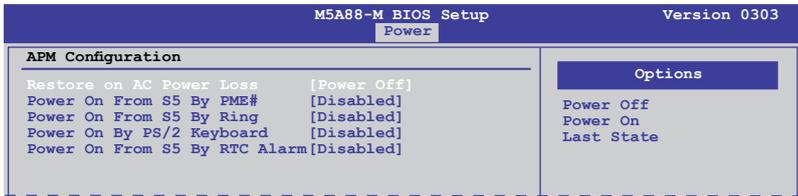
Restore On AC Power Loss [Power Off]

[Power On]   The system goes into on state after an AC power loss.

[Power Off]   The system goes into off state after an AC power loss.

[Last State]   The system goes into either off or on state, whatever the system state was
                  before the AC power loss.

Power On From S5 By PME# [Disabled]

[Disabled]   Disables the PME to wake up from S5 by PCI/PCIE devices.

[Enabled]   Allows you to turn on the system through a PCI/PCIE LAN or modem card.
                  This feature requires an ATX power supply that provides at least 1A on the
                  +5VSB lead.

Power On From S5 By Ring [Disabled]

[Disabled]   Disables to power up the computer when the external modem receives a
                  call while the computer is in Soft-off mode.

[Enabled]   The computer could be powered up when the external modem receives a
                  call while the computer is in Soft-off mode.

The computer cannot receive or transmit data until the computer and applications are fully
running. Thus, connection cannot be made on the first try. Turning an external modem
off and then back on while the computer is off causes an initialization string that turns the
system power on.

Power On By PS/2 Keyboard [Disabled]

Allows you to use specific keys on the keyboard to turn on the system. This feature requires
an ATX power supply that provides at least 1A on the +5VSB lead. Configuration options:
[Disabled] [Space Bar] [Ctrl-Esc] [Power Key]

Power On From S5 By RTC Alarm [Disabled]

[Disabled]   Disables RTC to generate a wake event.

[Enabled]   When set to [Enabled], the items **RTC Alarm Date (Days)** and **System
                  Time** will become user-configurable with set values.

3.7.5 HW Monitor Configuration

```
                              M5A88-M BIOS Setup                    Version 0303
                                    Power

    Hardware Monitor                                     CPU Temperature

    CPU Temperature               [35°C/95°F]
    MB Temperature                [34°C/93°F]

    CPU Fan Speed                 [3590RPM]
    Chassis Fan Speed             [N/A]

    VCORE  Voltage                [ 1.040V]
    3.3V   Voltage                [ 3.008V]
    5V     Voltage                [ 4.776V]
    12V    Voltage                [11.648V]
                                                    ←→    Select Screen
    CPU Q-Fan Function            [Disabled]        ↑↓    Select Item
    CPU Fan Speed Low Limit       [200 RPM]         Enter Go to Sub Screen
    CPU Q-Fan Mode                [Standard]        F1    General Help
                                                    F10   Save and Exit
                                                    ESC   Exit


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```

CPU Temperature / MB Temperature [xxxºC/xxxºF]

The onboard hardware monitor automatically detects and displays the CPU and motherboard temperatures. Select **Ignored** if you do not wish to display the detected temperatures.

CPU Fan Speed [xxxxRPM] or [Ignored] / [N/A]
Chassis Fan Speed [xxxxRPM] or [Ignored] / [N/A]

The onboard hardware monitor automatically detects and displays the CPU and chassis fan speed in rotations per minute (RPM). If the fan is not connected to the motherboard, the field shows **N/A**. Select **Ignored** if you do not wish to display the detected speed.

VCORE Voltage, 3.3V Voltage, 5V Voltage, 12V Voltage

The onboard hardware monitor automatically detects the voltage output through the onboard voltage regulators. Select **Ignored** if you do not want to detect this item.

CPU Q-Fan Function [Enabled]

[Disabled]   Disables the CPU Q-Fan feature.

[Enabled]   Enables the CPU Q-Fan feature.

> The following item appears only when you set **CPU Q-Fan Function** to [Enabled].

CPU Fan Speed Low Limit [200]

This item appears only when you enable the **CPU Q-Fan Control** feature and allows you to disable or set the CPU fan warning speed. Configuration options: [200 RPM] [300 RPM] [400 RPM] [500 RPM] [600 RPM] [Ignored]

Chapter 3

CPU Q-Fan Mode [Standard]

[Turbo]   Sets to [Turbo] to achieve maximum CPU fan speed.

[Standard]   Sets to [Standard] to make the CPU fan automatically adjust depending on
               the CPU temperature.

[Silent]   Sets to [Silent] to minimize the fan speed for quiet CPU fan operation.

[Manual]   Sets to [Manual] to assign detailed fan speed control parameters.

3.7.6   Anti Surge Support [Enabled]

[Enabled]   Enables the Anti Surge support.

[Disabled]   Disables the Anti Surge support.

3.7.7   NB Thermal Protect [Enabled]

When this item is enabled, the system will automatically shut down when the Northbridge
temperature is over 95ºC to avoid any damage to the Northbridge chipset. Configuration
options: [Disabled] [Enabled]

Chapter 3

3.8 Boot menu

The Boot menu items allow you to change the system boot options. Select an item then press <Enter> to display the submenu.

```
                          M5A88-M BIOS Setup                      Version 0303
    Main    Ai Tweaker    Advanced    Power    Boot    Tools    Exit

   Boot Settings                                      Specifies the Boot Device
   ──────────────────────────────────────────        Boot Priority sequence.

  ▶  Boot Device Priority                             A virtual floppy disk
                                                      drive (Floppy Drive B:
  ▶  Boot Settings Configuration                      ) may appear when you
  ▶  Security                                         set the CD-ROM drive
                                                      as the first boot
                                                      device.


                                                      ←→    Select Screen
                                                      ↑↓    Select Item
                                                      Enter Go to Sub Screen
                                                      F1    General Help
                                                      F10   Save and Exit
                                                      ESC   Exit

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```

3.8.1 Boot Device Priority

```
                          M5A88-M BIOS Setup                      Version 0303
                                  Boot

   Boot Device Priority                               Specifies the boot
   ──────────────────────────────────────────        sequence from the
   1st Boot Device            [Removable Dev.]        available devices.
   2nd Boot Device            [Hard Drive]
   3rd Boot Device            [ATAPI CD-ROM]
```

1st – xxth Boot Device [Removable Dev.]

These items specify the boot device priority sequence from the available devices. The number of device items that appears on the screen depends on the number of devices installed in the system. Configuration options: [Removable Dev.] [Hard Drive] [ATAPI CD-ROM] [Disabled]

> • To select the boot device during system startup, press <F8> when ASUS Logo appears.
> • To access Windows OS in Safe Mode, do any of the following:
>   - Press <F5> when ASUS Logo appears.
>   - Press <F8> after POST.

3.8.2 Boot Settings Configuration

```
                         M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0303
                                       Boot

  Boot Settings Configuration                      Allows BIOS to skip
                                                   certain tests while
  Quick Boot                [Enabled]              booting. This will
  Full Screen Logo          [Enabled]              decrease the time
  AddOn ROM Display Mode     [Force BIOS]          needed to boot the
  Bootup Num-Lock           [On]                   system.
  Wait For 'F1' If Error     [Enabled]
  Hit 'DEL' Message Display  [Enabled]
```

Quick Boot [Enabled]

[Disabled]   When set to [Disabled], BIOS performs all the POST items.

[Enabled]   When set to [Enabled], BIOS skips some power on self tests (POST) while booting to decrease the time needed to boot the system.

Full Screen Logo [Enabled]

[Enabled]   Enables the full screen logo display feature.

[Disabled]   Disables the full screen logo display feature.

Set this item to [Enabled] to use the ASUS MyLogo 2™ feature.

AddOn ROM Display Mode [Force BIOS]

[Force BIOS]   The third-party ROM messages will be forced to display during the boot sequence.

[Keep Current]   The third-party ROM messages will be displayed only if the third-party manufacturer had set the add-on device to do so.

