

About How To Upgrade Your PC

Welcome to How To Upgrade Your PC. This CD-ROM series will take the mystery out of upgrading your computer and save you hundreds of dollars in the process! Whether you are "doing-it-yourself" or just learning more about how things work, we are sure you will find this guide both interesting and enlightening. Please keep in mind that, while every effort has been made to keep this guide up to date, technology is changing extremely fast. When choosing components, it is always a good idea to look for product reviews in major PC magazines, or online on their websites, for great unbiased reviews and an idea of the new technology that is available.

How To Use this CD

This CD has been designed around a two-part system. For each chapter you will have both video instruction and text notes. The video instruction is designed to give you a step-by-step demonstration so you know exactly what to expect when you do your own upgrade. The text notes were created to offer more detailed information about each upgrade and explain things that were unclear in the video. It is recommended you view both sections at least twice before you perform any upgrade. For your convenience, you may also print the text notes in any chapter so you have a printed reference during your upgrade process. We can't emphasize enough that you read through the text notes thoroughly; they contain important information that you will need to know about before you do any work on your PC.

In addition to the text notes in each chapter the CD also includes a Glossary, for further explanations of terms you may be unfamiliar with, and a Parts List with recommended components and manufacturers.

Static Electricity

Static electricity is nothing to be taken lightly. Believe it or not, your body can store thousands of volts of static electricity. This translates into certain death to virtually all of your PC's delicate components. It is vital you always ground yourself by touching the bare metal part of the case chassis before and during the upgrade process. It is also a good idea to work on a non-carpeted surface in your home. For extra precaution, you can purchase a wrist-strap grounding device at most electronic stores; this will slide over your wrist and provide a constant ground for extra safety. However, as long as you are aware of the dangers and ground yourself appropriately, you don't have to get a wrist strap for doing an occasional upgrade.

All PC's are Not Created Equal

As you may have guessed, just about all PC's are built using different components. With this in mind, you can imagine that it's impossible to cover every detail accurately. In each chapter, we have attempted to offer a lesson that will serve as a general guide for your upgrade. Your PC will almost always be slightly different, but the principles and main procedure will be the same. The key to getting the most out of this CD is to watch what is going on and understand it in a general sense. With this knowledge you should easily be able to apply it to your own upgrade.

Case Designs

If you have a plain case, like the one in our video guide, taking a screwdriver and removing the four to six screws on the back of the case is very straightforward. With this design, the front of the case does not move. Only the top and sides come off as a cover. Some newer more expensive cases may come apart differently. If your case is a "screwless" design, you will need to take hold of the bottom-front of the case and give it a good yank. The front should pull away, and the sides and the top will lift off.