

## What do the numbers in PC100, PC133, PC1600, PC2100, PC2700, and PC3200 stand for?

Rather than give memory modules catchy names, modules are referred to by their specifications. If you don't know a lot about memory, the numbers can be confusing. Here's a short summary of the most popular types of memory and what the numbers refer to.

### **DDR PC1600, PC2100, PC2700, and PC3200 (DDR400)**

In DDR modules, the numbers that come after the "PC" refer to the total bandwidth of the module. For this type of memory, a higher number represents faster memory, or more bandwidth. Occasionally DDR is referred to as "DDR400" or "DDR333," for example. When written this way, the numbers after "DDR" refer to the data transfer rate of the components.

**PC1600** memory is DDR designed for use in systems with a 100-MHz front-side bus, (providing a 200 mega transfers per second (MT/s) data transfer rate). The "1600" refers to the module's bandwidth (the maximum amount of data it can transfer each second), which is 1.6 GB. PC1600 has been replaced by PC2100, which is backward compatible.

**PC2100** memory is DDR designed for use in systems with a 133-MHz front-side bus (providing a 266 MT/s data transfer rate). The "2100" refers to the module's bandwidth (the maximum amount of data it can transfer each second), which is 2.1 GB. PC2100 is used primarily in AMD Athlon systems, Pentium III systems, and Pentium IV systems.

**PC2700** memory is DDR designed for use in systems with a 166-MHz front-side bus (providing a 333 MT/s data transfer rate). The "2700" refers to the module's bandwidth (the maximum amount of data it can transfer each second), which is 2.7 GB.

**PC3200** (commonly referred to as DDR400) memory is DDR designed for use in systems with a 200-MHz front-side bus (providing a 400 MT/s data transfer rate). The "3200" refers to the module's bandwidth (the maximum amount of data it can transfer each second), which is 3.2 GB.

### **SDRAM PC100 and PC133**

In SDRAM modules, the numbers that come after the "PC" refer to the speed of the system's front side bus.

**PC100** memory is SDRAM designed for use in systems with a 100-MHz front-side bus. It is used in many Pentium II, Pentium III, AMD K6-III, AMD Athlon, AMD Duron, and Power Mac G4 systems.

**PC133** memory is SDRAM designed for use in systems with a 133-MHz front-side bus. It is used in many Pentium III B, AMD Athlon, and Power Mac G4 systems.

### **Older memory technology such as PC66 SDRAM, FPM, and EDO**

**PC66** memory is SDRAM designed for use in systems with a 66-MHz front-side bus. It is used in the Pentium 133-MHz systems and Power Macintosh G3 systems.

**FPM and EDO** speeds are written in nanoseconds (ns), which indicates their access time; the lower the number, the faster the memory (it takes fewer nanoseconds to process data).

It may seem confusing, but faster memory will not necessarily make your system faster. You can't speed up your computer by adding faster memory if other components in your computer (your processor or other memory modules) operate at a slower speed.