Bootup Num-Lock [On]

[Off]   Sets the power-on state of the NumLock to [Off].

[On]   Sets the power-on state of the NumLock to [On].

Wait For 'F1' If Error [Enabled]

[Disabled]   Disables this function.

[Enabled]   The system waits for the <F1> key to be pressed when error occurs.

Hit 'DEL' Message Display [Enabled]

[Disabled]   Disables this function.

[Enabled]   The system displays the message "Press DEL to run Setup" during POST.

3.8.3 Security

The Security menu items allow you to change the system security settings. Select an item and press <Enter> to display the configuration options.

```
                      M5A88-M BIOS Setup                    Version 0303
                                  Boot

   Security Settings                              <Enter> to change
                                                  password.
   Supervisor Password   : Not Installed          <Enter> again to
   User Password         : Not Installed          disable password.

   Change Supervisor Password
   Change User Password
```

Change Supervisor Password

Select this item to set or change the supervisor password. The **Supervisor Password** item on top of the screen shows the default **Not Installed**. After you set a password, this item shows **Installed**.

To set a Supervisor Password:

1.   Select the **Change Supervisor Password** item and press <Enter>.

2.   From the password box, key in a password composed of up to six letters and/or numbers, then press <Enter>.

3.   Confirm the password when prompted.

The message **Password Installed** appears after you successfully set your password.

To change the supervisor password, follow the same steps as in setting a user password.

To clear the supervisor password, select the **Change Supervisor Password** then press <Enter> twice. The message **Password Uninstalled** appears.

> If you have forgotten your BIOS password, you can clear clear it by erasing the CMOS Real Time Clock (RTC) RAM. See section **2.6 Jumper** for information on how to erase the RTC RAM.

After you have set a supervisor password, the other items appear to allow you to change other security settings.

```
                      M5A88-M BIOS Setup                    Version 0303
                                  Boot

   Security Settings                              <Enter> to change
                                                  password.
   Supervisor Password   : Installed              <Enter> again to
   User Password         : Installed              disabled password.

   Change Supervisor Password
   User Access Level          [Full Access]
   Change User Password
   Clear User Password
   Password Check             [Setup]
```
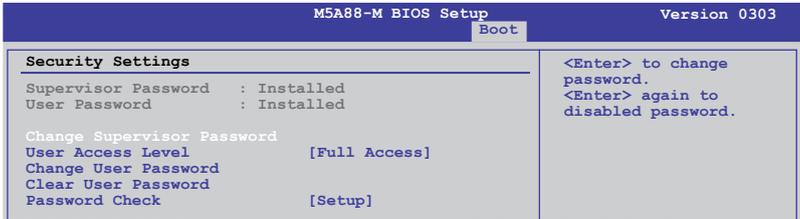
User Access Level [Full Access]

This item allows you to select the access restriction to the Setup items.

[No Access]   Prevents user access to the Setup utility.

[View Only]   Allows access but does not allow change to any field.

[Limited]   Allows changes only to selected fields, such as Date and Time.

[Full Access]   Allows viewing and changing all the fields in the Setup utility.

Change User Password

Select this item to set or change the user password. The **User Password** item on top of the screen shows the default **Not Installed**. After you set a password, this item shows Installed.

To set a User Password:

1.   Select the **Change User Password** item and press <Enter>.

2.   On the password box that appears, type a password composed of up to six letters and/or numbers, then press <Enter>.

3.   Confirm the password when prompted.

The message **Password Installed** appears after you set your password successfully.

To change the user password, follow the same steps as in setting a user password.

Clear User Password

Select this item to clear the user password.

Password Check [Setup]

[Setup]   BIOS checks for user password when accessing the Setup utility.

[Always]   BIOS checks for user password both when accessing Setup and booting the system.

Chapter 3

3.9 Tools menu

The Tools menu items allow you to configure options for special functions. Select an item then press <Enter> to display the submenu.

```
                        M5A88-M BIOS Setup                        Version 0303
   Main     Ai Tweaker     Advanced     Power     Boot   Tools    Exit

  Tools Settings                                     Press ENTER to run the
                                                     utility to select and
  ASUS EZ Flash 2                                    update BIOS.
                                                     This utility supports:
  ▶  ASUS O.C. Profile                               1.FAT 12/16/32 (r/w)
                                                     2.NTFS (read only)
                                                     3.CD-DISC (read only)


                                                     ←→    Select Screen
                                                     ↑↓    Select Item
                                                     Enter Go to Sub Screen
                                                     F1    General Help
                                                     F10   Save and Exit

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```
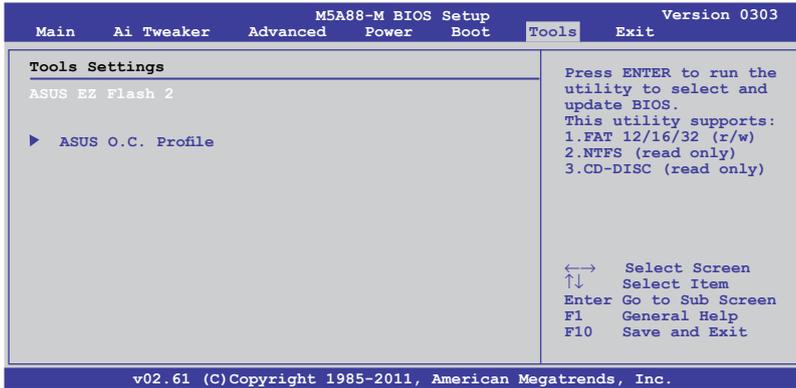
3.9.1 ASUS EZ Flash 2

Allows you to run ASUS EZ Flash 2. When you press <Enter>, a confirmation message appears. Use the left/right arrow key to select between [Yes] or [No], then press <Enter> to confirm your choice.

> For more details, refer to section **3.2.2 ASUS EZ Flash 2 utility**.

3.9.2 ASUS O.C. Profile

This item allows you to store or load multiple BIOS settings.

```
                        M5A88-M BIOS Setup                        Version 0303
                                                     Tools

  O.C. PROFILE Configuration                         Typing your profile
                                                     name, [0-9][a-z][A-Z]
  O.C. Profile 1 Status   : Not Installed            are acceptable.
  O.C. Profile 2 Status   : Not Installed
  O.C. Profile 3 Status   : Not Installed
  O.C. Profile 4 Status   : Not Installed
  O.C. Profile 5 Status   : Not Installed
  O.C. Profile 6 Status   : Not Installed
  O.C. Profile 7 Status   : Not Installed
  O.C. Profile 8 Status   : Not Installed

  Status:

  Add Your CMOS Profile.                             ←→    Select Screen
    Name:              [Default-Profile]             ↑↓    Select Item
    Save To:           [Uninstalled]                 F1    General Help
  Load CMOS Profiles.                                F10   Save and Exit
    Load From:         [Blank]                        ESC   Exit

  Start O.C. Profile

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```

Add Your CMOS Profile

Allows you to save the current BIOS file to the BIOS Flash. In the Name sub-item, key in your profile name and press <Enter>, and then choose a profile number to save your CMOS settings in the **Save to** sub-item.

Load CMOS Profiles.

Allows you to load the previous BIOS settings saved in the BIOS Flash. Press <Enter> to load the file.

