

PCI POST PC System Diagnostics Test Card - 2 x 7 Segment LED

PCIPOST



*actual product may vary from photos

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- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

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Introduction

This reliable PCI Post Card is the perfect diagnostics tool for pinpointing Power On Self-Test problems.

A definite time saver, the PCI Post Card is easy to install and delivers simple PC diagnostics in the form of error codes on the built-on LED display. Determining the computer problem is then as simple as referring to the error code chart that's included with the PCI Post Card, eliminating unnecessary troubleshooting steps and preventing non-defective parts from being replaced.

Backed by Lifetime Warranty and free lifetime technical support, StarTech.com's PCI Post card is designed and constructed to provide reliable computer diagnostics.

Please Note: You may have to refer to your motherboard manufacturer's manual for motherboard specific error diagnostic codes when using the PCI Post card.

Packaging Contents

- 1x PCI Diagnostic Card
- 1x Instruction Manual

Features

- Fits into any open PCI slot
- Lists generic errors for AMI BIOS, PHOENIX BIOS, and AWARD BIOS
- Error codes clearly visible through on-board LEDs
- Backed by StarTech.com's lifetime warranty

Before You Begin

To ensure a quick and easy card installation, please read through this section carefully before attempting to install the card.

WARNING! PCI cards, like all computer equipment, can be severely damaged by static electricity. Be sure that you are properly grounded before opening your computer case or touching your PCI card. StarTech.com recommends that you wear an anti-static strap when installing any computer component. If an anti-static strap is unavailable, discharge yourself of any static electricity build-up by touching a large grounded metal surface (such as the computer case) for several seconds. Also be careful to handle the PCI card by its edges and not the gold connectors.

NOTE: Before you begin the test, make sure that you know the BIOS supplier and BIOS version. Without this information, you will not be able to determine the meaning of the error code. The PCIPOST card does not generate the error codes, the codes are generated by the BIOS supplier and are specific to that BIOS. Contact your motherboard manufacturer if you encounter any difficulties. The PCIPOST is compatible with every IBM-compatible system, but since there are numerous BIOS versions and suppliers, you may not find your system BIOS information in the error code listing. This information may be available in your motherboard manufacturer's user guide. Your BIOS manufacturer can likely supply you with this information if you contact them.

Installation

This section will guide you through the installation of your PCI card and the related software. Please read through the instructions carefully and complete each step in the order listed.

Installing the Card

1. Make sure that your system is unplugged and you are grounded.
2. Remove the cover of your system (see your computer's user manual for details, if necessary) and gently turn your computer onto its side.
3. Locate an empty PCI slot (usually white in colour) that can provide a clear view of the LEDs on the card and remove the metal plate that covers the rear bracket. You may need a Phillips screwdriver to perform this step. Hang on to the screw! You will need it to secure the card later.
4. Gently insert the card into the empty slot, making sure it is firmly seated and that you are able to see the LEDs on the card.

5. Secure the card in place using the screw you removed in Step 3.
6. When you are ready to begin the test, plug your system in and turn it on.

Using Your Card

When power is first supplied to your computer, the power supply will generate a power good signal that is received by the motherboard clock if all the output voltages from the power supply are correct. When the clock receives this signal, it stops forcing a reset signal to the CPU and the CPU begins processing instructions. These initial tasks are monitored by the circular green D1+ and D2+ LEDs. If the top D1+ LED does not light, there is a problem with the reset. If the D2+ LED does not light, there is a problem with the system clock.

The BIOS will then initialize, verify, and test numerous functions in your computer. Every initialization, verification, and test is its own separate program with its own error code. As the BIOS scrolls through these processes, you will see these error codes flashing across the LEDs. If an initialization, verification, or test fails, the system will pause and the error code will remain on the LED. You can now consult the error code listing and determine where the problem lies.

The error codes on the card are based on hex (0, 1, 2 ... 9, A, B, C, D, E, F, 10, 11, 12 ... 19, 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 20 ...) as opposed to decimal arithmetic. Therefore, a range of "2C ~ 34" means "2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34".

Quick Error Reference Guide

Error Caused by	AMI BIOS (c) 1990 HiFLEX BIOS	AMI BIOS (c) 1994 WinBIOS	Award	Phoenix	Quadtel AT BIOS	Troubleshooting
CPU	01~02	01~02	01~02	01	02~04	Replace CPU (speed should be the same)
Math Compressor	9C~9D	9C~9D	45	3E	76~78	1. Replace CPU 2. Replace CPU if NPU is built in CPU
Memory	13 20~24	D1~D3 20 40~58	C1 08 31~32	09~1F	1C~20 28~2C 32, 3A 60~68	1. Check and clean RAM module 2. Replace RAM module
Display Card	2C~34	2C~34	0D~0E	2B~33	46	1. Check and clean display card slot and golden finger 2. Replace display card
M/B error	Others DIY Code	Others DIY Code	Others DIY Code	Others DIY Code	Others DIY Code	Call Customer service center for help or replace M/B

