

## Overview

The VT-501 mainboard combines the advanced capabilities of the Intel 82430VX PCIset with a 321-pin ZIF socket and voltage regulator which support the full range of Intel Pentium®, Cyrix 6x86™ and AMD-K5™ processors as well as the future MMX™ processors to provide the ideal platform for building the next generation of high performance Microsoft Windows multimedia systems.

The VT-501 achieves the highest level of system responsiveness using up to 128 MB high-speed EDO DRAM or 64MB lightning-fast SDRAM coupled with an onboard 256/512KB Pipeline Burst SRAM Level II cache.

Built on the highly concise Baby AT form factor, the VT-501 integrates a full set of I/O features onboard, including two 16550A UART compatible serial ports, one EPP/ECP capable parallel port and support for state-of-the-art Universal Serial Bus (USB) through the optional USB riser card providing ease-of-use and high-speed Plug & Play connections to future USB compliant peripheral devices. System I/O connectivity is further enhanced by an IrDA compliant serial port, an optional PS/2 Keyboard & PS/2 Mouse port and optional onboard SIR support.

Ample expansion is provided for with four 16-bit ISA slots and four 32-bit PCI slots. The VT-501 also comes with a built-in Enhanced PCI Bus Master PCI IDE controller that provides high speed connections to a full range of IDE devices including HDD, CD-ROM and Tape-Drives, and delivers ultra fast data transfer up to 20MB/sec through its support for PIO Mode3, Mode4 and DMA Mode 2.

This chapter gives you a brief overview of the VT-501 mainboard. In addition to basic information on the board's main components and features, it also provides advice on how to upgrade and expand it. For updated BIOS, drivers, or product release information, please visit FIC's home page at: <http://www.fic.com.tw>. Congratulations on your decision to adopt the VT-501 mainboard. With its high-speed PCI local bus architecture and ultra-fast I/O connections, the VT-501 provides the ultimate solution for optimizing the performance of your high-end system.

## Main Features

The VT-501 mainboard comes with the following high-performance features:

- **Easy Installation**  
Award BIOS with support for Plug and Play, auto detection of Hard Drive and IDE features, MS Windows 95, and Windows NT compatible.
- **Flexible Processor Support**  
The onboard 321-pin ZIF socket supports Intel Pentium (P54C) CPU speed 75/90/100/120/133/150/166/200 MHz processors/ P54CTB / P55C (optional by splitting the voltage regulator).  
Cyrix 6x86-P120+ (100 MHz) / 6x86-P133+ (110 MHz) / 6x86-P150+ (120 MHz) / 6x86-P166+ (133 MHz) processors.  
IBM 6x86-P120+ (100 MHz) / 6x86-P133+ (110 MHz) / 6x86-P150+ (120 MHz) / 6x86-P166+ (133 MHz) processors.  
AMD K5-PR75 (75 MHz) / K5-PR90 (90 MHz) / K5-PR100 (100 MHz) / K5-PR120 (90 MHz) / K5-PR133 (100 MHz) / K5-PR150 (120 MHz) / K5-PR166 (133 MHz) processors.
- **Leading Edge Chipset**  
Intel 82430VX chipset, including a CPU interface controller, advanced cache controller, integrated DRAM controller, synchronous ISA bus controller, PCI local bus interface, integrated power management unit.
- **Ultra-fast Level II Cache**  
Supports onboard 256KB/512KB synchronous PBSRAM direct-mapped write-back cache memory.
- **Versatile Main Memory Support**  
Accepts up to 128MB RAM in two banks using 72-pin SIMMs of 4, 8, 16, 32MB or using a 168-pin DIMM with support for SDRAM or EDO memory.
- **ISA & PCI Expansion Slots**  
Four 16-bit ISA and four 32-bit PCI expansion slots provide all the room you need to install a full range of add-on cards.

