

Product Introduction

1.1 Motherboard overview

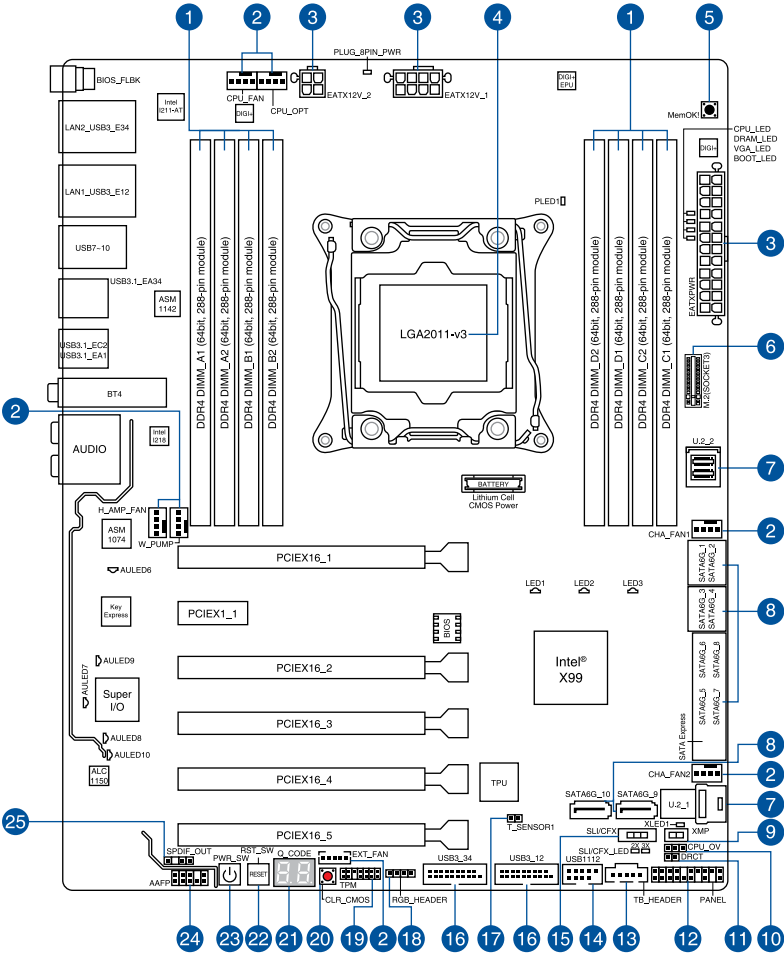
1.1.1 Before you proceed

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



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- Unplug the power cord from the wall socket before touching any component.
 - Before handling components, use a grounded wrist strap or touch a safely grounded object or a metal object, such as the power supply case, to avoid damaging them due to static electricity.
 - Hold components by the edges to avoid touching the ICs on them.
 - Whenever you uninstall any component, place it on a grounded antistatic pad or in the bag that came with the component.
 - Before you install or remove any component, ensure that the ATX power supply is switched off or the power cord is detached from the power supply. Failure to do so may cause severe damage to the motherboard, peripherals, or components.
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1.1.2 Motherboard layout



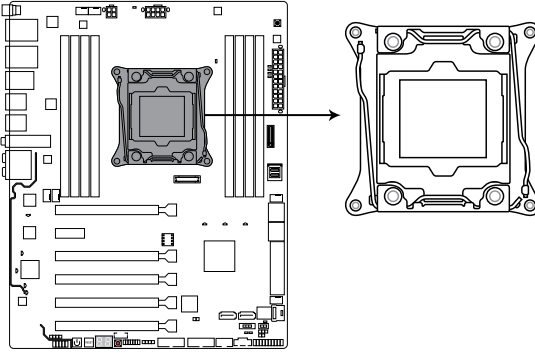
Refer to 1.1.9 Internal connectors and 2.3.1 Rear I/O connection for more information about rear panel connectors and internal connectors.

Layout contents

Connectors/Jumpers/Buttons and switches/Slots	Page
1. DDR4 DIMM slots	1-5
2. CPU, CPU optional, water pump, high amp, extension, and chassis fan connectors (4-pin CPU_FAN; 4-pin CPU_OPT; 4-pin W_PUMP; 4-pin H_AMP_FAN; 5-pin EXT_FAN; 4-pin CHA_FAN1-2)	1-26
3. ATX power connectors (24-pin EATXPWR; 8-pin EATX12V_1; 4-pin EATX12V_2)	1-27
4. LGA2011-v3 CPU socket	1-4
5. MemOK! button	1-12
6. M.2 Socket 3	1-30
7. U.2 connector (U.2_1-2)	1-24
8. Intel® Serial ATA 6 Gb/s connectors (7-pin SATA6G_12, SATA 6G_34, SATA 6G_56/SATAEXPRESS_1, SATA6G_78, SATA6G_910)	1-21
9. EZ XMP switch	1-14
10. CPU Over Voltage jumper (3-pin CPU_OV)	1-14
11. DirectKey connector (2-pin DRCT)	1-29
12. System panel connector (20-3 pin PANEL)	1-28
13. Thunderbolt header (5-pin TB_HEADER)	1-30
14. USB 2.0 connectors (10-1 pin USB1112)	1-25
15. SLI/CFX switch	1-13
16. USB 3.0 connectors (20-1 pin USB3_12, USB3_34)	1-23
17. T_Sensor connector (2-pin T_SENSOR1)	1-32
18. RGB Header (4-pin RGB_HEADER)	1-31
19. TPM connector (14-1 pin TPM)	1-29
20. Clear CMOS button (CLR_CMOS)	1-13
21. Q-Code LEDs	1-17
22. Reset button	1-11
23. Power-on button	1-11
24. Front panel audio connector (10-1 pin AAFP)	1-22
25. Digital audio connector (4-1 pin SPDIF_OUT)	1-22

1.1.3 Central Processing Unit (CPU)

The motherboard comes with a surface mount LGA2011-v3 socket designed for Intel® Core™ i7 processors.



CPU LGA2011-v3 Socket



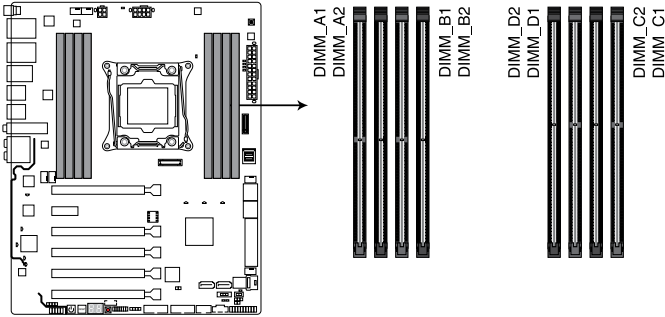
-
- Ensure that all power cables are unplugged before installing the CPU.
 - Upon purchase of the motherboard, ensure that the PnP cap is on the socket and the socket contacts are not bent. Contact your retailer immediately if the PnP cap is missing, or if you see any damage to the PnP cap/socket contacts/motherboard components. will shoulder the cost of repair only if the damage is shipment/transit-related.
 - Keep the cap after installing the motherboard. will process Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) requests only if the motherboard comes with the cap on the LGA2011-v3 socket.
 - The product warranty does not cover damage to the socket contacts resulting from incorrect CPU installation/removal, or misplacement/loss/incorrect removal of the PnP cap.
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1.1.4 System memory

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

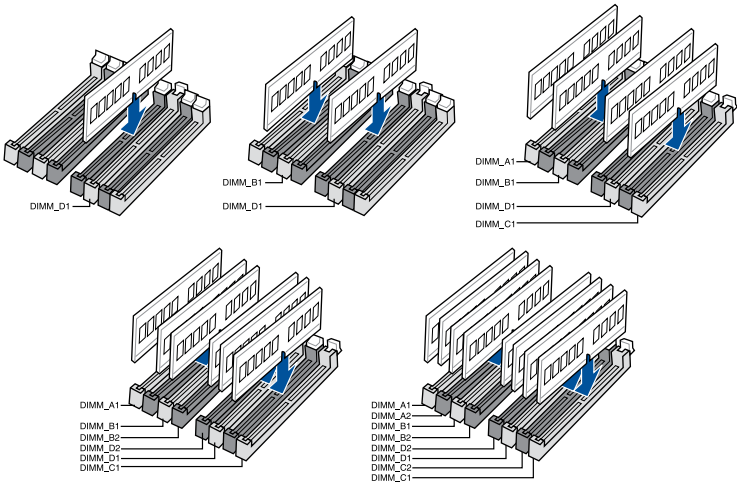


A DDR4 module is notched differently from a DDR, DDR2, or DDR3 module. DO NOT install a DDR, DDR2, or DDR3 memory module to the DDR4 slot.



