

# How to choose a motherboard for your computer or laptop.

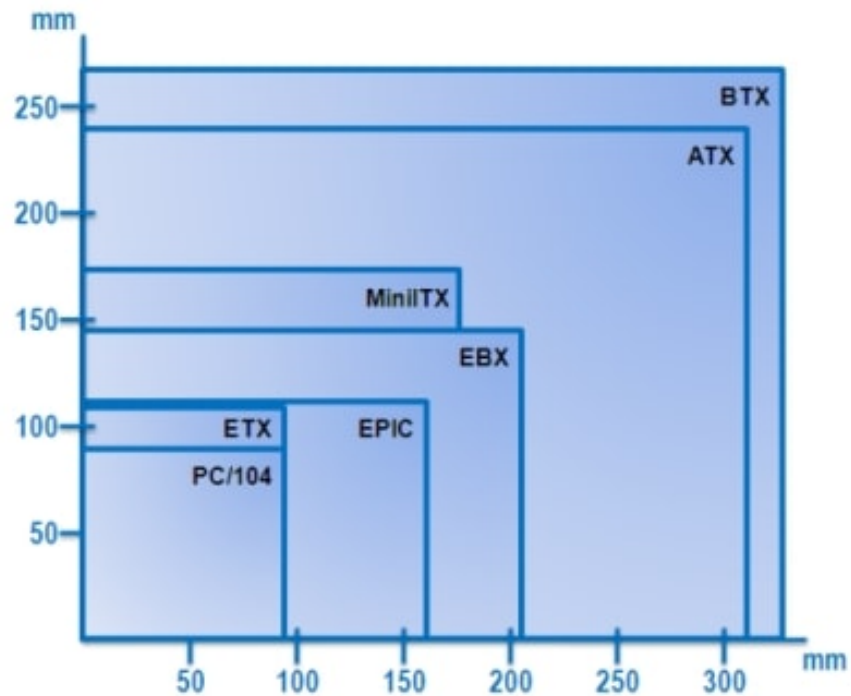
The motherboard is the most important component of a complete computer. Before buying a new computer or upgrading/replacing the motherboard, you need to know how to choose one that fits your budget and the other components in your computer.

The motherboard acts as a bridge between various components in a computer, such as the CPU, RAM, HDD, VGA, and other parts. Many types of motherboards are available on the market at different prices, so you need to research carefully to choose the right one.

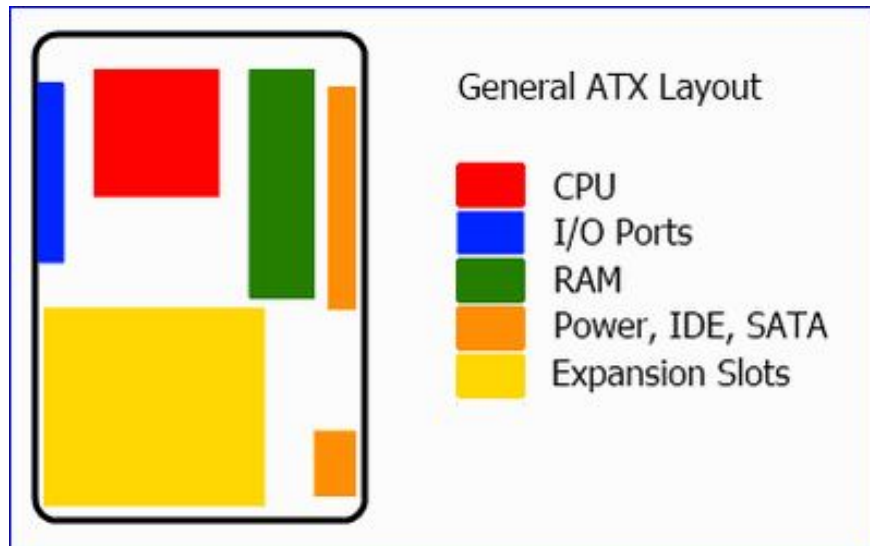
## ***HOW TO CHOOSE A MOTHERBOARD, HOW TO BUY A MOTHERBOARD***

### ***1. Mainboard size***

Motherboard size is an important factor, yet often overlooked. For desktop computers, the two most common sizes are ATX (Advanced Technology Extended) and mini-ATX for HTPC systems. The image below will help you better understand the dimensions of these motherboards.

