

## **Some commonly asked questions...**

### **Can 10 MHz or faster 286 machines be used as a Multimedia PC?**

A 386SX processor represents the minimum base specification of MPC platform. Less powerful processors are not recommended for general multimedia applications.

### **Will a Multimedia PC slow down my computer or interfere with my current software?**

No, the Multimedia PC is intended to protect your software investments and will not place an additional burden on your computer in running your existing software applications.

### **Can I install the Multimedia PC upgrade kit myself?**

Yes, upgrade kits are designed for easy installation. Upgrade installation requires opening your PC and inserting an audio board into the PC's expansion slots, as well as installing an internal or external CD-ROM drive and loading the necessary system software.

### **How many expansion slots does a Multimedia PC upgrade kit require?**

A multimedia PC upgrade kit requires one or two slots, depending on the kit manufacturer and whether you select an internal or external CD-ROM drive. A number of upgrade kits with external CD-ROM drives require two expansion slots in your computer. Some upgrade kits offer an integrated audio board and internal CD-ROM drive that occupy only one expansion slot.

### **I already own a CD-ROM drive - - can I use it with a multimedia PC?**

Yes, some upgrade kit manufacturers offer special packages that allow you to upgrade to a Multimedia PC without buying a new CD-ROM drive. However, CD-ROM drives contain a variety of performance levels, not all of which are sufficient for a Multimedia PC. To be fully compatible with the Multimedia PC standard, the drive must have a transfer rate of at least 150K per second and a maximum seek time of 1 second, and utilize no more than forty percent of the computer's CPU processing power. This information should be included in the technical specifications for your drive. If it is not, check with your drive's manufacturer. In addition, you'll need to be sure that you are using Microsoft MS-DOS CD-ROM Extensions (MSCDEX) version 2.2 or later and an updated device driver for your CD-ROM drive. The manufacturer of your CD-ROM drive can provide you with version 2.2 of MSCDEX and an appropriate driver.

### **I already have an audio board in my computer - - can I use it with my multimedia PC?**

Yes, some upgrade kit manufacturers also offer special upgrade packages that allow you to use your current audio board. However, many popular audio boards, such as Sound Blaster and Ad Lib, are not fully Multimedia PC compatible. Multimedia PC audio compliance for digitized sound is 8 bit samples at an 11 kHz input sampling rate and 8 bit samples at a 22 kHz output sampling rate. Your audio board also requires a software driver from the audio board supplier to communicate with Windows with multimedia Extensions. You can obtain this driver from your audio board manufacturer. The Multimedia PC also has audio mixing capabilities that enable it to output a variety of audio sound through a single output jack. Most older audio boards do not have this mixing capability but can be enhanced with external audio mixers that can be purchased separately. Check with your audio board manufacturer for more information.

### **How well will a pieced-together Multimedia PC work?**

It might work very well. However, to be absolutely certain that your system will be one hundred percent compatible with all Multimedia PC software, look for PCs and upgrade kits that bear the MPC logo.

**Will ordinary speakers or headphones work with my Multimedia PC?**

Yes, but you will need a power source to drive the speakers. This can be a standard stereo amplifier (with an "audio-in" jack) or self-powered speakers, which can be plugged directly into the exposed audio-card socket in the back of your Multimedia PC. Self-powered mini speakers, such as those used with "walkman"-like stereos, are a popular alternative. Headphones can be plugged directly into the audio card socket and do not require any external power source.