288-pin DDR4 DIMM socket

Recommended memory configurations



Memory configurations

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



-
- You may install varying memory sizes in Channel A, Channel B, Channel C, and Channel D. The system maps the total size of the lower-sized channel for the quad-channel configuration. Any excess memory from the higher-sized channel is then mapped for single-channel operation.
 - According to Intel® CPU spec, DIMM voltage below 1.65 V is recommended to protect the CPU.
 - Due to the memory address limitation on 32-bit Windows® OS, when you install 4GB or more memory on the motherboard, the actual usable memory for the OS can be about 3GB or less. For effective use of memory, we recommend that you do any of the following:
 - a) Use a maximum of 3GB system memory if you are using a 32-bit Windows® OS.
 - b) Install a 64-bit Windows® OS when you want to install 4 GB or more on the motherboard.
 - c) For more details, refer to the Microsoft® support site at <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/929605/en-us>.
 - The design of the DIMM fan may vary. Ensure that the DIMM fan fits to the motherboard
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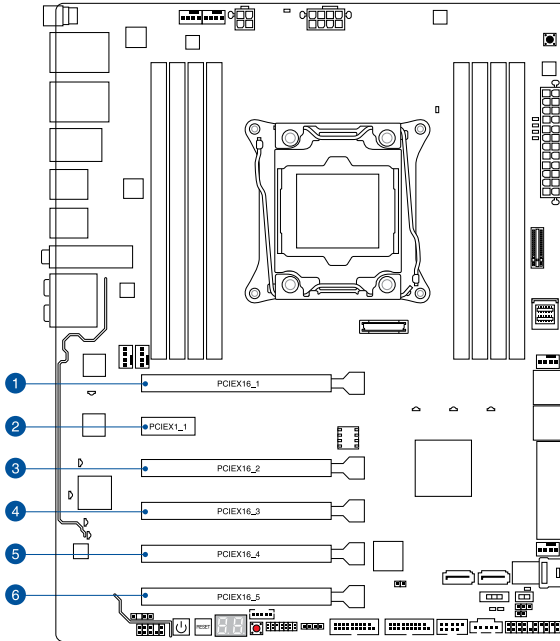


-
- The default memory operation frequency is dependent on its Serial Presence Detect (SPD), which is the standard way of accessing information from a memory module. Under the default state, some memory modules for overclocking may operate at a lower frequency than the vendor-marked value. To operate 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 (8 DIMMs) or overclocking condition.
 - Memory modules with memory frequency higher than 2133MHz and their corresponding timing or the loaded XMP profile is not the JEDEC memory standard. The stability and compatibility of the memory modules depend on the CPU's capabilities and other installed devices.
 - Always install the DIMMS with the same CAS Latency. For an optimum compatibility, we recommend that you install memory modules of the same version or data code (D/C) from the same vendor. Check with the vendor to get the correct memory modules.
 - exclusively provides hyper DIMM support function.
 - Hyper DIMM support is subject to the physical characteristics of individual CPUs. Load the X.M.P. or D.O.C.P. settings in the BIOS for the hyper DIMM support.
 - Visit the website for the latest QVL.
-

1.1.5 Expansion slots



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



Slot No.	Slot Description	
	40-LANE	28-LANE
1	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_1 slot	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_1 slot
2	PCIe 2.0 x1_1 slot	PCIe 2.0 x1_1 slot
3	PCIe 2.0 x16_2 slot	PCIe 2.0 x16_2 slot
4	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_3 slot	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_3 slot
5	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_4 slot	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_4 slot
6	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_5 slot	PCIe 2.0 x16_5 slot

40-LANE CPU VGA configuration	PCI Express 3.0 operating mode			
	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_1	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_3	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_4	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_5
Single VGA/PCIe card	x16 (single VGA recommended)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dual VGA/PCIe cards	x16	x16	N/A	N/A
Triple VGA/PCIe cards	x16	x16	N/A	x8
	x8	x8	x8	N/A

28-LANE CPU VGA configuration	PCI Express 3.0 operating mode		
	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_1	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_3	PCIe 3.0/2.0 x16_4
Single VGA/PCIe card	x16 (single VGA recommended)	N/A	N/A
Dual VGA/PCIe cards	x16	x8	N/A
Triple VGA/PCIe cards	x8	x8	x8



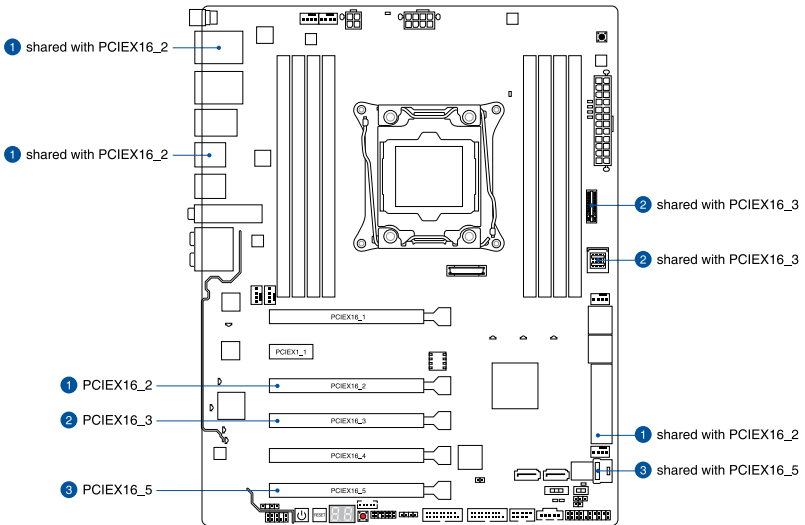
-
- We recommend that you provide sufficient power when running CrossFireX™ or SLI™ mode.
 - Connect a chassis fan to the motherboard connector labeled CHA_FAN1-2 when using multiple graphics cards for better thermal environment.
-

40-LANE CPU Bandwidth allocation

		USB3_34	USB3.1_EA34	SATA Express
PCIEX16_2	X2 not occupied (default)	V	V	SATA
	X2 occupied	V (USB 2.0 speed)	V	SATA
	X4	V (USB 2.0 speed)	-	SATA
	none	V	V	SATA/PCIE

		M.2	U.2_2
PCIEX16_3	X16 (default)	-	-
	X8	V	V

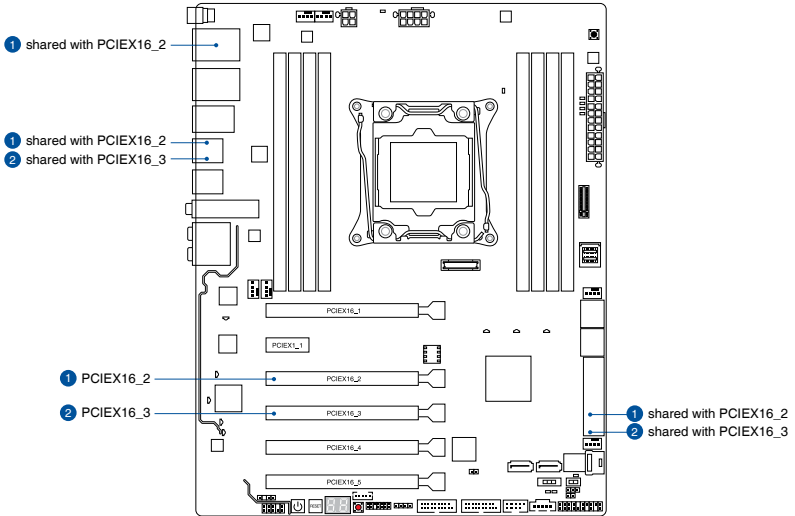
		U.2_1
PCIEX16_5	X8 (default)	-
	X4	V



28-LANE CPU Bandwidth allocation

		USB3_34	USB3.1_EA34	SATA Express
PCIEX16_2	X2 not occupied (default)	V	V	SATA
	X2 occupied	V (USB 2.0 speed)	V	SATA
	X4	V (USB 2.0 speed)	-	SATA
	none	V	V	SATA/PCIE

		USB3.1_EA34	SATA Express
PCIEX16_3	X8 (default)	-	-
	none	V	V

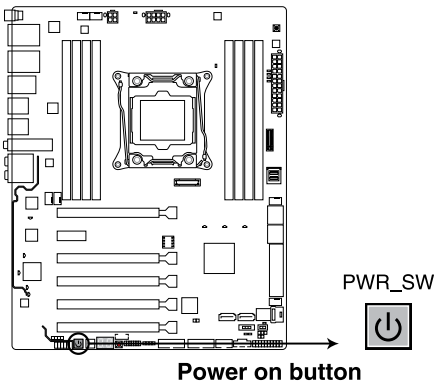


1.1.6 Onboard buttons and switches

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

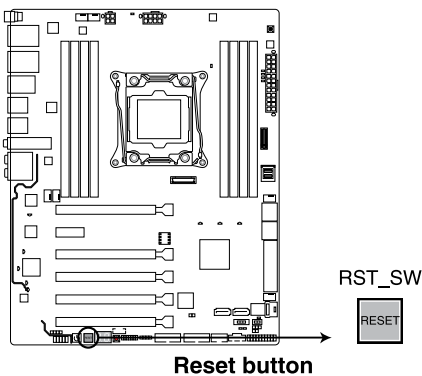
1. Power-on button

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



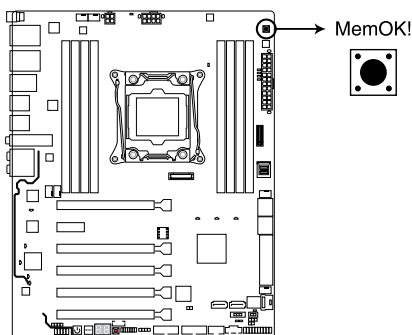
2. Reset button

Press the reset button to reboot the system.



3. MemOK! button

Installing DIMMs that are not compatible with the motherboard may cause system boot failure. If the system fails to boot during POST stage and the DRAM_LED near the MemOK! button lights continuously, press the MemOK! button until the DRAM_LED starts blinking. System will begin automatic memory compatibility tuning and reboot for successful boot.



