

RME-Athlon compatibility survey

The editor wants to express a big "Thank You!" to all respondents who have contributed with data in the "RME-Athlon Success Survey" presented below.

Users who want an introductory reading regarding chipsets & soundcard compatibility issues [may have a look at: http://www.sospubs.co.uk/sos/aug01/articles/pcmusician0801.asp](http://www.sospubs.co.uk/sos/aug01/articles/pcmusician0801.asp)

Disclaimer:

All information is presented as reported by the respective users.

RME does neither warrant nor guarantee against any compatibility issues with RME products that may follow from users' hardware & software selections as presented below.

The table represents the most comprehensive list of successful RME-Athlon configurations reported by users in various public DAW forums or through direct contact with the editor.

The editor is not an employee of AMD or RME but rather a passionate RME user, who is convinced that both RME and AMD are producing excellent tools for successful digital audio workstations.

The table is produced to increase user-to-user services for customers potentially interested in RME-Athlon investments.

The user is ultimately responsible for any decisions made from the tabulated data.

June, 2002. Editor: Anders Fahlén (contact: anders@agronova.se)

Table 1. VIA, ALiMAGiK and AMD 761 chipsets

Chipset	Motherboard	CPU	Bios revision	Operating system	Memory configuration
VIA KT133A	Abit KT7A-100 Raid	Athlon-C 1200	Dez 00	W2K SP2	768 MB RAM
VIA KT133A	Asus A7V133	Athlon Duron 700 (o/c 900)	1007	W2K	256 MB Crucial
VIA KT133A	Asus A7V	Athlon Thunderbird 1400	1	Win98SE	1024 MB generic PC133
VIA KT133A	Asus A7V133	Athlon 800	1007	W2K	642 MB SDRAM PC133
Via KT133A	Iwill KK266 Plus	N/A	01/04/02	Win XP Pro	256 MB 133 CL2 Micron
VIA KT266A	EpoX EP-8KHA+	N/A	N/A	WinXP	N/A
VIA KT266A	Asus A7M266	Athlon XP 1700+	1006	WinXP Pro	512 MB Samsung DDR
VIA KT333	Asus A7V333	Athlon XP 1800+	1005	WinXP Home	512 MB Crucial 2.5 CAS latency
VIA KT333	Asus A7V333 Raid	Athlon XP 2000+	1005	WinXP	1 GB Crucial DDR
Ali MAGiK	Iwill XP333	N/A	4/11/02	Win XP Pro/ Win 98 SE	256 MB DDR PC2100 Samsung
AMD 761	Abit KG7-Raid	Athlon XP 1800+	N/A	W2K SP2	256 MB Kingston
AMD 761	Abit KG7	Athlon 1200	2,2	WinXP	1024 MB PC2100 ECC/REG
AMD 761	Asus A7M266	Athlon Thunderbird 1400	1004A	WinXP Home	512 MB Infineon DDR CL-2
AMD 761	Asus A7M266	Athlon XP 2100+	1007	W2K SP2	512 MB Kingston DDR PC2100
AMD 761	Asus A7M266		1004	W2K	256 MB PC2100 Kingston
AMD 761	Asus A7M266	Athlon XP 1700+	1006	WinXP Pro	512 MB Samsung DDR
AMD 761	Gigabyte GA7-DXR+	Athlon XP 1900+	F4	Win XP	1024 MB PC2100 Mushkin

RME soundcard	Audio & midi software	Latency	RME-Athlon Compatibility
DIGI96/8 PST	Cubase VST 5.1 r1	5 ms @ <60-70% CPU load/ 22 ms @ <95% CPU load	OK
Multiface	N/A	6 ms	OK
DIGI9652	N/A	6 ms	OK
DIGI9652	Cubase 5.1	3 ms	OK
DIGI9652	Saw Studio 2.6	N/A	OK
DIGI9652/ DIGI96/8 PST	Nuendo 1.53/Cubase VST32 5.1 R.1/Reason 1.01/Ableton Live	3 ms @ 9652 (24 tracks/44.1 kHz/24- bit/5 softsynths; 6-12 ms with many effects); 6 ms @ 96/8 PST	OK
Multiface	Nuendo	1.5 ms	OK
HDSP PCI	Cakewalk Sonar 2.0	1.5 ms @ 44.1 Khz/48 Khz/96 kHz	OK
RME HDSP	Cakewalk Sonar XL	1.5 ms @ FM7 Dxi/2.9 ms @ The Grand in Fxpansion Wrapper	OK
DIGI9652	Nuendo/Cubase	23 ms (safety precatations preferred)	OK
DIGI9652/ DIGI96/8 PST	Nuendo 1.53/Cubase VST32 5.1 R.1/Reason 1.01/Ableton Live	3 ms @ 9652 (24 tracks/44.1 kHz/24- bit/5 softsynths; 6-12 ms with many effects); 6 ms @ 96/8 PST	OK
DIGI9652	Nuendo 1.53	N/A	OK
HDSP	Nuendo/LAWP 5.0	3 ms	OK
HDSP	LAWP 4.8.1/5.0	6 ms (3 ms also working)	OK
HDSP PCI	Cubase VST 32 5.1 r2/	Steinberg Grand @ 3 ms/44.1 kHz	OK
HDSP	LAWP 4.8.1	3 ms	OK
	Nuendo 1.53	40 x Waves RCL @ 6 ms/44.1 kHz	
Multiface	Sonar 2.0	1.5 ms	OK
HDSP PCI	LAWP 5.0/SAMP 6.0	≥ 1.5 ms	OK