Start O.C. Profile

Allows you to run the utility to save and load CMOS. Press <Enter> to run the utility.
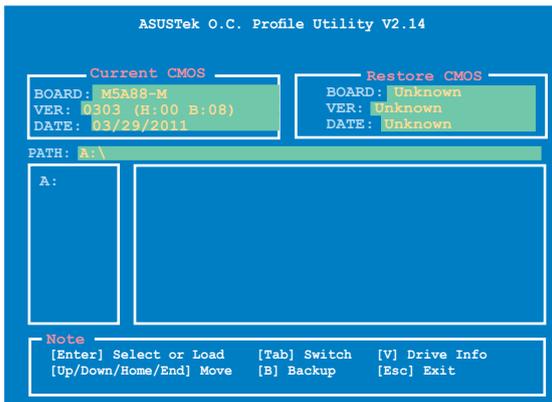
```
                    ASUSTek O.C. Profile Utility V2.14

          ┌──── Current CMOS ────┐      ┌──── Restore CMOS ────┐
          BOARD: M5A88-M                 BOARD: Unknown
          VER: 0303 (H:00 B:08)          VER: Unknown
          DATE: 03/29/2011               DATE: Unknown

          PATH: A:\

          ┌─ A: ─┐  ┌──────────────────────────────────┐
          │  A:  │  │                                  │
          │      │  │                                  │
          │      │  │                                  │
          │      │  │                                  │
          │      │  │                                  │
          │      │  │                                  │
          └──────┘  └──────────────────────────────────┘

          ┌─ Note ──────────────────────────────────────┐
          │  [Enter] Select or Load    [Tab] Switch    [V] Drive Info │
          │  [Up/Down/Home/End] Move   [B] Backup       [Esc] Exit    │
          └──────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

•   This function can support devices such as a USB flash disk with FAT 32/16 format and single partition only.

•   DO NOT shut down or reset the system while updating the BIOS to prevent the system boot failure!

•   We recommend that you update the BIOS file only coming from the same memory/CPU configuration and BIOS version.

•   Only the CMO file can be loaded.

3.10 Exit menu

The Exit menu items allow you to load the optimal or failsafe default values for the BIOS items, and save or discard your changes to the BIOS items.

```
                         M5A88-M BIOS Setup                    Version 0303
  Main     Ai Tweaker     Advanced     Power     Boot     Tools    Exit
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────┬──────────────────────────────┐
│  Exit Options                                │   Exit system setup          │
│                                              │   after saving the           │
│  Exit & Save Changes                         │   changes.                   │
│  Exit & Discard Changes                      │                              │
│  Discard Changes                             │   F10 key can be used        │
│                                              │   for this operation.        │
│  Load Setup Defaults                         │                              │
│                                              │                              │
│                                              │                              │
│                                              │                              │
│                                              │   ←→   Select Screen         │
│                                              │   ↑↓   Select Item           │
│                                              │   Enter Go to Sub Screen     │
│                                              │   F1    General Help         │
│                                              │   F10   Save and Exit        │
│                                              │   ESC   Exit                 │
├─────────────────────────────────────────────┴──────────────────────────────┤
│       v02.61 (C)Copyright 1985-2011, American Megatrends, Inc.               │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

> Pressing <Esc> does not immediately exit this menu. Select one of the options from this menu or <F10> from the legend bar to exit.

Exit & Save Changes

Once you are finished making your selections, choose this option from the Exit menu to ensure the values you selected are saved to the CMOS RAM. An onboard backup battery sustains the CMOS RAM so it stays on even when the PC is turned off. When you select this option, a confirmation window appears. Select **Ok** to save changes and exit.

> If you attempt to exit the Setup program without saving your changes, the program prompts you with a message asking if you want to save your changes before exiting. Press <Enter> to save the changes while exiting.

Exit & Discard Changes

Select this option only if you do not want to save the changes that you made to the Setup program. If you made changes to fields other than System Date, System Time, and Password, the BIOS asks for a confirmation before exiting.

Discard Changes

This option allows you to discard the selections you made and restore the previously saved values. After selecting this option, a confirmation appears. Select **Ok** to discard any changes and load the previously saved values.

Load Setup Defaults

This option allows you to load the default values for each of the parameters on the Setup menus. When you select this option or if you press <F5>, a confirmation window appears. Select **Ok** to load default values. Select **Exit & Save Changes** or make other changes before saving the values to the non-volatile RAM.

Chapter 4

4.1 Installing an operating system

This motherboard supports Windows® XP / 64-bit XP/ Vista / 64-bit Vista / 7 / 64-bit 7 operating systems (OS). Always install the latest OS version and corresponding updates to maximize the features of your hardware.

- Motherboard settings and hardware options vary. Use the setup procedures presented in this chapter for reference only. Refer to your OS documentation for detailed information.
- Ensure that you install the Windows® XP Service Pack 3 or later versions before installing the drivers for better compatibility and system stability.

4.2 Support DVD information

The support DVD that comes with the motherboard package contains the drivers, software applications, and utilities that you can install to avail all motherboard features.

The contents of the support DVD are subject to change at any time without notice. Visit the ASUS website at www.asus.com for updates.

4.2.1 Running the support DVD

Place the support DVD into the optical drive. The DVD automatically displays the Highlights menu if Autorun is enabled in your computer. Click each menu tab and select the items you want to install.

The Drivers menu shows the available device drivers if the system detects installed devices. Install the necessary drivers to use the devices.

The Make Disk menu contains items to create the RAID/AHCI driver disk.

The Manual menu contains the list of supplementary user manuals. Click an item to open the folder of the user manual.

The Utilities menu shows the applications and other software that the motherboard supports.

Click an item to install

Click the Highlights tab to display the software information

Click the Contact tab to display the ASUS contact information.

Click an icon to display DVD/motherboard information

Click to obtain the corresponding software manuals

If Autorun is NOT enabled in your computer, browse the contents of the support DVD to locate the file ASSETUP.EXE from the BIN folder. Double-click the ASSETUP.EXE to run the DVD.

4.2.2   Obtaining the software manuals

The software manuals are included in the support DVD. Follow the instructions below to get the necessary software manuals.

The software manual files are in Portable Document Format (PDF). Install the Adobe® Acrobat® Reader from the Utilities menu before opening the files.

1.   Click the **Manual** tab. Click **ASUS Motherboard Utility Guide** from the manual list on the left.

2.   The **Manual** folder of the support DVD appears. Double-click the folder of your selected software.
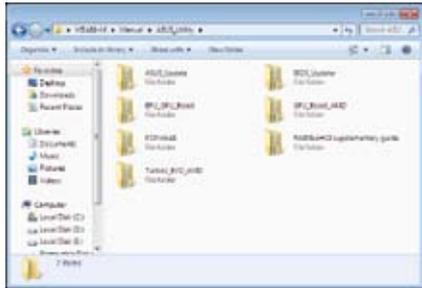
3.   Some software manuals are provided in different languages. Double-click the language to show the software manual.
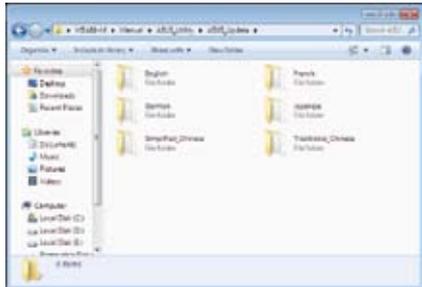
The screenshots in this section are for reference only. The actual software manuals containing in the support DVD vary by models.

4.3 Software information

Most of the applications in the support DVD have wizards that will conveniently guide you through the installation. View the online help or readme file that came with the software application for more information.

4.3.1 ASUS PC Probe II

PC Probe II is a utility that monitors the computer's vital components, and detects and alerts you of any problem with these components. PC Probe II senses fan rotations, CPU temperature, and system voltages, among others. Because PC Probe II is software-based, you can start monitoring your computer the moment you turn it on. With this utility, you are assured that your computer is always at a healthy operating condition.

Launching PC Probe II

1. Install PC Probe II from the motherboard support DVD.

2. Launch PC Probe II by clicking **Start > All Programs > ASUS > PC Probe II > PC Probe II v1.xx.xx**. The PC Probe II main window appears.

3. The PC Probe II icon appears in the Windows® notification area. Click this icon to close or restore the application.

PC Probe II main window

Button	Function
CONFIG	Opens the Configuration window
	Opens the Report window
DMI	Opens the Desktop Management Interface window
PCI	Opens the Peripheral Component Interconnect window
WMI	Opens the Windows Management Instrumentation window
USAGE	Opens the hard disk drive, memory, CPU usage window
◁▷	Shows/Hides the Preference section
⊖	Minimizes the application
⊗	Closes the application

Refer to the software manual in the support DVD or visit the ASUS website at www.asus.com for detailed software configuration.