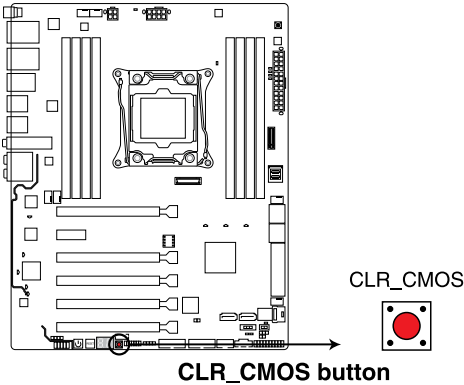
MemOK! button



- Refer to section 1.1.8 **Onboard LEDs** for the exact location of the DRAM_LED.
- The DRAM_LED also lights up when the DIMM is not properly installed. Turn off the system and reinstall the DIMM before using the MemOK! function.
- The MemOK! button does not function under Windows® OS environment.
- During the tuning process, the system loads and tests failsafe memory settings. It takes about 30 seconds for the system to test one set of failsafe settings. If the test fails, the system reboots and tests 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.
- If you turn off the computer and replace DIMMs during the tuning process, the system continues memory tuning after turning on the computer. To stop memory tuning, turn off the computer and unplug the power cord for about 5–10 seconds.
- If your system fails to boot up due to BIOS overclocking, press the MemOK! button to boot and load the BIOS default settings. A message will appear during POST reminding you that the BIOS has been restored to its default settings.
- We recommend that you download and update to the latest BIOS version after using the MemOK! function.

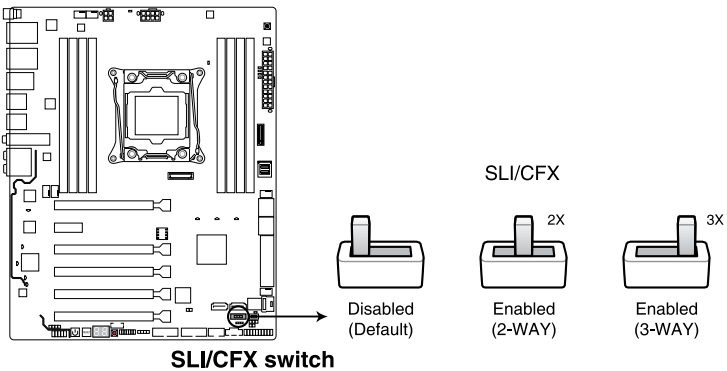
4. Clear CMOS button (CLR_CMOS)

Press this button to clear the BIOS setup information only when the systems hangs due to overlocking.



5. SLI/CFX switch

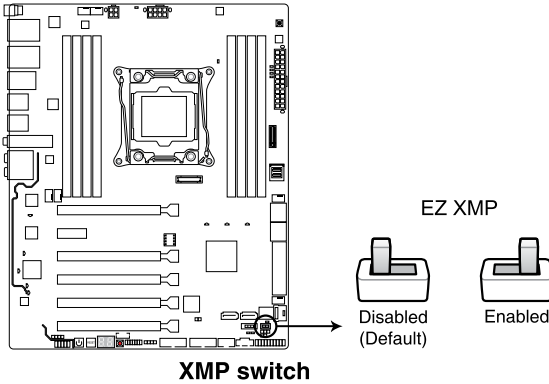
This switch allows you to determine the slots for 2-WAY or 3-WAY graphics card installation. When enabled, the PCIE LEDs near the slots light up, telling you to install the graphics cards to the specific slots.



- The LEDs below the SLI/CFX switch and near the PCIE slots light up when the SLI/CFX switch is enabled. Refer to section 1.1.8 **Onboard LEDs** for the exact location of the SLI/CFX and PCIE LEDs.
- After adjusting PCIE bandwidth in the BIOS, shut down the system for the PCIE LEDs to update the lighting effect.

6. EZ XMP switch

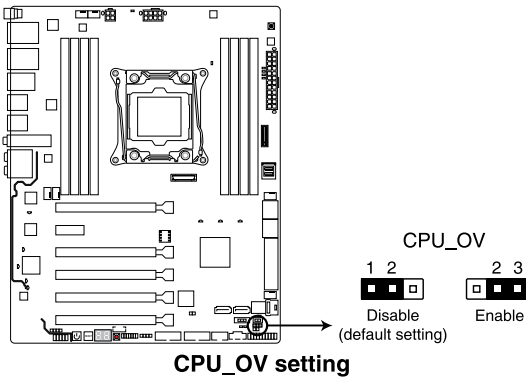
Enable this switch to overclock the installed DIMMs, allowing you to enhance the DIMM's speed and performance.



1.1.7 Jumpers

1. CPU Over Voltage jumper (3-pin CPU_OV)

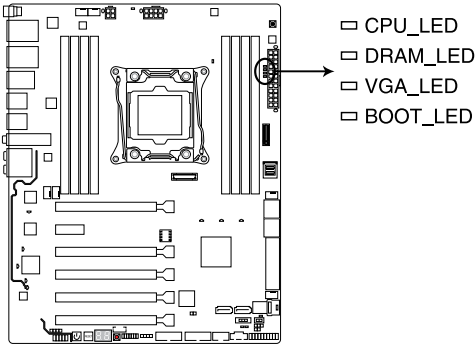
The CPU Over Voltage jumper allows you to set a higher CPU voltage for a flexible overclocking system, depending on the type of the installed CPU. To gain more CPU voltage setting, insert the jumper to pins 2-3. To go back to its default CPU voltage setting, insert the jumper to pins 1-2.



1.1.8 Onboard LEDs

1. POST State LEDs

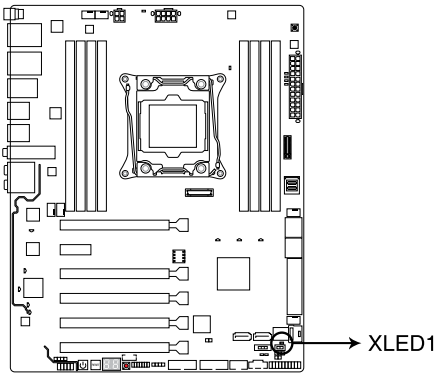
The POST State LEDs provide the status of these key components during POST (Power-On Self-Test): CPU, memory modules, VGA card, and hard disk drives. If an error is found, the critical component's LED stays lit up until the problem is solved.



**CPU/ DRAM/
BOOT/ VGA LED**

2. EZ XMP LED (XLED1)

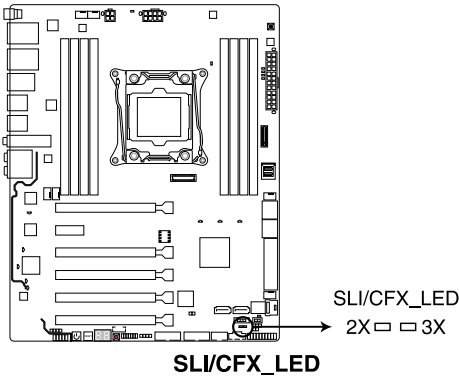
This LED lights up when you enable the EZ XMP switch.



XLED1

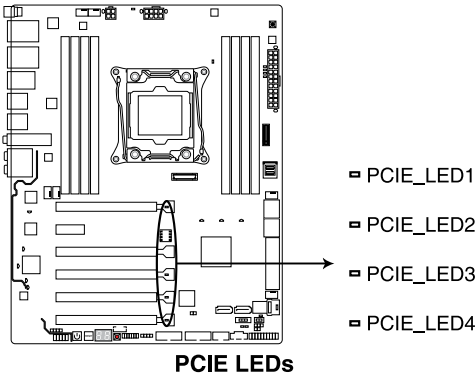
3. SLI/CFX LED

The SLI/CFX LEDs light up when SLI/CFX switch is enabled.



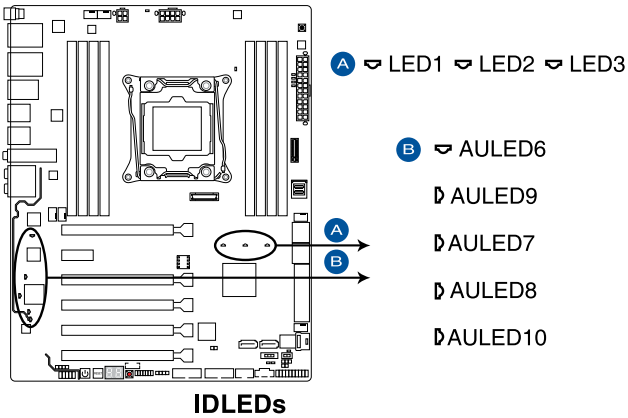
4. PCIE LEDs

The PCIE LEDs light up to indicate which PCIE slots to use when SLI/CFX switch is enabled.



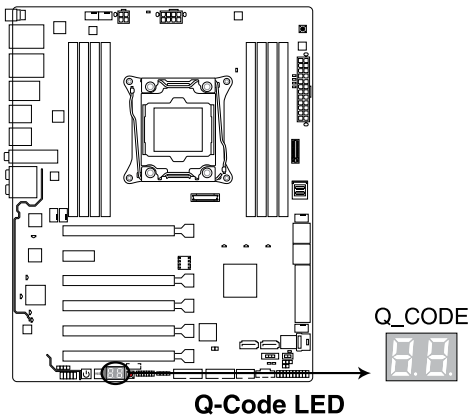
5. ID LEDs

The ID LEDs light up to bring you an ultimate lighting effect.



