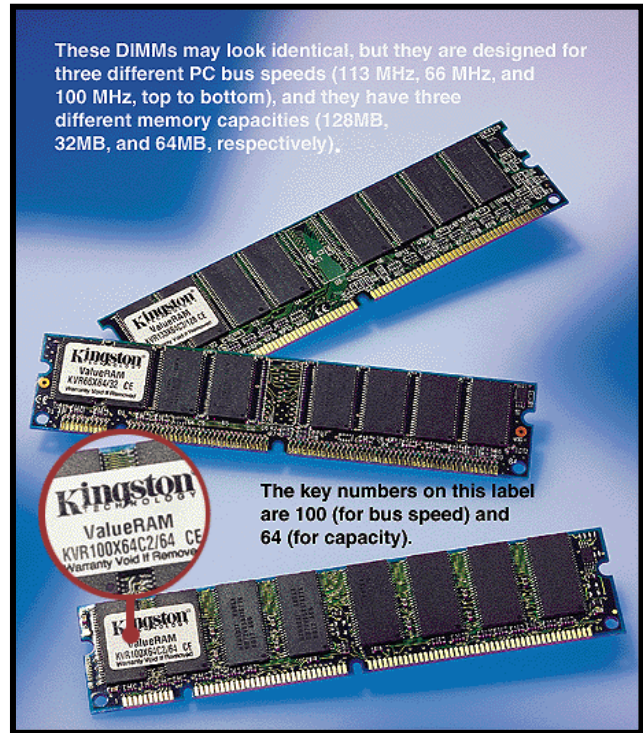


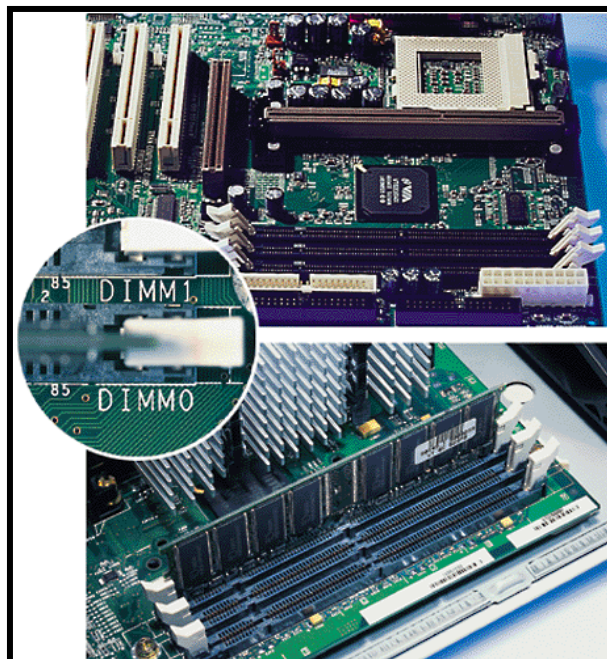
# Upgrading your computer's memory!

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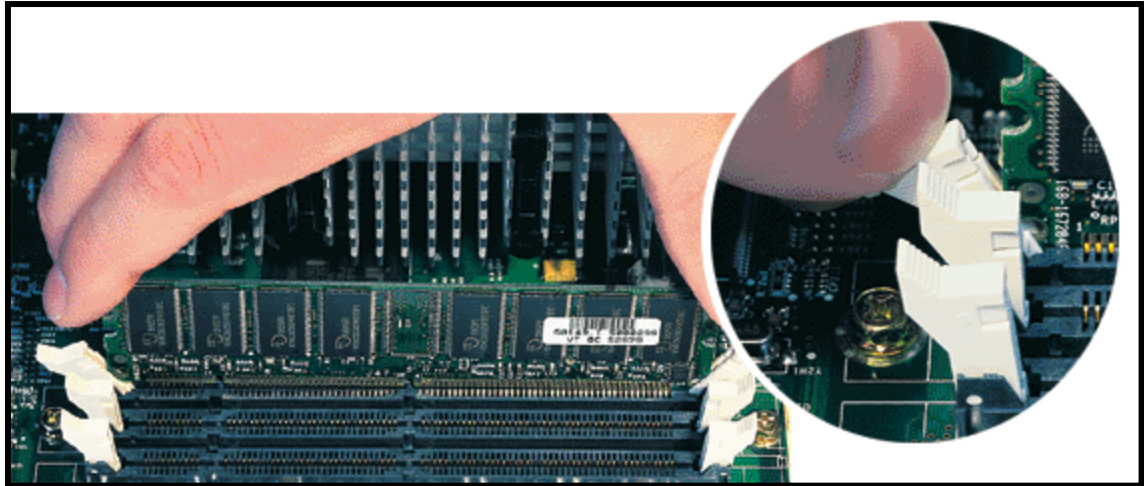
## 1. Where's the RAM?

