**ASUS A7V8X-LA**

# ASUS A7V8X-LA Motherboard User Manual

Model: A7V8X-LA VIA KM400A Socket A Micro-ATX Motherboard

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the ASUS A7V8X-LA VIA KM400A Socket A Micro-ATX Motherboard. Please read this manual thoroughly before beginning installation to ensure proper setup and functionality.

The A7V8X-LA mATX motherboard is designed for building custom computer systems. It is based on the VIA KM400A / VIA VT8237 chipset and supports AMD Athlon XP processors. It features integrated VIA UniChrome graphics, 10/100 Mbps Ethernet LAN, and Realtek AL658 AUDIO CODEC.

## 2. KEY FEATURES

- **Socket A mATX form factor:** Compact design suitable for various PC cases.
- **Chipset:** VIA KM400A / VIA VT8237 for reliable performance.
- **Front Side Bus:** Supports 400 / 333 / 266 MHz for processor communication.
- **Memory Support:** Up to 2 GB unbuffered PC2700/2100 non-ECC DDR SDRAM memory across two DIMM sockets.
- **Integrated Graphics:** VIA UniChrome graphics for display output.
- **Network Connectivity:** 10/100 Mbps Ethernet LAN (VT6103 LAN PHY) for internet access.
- **Audio:** Realtek AL658 AUDIO CODEC for integrated sound.
- **Storage Interfaces:** Two (2) on-board SATA connectors and two (2) Ultra DMA/100 IDE connectors.

## 3. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

### 3.1. Package Contents

Before proceeding, ensure all components are present:

- ASUS A7V8X-LA Motherboard
- Driver CD
- SATA Data Cables (if included)
- IDE Cable (if included)
- I/O Shield
- User Manual (this document)

### 3.2. Motherboard Layout

Familiarize yourself with the motherboard's components and connectors.



Figure 3.2.1: Top-down view of the ASUS A7V8X-LA motherboard. Key components visible include the CPU socket (Socket A), two DDR DIMM slots, AGP slot, PCI slots, IDE connectors, SATA connectors, and various headers for front panel connections.
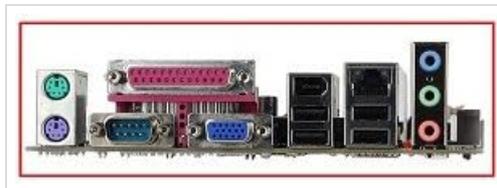


Figure 3.2.2: Rear I/O panel of the ASUS A7V8X-LA motherboard. From left to right, ports include PS/2 keyboard and mouse, parallel port, serial port, VGA output, USB ports, Ethernet (LAN) port, and audio jacks (line-in, line-out, microphone).

## 3.3. Processor Installation

1. Ensure the CPU socket lever is in the open position.
2. Carefully align the processor (AMD Athlon XP or Sempron) with the socket, matching the triangular marker on the CPU to the one on the socket.
3. Gently lower the CPU into the socket. Do not force it.
4. Close the socket lever to secure the processor.
5. Apply thermal paste to the CPU surface and install the CPU cooler according to its manufacturer's instructions.

## 3.4. Memory Installation

The motherboard has two 184-pin DIMM sockets supporting PC2700/2100 DDR SDRAM.

1. Open the clips at both ends of the DIMM socket.
2. Align the notch on the DDR memory module with the key in the DIMM socket.
3. Insert the module firmly into the socket until the clips snap into place.

## 3.5. Connecting Storage Devices

The motherboard supports both SATA and IDE storage devices.

- **SATA Devices:** Connect SATA data cables from your SATA hard drives or SSDs to the two on-board SATA connectors. Ensure power is supplied to the drives.
- **IDE Devices:** Connect IDE cables from your IDE hard drives or optical drives to the two Ultra DMA/100 IDE connectors. Configure jumpers on IDE devices for Master/Slave as needed.

## 3.6. Power Connections

Connect the ATX 20-pin main power connector and the 4-pin ATX 12V power connector from your power supply unit

(PSU) to the corresponding ports on the motherboard.

## 3.7. Front Panel and Peripheral Connections

Connect the front panel headers (power switch, reset switch, HDD LED, power LED, USB ports, audio jacks) to their respective pins on the motherboard. Refer to the motherboard diagram for exact pin locations.

# 4. OPERATING SYSTEM AND DRIVER INSTALLATION

## 4.1. BIOS Setup

Upon first boot, you may need to enter the BIOS (Basic Input/Output System) setup to configure boot order, system time, and other settings. Typically, press the `DEL` or `F2` key during startup to enter BIOS.