6. Q-Code LED

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



Q-Code table

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

(continued on the next page)

Q-Code table

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

(continued on the next page)

Q-Code table

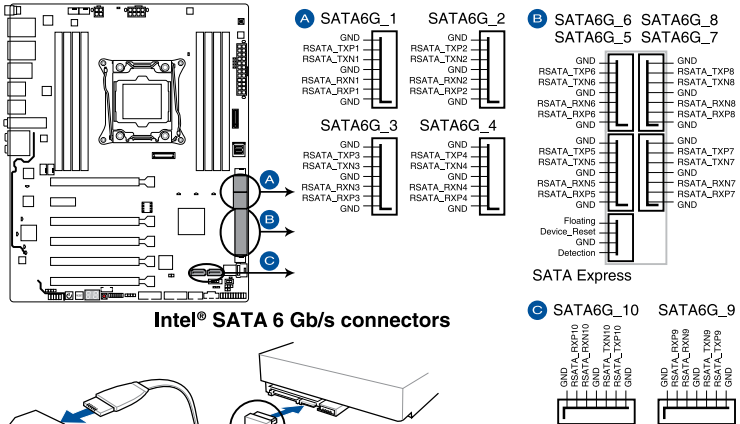
Code	Description
70	PCH DXE initialization is started
71	PCH DXE SMM initialization is started
72	PCH devices initialization
73 – 77	PCH DXE Initialization (PCH module specific)
78	ACPI module initialization
79	CSM initialization
7A – 7F	Reserved for future AMI DXE codes
90	Boot Device Selection (BDS)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

1.1.9 Internal connectors

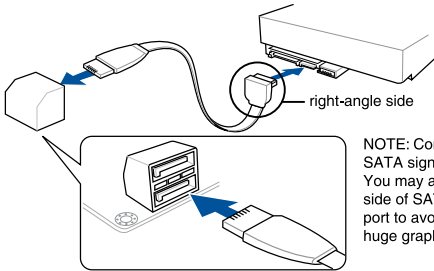
1. Intel® Serial ATA 6 Gb/s connectors (7-pin SATA6G_12, SATA 6G_34, SATA 6G_56/SATAEXPRESS_1, SATA6G_78, SATA6G_910)

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

If you installed Serial ATA hard disk drives, you can create a RAID 0, 1, 5, and 10 configuration with the Intel® Rapid Storage Technology through the onboard Intel® X99 chipset.



Intel® SATA 6 Gb/s connectors



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



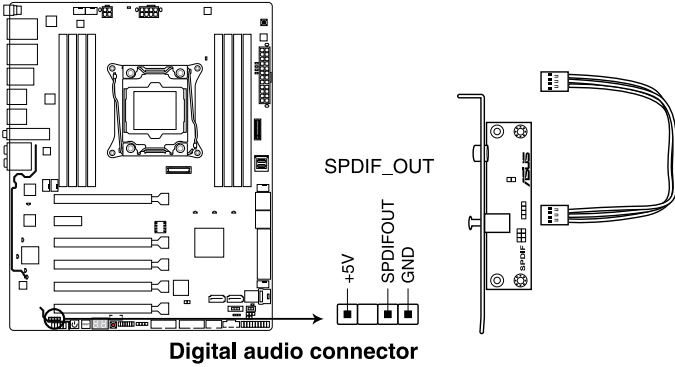
- These connectors are set to **[AHCI Mode]** by default. If you intend to create a Serial ATA RAID set using these connectors, set the **SATA Mode** item in the BIOS to **[RAID Mode]**. Refer to section **3.6.3 PCH Storage Configuration** for details.
- Before creating a RAID set, refer to the manual bundled in the motherboard support DVD.



- The **SATAEXPRESS_1** connector can support one SATA Express device or two SATA devices.
- Due to chipset behavior, the **SATA6G_78** and **SATA6G_910** ports do not support Intel® Rapid Storage Technology and RAID configuration.

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

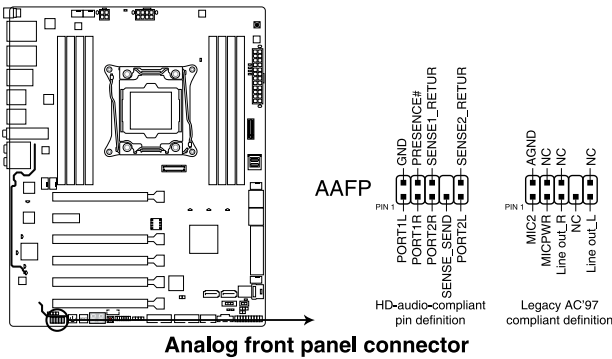
This connector is for an additional Sony/Philips Digital Interface (S/PDIF) port. Connect the S/PDIF Out module cable to this connector, then install the module to a slot opening at the back of the system chassis.



The S/PDIF module is purchased separately.

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

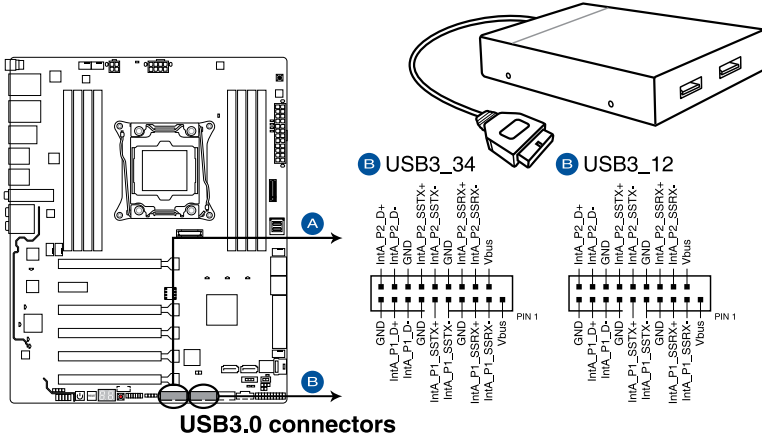
This connector is for a chassis-mounted front panel audio I/O module that supports either HD Audio or legacy AC '97 audio standard. Connect one end of the front panel audio I/O module cable to this connector.



- 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 or an AC'97 front panel audio module to this connector, set the Front Panel Type item in the BIOS setup to **[HD]** or **[AC97]**.

4. USB 3.0 connectors (20-pin USB3_12, USB3_34)

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



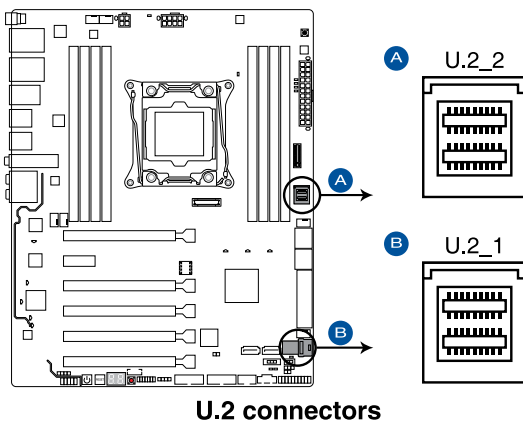
The USB 3.0 module is purchased separately.



- Ensure to install the related driver to fully use the USB 3.0 ports under Windows® 7.
- The plugged USB 3.0 device may run on xHCI or EHCI mode depending on the operating system's setting.
- These USB 3.0 ports support native UASP transfer standard in Windows® 8 / Windows® 8.1 and Turbo Mode when using USB 3.0 Boost feature.

5. U.2 connector (U.2_1-2)

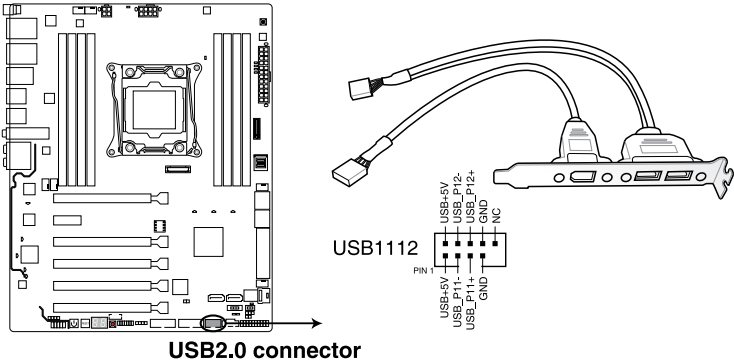
This motherboard comes with two U.2 connectors which support PCIe 3.0 x4 NVM Express storage.



The system will reboot several times during the switching process.

6. USB 2.0 connector (10-1 pin USB1112)

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



DO NOT connect a 1394 cable to the USB connectors. Doing so will damage the motherboard!



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



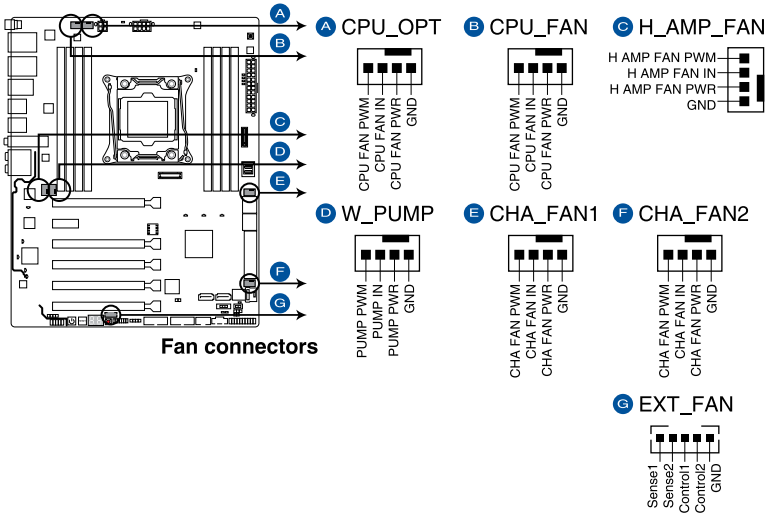
The USB 2.0 module is purchased separately.

7. CPU, CPU optional, water pump, high amp, extension, and chassis fan connectors (4-pin CPU_FAN; 4-pin CPU_OPT; 4-pin W_PUMP; 4-pin H_AMP_FAN_FAN; 5-pin EXT_FAN; 4-pin CHA_FAN1-2)

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



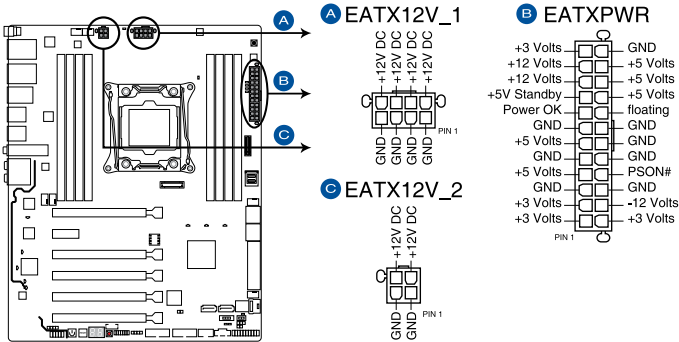
- DO NOT forget to connect the fan cables to the fan connectors. Insufficient air flow inside the system may damage the motherboard components. These are not jumpers! Do not place jumper caps on the fan connectors!
- Ensure that the CPU fan cable is securely installed to the CPU fan connector.