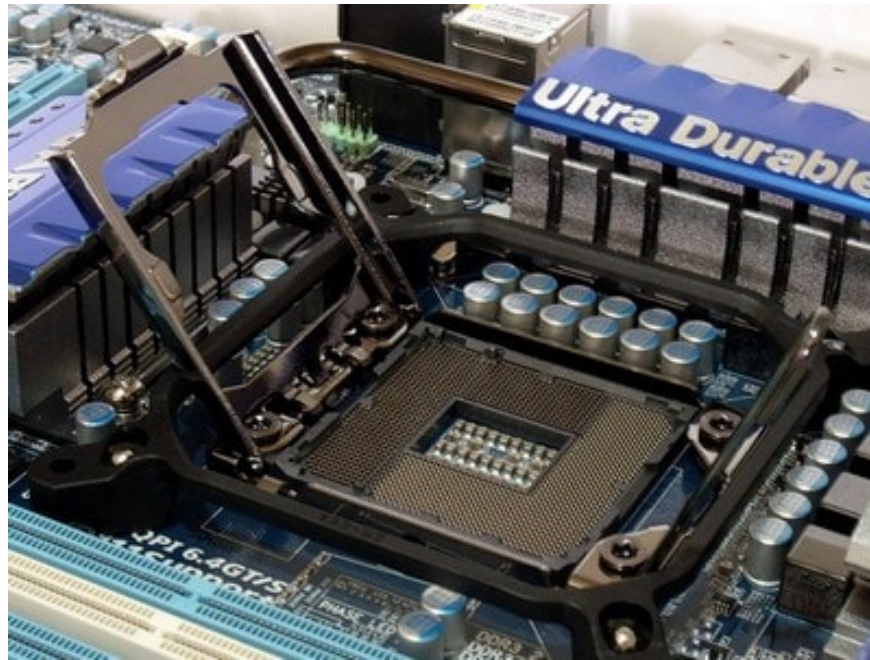


For desktop computer builds, ATX motherboards are the most suitable choice. ATX motherboards are designed according to standard specifications, making it easy to install other computer components neatly and without obstruction.



## 2. Socket and CPU Support

The socket refers to the number of contact pins on the motherboard that connect to the CPU. If the number of contact pins on the motherboard doesn't match the CPU, you won't be able to use the CPU when you install it in your computer. Therefore, this is an important factor when choosing a motherboard.



Currently, the two largest CPU manufacturers in the world are Intel and AMD, so motherboards are also divided into two types: those supporting Intel CPUs and those supporting AMD CPUs. Intel motherboards have various socket types such as LGA 775, 1150, and 1151 for the latest Kaby Lake CPUs. AMD motherboards have standards such as AM2, AM2+, AM3, AM3+, FM1, FM2, etc. Because there are many different socket types, you need to choose a motherboard that is compatible with the socket of the CPU you want to install.

### ***3. Number of RAM slots***

RAM (Random Access Memory) is a crucial component in a computer, so you need to pay attention to the RAM slots on your motherboard. Currently, motherboards support different RAM bus speeds and numbers of slots. For example, if your RAM has a 1600MHz bus but your motherboard only supports a maximum of 1333MHz, you won't be able to utilize the full speed of your RAM and may encounter conflicts. It's best to prioritize motherboards that support your RAM bus speed and have a higher bus speed, as a higher bus speed allows for faster data transfer. It's also advisable to choose a motherboard with two or more RAM slots for easier future upgrades.



#### *4. Other factors*

Above is how TipsMake has shared how to choose a motherboard. Hopefully, this article helps you understand the specifications and choose a motherboard suitable for your computer. Also, you might make mistakes when upgrading your computer. Do your research carefully to make the right decision. Good luck!

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