

JOE'S TECH

RAM Upgrade & Troubleshooting

Compatibility checks, installation, testing and stability basics.

Use this guide as a safe starting point. Back up important data before repairs, and disconnect power before opening a computer.

Compatibility

- Check DDR generation, laptop versus desktop form factor, maximum capacity and supported speeds.
- Matched kits are preferable to mixing modules.

Installation

- Shut down, unplug power and discharge static safely.
- Use the motherboard-recommended slots, commonly A2 and B2 for two modules.
- Press until both retention clips fully lock.

Testing

- Confirm total memory in BIOS and the operating system.
- Run a memory test after installation.
- If unstable, disable XMP/EXPO, reseal modules and test one stick at a time.

When to stop

Stop and seek professional help if you smell burning, see damaged power connectors, find liquid damage, or are unsure about working around electrical components.