

# TECH



## TIPS

### ATX vs. AT MOTHERBOARDS: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The ATX motherboard format has replaced the AT format as the motherboard architecture standard for high-performance PC applications. (In fact you'd be hard pushed to find vendors still selling AT boards even in basic end-user systems). The ATX format has several advantages over the earlier AT format:

- **Full-size, Full-length Cards**

ATX motherboard components do not obstruct expansion card slots. As a result, the full height and length of each slot is available.

- **Top of the Range Standard Features**

**Dual serial ports, PS/2 keyboard and mouse ports**, and usually two **USB ports** are included as standard.

**I/O connectors** are provided on the rear of the board, eliminating the need for an I/O connector cable and I/O connectors mounted elsewhere on your enclosure. In addition, the power connector has been upgraded to a more rugged version compared with AT motherboards. The motherboards permit intelligent power management and shutdown features when used in conjunction with a power supply fitted with the ATX connector in an ATX compatible enclosure.

- **Higher Performance**

ATX motherboards incorporate the state-of-the-art chipsets such as the Intel BX and GX range, permitting 100/130+Mhz bus speeds, fast PPGA / Slot-1 CPUs, and features such as AGP video to deliver price/performance value far beyond what is currently available on AT-format motherboards.