Turn off your PC and unplug the AC power. In Pentium II and III systems, the DIMM sockets are situated just in front of the processor, toward the front of the motherboard as you face the PC (see below, top photograph). Intel's ATX system-board specification states only that the memory slots be placed to the right of the seventh expansion slot. Adjacent to the sockets, you should find labels on the motherboard indicating the sockets' numbers. Insert DIMMs in the lowest-numbered empty sockets first.



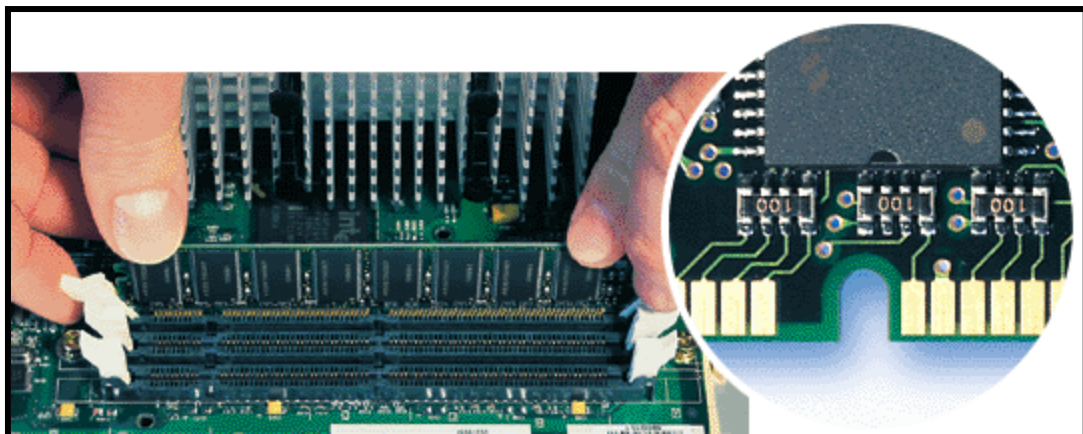
## 2. Out With the Old RAM (Optional)

Usually, the easiest way to upgrade your RAM is to plug in one or more new modules, adding to what you have. But if sockets are filled with low-capacity DIMMs, you may need to remove them just to clear space. Most DIMMs have clips on either side that you can easily push aside. Once you've disengaged the clips, you usually can pull the DIMMs straight out of the socket. If they seem tightly attached, rock them gently to release them.



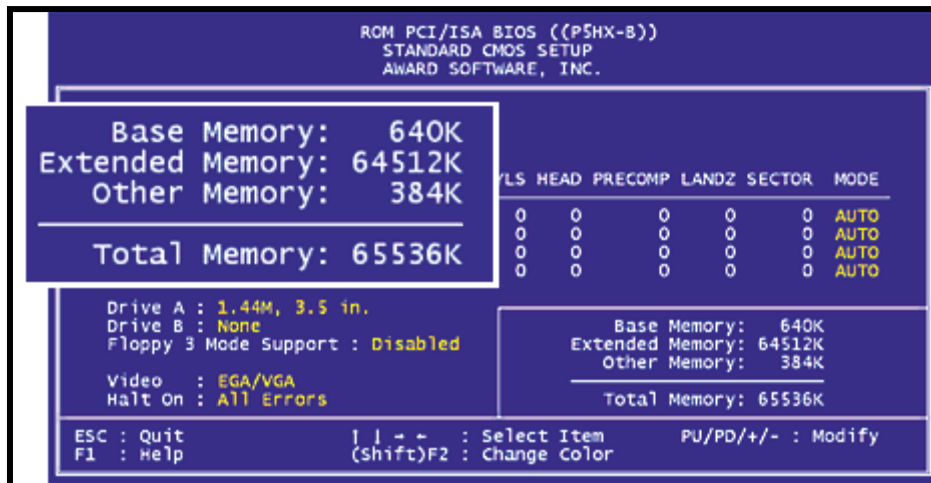
## 3. In With the New RAM

DIMMs have two notches that allow them to be inserted in only one way. Press them straight down into the socket, but don't force them. You'll know you've correctly inserted them when the clips on each side of the socket automatically snap into place. If the clips haven't snapped in, you haven't lowered the module far enough into the socket.



## 4. Power It Up

Don't put the cover back on your PC until you are sure that everything is working. Plug it in and turn it on. If all is well, the system will automatically recognize the new memory and (usually) show it on the screen.



## 6. Got Problems?

If your PC refuses to recognize the new RAM, locks up, or won't start at all, first turn it off, unplug it, and check to confirm that the memory modules are firmly seated in their sockets. If seating is fine but the lock-up persists, take out all the memory modules and reinsert them. If you still don't have any luck, the problem may be a defective memory module, though that's rare. To check, call your memory vendor's tech support line.

*Stan Miastkowski is a contributing editor for PC World.*