4.3.2   Cool 'n' Quiet!™ Technology

The motherboard supports the AMD Cool 'n' Quiet!™ Technology that dynamically and automatically change the CPU speed, voltage, and amount of power depending on the task the CPU performs.

Enabling Cool 'n' Quiet!™ Technology

1.   Turn on the system and enter BIOS by pressing the <Del> key during the Power On Self-Tests (POST).

2.   Go to **Advanced > CPU Configuration > Cool'n'Quiet** and set it to [Enabled]. See section **3.6 Advanced menu**.

3.   Save your changes and exit BIOS Setup.

4.   Reboot your computer and set your Power Option Properties depending on your operating system.

Launching the Cool 'n' Quiet!™ software

1.   Install Cool 'n' Quiet!™ software from the motherboard support DVD.

2.   Click **Start > All Programs > ASUS > Cool & Quiet > Cool & Quiet**.

3.   The Cool 'n' Quiet!™ technology screen appears and displays the current CPU Frequency and CPU Voltage.
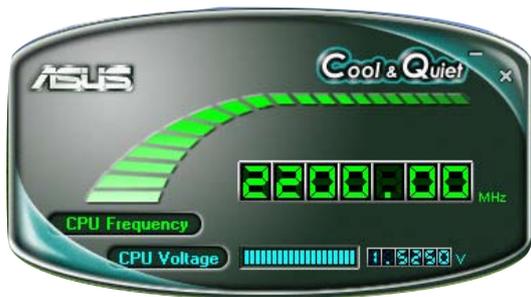
Refer to the software manual in the support DVD or visit the ASUS website at www.asus.com for detailed software configuration.

4.3.3   ASUS AI Suite

ASUS AI Suite allows you to launch several ASUS utilities easily.

Launching AI Suite

1.   Install AI Suite from the motherboard support DVD.

2.   Launch AI Suite by clicking **Start** > **All Programs** > **ASUS** > **AI Suite** > **AI Suite v1.xx. xx**. The AI Suite main window appears.

3.   The AI Suite icon [icon] appears in the Windows® notification area. If you minimize the application main window, click this icon to restore the window.

Using AI Suite

Click each utility button to launch the utility, or click the **Normal** button to restore system default settings.

Click to open the monitor window that displays system information such as CPU temperature, CPU voltage, fan speed, and CPU/FSB frequency

Click to restore default settings

Click to launch each utility

🖉
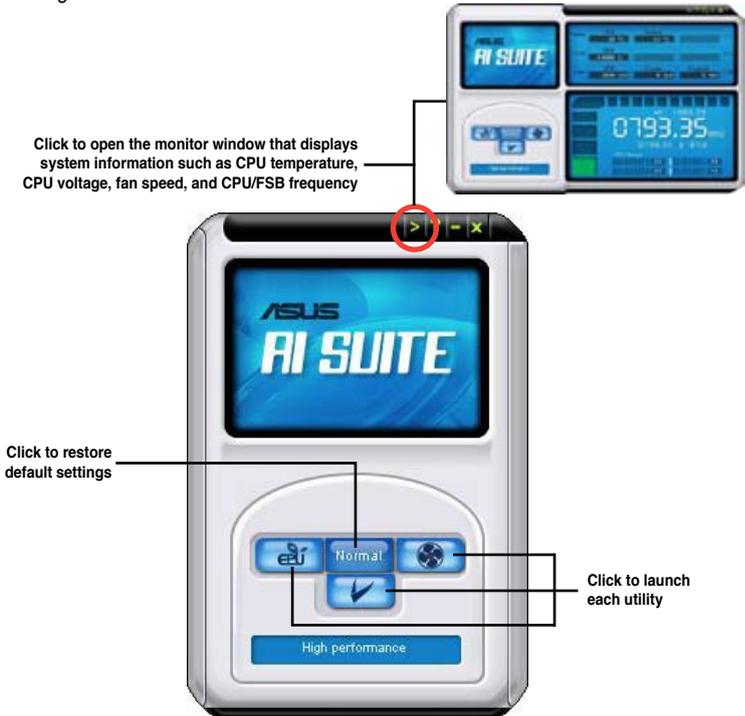
・   The screenshots in this section are for reference only. The actual utility buttons vary by models.

・   Refer to the software manual in the support DVD or visit the ASUS website at www.asus.com for detailed software configuration.

Chapter 4

4.3.4   ASUS Fan Xpert

Asus Fan Xpert allows you to adjust the CPU fan speed according to different ambient temperature and your PC's system loading. The various fan profiles offer flexible controls of CPU fan speed to achieve a quiet and cool system environment.

Launching Fan Xpert

After installing AI Suite from the motherboard support DVD, launch Fan Xpert by double-clicking the **AI Suite** tray icon and then clicking the **Fan Xpert** button [icon] on the AI Suite main window.

Using Fan Xpert

Click to select a fan type   **Click to select a fan profile**

Click to cancel the settings and exit the Fan Xpert utility

Displays the current CPU/MB temperature and the fan speeds   **Click to apply the settings**
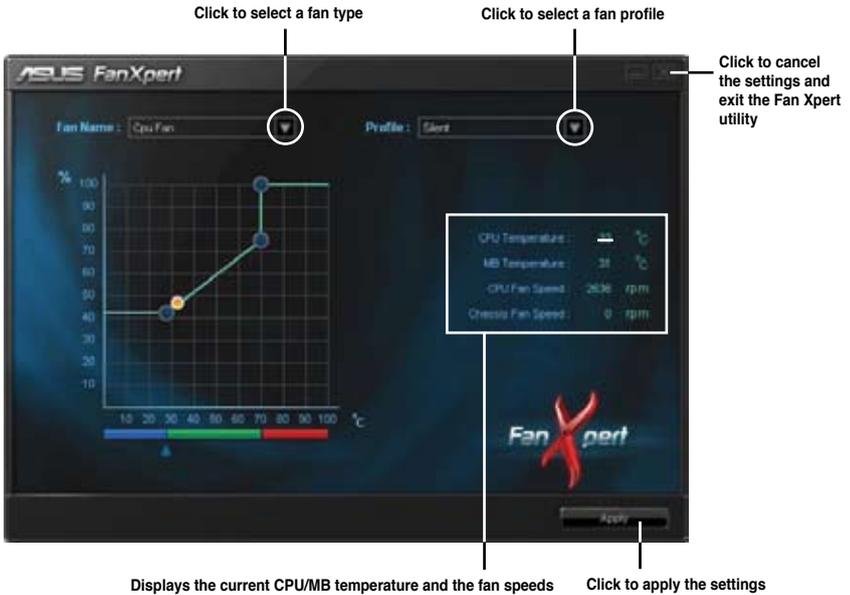
Fan profiles

- **Disable:** Select this mode to disable the **Fan Xpert** function.
- **Performance:** This mode boosts the fan to achieve maximal fan speed for the best cooling effect
- **Optimal:** This mode adjusts the CPU fan speed with the ambient temperature.
- **Silent:** This mode minimizes fan speed for quiet fan operation.
- **Manual:** This mode allows you to change the CPU fan profile under certain limitation.

4.3.5   ASUS EPU

ASUS EPU is an energy-efficient tool that provides you with a total system power-saving solution. It detects the current computer loading and intelligently adjusts the power in real-time. With auto phase switching for components, the EPU automatically provides the most appropriate power usage via intelligent acceleration and overclocking.

ASUS EPU provides you with these modes to choose from:

•   **Auto Mode**   •   **Max. Power Saving Mode**

•   **High Performance Mode**

When you select **Auto Mode**, the system shifts modes automatically according to the current system status. You can also configure advanced settings for each mode.

Launching EPU

After installing EPU from the motherboard support DVD, double-click the EPU tray icon to launch the program.

EPU main menu

GPU energy saving status
GPU Boost is available only when you install the GPU Boost driver from the support DVD.

Displays the following message if no VGA power saving engine is detected.

•   EPU supports GPU power saving solution when you install the GPU Boost driver from the support DVD and set EPU to **Auto** or M**aximum Power Saving Mode**.

•   Refer to the software manual in the support DVD or visit the ASUS website at www.asus.com for detailed software configuration.