- The CPU_FAN connector supports the CPU fan of maximum 1A (12 W) fan power.
- The CPU_FAN, CHA_FAN, and EXT_FAN connectors support the FAN Xpert 3 feature on X99 platform.
- The EXT_FAN connector supports 2 of 5 thermal sensor sources.
- All fan connectors detect the type of fan installed and automatically switches the control modes. To configure the fan's control mode, go to **Advanced Mode > Monitor > CPU Q-Fan Control** item in BIOS.
- To install more fans, refer to section **2.1.8 Expansion card installation** for details.
- For better Q-Fan functions, we recommend using 4-pin PWM fans when you connect powerful fans (1A or above) onto the H_AMP_FAN connector.
- Ensure to disable Q-Fan functions if you want to connect powerful 3-pin DC fans (1A or above) onto the H_AMP_FAN connector.
- Connect the fan of your water cooling kit to the CPU_FAN connector.

8. ATX power connectors (24-pin EATXPWR; 8-pin EATX12V_1; 4-pin EATX12V_2)

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.



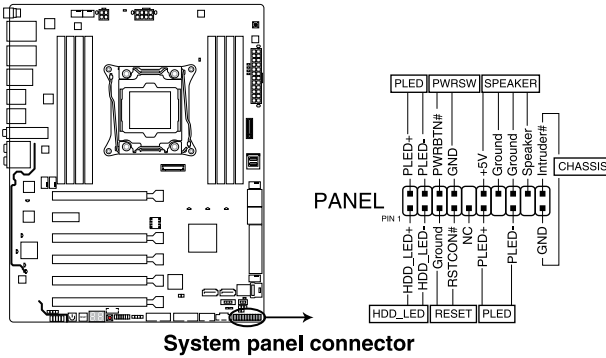
ATX power connectors



- For a fully configured system, we recommend that you use a power supply unit (PSU) that complies with ATX 12 V Specification 2.0 (or later version) and provides a minimum power of 350 W.
- DO NOT forget to connect the 8-pin EATX12V_1 power plug. Otherwise, the system will not boot.
- We recommend that you use a PSU with a higher power output when configuring a system with more power-consuming devices. The system may become unstable or may not boot up if the power is inadequate.
- If you want to use two or more high-end PCI Express x16 cards, use a PSU with 1000W power or above to ensure the system stability.

9. System panel connector (20-3 pin PANEL)

This connector supports several chassis-mounted functions.



- **System power LED (2-pin or 3-1 pin PLED)**

The 2-pin or 3-1 pin connector is for the system power LED. Connect the chassis power LED cable to this connector. The system power LED lights up when you turn on the system power, and blinks when the system is in sleep mode.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

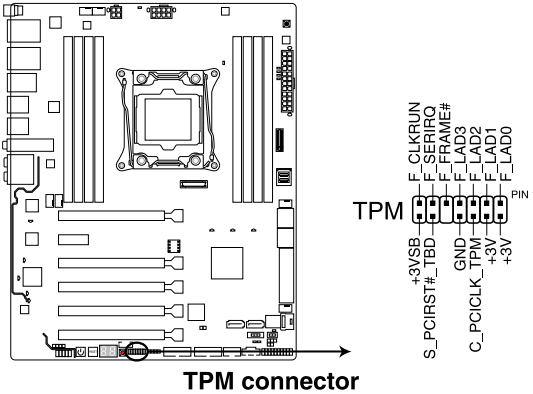
This 2-pin connector is for the chassis-mounted reset button for system reboot without turning off the system power.

- **Chassis intrusion connector (2-pin CHASSIS)**

This connector is for a chassis-mounted intrusion detection sensor or switch. Connect one end of the chassis intrusion sensor or switch cable to this connector. The chassis intrusion sensor or switch sends a high-level signal to this connector when a chassis component is removed or replaced. The signal is then generated as a chassis intrusion event.

10. TPM connector (14-1 pin TPM)

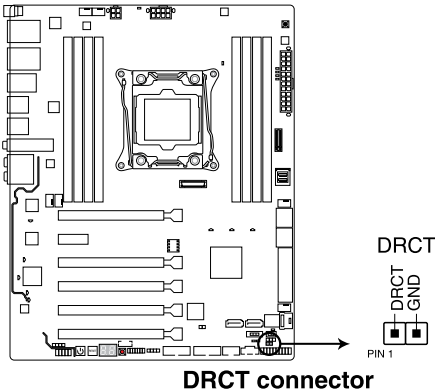
This connector supports a Trusted Platform Module (TPM) system, which securely stores keys, digital certificates, passwords and data. A TPM system also helps enhance network security, protect digital identities, and ensures platform integrity.



The TPM module is purchased separately.

11. DirectKey connector (2-pin DRCT)

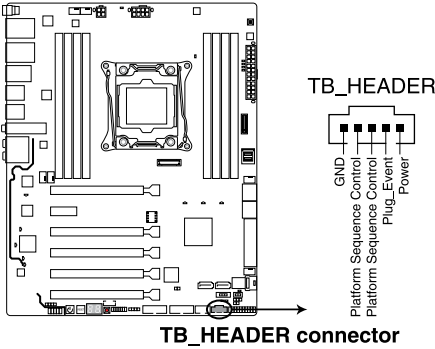
This connector is for the chassis-mounted button that supports the DirectKey function. Connect the button cable that supports DirectKey, from the chassis to this connector on the motherboard.



Ensure that your chassis comes with the extra button cable that supports the DirectKey feature. Refer to the technical documentation that came with the chassis for details.

12. Thunderbolt header (5-pin TB_HEADER)

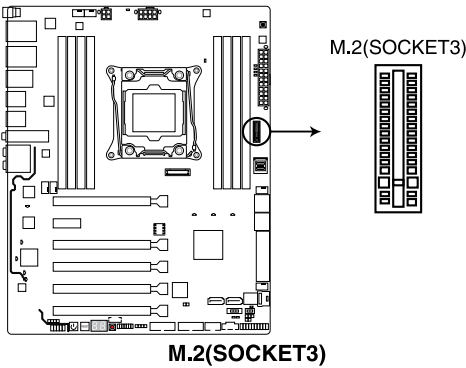
This connector is for the add-on Thunderbolt I/O card that supports Intel's Thunderbolt Technology, allowing you to connect up to six Thunderbolt-enabled devices and a DisplayPort-enabled display in a daisy-chain configuration.



The add-on Thunderbolt I/O card and Thunderbolt cables are purchased separately.

13. M.2 socket 3

This socket allows you to install an M.2 (NGFF) SSD module.



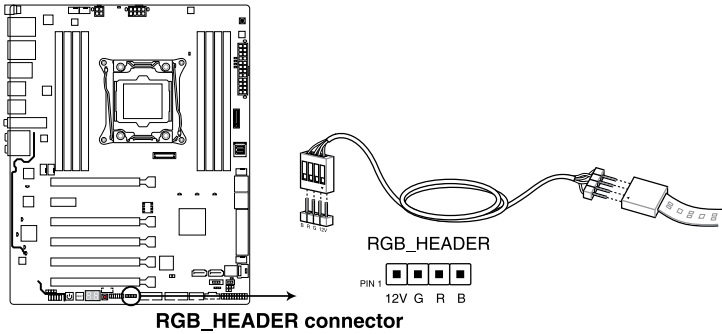
This socket supports PCIe 3.0 x4 M Key design and type 2242/2260/2280 PCIe storage devices.



The M.2 (NGFF) SSD module is purchased separately.

14. RGB header (4-pin RGB_HEADER)

This connector is for RGB LED strips.



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



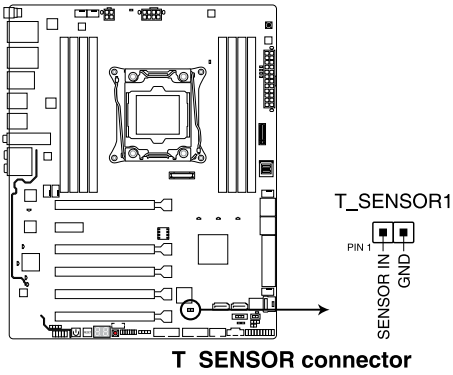
Before you install or remove any component, ensure that the ATX power supply is switched off or the power cord is detached from the power supply. Failure to do so may cause severe damage to the motherboard, peripherals, or components.



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

15. Thermal Sensor connector (2-pin T_SENSOR1)

This connector is for the thermistor cable that monitors the temperature of the devices and the critical components inside the motherboard. Connect the thermistor cable and place the sensor on the device or the motherboard's component to detect its temperature.