Remarks	References
Robust performance	http://linux1723.dn.net/forum/Forum2/HTML/025774.html
Robust performance	dennis@dennisdesantis.com
Robust performance	
Robust performance	http://linux1723.dn.net/forum/Forum5/HTML/004238.html
Robust performance (24 ch simult. transfer via DAT)	christian_chr@chello.se
Robust performance (user reports BIOS-related issues with early versions; Enermax 300-430 W PSU tested; Matrox G450; D-Link 530TX+ NIC card)	chris@eastcoastmusicmall.com
Robust performance	http://www.nuendo.com/forum/Forum1/HTML/007775.html
Robust performance (no ACPI)	http://www.cakewalknet.com/articlesrmemultifaceeng.htm
Robust performance	andymilne@dial.pipex.com
Robust performance (no ACPI)	http://www.nuendo.com/forum/Forum3/HTML/000956.html
Robust performance (user reports BIOS-related issues with early versions; Enermax 300-430 W PSU tested; Matrox G450; D-Link 530TX+ NIC card)	chris@eastcoastmusicmall.com
Robust performance	http://www.nuendo.com/forum/Forum3/HTML/000972.html
Robust performance	christian.andre.meland@broadpark.no
Robust performance	m.elzer@freenet.de
Robust performance (incl. Zalman CNPS	jacek.hajnrych@radiotak.com.pl
Robust performance	music@pierrepetit.org
6000-Cu cooler, temp. approx. 55 C, Zalman ZM-F1 NP Fan and Zalman ZM-NB32J NorthBridge cooler)	
Robust performance	hans@musicworks.fr
Robust performance (APIC disabled)	dedric@keyfod.net

Editor's notes

Attention: VIA KT133A/KT266A: chipset driver ver. 4.31 or later is recommended (downloadable from www.viaarena.com);

VIA 686B Southbridge: PCI bus data can be corrupted during large DMA transfers. For fixes install the VIA 686B SouthBridge patch from e.g. <http://www.viaarena.com>, or the [VIA PCI latency patch](http://www.viaarena.com) from <http://www.networking.tzo.com/net/software/>).

For further reading regarding VIA chipset, drivers, etc; see <http://forums.viaarena.com>

VIA KT333 experiences:

<http://www.nuendo.com/forum/Forum3/HTML/000956.html>

http://www.digitalnaturalsound.com/logic_dsp/msg/1096.html

[AMD 760 experiences: newsgroup rme-audio.forum:2002-03-23](http://www.nuendo.com/forum/Forum3/HTML/000956.html)

For further reading regarding AMD chipset, drivers, etc.; see <http://www.amd.com>

Table 2. nForce and SiS chipsets

Chipset	Motherboard	CPU	Bios revision	Operating system
nForce 415	Asus A7N266-C	Athlon XP 2200+	N/A	W2K
nForce 415	Asus A7N266-C	Athlon XP 1900+	1002c	Win98SE
nForce 415	Asus A7N266-C	Athlon XP 1800+	1002	WinXP
nForce 420	MSI KN7420 Pro	Athlon XP 1800+ (o/c 1900+)	N/A	WinXP
nForce 420	MSI KN7420 Pro	Athlon XP 1900+	N/A	Win98SE
SiS 735	ECS K7S5A	Athlon XP 1800+	N/A	WinXP Pro
SiS 735	ECS K7S5A	Athlon XP 2000+	N/A	WinXP Pro

Table 3. AMD 760 MP/MPX (dual) chipsets

AMD 760 MP	Tyan Tiger MP (S2460)	2 x Athlon XP 2000+	N/A	WinXP Pro
AMD 760 MP	Tyan Tiger MP (S2460)	2 x Athlon 1600	N/A	W2K
AMD 760 MP	Tyan Tiger MP (S2460)	2 x Athlon MP 1800+	1,3	W2KSP2
AMD 760 MPX	Tyan Tiger MPX (S2466)	1 x Athlon XP 1700+	1,1	WinXP
AMD 760 MPX	Tyan Tiger MPX (S2466n)	2 x Athlon MP 1900+	1,01	WinXP Pro
AMD 760 MPX	Asus A7M266-D	2 x Athlon XP 2000+	A05	WinXP Pro