4.3.6   Audio configurations

The Realtek® audio CODEC provides 8-channel audio capability to deliver the ultimate audio experience on your computer. The software provides Jack-Detection function, S/PDIF Out support, and interrupt capability. The CODEC also includes the Realtek® proprietary UAJ® (Universal Audio Jack) technology for all audio ports, eliminating cable connection errors and giving users plug and play convenience.

Follow the installation wizard to install the Realtek® Audio Driver from the support CD/DVD that came with the motherboard package.

If the Realtek audio software is correctly installed, you will find the **Realtek HD Audio Manager** icon on the taskbar. Double-click on the icon to display the Realtek HD Audio Manager.

Realtek HD Audio Manager

A.   Realtek HD Audio Manager for Windows® Vista / 7

B.   Realtek HD Audio Manager for Windows XP

4.3.7 ASUS GPU Boost

ASUS GPU Boost allows you to overclock the integrated GPU in WIndows® environment and takes effect in real-time without exiting and rebooting the OS.

> Refer to the CPU documentation before adjusting the integrated GPU voltage settings. Setting a high voltage may damage the integrated GPU permanently, and setting a low voltage may make the system unstable.

> • ASUS GPU Boost is available only when you install the GPU Boost driver from the motherboard support DVD.
>
> • For system stability, all changes made in ASUS GPU Boost will not be saved to BIOS settings and will not be kept on the next system boot. Use the **Save Profile** function to save your customized overclocking settings and manually load the profile after Windows starts.
>
> • When GPU Boost is enabled, ASUS EPU will be set to **High Performance** mode automatically.

To launch ASUS GPU Boost

1. Install the ASUS TurboV EVO utility from the motherboard support DVD.
2. Install the ASUS GPU Boost driver from the motherboard support DVD.
3. Click **start** > **All Programs** > **ASUS** > **TurboV EVO** > **TurboV EVO**.
4. Click **More Settings** from the TurboV EVO main screen, and then click **GPU Boost**.

Target values

Start-up values

Adjustment sliders

Undoes all changes without applying

Click to restore all start-up settings   Applies all changes immediately

> You can adjust the GPU Engine Clock and GPU Voltage simultaneously in the TurboV **Easy Mode**.

4.3.8 Turbo Unlocker

Specially-designed for AMD® Black Edition processors, the ASUS exclusive Turbo Unlocker allows dynamic and automatic CPU core adjustments based on system load. Follow the instructions below to enable Turbo Unlocker and unleash the full power of your system.

1.	Install ASUS TurboV EVO from the support DVD that came with the motherboard package.

2.	In the ASUS TurboV EVO window, click **More Settings**, and then click **CPU Ratio**.

3.	Turbo Unlocker is set to OFF by default, allowing to you adjust the ratio of individual CPU core. Click **ON** to enable Turbo Unlocker.

4.	Read through the warning message and click **Yes** to continue.

5.	Turbo Unlocker is now enabled and will dynamically and automatically adjust CPU core ratios based on system load.

6.	The Turbo Unlocker monitor on the bottom-right corner of the Windows desktop shows current CPU ratio in real-time. You can click Turbo Unlocker on the bottom of the monitor to enable or disable Turbo Unlocker at any time.

4.4 ASUS Unique Overclocking Utility— TurboV EVO

ASUS TurboV EVO introduces **TurboV, CPU Level UP** and **Turbo Key**—three powerful tools that allow you to overclock your system effectively. Install ASUS TurboV EVO from the support DVD that came with the motherboard package.

If the TurboV EVO is correctly installed, you will find the **TurboV EVO** icon on the Windows® notification area. Click on the icon to display the TurboV EVO control panel.
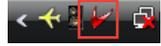
> • Refer to the software manual in the support DVD or visit the ASUS website at www.asus.com for detailed software configuration.
>
> • When TurboV EVO is enabled, ASUS EPU will be set to **High Performance** mode automatically.

4.4.1 Using ASUS TurboV

ASUS TurboV allow you to overclock the CPU frequency, CPU voltage, CPU/NB voltage, DRAM voltage, and the integrated GPU voltage/frequency in Windows® environment and takes effect in real-time.

> Refer to the CPU documentation before adjusting CPU voltage settings. Setting a high voltage may damage the CPU permanently, and setting a low voltage may make the system unstable.

> For system stability, all changes made in ASUS TurboV (except for **Auto Tuning**) will not be saved to BIOS settings and will not be kept on the next system boot. Use the **Save Profile** function to save your customized overclocking settings and manually load the profile after Windows starts.

Easy Mode

Manual Mode — Auto Tuning Mode

Load profile

Target values — Save the current settings as a new profile

Start-up values

Advanced GPU settings — Adjustment sliders

Advanced CPU and chipset voltage settings — CPU ratio setting for each CPU core

Click to show / hide more settings — Undoes all changes without applying

Click to restore all start-up settings   Applies all changes immediately

> • GPU Boost is available only when you install the GPU Boost driver from the motherboard support DVD.
>
> • For advanced overclock ability, adjust first the BIOS items, and then proceed more detailed adjustments using TurboV.

4.4.2 Using ASUS TurboV Auto Tuning Mode

The Auto Tuning Mode allows smart auto-overclocking. Follow the instructions below to let TurboV EVO detect and overclock your system.

1. Click the **Auto Tuning** tab and then click **Start**. You can also click **More Settings** first to configure more overclocking parameters before starting auto-overclocking.

2. Read through the warning messages and click **Yes** to start auto-overclocking.

3. TurboV automatically overclocks the CPU, saves BIOS settings and restarts the system. After re-entering Windows, a message appears indicating auto tuning success. Click **OK** to exit.

• After pressing **Start**, the system starts performance tuning and may reboot 2 to 3 times. An error message indicating incorrect system shut down may appear after system reboot. Please ignore the message and continue the tuning process. In addition, please do not operate or manually restart the computer during the tuning process.

• The auto-tuned system performance varies with the installed devices such as the CPU and DRAM.

• The auto-tuning function overclocks your system settings, including the frequency and voltage of the CPU and DRAM. Installation of advanced cooling systems is recommended.

• The auto-tuned settings will be stored in system BIOS and will take effect after the system automatically reboots.

4.4.3   Using CPU Level UP

CPU Level UP allows you to upgrade your CPU at no additional cost. Pick a CPU level you want to overclock to, and CPU Level UP will do the rest for you.

1.   Click the **CPU Level UP** tab, pick a CPU level you want to overclock to by adjusting the slider, and then click **Apply**.

> The CPU options vary depending on the CPU model you install on the motherboard.

2.   Read through the warning messages and click **Yes** to start upgrading the CPU and restart the system.

4.4.4   Using ASUS Turbo Key

ASUS Turbo Key allows the user to set a group of hotkeys into physical overclocking buttons. After the easy setup, Turbo Key can boost performances without interrupting ongoing work or games—with just one touch!

Configuring ASUS Turbo Key

1.   Click the **Turbo Key** tab.
2.   Select your desired hotkey combination.
3.   You can decide the performance boost level by selecting **Turbo Key Profile**. You can also load personal profiles saved in the TurboV tab.
4.   Choose whether to show Turbo Key OSD and status.
5.   Click **Apply** to save Turbo Key settings.

> You have to press the assigned hotkeys to use the Turbo Key function.

Chapter 4

4.5   RAID configurations

The motherboard comes with the AMD® SB850 chipset that allows you to configure Serial ATA hard disk drives as RAID sets. The motherboard supports the following RAID configurations: RAID 0, RAID 1, RAID 5 and RAID 10.

> • You must install Windows® XP Service Pack 2 or later versions before using Serial ATA hard disk drives. The Serial ATA RAID feature is available only if you are using Windows® XP SP2 or later versions.
>
> • Due to Windows® XP / Vista / 7 limitation, a RAID array with the total capacity over 2TB cannot be set as a boot disk. A RAID array over 2TB can only be set as a data disk only.
>
> • If you want to install a Windows® operating system to a hard disk drive included in a RAID set, you have to create a RAID driver disk and load the RAID driver during OS installation. Refer to section **4.6 Creating a RAID driver disk** for details.