Basic Installation

2

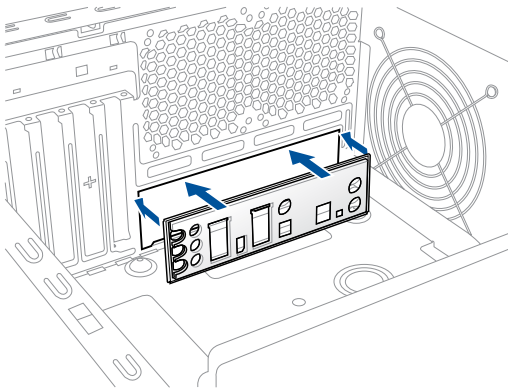
2.1 Building your PC system

2.1.1 Motherboard installation

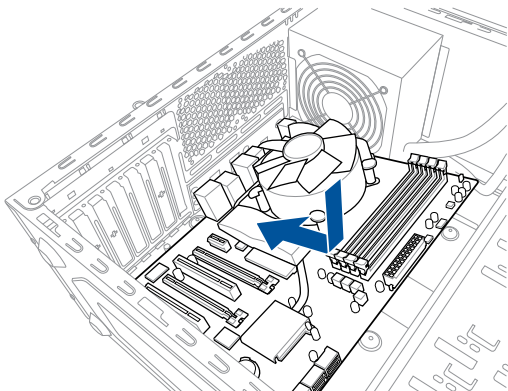


The diagrams in this section are for reference only. The motherboard layout may vary with models, but the installation steps are the same for all models.

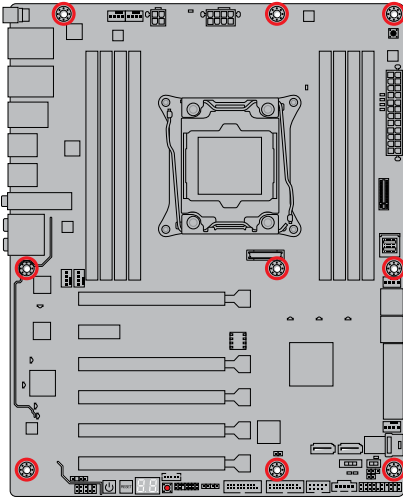
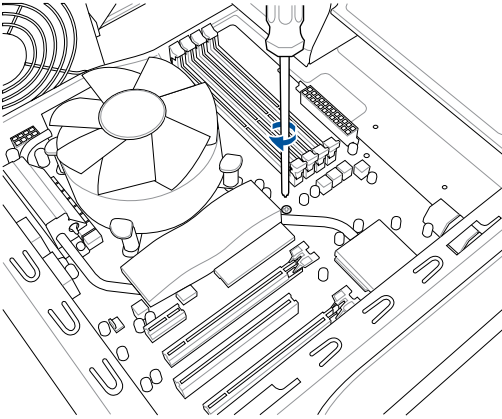
1. Install the Q-Shield to the chassis rear I/O panel.



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



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

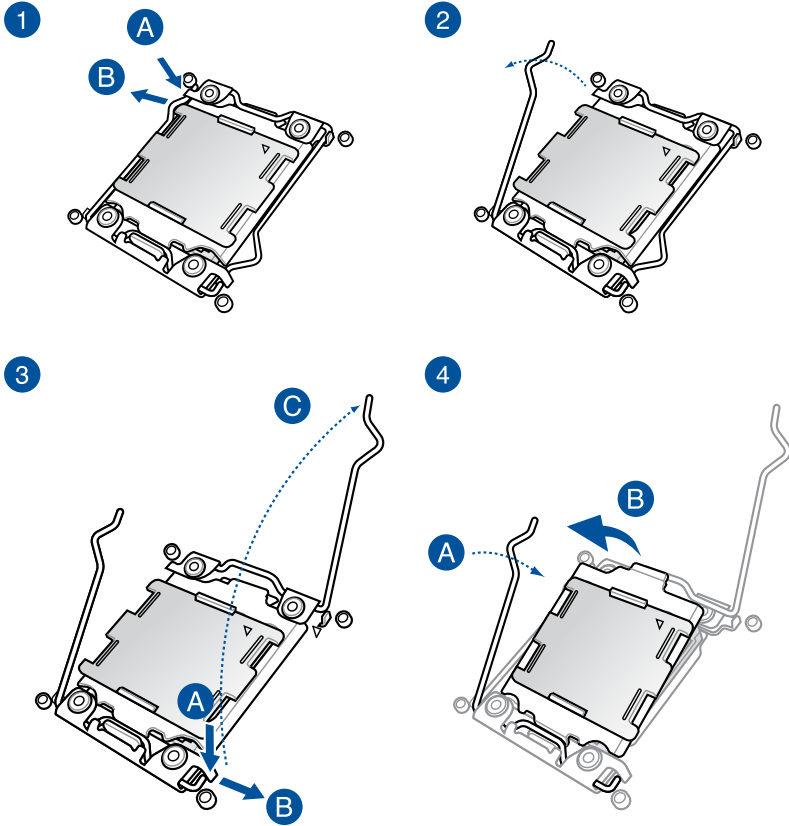


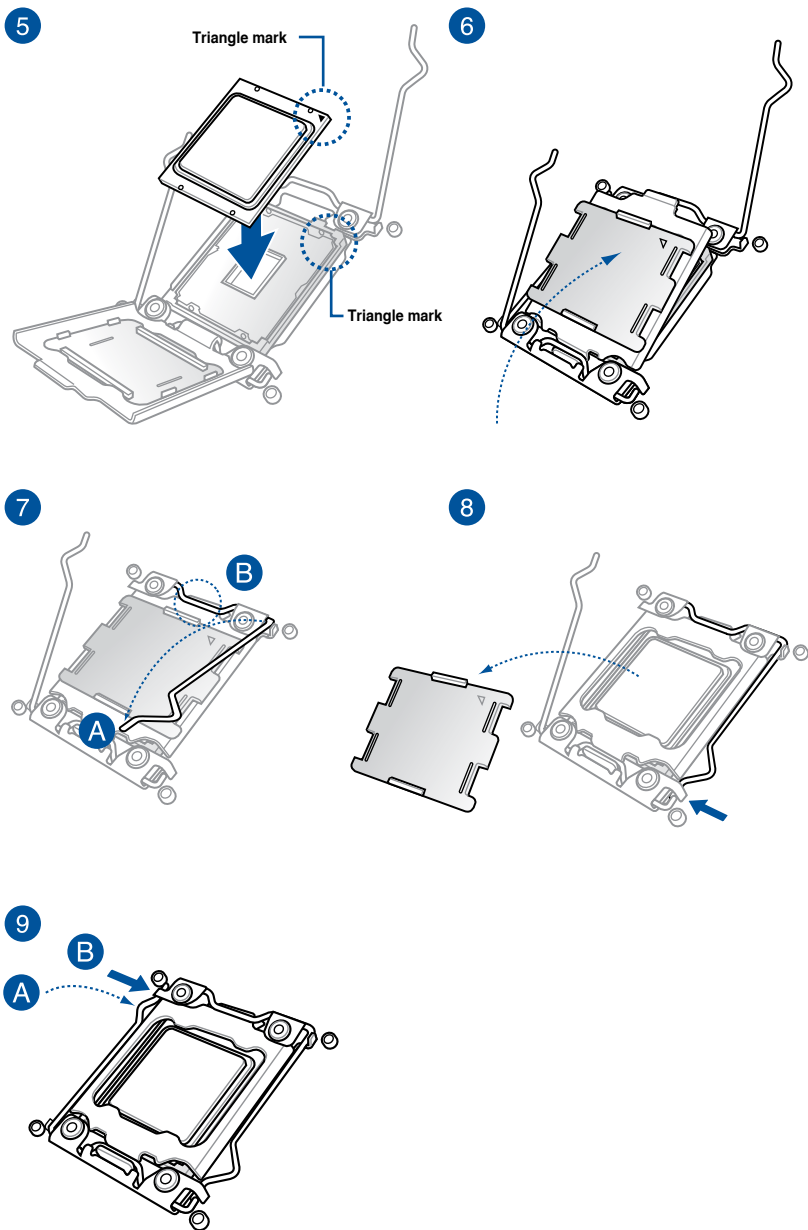
DO NOT overtighten the screws! Doing so can damage the motherboard.

2.1.2 CPU installation

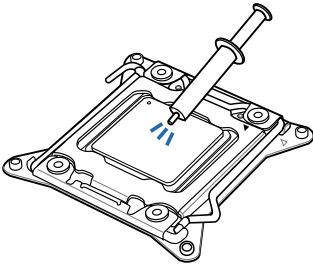


Please note the order in opening/ closing the double latch. Follow the instructions printed on the metal sealing hatch or the illustrations shown below in this manual. The plastic cap will pop up automatically once the CPU is in place and the hatch properly sealed down.