- **USB Support**  
Two Universal Serial Bus connectors integrated into rear I/O panel.
- **Enhanced PCI Bus Master IDE Controller**  
Integrated Enhanced PCI local bus IDE controller with two connectors supports up to four IDE devices such as Hard Disk, CD-ROM or Tape Backup drives via two channels for high speed data throughput. This controller supports PIO Modes 3 and 4, and DMA Mode 2 for optimized system performance.
- **Super Multi I/O**  
Integrated UMC669/LGS Prime 3C Plug and Play Super I/O chipset features two 16550A UART compatible serial ports, one EPP/ECP capable parallel port, one IR port, and one Floppy Disk Drive connector.

## This User Manual

This manual is designed to guide you and facilitate your use of the VT-501 mainboard. It contains a description of the design and features of the mainboard, and also includes useful information for changing the configuration of the board and the system it is installed in. The manual is divided into three chapters:

- **Chapter 1 - Overview**  
gives an overview of the mainboard and describes its major components and features.
- **Chapter 2 - Installation Procedures**  
gives instructions on how to set up the mainboard, including jumper settings and CPU installation guides.
- **Chapter 3 - Award BIOS Setup**  
briefly explains the mainboard's BIOS system setup in general and tells you how to run it and change the system configuration settings.

**NOTE :** The material in this manual is for information only and is subject to change without notice. We reserve the right to make changes in the product design without reservation and without notification to its users. We shall not be liable for technical or editorial omissions made herein; nor for incidental or consequential damages resulting from the furnishing, performance, or use of this material.

## Something Interesting

This section provides useful information that you will need to know should you decide to modify or upgrade the configuration of the mainboard and the system it is installed in. If you do not have the confidence to upgrade the mainboard yourself, we advise that you consult a qualified service technician for assistance.

## The BIOS Setup Utility

The BIOS (Basic Input Output System) is the basic firmware that instructs the computer how to operate. For the BIOS to work properly, there must be a record of the computer's hardware and configuration settings for it to refer to. This record is created using the Setup Utility, a program that is stored permanently in the BIOS ROM chip on the mainboard.

The system configuration record created by the Setup Utility is also stored on the mainboard, but not permanently. This section of the memory it is stored in is the NVRAM.

When you buy your computer, the system configuration record will already be set and may in some cases differ from the basic defaults. The first time you use your computer or when you need to re-configure your system, you should run the Setup Utility and write down the settings.

## IRQ Functionality

As you read through this manual, you will see the term IRQ on a number of occasions. It is important for you to know what this term means, particularly if you intend to upgrade your system.

IRQ stands for Interrupt Request, the process in which an input or output device tells the processor to temporarily interrupt its current task and immediately process something from the source of the interrupt. When it has completed this, the processor returns to the task it was already processing. Devices that need an

IRQ line to operate sometimes need to have exclusive use of that line.

A large number of add-on cards, such as sound cards and LAN cards, require the use of an IRQ line to function. Some no. of IRQs may already be in use by components in the system such as the keyboard and mouse. Add-on cards that need to use an IRQ draw from the unused group of IRQs. When installing a card that uses an IRQ, it will have a default IRQ setting which you might have to change if that IRQ is already in use and cannot be shared.

Both ISA and PCI add-on cards may need to use IRQs. System IRQs are available to add-on cards installed on the ISA bus first; the remaining ones can be used by cards installed on the PCI bus. There are two categories of ISA add-on cards: so-called Legacy ISA cards, which need to be configured manually and then installed in any available ISA slot; and Plug and Play (PnP) ISA cards, which are configured automatically by the system. As a result, when you install Legacy ISA cards, you have to carefully configure the system to ensure that the installed cards do not conflict with each other by having the same IRQ. With PnP cards, on the other hand, IRQs are assigned automatically from the ones available in the system. In the case of PCI add-on cards, the BIOS automatically assigns an IRQ card to the PCI slot the card is installed in.

## **DMA Channels of ISA Cards**

Some Legacy and PnP ISA add-on cards may also need to use a Direct Memory Access (DMA) channel. DMA assignments for this mainboard are handled in the same way as the IRQ assignment process outlined above. For more information, please refer to Chapter 3 of this manual.