4.5.1   RAID definitions

RAID 0 (Data striping) optimizes two identical hard disk drives to read and write data in parallel, interleaved stacks. Two hard disks perform the same work as a single drive but at a sustained data transfer rate, double that of a single disk alone, thus improving data access and storage. Use of two new identical hard disk drives is required for this setup.

RAID 1 (Data mirroring) copies and maintains an identical image of data from one drive to a second drive. If one drive fails, the disk array management software directs all applications to the surviving drive as it contains a complete copy of the data in the other drive. This RAID configuration provides data protection and increases fault tolerance to the entire system. Use two new drives or use an existing drive and a new drive for this setup. The new drive must be of the same size or larger than the existing drive.

RAID 5 stripes both data and parity information across three or more hard disk drives. Among the advantages of RAID 5 configuration include better HDD performance, fault tolerance, and higher storage capacity. The RAID 5 configuration is best suited for transaction processing, relational database applications, enterprise resource planning, and other business systems. Use a minimum of three identical hard disk drives for this setup.

RAID 10 is data striping and data mirroring combined without parity (redundancy data) having to be calculated and written. With the RAID 10 configuration you get all the benefits of both RAID 0 and RAID 1 configurations. Use four new hard disk drives or use an existing drive and three new drives for this setup.

4.5.2   Installing Serial ATA hard disks

The motherboard supports Serial ATA hard disk drives. For optimal performance, install identical drives of the same model and capacity when creating a disk array.

To install the SATA hard disks for a RAID configuration:

1.   Install the SATA hard disks into the drive bays.
2.   Connect the SATA signal cables.
3.   Connect a SATA power cable to the power connector on each drive.

4.5.3   Setting the RAID item in BIOS

You must enable the RAID function in the BIOS Setup before creating RAID volume(s) using SATA HDDs. To do this:

1.   Enter the BIOS Setup during POST.
2.   Go to the **Main** menu > **SATA Configuration**, and then press **<Enter>**.
3.   Set the type of the SATA connectors to **[RAID]**.
4.   Save your changes, and then exit the BIOS Setup.

See section **3.4.2 SATA Configuration** for details.

4.5.4   AMD® Option ROM Utility

To enter the AMD® Option ROM utility:

1.   Boot up your computer.
2.   During POST, press <Ctrl> + <F> to display the utility main menu.

```
Option ROM Utility (c) 2009 Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.
┌─────────────────────────────┤ Main Menu ├─────────────────────────────┐
│                                                                        │
│                                                                        │
│            View Drive Assignments  .......[ 1 ]                        │
│                                                                        │
│            LD View / LD Define Menu  ......[ 2 ]                       │
│                                                                        │
│            Delete LD Menu  ..............[ 3 ]                         │
│                                                                        │
│            Controller Configuration  ......[ 4 ]                       │
│                                                                        │
│                                                                        │
│                                                                        │
│                                                                        │
│                                                                        │
│                                                                        │
│                                                                        │
└────────────────────────────┤ Keys Available ├─────────────────────────┘
┌────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                                                                          │
│  Press 1..4 to Select Option                              [ESC] Exit     │
└────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```
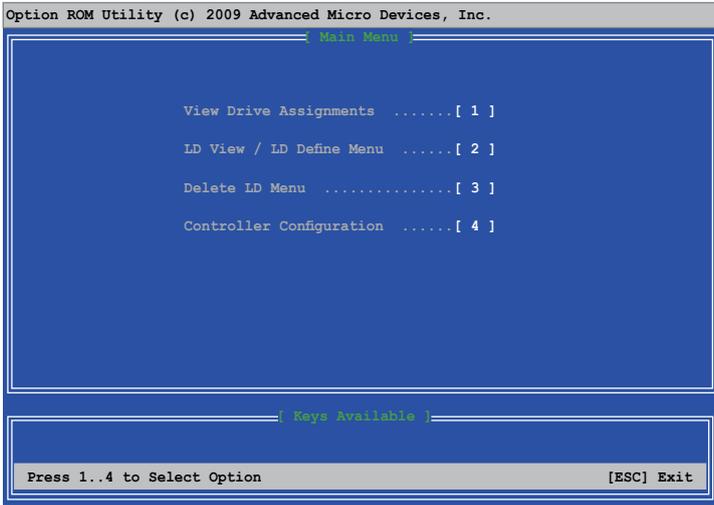
The Main Menu allows you to select an operation to perform. The Main Menu options include:

•   **View Drive Assignments:** shows the status of the hard disk drives.
•   **LD View / LD Define Menu:** displays the existing RAID set information / creates a
     RAID 0, RAID 1, RAID 5 or RAID 10 configuration.
•   **Delete LD Menu:** deletes a selected RAID set and partition.
•   **Controller Configuration:** shows the system resources configuration.

Press <1>, <2>, <3>, or <4> to enter the option you need; press <ESC> to exit the utility.

> The RAID BIOS setup screens shown in this section are for reference only, and may not
> exactly match the items on your screen.

> To create a RAID volume using more than four hard disk drives, ensure that the SATA
> connectors 5/6 are set to [RAID] mode.

Creating a RAID volume

To create a RAID volume:

1. In the Main Menu, press <2> to enter the **LD View / LD Define Menu** function.

2. Press <Ctrl> + <C>, and the following screen appears.

```
Option ROM Utility (c) 2009 Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.
======================= [ LD Define Menu ] =======================

  LD No   LD Name                    RAID Mode   Drv

  LD  1   Logical Drive 1            RAID 0         2

  Strip Block          64 KB         Fast Init     ON
  Gigabyte Boundary    ON            Cache Mode    WriteThru

================== [ Drives Assignments ] ==================
  Port:ID  Drive Model      Capabilities    Capacity(GB)    Assignment
   01:00   xxxxxxxxx        xxxxxxx         xxxxxx             Y
   02:00   xxxxxxxxx        xxxxxxx         xxxxxx             Y
   03:00   xxxxxxxxx        xxxxxxx         xxxxxx             N
   04:00   xxxxxxxxx        xxxxxxx         xxxxxx             N




==================== [ Keys Available ] ====================
  [↑] Up   [↓] Down   [PaUp/PaDn] Switch page   [Space] Change Option
```

3. Move to the **RAID Mode** item and press <Space> to select a RAID mode to create.

4. Move to the **Assignment** item by using the down arrow key and set **Y** to select the hard disk drives you want to include in the RAID set.

5. Press <Ctrl> + <Y> to save the setting.

6. The utility prompts the following message. Press <Ctrl> + <Y> to input the LD name.

```
Please press Ctrl-Y key to input the LD Name
or press any key to exit.
If you do not input any LD name, the default LD
name will be used.
```

7. Eenter an LD name, and then press any key to continue.

```
Enter the LD name here:
```

8. Press <Ctrl> + <Y> to erase the MBR, or you may press any key to abort the settings.

```
Fast Initialization Option has been selected
It will erase the MBR data of the disks.
<Press Ctrl-Y Key if you are sure to erase it>
<Press any other key to ignore this option>
```

9. Press <Ctrl> + <Y> to enter the screen to modify the array capacity, or press any key to use the maximum capacity.

Chapter 4

Deleting a RAID configuration

⚠ Take caution when deleting a RAID volume. You will lose all data on the hard disk drives when you delete a RAID volume.

To delete a RAID volume:

1. In the Main Menu, press <3> to enter the **Delete LD** function.

2. Select the RAID item you want to delete and press <Del> or <Alt> + <D>.

```
Option ROM Utility (c) 2009 Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.
                        =[ Delete LD Menu ]=
   LD No       RAID Mode       Drv      Capacity(GB)       Status

   LD  1        RAID 0          2             xxxxxx       Functional




                        == [ Keys Available ] ==
   [↑] Up   [↓] Down   [PaUp/PaDn] Switch page   [Del/Alt+D] Delete LD
```

3. The utility prompts the following messages:

```
Press Ctrl-Y to delte the data in the disk!
or press any other key to abort...
```

Press <Ctrl> + <Y> to delete the RAID volume.

Dispalying a RAID set information

To display a RAID set information:

1. In the Main Menu, press <2> to enter the "LD View / LD Define Menu" function.

2. Select a RAID item and press <Enter> to display its information.

