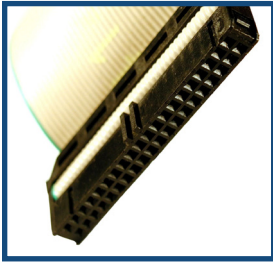
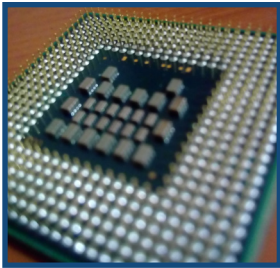


Computer Parts



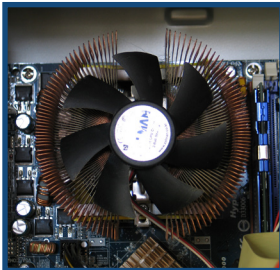
CONNECTORS/CABLES

A connector is a cable that connects a peripheral device to a hardware component. For example printers, overhead projector, mouse, scanners, et cetera.



CPU

CPU is the abbreviation for central processing unit. Sometimes referred to simply as the central processor, but more commonly called the processor, the CPU is the brain or heart of the computer, where most calculations take place. The CPU is a computer's main chip. The CPU is really nothing more than an incredibly fast and powerful calculator.



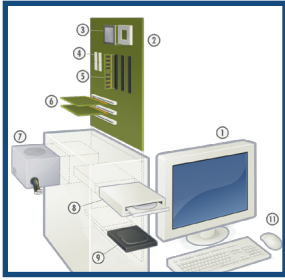
FANS

One issue with computers (especially laptops) is that they can overheat easily. To help reduce overheating, fans are used. The main fan is placed on the CPU, because the CPU is prone to overheating. A thermal compound is put on top of the CPU, followed by a heat sink and finally the fan on top of everything else.



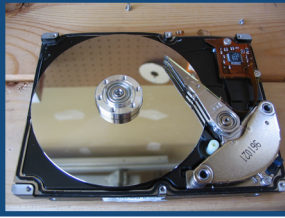
FLOPPY DISK DRIVE

A floppy disc drive can read and write on a removable floppy disk. The floppy disk is a type of storage medium and backup device (rarely used nowadays).



HARD DRIVE

This is the computer's long-term memory; things stored here are remembered even after the power has been turned off. The hard drive can store a large quantity of data, but the data cannot easily be removed from the computer. The hard drive is much slower than RAM.



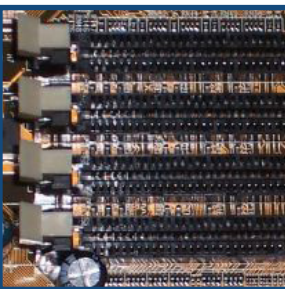
IDE DRIVES/RIBBON CABLE

IDE drives use a ribbon cable to connect to the motherboard. IDE (integrated drive electronics) is a standard electronic interface used between a computer motherboard's data paths or bus (the communication system between different computer parts) and the computer's disk storage devices. The IDE interface is based on the IBM PC industry standard architecture 16-bit bus standard, but it is also used in computers that use other bus standards. Most computers sold today use an improved version of IDE called enhanced integrated drive electronics. In today's computers, the IDE controller is often built into the motherboard.



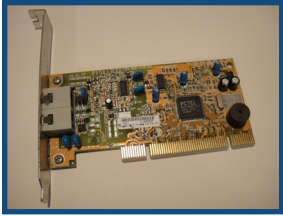
KEYBOARD

In computing, a keyboard is a typewriter-style device, which uses an arrangement of buttons or keys to act as mechanical levers or electronic switches.



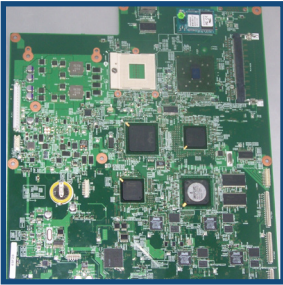
MEMORY SLOTS

A memory slot, memory socket, or RAM slot is what allows computer memory (RAM) to be inserted into the computer. Depending on the motherboard, there will usually be 2 to 4 memory slots (sometimes more on high-end motherboards), and they will determine the type of RAM used with the computer.



MODEM CARD

A modem allows computers to exchange information through ordinary telephone lines. Almost all computers already come with built-in modems, so you would probably only want to add a modem expansion card if the original modem in a computer breaks.



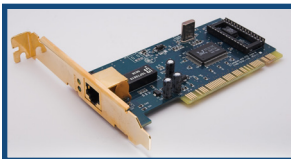
MOTHERBOARD

The motherboard is the main piece of circuitry in a computer. Everything connects to or is wired to the motherboard.



MOUSE

In computing, a mouse is a pointing device that functions by detecting two-dimensional motion relative to its supporting surface. Physically, a mouse consists of an object held under one of the user's hands, with one or more buttons.



NIC CARD

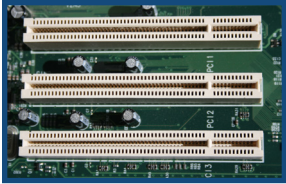
The NIC, or network interface controller card, allows the computer to connect to a network. A wireless network interface card allows the computer to access the network wirelessly, using radio signals.



OPTICAL DRIVES

In older computers, there are two types of optical drives: DVD drive and CD-ROM drive.





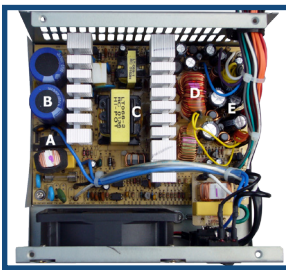
PCI SLOTS

Peripheral component interconnect or PCI slots are general-purpose slots that take a wide variety of cards, such as network cards and sound cards.



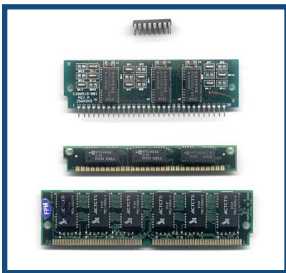
POWER CORD

A cord conducts power to the computer.



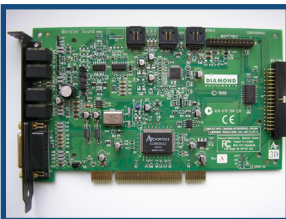
POWER SUPPLY

The power supply delivers the power that the computer needs to run. All wires going from the power supply go either directly to the computer components or to the motherboard. The power supply sits at the top of the case.



RAM

Random access memory is the main memory that stores data on the computer. RAM is a computer's temporary storage place, where it gets its work done. For example, when you use a word processor to type a letter, the letter is stored in the computer's memory. It is a volatile memory, which means it requires electricity to store data, so when the computer is powered down (or unplugged) all the memory is wiped. When the power goes off, anything stored in RAM is lost.



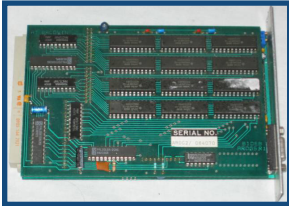
SOUND CARD

The sound card is an adapter card that allows the computer to have extended sound capabilities and for sound components to be used, like headphones, for example.



SPEAKERS

Computer speakers are speakers external to a computer. Speakers contain amplifiers, which vibrate to produce the sound. They come in many different forms. Some speakers are already attached to a computer. Some speakers are wireless and work by Bluetooth.



VIDEO OR GRAPHICS EXPANSION CARDS

A video card or adapter is what generates the images and text displayed on a monitor. Computers come with a built-in video card, but some people like to upgrade their original video card with faster, more powerful ones.