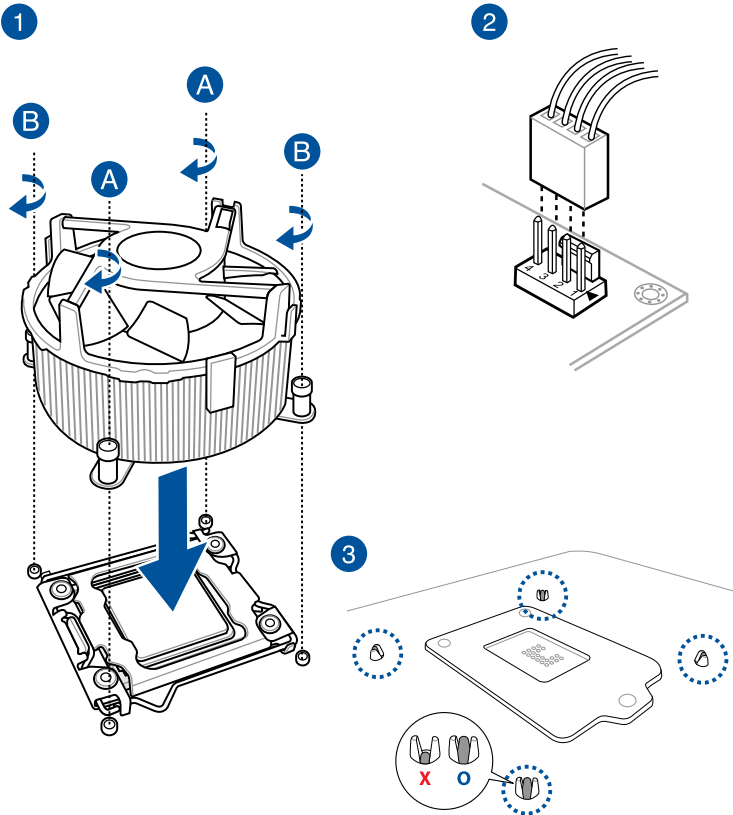


2.1.3 CPU heatsink and fan assembly installation

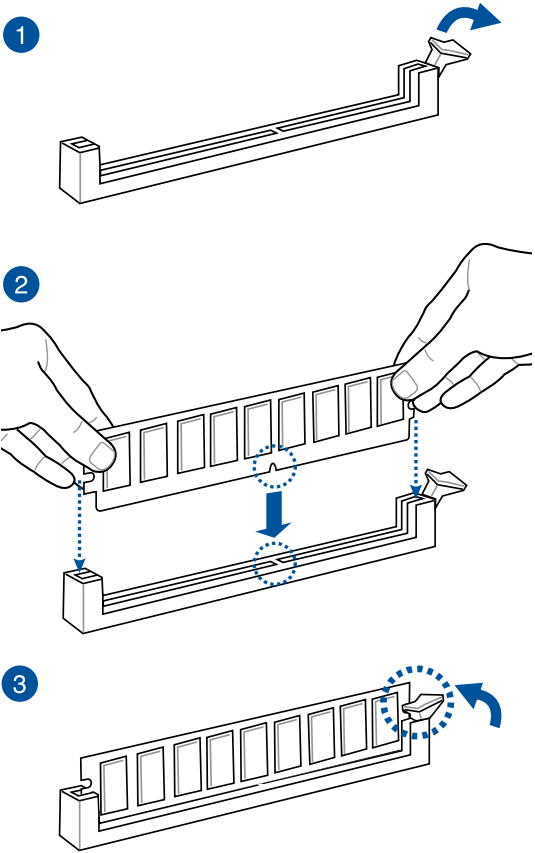


Apply the Thermal Interface Material to the CPU heatsink and CPU before you install the heatsink and fan, if necessary.

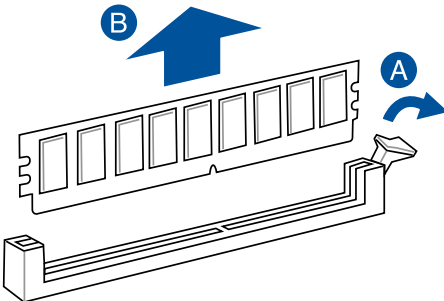
To install the CPU heatsink and fan assembly



2.1.4 DIMM installation

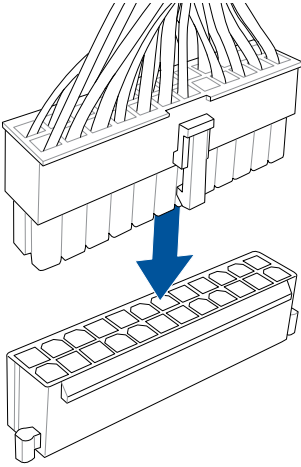


To remove a DIMM

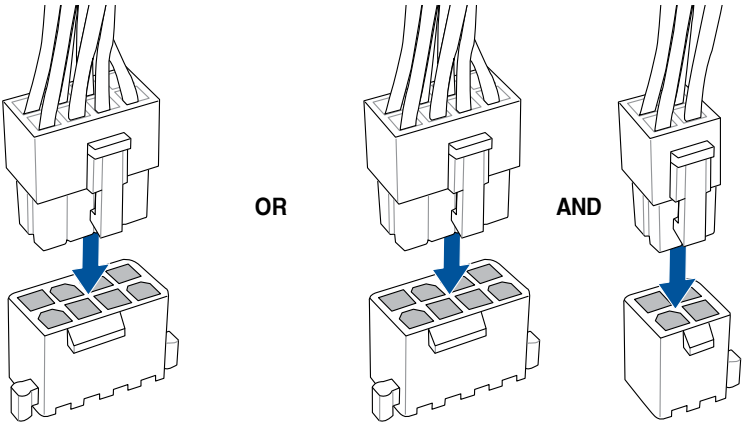


2.1.5 ATX power connection

1

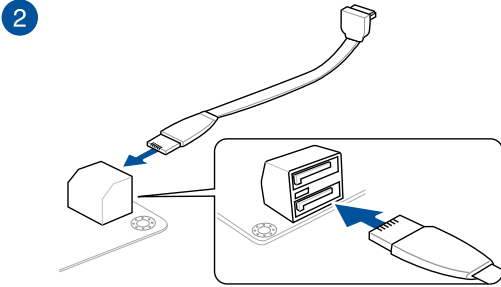
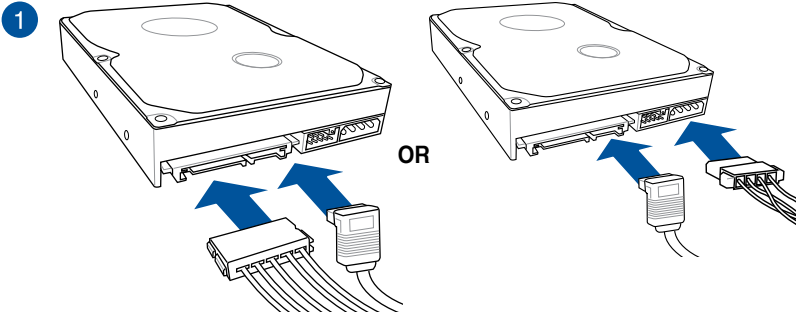


2

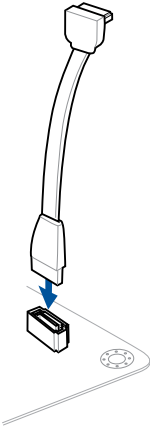


- DO NOT connect the 4-pin power plug only, the motherboard may overheat under heavy usage.
- Ensure to connect the 8-pin power plug, or connect both the 8-pin and 4-pin power plugs.