```
Option ROM Utility (c) 2009 Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.
                        =[ View LD Defination Menu ] =
   LD No   LD Name                    RAID Mode    Drv   Capacity(GB)

   LD  1   xxxxx                        RAID 0      2        157.99

   Strip Block          64 KB         Cache Mode    WriteThru


                        == [ Drives Assignments ] ==
   Port:ID   Drive Model        Capabilities    Capacity(GB)
    01:00   xxxxxxxxx             xxxxxxx          xxxxxx
    02:00   xxxxxxxxx             xxxxxxx          xxxxxx




                    Any Key To Continue.......
```

Chapter 4

4.6 Creating a RAID driver disk

A floppy disk with the RAID driver is required when installing Windows® XP operating system on a hard disk drive that is included in a RAID set. For Windows® Vista or later operating systems, use either a USB flash drive with the RAID driver or the support DVD.

> • **The motherboard does not provide a floppy drive connector**. You have to use a USB floppy disk drive when creating a SATA RAID driver disk.
>
> • Windows® XP may not recognize the USB floppy disk drive due to Windows® XP limitation. To work around this OS limitation, refer to section **4.6.4 Using a USB floppy disk drive**.

4.6.1 Creating a RAID driver disk without entering the OS

To create a RAID driver disk without entering the OS

1. Boot your computer.
2. Press <Del> during POST to enter the BIOS setup utility.
3. Set the optical drive as the primary boot device.
4. Insert the support DVD into the optical drive.
5. Save changes and exit BIOS.
6. When the **Make Disk** menu appears, press <1> to create a RAID driver disk.
7. Insert a formatted floppy disk into the USB floppy disk drive, then press <Enter>.
8. Follow the succeeding screen instructions to complete the process.

4.6.2 Creating a RAID driver disk in Windows®

To create a RAID driver disk in Windows®:

1. Start Windows®.
2. Plug the USB floppy disk drive and insert a floppy disk.
3. Place the motherboard support DVD into the optical drive.
4. Go to the **Make Disk** menu, and then click **AMD AHCI/RAID 32/64bit xxxx Driver** to create a RAID driver disk.
5. Select USB floppy disk drive as the destination disk.
6. Follow the succeeding screen instructions to complete the process.

> Write-protect the floppy disk to avoid a computer virus infection.

4.6.3 Installing the RAID driver during Windows® OS installation

> If you use a SATA optical drive to run the OS installation disk, we strongly recommend that you install the optical dirve to the SATA connectors 5/6 and set them to [IDE] mode.

To install the RAID driver for Windows® XP

1. During the OS installation, the system prompts you to press the F6 key to install third-party SCSI or RAID driver.
2. Press <F6>, and then insert the floppy disk with RAID driver into the USB floppy disk drive.

3.   When prompted to select the SCSI adapter to install, select the RAID driver for the
      corresponding OS version.

4.   Follow the succeeding screen instructions to complete the installation.

To install the RAID driver for Windows® Vista or later OS

1.   During the OS installation, click L**oad Driver** to allow you to select the installation
      media containing the RAID driver.

2.   Insert the USB flash drive with RAID driver into the USB port or the support DVD into
      the optical drive, and then click **Browse**.

3.   Click the name of the device you've inserted, go to **Drivers** > **RAID**, and then select
      the RAID driver for the corresponding OS version. Click **OK**.

4.   Follow the succeeding screen instructions to complete the installation.

> Before loading the RAID driver from a USB flash drive, you have to use another computer
> to copy the RAID driver from the support DVD to the USB flash drive.

4.6.4   Using a USB floppy disk drive

Due to OS limitation, Windows® XP may not recognize the USB floppy disk drive when you
install the RAID driver from a floppy disk during the OS installation.

To solve this issue, add the USB floppy disk drive's Vendor ID (VID) and Product ID (PID) to
the floppy disk containing the RAID driver. Refer to the steps below:

1.   Using another computer, plug the USB floppy disk drive, and insert the floppy disk
      containing the RAID driver.

2.   Right-click **My Computer** on the
      Windows® desktop or **start** menu,
      and then select **Manage** from the
      pop-up window.

                                                          or

3.   Select **Device Manager**. From the
      Universal Serial Bus controllers,
      right-click **xxxxxx USB Floppy**, and
   then select **Properties** from the pop-up
   window.
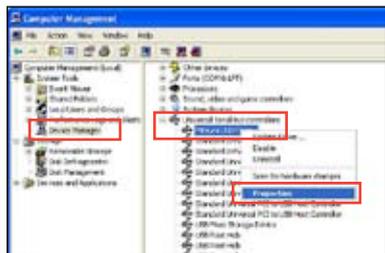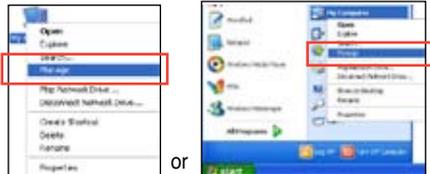
> The name of the USB floppy disk
> drive varies with different vendors.

4.   Click **Details** tab. The Vendor ID (VID)
      and Product ID (PID) are displayed.
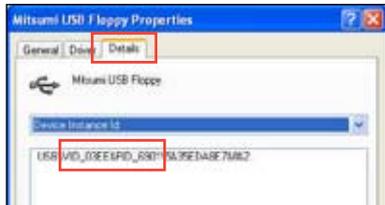
5. Browse the contents of the RAID driver disk to locate the file **txtsetup.oem**.

6. Double-click the file. A window appears, allowing you to select the program for opening the oem file.
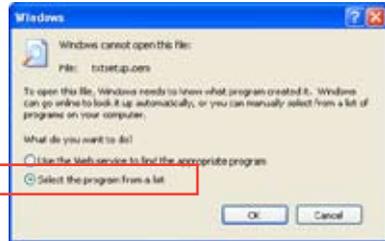
7. Use Notepad to open the file.

8. Find the **[HardwareIds.SCSI.Napa_i386_ahci8086]** and **[HardwareIds.SCSI.Napa_amd64_ahci]** sections in the **txtsetup.oem** file.

9. Type the following line to the bottom of the two sections:
   id = "USB\VID_xxxx&PID_xxxx", "usbstor"

```
[HardwareIds.SCSI.Napa_i386_ahci8086]
id= "PCI\VEN_1002&DEV_4392&CC_0104","ahcix86"
id= "PCI\VEN_1002&DEV_4391&CC_0106","ahcix86"
id= "PCI\VEN_1002&DEV_4393&CC_0104","ahcix86"
id= "USB\VID_03EE&PID_6901", "usbstor"

[HardwareIds.SCSI.Napa_amd64_ahci]
id= "PCI\VEN_1002&DEV_4392&CC_0104","ahcix64"
id= "PCI\VEN_1002&DEV_4391&CC_0106","ahcix64"
id= "PCI\VEN_1002&DEV_4393&CC_0104","ahcix64"
id= "USB\VID_03EE&PID_6901", "usbstor"
```

Add the same line to both sections.

The VID and PID vary with different vendors.

10. Save and exit the file.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4

ATI® Hybrid CrossFireX™

The motherboard supports the ATI® Hybrid CrossFireX™ technology that allows you to install multi-graphics processing units (GPU) CrossFireX cards.

System requirements

Before using ATI Hybrid CrossFireX, ensure that your system meets the following basic requirements:

- Memory capacity: Minimum 1GB
- CPU: AM3+ / AM3
- On-board graphics card RAM: 256MB

> Visit the ATI Game website at http://game.amd.com for the latest certified graphics card and the supported 3D application list.

Before you proceed

Configure the BIOS settings for the graphics card to support ATI Hybrid CrossFireX.

To set Internal Graphics:

1. Press <Del> during the Power-On-Self-Test (POST) to enter the BIOS Setup utility.
2. Go to **Advanced > Chipset > Internal Graphics**, set **UMA Frame Buffer Size** to [256M] or above, and set **Surround View** to [Enabled].