## 4.2. Operating System Installation

Install your preferred operating system (e.g., Windows, Linux) from a bootable CD/DVD or USB drive. Follow the on-screen prompts during the installation process.

## 4.3. Driver Installation

After the operating system is installed, install the necessary drivers for the motherboard's components. These drivers are typically found on the included driver CD or can be downloaded from the ASUS support website.

- Chipset Drivers (VIA KM400A / VT8237)
- Graphics Drivers (VIA UniChrome)
- Audio Drivers (Realtek AL658)
- LAN Drivers (VT6103)
- SATA/IDE Drivers (if required by OS)

# 5. MAINTENANCE AND CARE

- **Dust Removal:** Regularly clean dust from the motherboard and components using compressed air. Ensure the system is powered off and unplugged before cleaning.
- **BIOS Updates:** Check the ASUS support website periodically for BIOS updates. Only update BIOS if necessary and follow instructions carefully to avoid system instability.
- **Driver Updates:** Keep drivers updated for optimal performance and compatibility.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Operate the motherboard in a well-ventilated area, away from direct sunlight, excessive heat, and moisture.

# 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

| Problem | Possible Cause | Solution |
| --- | --- | --- |
| System does not power on. | Loose power connections, faulty PSU, incorrect front panel wiring. | Check all power cables (20-pin ATX, 4-pin 12V). Verify front panel power switch connection. Test PSU if possible. |
| No display output. | Incorrect monitor connection, faulty RAM, CPU not seated correctly, integrated graphics issue. | Ensure monitor cable is securely connected to the VGA port. Reseat RAM modules. Verify CPU installation. Try a different monitor or graphics card if available. |

| Problem | Possible Cause | Solution |
|---------|---------------|----------|
| Operating system not detected. | Incorrect boot order in BIOS, loose storage drive cables, corrupted OS. | Check BIOS boot order. Verify SATA/IDE cable connections to drives and motherboard. Reinstall OS if necessary. |
| No audio. | Incorrect audio driver, loose front panel audio connection, faulty speakers/headphones. | Install/update Realtek audio drivers. Check front panel audio header connection. Test with different audio output devices. |

## 7. SPECIFICATIONS

| Feature | Detail |
|---------|--------|
| Model | A7V8X-LA |
| Form Factor | Micro-ATX |
| Chipset | VIA KM400A / VIA VT8237 |
| CPU Socket | Socket A |
| Compatible Processors | AMD Athlon XP, AMD Sempron |
| Front Side Bus (FSB) | 400 / 333 / 266 MHz |
| Memory Slots | 2 x 184-pin DIMM |
| Max. Memory Capacity | 2 GB (unbuffered PC2700/2100 non-ECC DDR SDRAM) |
| Integrated Graphics | VIA UniChrome |
| LAN | 10/100 Mbps Ethernet (VT6103 LAN PHY) |
| Audio | Realtek AL658 AUDIO CODEC |
| SATA Ports | 2 |
| IDE Ports | 2 x Ultra DMA/100 |
| Expansion Slots | AGP, PCI |

## 8. WARRANTY INFORMATION

For detailed warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official ASUS support website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

## 9. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you encounter issues not covered in this manual, please visit the ASUS support website for FAQs, driver downloads, and contact information for technical assistance.

**ASUS Support Website:** www.asus.com/support

Documents - ASUS – A7V8X-LA
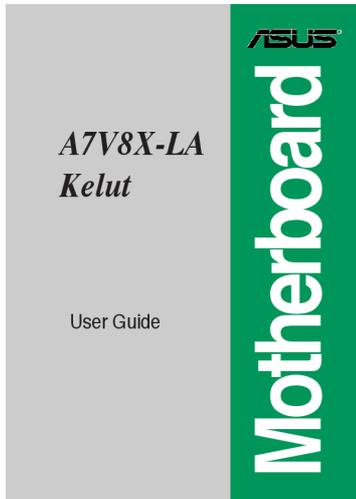
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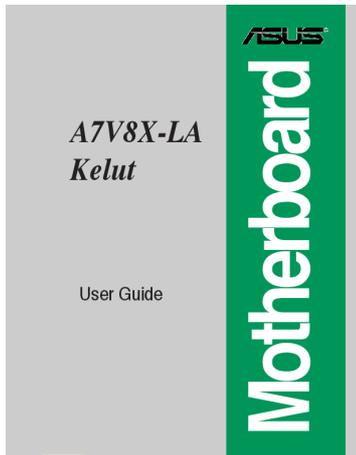
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