2.1.6 SATA device connection

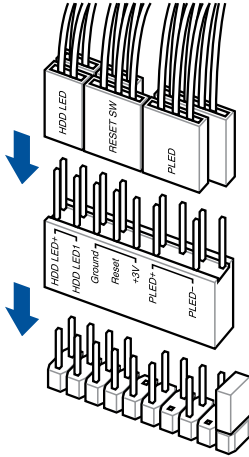


OR

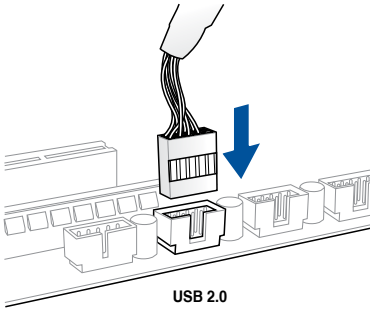


2.1.7 Front I/O connector

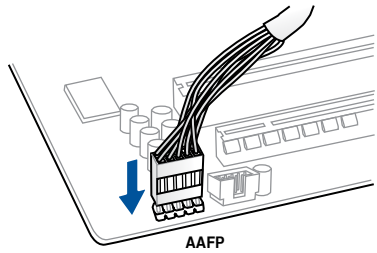
To install Q-Connector



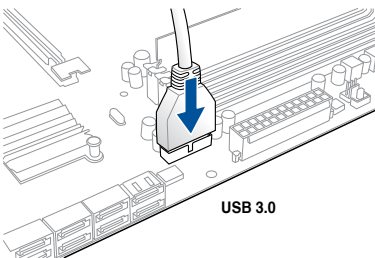
To install USB 2.0 connector



To install front panel audio connector

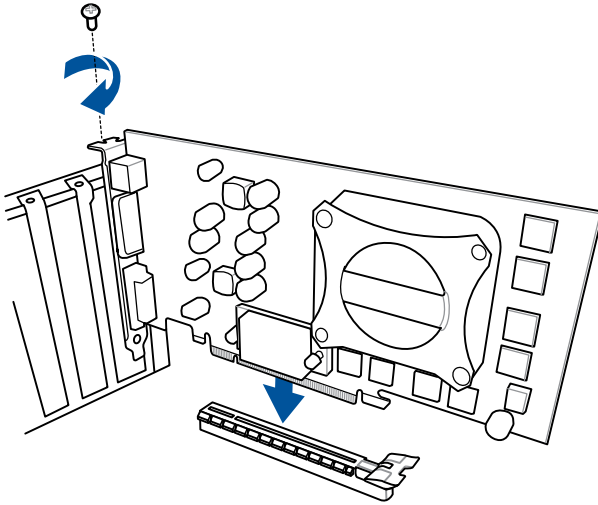


To install USB 3.0 connector

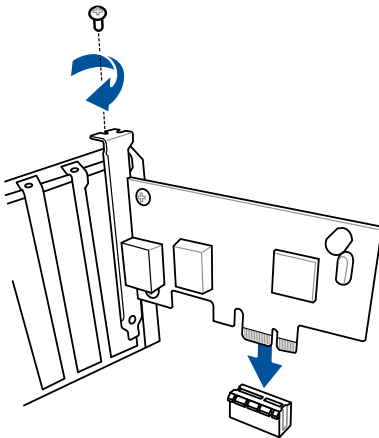


2.1.8 Expansion card installation

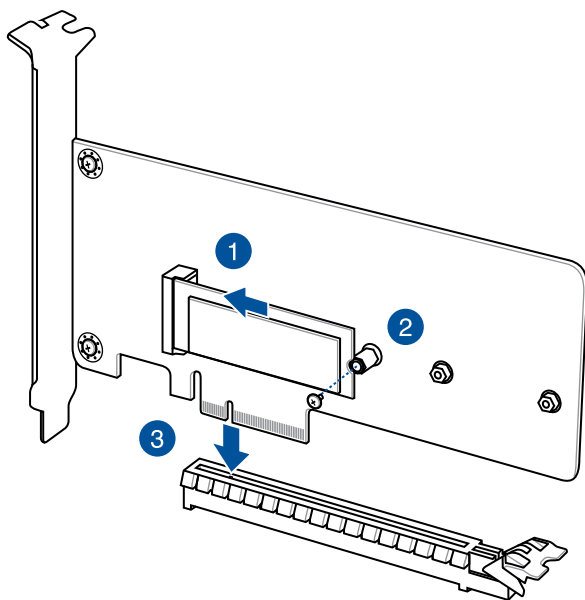
To install PCIe x16 cards



To install PCIe x1 cards



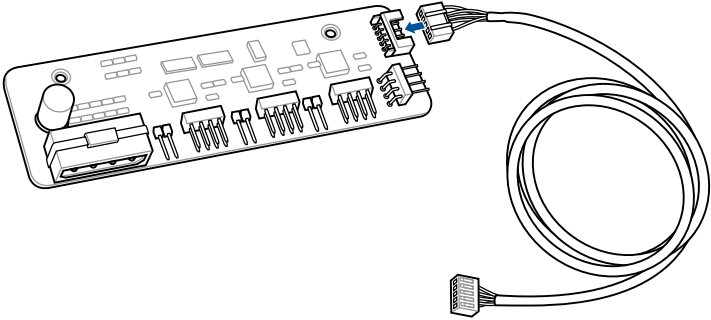
To install HYPER M.2 x4 card



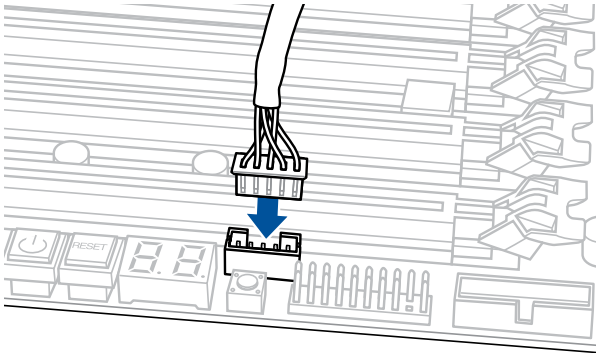
The SSD card is purchased separately.

To install FAN EXTENSION CARD

1

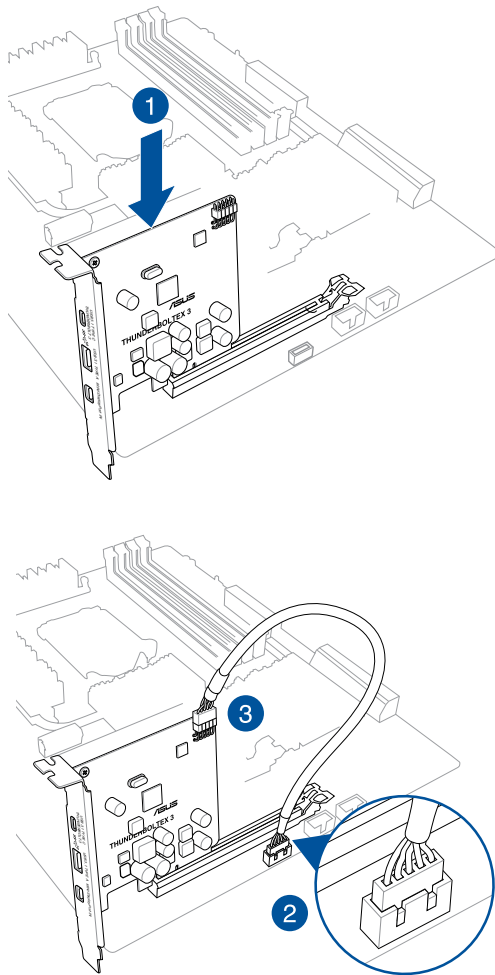


2



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

To install ThunderboltEX 3 card

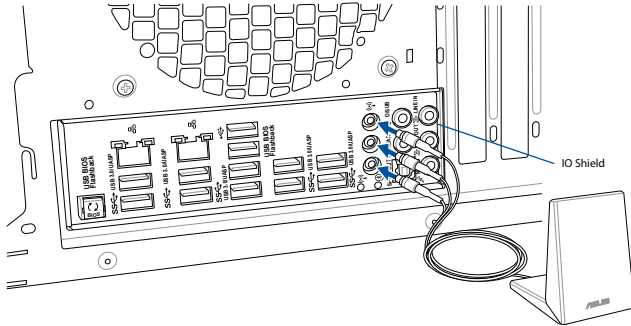


The illustrations in this section are for reference only. The motherboard layout may vary with models, but the installation steps are the same for all models.

2.1.9 Wi-Fi antenna installation

Installing the 3T3R dual band W-Fi antenna

Connect the bundled 3T3R dual band Wi-Fi antenna connector to the Wi-Fi ports at the back of the chassis.



- Ensure that the 3T3R dual band Wi-Fi antenna is securely installed to the Wi-Fi ports.
- Ensure to install the Bluetooth driver before installing the Wi-Fi GO! software.
- Ensure that the antenna is at least 20 cm away from all persons.



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

2.2 BIOS update utility

USB BIOS Flashback

USB BIOS Flashback allows you to easily update the BIOS without entering the existing BIOS or operating system. Simply insert a USB storage device to the USB port (the USB port hole marked in green on the I/O shield) then press the USB BIOS Flashback button for three seconds to automatically update the BIOS.

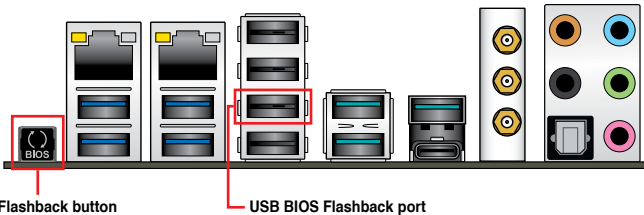
To use USB BIOS Flashback:

1. Place the bundled support DVD to the optical drive and install the USB BIOS Flashback Wizard. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the installation.
2. Insert the USB storage device to the USB Flashback port.



- We recommend you to use a USB 2.0 storage device to save the latest BIOS version for better compatibility and stability.
- Refer to section **2.3.1 Rear I/O connection** for the location of the USB port that supports USB BIOS Flashback.

3. Launch the USB BIOS Flashback Wizard to automatically download the latest BIOS version.
4. Shut down your computer.
5. Press the BIOS Flashback button for three seconds until the Flashback LED blinks three times, indicating that the BIOS Flashback function is enabled.



6. Wait until the light goes out, indicating that the BIOS updating process is completed.



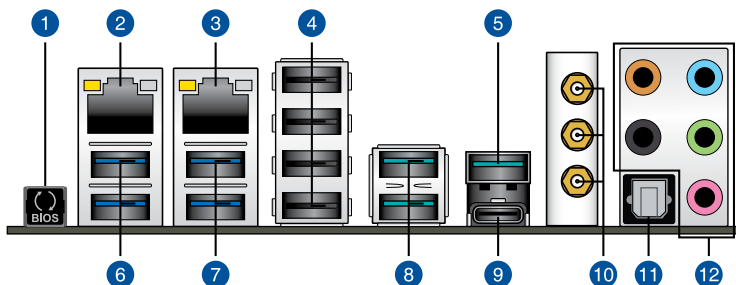
For more BIOS update utilities in BIOS setup, refer to the section **3.11 Updating BIOS** in Chapter 3.



- Do not unplug portable disk, power system, or press the CLR_CMOS button while BIOS update is ongoing, otherwise update will be interrupted. In case of interruption, please follow the steps again.
- If the light flashes for five seconds and turns into a solid light, this means that the BIOS Flashback is not operating properly. This may be caused by improper installation of the USB storage device and filename/file format error. If this scenario happens, please restart the system to turn off the light.
- Updating BIOS may have risks. If the BIOS program is damaged during the process and results to the system's failure to boot up, please contact your local Service Center.

2.3 Motherboard rear and audio connections

2.3.1 Rear I/O connection



Rear panel connectors

1. USB BIOS Flashback button	7. USB 3.0 ports E12
2. Intel® LAN port (LAN2)*	8. USB 3.1 Type-A port EA34
3. Intel® LAN port (LAN1)*	9. USB 3.1 Type-C port EC2
4. USB 2.0 ports 7-10 (Third port from the top port supports USB BIOS Flashback)	10. Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac, Bluetooth V4.0
5. USB 3.1 Type-A port EA1	11. Optical S/PDIF Out port
6. USB 3.0 ports E34	12. Audio I/O ports**

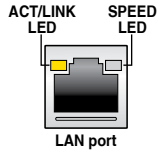
* and **: Refer to the tables on the next page for LAN port LEDs and audio port definitions.



- The plugged USB 3.0 device may run on xHCI mode or EHCI mode, depending on the operating system's setting.
- USB 3.0 devices can only be used as data storage only.
- We strongly recommend that you connect USB 3.0 devices to USB 3.0 ports for faster and better performance for your USB 3.0 devices.

*** LAN ports LED indications**

Activity Link LED		Speed LED	
Status	Description	Status	Description
Off	No link	Off	10 Mbps connection
Orange	Linked	Orange	100 Mbps connection
Orange (Blinking)	Data activity	Green	1 Gbps connection
Orange (Blinking then steady)	Ready to wake up from S5 mode		



You can disable the LAN controllers in BIOS. Due to hardware design, the LAN1 port's LEDs may continue to blink even when disabled.

**** 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 or side speaker
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