## **Enhanced IDE**

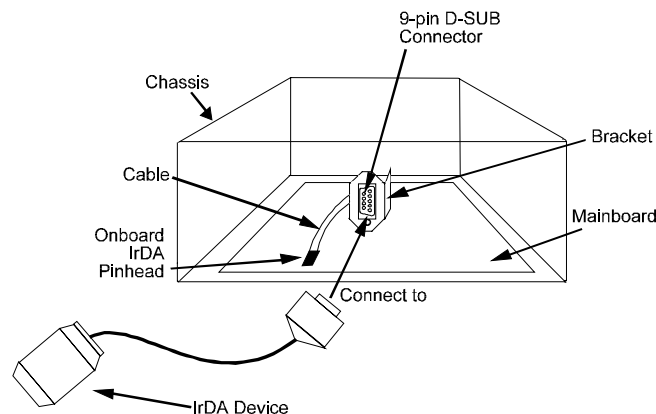
This mainboard features an integrated Enhanced IDE controller that provides convenient, high-speed connections with up to four IDE devices, such as Hard Disk, CD-ROM and Tape Backup Drives. Enhanced IDE is an upgrade of the original IDE specification and provides increased capabilities and performance in a number of areas, including support for Hard Disk Drives of over 1.2GB and faster data transfer rates utilizing the PIO Mode 4 timing scheme.

With the integrated IDE controller you can connect up to four IDE peripheral devices to your system. All devices are categorized in the same way that IDE Hard Disks were configured in the past, with one device set as the Master device and the other as the Slave device. We recommend that Hard Disk Drives use the Primary IDE connector and that CD-ROM drives utilize the Secondary IDE connector for improved system performance.

## Serial Infrared (SIR) Connections

This mainboard features support for highly-sophisticated SIR technology, which allows bi-directional and cordless data transactions with other IrDA compliant computers and peripheral devices using infrared as a medium. This transmission is carried out in either Full Duplex Mode or Half Duplex Mode. The former allows simultaneous data transmission and reception, while the latter disables the reception when transmission occurs.

The I/O chipset on this mainboard features a SIR interface that is fully compliant with the IrDA standard. An IrDA device can be installed via a 9-pin D-SUB connector in the rear panel of the computer which is linked by a cable to the onboard IrDA pinhead, as shown in the illustration below.



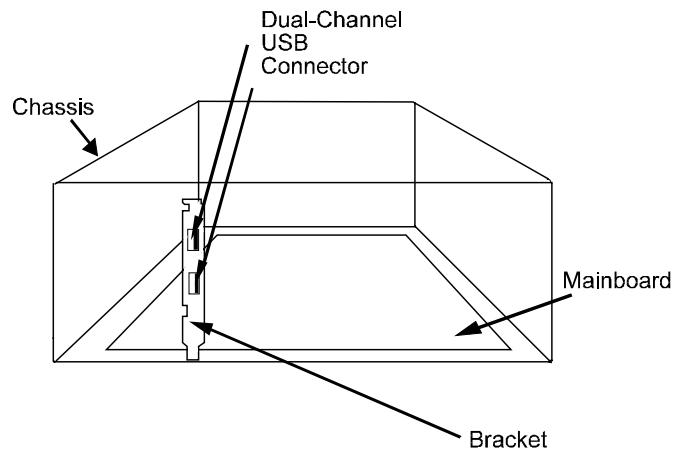
The serial port COM2 on this mainboard is designed to be an SIR compliant port. If you wish to install the SIR connection feature, you need to adjust the BIOS option for high-speed performance.



## Highly Convenient Integrated I/O Connectors

This mainboard features has an integrated rear I/O panel that incorporates a full set of I/O ports to allow simple and convenient connections to a complete selection of external peripheral devices.

In addition to two 16550A UART compatible serial ports and one EPP/ECP capable parallel port, the panel features two USB connectors that provide high speed connection to the next generation of USB devices. PS/2 keyboard and PS/2 mouse connectors provide additional I/O connectivity.



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