Memory configuration	RME soundcard	Audio & MIDI software	Latency
768 MB Corsair DDR333 PC2700	RME 9652	LAWP 5.0/5.1	3 ms @ 40 PVs on 5 tracks (loop)/ 1.5 ms @ 39 PVs on 5 tracks (loop)/ 60 stereo tracks/44.1 kHz/24-bit
256 MB PC2100 DDR	HDSP PCI	LAWP 5.0	
512 Kingston CL2 DDR	DIGI9652/ HDSP	N/A	1.5 ms
512 MB DDR PC2100	DIGI9652	LAWP 4.81	
256 MB PC2100 DDR	HDSP PCI	LAWP 5.1	<i>With ATI 7500 graphic adapter:</i> 3 ms @ 46 PVs, 46 ms @ 38 PVs 186 ms @ 39 PVs <i>With Matrox G450 graphic adapter:</i> 46 ms @ 38 PVs (clicks and pops at lower latency)
512 MB DDR PC2100	HDSP PCI	LAWP 4.8.1	6 ms
N/A	HDSP PCI	Nuendo	3 ms @ 24 tracks/44.1 MHz/32-bit

1 GB DDR	DIGI9652	Nuendo 1.53	N/A
1 GHz PC133 RAM	DIGI9652	Saw Studio 2.x	N/A
1024 MB DDRAM PC266	HDSP	Saw Studio 2.6b	N/A
1024 MB ECC/REG SDRAM	HDSP	Nuendo	1.5 ms
1024 MB Kingston non-ECC RAM	DIGI9652	Cubase 5.1 r2 pb2	23 ms (user reports good performance at lower latencies)
1024 MB Mushkin PC2100 DDR SDRAM	HDSP	Samplitude 2496 6.05 Cakewalk Pro 9/etc.	1.5 ms ASIO (in Samplitude: VIP buffer settings 2000; buffer no: 4)

RME-Athlon Compatibility	Remarks
<p>OK</p> <p>OK</p> <p>OK</p> <p>OK</p> <p>OK</p>	<p>Robust performance (no dropouts at 1.5 ms latency; ThermalRight AX7 heatsink; Papst 80 mm 3200 rpm fan; Enermax 550 W PSU; CPU temp.: 41-46 degrees Celsius; peak disk read performance: 50 Mb/sec)</p> <p>Robust performance (screen refresh issues with Matrox G450)</p> <p>Robust performance (Matthias Carstens, RME: "Best Athlon- based mobo tested by us so far")</p> <p>Robust performance</p> <p>Robust performance (screen refresh issues with Matrox G450)</p>
<p>OK</p> <p>OK</p>	<p>Robust performance</p> <p>Robust performance</p>

<p>OK (60+playback tracks + 16 recording tracks w/ plugins) @ 20-40 ms latency (external monitoring)/44.1 kHz/32-bit</p> <p>OK (72 solid audio tracks + Autotune, DSP-FX, Sonic Timeworks, Ozone plugins @ < 65% cpu load)</p> <p>OK (8 solid tracks/2 hours/44.1kHz/24-bit glitch-free)</p> <p>OK</p> <p>OK (user reports that RME 9652 Hammerfall does not work in 64-bit PCI slots)</p>	<p>User reports initial problems with installation & configuration Enermax 431 watt PSU; ACPI mode "on".</p> <p>Enermax 431 Watt PSU; ACPI multiprocessor configured. On-board 3Com Ethernet adapter disabled. User reports boot-up problems with Matrox G450.</p>
<p>OK</p>	

References

http://www.digitalnaturalsound.com/logic_dsp/msg/910.html

niels@crashmicros.freemove.co.uk

MatthiasCarstens@t-online.de

http://www.digitalnaturalsound.com/logic_dsp/msg/669.html

niels@crashmicros.freemove.co.uk

<http://www.nuendo.com/forum/Forum3/HTML/000864.html>

newsgroup rme-audio.forum:2002-02-10

<http://www.nuendo.com/forum/Forum1/HTML/007193.html>

newsgroup: iqsoft 2002-03-12

raul@simplybrass.com

newsgroup: rme-audio.forum:2002-03-16

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Editor's notes

Attention:

nForce: if using RME Hammerfall 1.40 driver it is necessary to make the alternative install (same as for dual CPU boards) as not to drift Midi and Audio apart;

see http://www.digitalnaturalsound.com/logic_dsp/msg/980.html;

[problem solved in later versions](#);

Use latest bios rev. to increase PCI bandwidth and PCI write speed.

For further reading regarding nForce chipset, drivers, etc; see

<http://www.nvidia.com>

ECS K7S6A (SiS 745 chipset) supports APIC (no IRQ sharing in ACPI mode)

For further reading regarding SiS chipset, drivers, etc.; see

<http://www.sis.com>

Attention:

Tyan MP/MPX: use only registered ECC RAM, Enermax PSU (≥ 430 W recommended), disable on-board 3Com Ethernet adpater; External 64-bit LinkSys ethernet adapter recommended.

Stability is not guaranteed on Tyan 2460/2462/2466 with more than 3 GB memory (> 6 slots); newsgroup: alt.comp.periphs.mainboard.tyan 2002-06-24; One user reports compatibility issues with RME 9652 and the 64-bit PCI slots.