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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [npsmith82](#) on Thu, 15 Jan 2004 17:32:39 GMT

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At the moment i have 512MB SD-RAM inside my PC, and i have two expansion slots designed to install DDR Ram. I've looked in my motherboard manual and the memory speed maximum is 266mhz.

Would there be any problems with buying memory that is faster than the 266mhz DDR RAM? (333/400 etc)?

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [Founder of YASA](#) on Thu, 15 Jan 2004 17:39:46 GMT

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I think that those ram will have to run at 266MHz speed instead at full.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [nastym4n](#) on Thu, 15 Jan 2004 18:09:08 GMT

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there is no problem buying the faster RAM for when you upgrade in the future.

As stated above however it will only run at either:

[1] the speed of the slowest DDR RAM you already have installed. Here it does not matter what your board will support, if your existing 512 runs at 133 any other DDR RAM you buy will also run at 133

[2] a Maximum of 266

Bear in mind that some boards do not support much RAM, so it is worth checking the max capacity. Also check that there is not a particular order you must go in:

eg.

I have 768 meg of DDR RAM, one 512 and one 256. If I put the 256 in socket one it will not work, as I must put the bigger piece of RAM in socket one.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [General Havoc](#) on Thu, 15 Jan 2004 20:52:19 GMT

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You can run your memory at lower speeds with no problem. They may even be more stable at th

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lower speed than marked. I recently put a PC 2700 DIMM in a 266Mhz motherboard as the PC2700 DIMMS were cheaper than the PC2100 ones.

PC2100 (266Mhz)  
PC2700 (333Mhz)  
PC3200 (400Mhz)  
PC3700 (466Mhz)

Genrally your motherboard will support up to 2 GB of RAM. If you have an AMDAthlon XP chip then the motherboard isn't likely to be limited to 1 GB.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed  
Posted by [IRON FART](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 00:21:33 GMT  
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With your current motherboard, you can obviously only put up to a 266 MHz stick in there.

That means 266MHz and under.

But if you get under, make sure to put the faster stick in he first slot (slot 1 if not 0)

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed  
Posted by [npsmith82](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 03:28:17 GMT  
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General Havoc says it can be higher than 266, as he has tested himself.  
IRON-FART says it must be 266 or under.

Now i'm confused, which is it?

The ram limit for my athlon XP motherboard is 1GB.  
I'm planning to get two 512mb chips.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed  
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 03:39:43 GMT  
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As far as I know, DDR is backwards compatible, ie. a stick rated PC-3200 (400 MHz DDR) will run at 400 MHz as well as any speed below that.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed  
Posted by [exnyte](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 04:06:25 GMT

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What mrpirate says is true. Most memory now days is backwards compatible. You may want to check the memory out to make sure it is. The highest that it would run would be 266 although since that's what your board supports. Putting something higher than that doesn't hurt (which I have done as well). As long as the memory supports it.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed  
Posted by [Fabian](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 05:18:56 GMT  
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npsmith82  
The ram limit for my athlon XP motherboard is 1GB.  
I'm planning to get two 512mb chips.

Im not positive, but i think you cant do that. If the limit is 1 gb, you cant go over it at all...correct me if im wrong please.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed  
Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 05:23:22 GMT  
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Data is measured in powers of 2. This is done because in its simplest form, all data on computers is binary.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed  
Posted by [npsmith82](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 05:33:18 GMT  
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SEALnpsmith82  
The ram limit for my athlon XP motherboard is 1GB.  
I'm planning to get two 512mb chips.

Im not positive, but i think you cant do that. If the limit is 1 gb, you cant go over it at all...correct me if im wrong please.

By buying two 512mb chips = 1GB.

We're talking about maximum speeds of said memory, not overall memory quantity limits in a motherboard.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [IRON FART](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 06:14:18 GMT

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npsmith82General Havoc says it can be higher than 266, as he has tested himself.  
IRON-FART says it must be 266 or under.

Now i'm confused, which is it?

The ram limit for my athlon XP motherboard is 1GB.

I'm planning to get two 512mb chips.

Well I said that because you said the highest your mobo can handle is a 266MHz stick. In which case it will hold true.

So if you buy a faster stick, then it will run at 266MHz no matter what. (But still remember to put it in the first slot to avoid problems)

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [NHJ BV](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 09:56:19 GMT

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You could buy RAM faster than 266 fine, it'll just run on 266 Mhz and not higher, therefore you might as well buy 266 Mhz and not higher (as it will probably be more expensive).

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [npsmith82](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 11:32:22 GMT

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Okay i've just bought two DDR PC3200 400mhz 512mb sticks, simply for the reason of future upgrades, even though my current board cannot use the memory at it's fullest, a future computer upgrade should be able to.

USD).

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [General Havoc](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 14:32:09 GMT

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Yeah, they shouldn't give you any problems. If anything it is safer running them underclocked. I bought some generic (unbranded) RAM before to see what it runs like and it did have trouble running at 266 Mhz although it was branded as PC2100 it wasn't stable at that speed.

As you said it is future proof. You can stick it in an Athlon FX board if you decided to upgrade. The

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XP 3000+ series are dropping in price nearly day to day so even one of them are a good upgrade.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Fri, 16 Jan 2004 19:30:57 GMT

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I have generic RAM it can handle upwards of 440 MHz, despite originally being rated PC-3200.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [flyingfox](#) on Sat, 17 Jan 2004 09:21:41 GMT

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I have the same motherboard as npsmith but it supports only SD memory.. is sd slower than drr or is ddr just a newer type?

Also, do ram shortages decrease video card performance? Just bought a radeon 9200 SE, great in small games but in big games the fps rate sinks a bit (192 ram jus now).

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [mrpirate](#) on Sat, 17 Jan 2004 16:08:09 GMT

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DDR SDRAM sends and receives data twice per clock cycle. So, while PC-133 SDRAM and PC-2100 DDR both work at 133 MHz, the DDR has twice the bandwidth. The reason you're experiencing slow-down in larger games is the SDRAM. Its low bandwidth limits the CPU's ability to calculate everything happening in a larger game. Also, since the 9200SE only has a 64-bit memory bus, try running texture detail as low as possible, that should make things run a bit faster.

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Subject: OT: RAM Speed

Posted by [IRON FART](#) on Sat, 17 Jan 2004 17:55:09 GMT

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DDR = Double Data Rate

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