```
                          M5A88-M BIOS Setup              Version 0205
                       Advanced

  Internal Graphics                                     Options
  Primary Video Controller      [GFX0-GPP-IGFX-PCI]
  Internal Graphics Mode        [UMA]               GFX0-GPP-IGFX-PCI
    UMA Frame Buffer Size       [256MB]             GPP-GFX0-IGFX-PCI
  Surround View                 [Enabled]           PCI-GFX0-GPP-IGFX
  Frame Buffer Location         [Above 4G]          IGFX-GFX0-GPP-PCI
  AMD HDMI Audio                [Enabled]
```
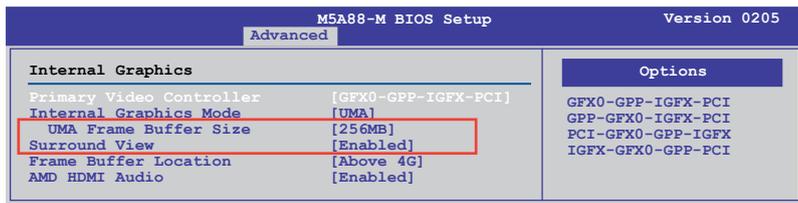
3. Press <F10> to save the changes and exit BIOS settings. Select **OK** to confirm.

Installing AMD Chipset Driver

To install the driver that supports Hybrid CrossFireX technology:

1.   Insert the Support DVD that comes with your motherboard into the optical drive. The DVD automatically displays the Highlights menu if Autorun is enabled in your computer.

> If Autorun is NOT enabled in your computer, browse the contents of the support DVD to locate the file ASSETUP.EXE from the BIN folder. Double-click the ASSETUP.EXE to run the DVD.

2.   From the Drivers menu, click **AMD Chipset Driver** to install it. Follow the onscreen instructions to finish the installation.

3.   Restart your computer after the installation is completed.

4.   When the system restarts, wait for a few seconds for the driver to load automatically.

Using the ATI CATALYST® Control Center

Using an add-on graphics card

1.   Install a graphics card onto your motherboard. Refer to the User Guide that comes with your graphics card for details.

2.   Right-click on the Windows® desktop, then click **ATI CATALYST(R) Control Center** from the shortcut menu. The ATI CATALYST Control Center screen appears.

3.   Click **Graphics Settings** > **CrossFire™**, then select the **Enable CrossFire™** check box. When a confirmation message pops up, click **Yes**. The screen blacks out for about one minute.

4.   Click **OK**. The add-on graphics card is set to be the main monitor.

Using the onboard graphics card

1. Right-click on the Windows® desktop, and then click **ATI CATALYST(R) Control Center** from the shortcut menu. The ATI CATALYST Control Center screen appears.

2. Click **Graphics Settings > CrossFire™**, then clear the **Enable CrossFire™** check box. When a confirmation message pops up, click **Yes**. The screen blacks out for about one minute.

3. Click **OK**.

4. Right-click on the Windows® desktop, then click **Personalize** from the shortcut menu.

5. Click **Display Settings**. Select **[Default Monitor] on ATI Radeon HD 4250 Graphics**, then select the check boxes of **This is my main monitor** and **Extend the desktop onto this monitor**. Click **OK**, and then **Yes** from the confirmation window.

6. Restart the system. Right-click on the Windows® desktop, then click **ATI CATALYST(R) Control Center** from the shortcut menu. The ATI CATALYST Control Center screen appears.

7. Click **Graphics Settings** > **CrossFire™**, then select the **Enable CrossFire™** check box. When a confirmation pops up, click **Yes**. The screen blacks out for about one minute.

8. Click **OK**. The onboard graphics card is set to be the main monitor.

If you are using both an add-on and the on-board graphics cards at same time and want to set the onboard graphics card as your main monitor, follow the instructions on the next page.

1. Follow steps 1 to 3 on **Using the onboard graphics card**.

2. From the ATI CATALYST(R) Control Center screen, click **Display Manager** > **Graphics Adapter**. Select **ATI Radeon HD 4250 Graphics [Gabbs, G HW173]**. Click **OK**, and then **Yes** from the confirmation window.

3. Follow steps 6 to step 8 on **Using the onboard graphics card** to complete the process of setting up the onboard graphics card as your main monitor.

ASUS contact information

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Online support	support.asus.com

* EUR 0.14/minute from a German fixed landline; EUR 0.42/minute from a mobile phone.

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

Per FCC Part 2 Section 2. 1077(a)

Responsible Party Name: Asus Computer International

Address: 800 Corporate Way, Fremont, CA 94539.

Phone/Fax No: (510)739-3777/(510)608-4555

hereby declares that the product

Product Name : Motherboard

Model Number : M5A88-M

Conforms to the following specifications:

☒ FCC Part 15, Subpart B, Unintentional Radiators
☐ FCC Part 15, Subpart C, Intentional Radiators
☐ FCC Part 15, Subpart E, Intentional Radiators

Supplementary Information:

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

Representative Person's Name : __Steve Chang / President__

Signature : _____

Date : ____Apr. 14, 2011____

EC Declaration of Conformity

We, the undersigned,

Manufacturer:	ASUSTek COMPUTER INC.
Address, City:	No. 150, LI-TE RD., PEITOU, TAIPEI 112, TAIWAN R.O.C.
Country:	TAIWAN
Authorized representative in Europe:	ASUS COMPUTER GmbH
Address, City:	HARKORT STR. 21-23, 40880 RATINGEN
Country:	GERMANY

declare the following apparatus:

Product name :	Motherboard
Model name :	M5A88-M

conform with the essential requirements of the following directives:

☒2004/108/EC-EMC Directive

☒ EN 55022:2006+A1:2007	☒ EN 55024:1998+A1:2001+A2:2003
☒ EN 61000-3-2:2006	☒ EN 61000-3-3:2008
☒ EN 55013:2001+A1:2003+A2:2006	☒ EN 55020:2007

☐1999/5/EC-R &TTE Directive

☐ EN 300 328 V1.7.1(2006-05)	☐ EN 301 489-1 V1.8.1(2008-04)
☐ EN 300 440-1 V1.4.1(2008-05)	☐ EN 301 489-3 V1.4.1(2002-08)
☐ EN 300 440-2 V1.2.1(2008-03)	☐ EN 301 489-4 V1.3.1(2002-08)
☐ EN 301 511 V9.0.2(2003-03)	☐ EN 301 489-7 V1.3.1(2005-11)
☐ EN 301 908-1 V3.2.1(2007-05)	☐ EN 301 489-9 V1.4.1(2007-11)
☐ EN 301 908-2 V3.2.1(2007-05)	☐ EN 301 489-17 V2.1.1(2009-05)
☐ EN 301 893 V1.4.1(2005-03)	☐ EN 301 489-24 V1.4.1(2007-09)
☐ EN 302 544-2 V1.1.1(2009-01)	☐ EN 302 326-2 V1.2.2(2007-06)
☐ EN 50360:2001	☐ EN 302 326-3 V1.3.1(2007-09)
☐ EN 50371:2002	☐ EN 301 357-2 V1.3.1(2006-05)
☐ EN 50385:2002	☐ EN 302 623 V1.1.1(2009-01)

☒2006/95/EC-LVD Directive

☒ EN 60950-1:2006	☐ EN 60065:2002+A1:2006+A11:2008
☒ EN 60950-1:2006+A11:2009	

☐2009/125/EC-ErP Directive

Regulation (EC) No. 1275/2008	Regulation (EC) No. 278/2009
☐ EN 62301:2005	☐ EN 62301:2005
Regulation (EC) No. 642/2009	
☐ EN 62301:2005	

☒CE marking

(EC conformity marking)

Position : **CEO**

Name : __Jerry   Shen__

Signature : _____

Ver. 110101

Declaration Date: Apr. 14, 2011

Year to begin affixing CE marking:2011