AMI BIOS POST Test Codes

AMI WinBIOS/HiFLEX 101094

POST Code	AMI WinBIOS uncompress code checkpoints description
C2	NMI is Disabled. Power on delay starting.
C5	Power on delay complete. Going to disable cache, is any.
C6	Calculating ROM BIOS checksum.
C7	ROM BIOS checksum passed. CMOS shutdown register test to be done next.
C8	CMOS shutdown register test done. CMOS checksum calculation to be done next.
CA	CMOS checksum calculation is done, CMOS Diag byte written. CMOS status register about to initialization for Date and Time.
CB	CMOS status register initialization done. Any initialization before keyboard BAT is to be done next.
CD	BAT command to keyboard controller is to be issued.
CE	Keyboard controller BAT result verified. Any initialization after KB controller BAT is to be done next.
CF	Initialization after KB controller BAT done. Keyboard command byte is to be written next.
D1	Keyboard controller command byte is written. Going to check pressing of <INS> key during power-on.
D2	Check for pressing of <INS> key during power-on done. Going to disable DMA and Interrupt controllers.
D3	DMA controller #1, #2, interrupt controller #1, #2 disabled. Chipset initialization/auto memory detection about to begin.
D4	Chipset initialization/auto memory detection over. To uncompress the RUNTIME code.
D5	RUNTIME code is uncompressed.
D0	Transfer control to uncompressed code in shadow ram at F000:FFF0

Runtime code is uncompressed in F000 shadow ram

POST Code	AMI HiFLES BIOS/WinBIOS runtime code description
01	Processor register test about to start and NMI to be disabled.
02	NMI is disabled. Power-on delay starting.
03	Power on delay complete. To check soft reset/power-on.
05	Soft reset/power-on determined. Going to disable cache if any.
06	POST code to be uncompressed.
07	POST code is uncompressed. CPU initialization and CPU data area initialization is to be done next.
08	CPU and CPU data area initialization is done. CMOS checksum calculation is to be done next.
09	CMOS checksum calculation is done, CMOS Diag byte written. CMOS initialization is to begin.
0A	CMOS initialization done (if any). CMOS status about to initialize for Data and Time.
0B	CMOS status register initialization done. Any initialization before keyboard BAT is to be done next.
0C	KB controller I/B free. Going to issue the BAT command to the keyboard controller.
0D	BAT command to keyboard controller is issued. Going to verify the BAT command.
0E	Keyboard controller BAT result verified. Any initialization before keyboard BAT is to be done next.
0F	Initialization after KB controller BAT done. Keyboard command byte to be written next.
10	Keyboard controller command byte is written. Going to issue pin 23, 24 blocking/unblocking command.
11	Pin 23, 24 of keyboard controller is blocked/unblocked. Going to check pressing of <INS> key during power-on.
12	Checking for pressing of <INS> key during power-on done. Going to disable DMA and Interrupt controllers.

13	DMA controller #1, #2, interrupt controller #1, #2 disabled. Video display is disabled and port B is initialized. Chip set initialization about to begin.
15	Chipset initialization over. 8254 timer test about to start.
19	8254 timer test over. About to start memory refresh test.
1A	Memory refresh line is toggling. Going to check 15 micro second ON/OFF time.
20	Memory refresh period 30 micro second test complete. Base 64K memory initialized.
23	Base 64K memory initialized. Going to set BIOS stack and to do any setup before interrupt vector initialization.
24	Setup required before interrupt vector initialization is complete. Interrupt vector initialization is about to begin.
25	Interrupt vector initialization is done. Going to read input port of 8042 for turbo switch and to clear password if post diag switch is on.
26	Input port of 8042 is read. Going to initialize global data for turbo switch.
27	Global data initialization for turbo switch is over. Any initialization before setting video mode is to be done next.
28	Initialization before setting video mode is complete, Going for monochrome mode and colour mode setting.
2A	Different BUSES initialization to start if present.
2B	About to give control for any setup required before optional video ROM check.
2C	Processing before video ROM control is done. About to look for optional video ROM and give control.
2D	Optional video ROM control is done. About to give control to do any processing after video ROM returns control.
2E	Return from processing after the video ROM control. If EGA/VGA not found the do display memory R/W test.
2F	EGA/VGA not found. Display memory R/W test about to begin.

- 30 Display memory R/W test passed. About to look for the retrace checking.
- 31 Display memory R/W test or retrace checking failed. About to alternate Display memory R/W test.
- 32 Alternate Display memory R/W test passed. About to look for the alternate display retrace checking.
- 34 Video display checking over. Display mode to be set next.
- 37 Display mode set. Going to display the power-on message.
- 38 Different BUSES initialization to start if present.
- 39 Display different BUSES initialization error messages.
- 3A New cursor position read and saved. Going to display Hit message.
- 3B Hit message displayed. Virtual mode memory test about to start.
- 40 Going to prepare the descriptor tables.
- 42 Descriptor tables prepared. Going to enter in Virtual mode for memory test.
- 43 Entered in the virtual mode. Going to enable interrupts for diagnostics mode.
- 44 Interrupts enabled (if diagnostics switch is on). Going to initialize data to check memory wrap around at 0:0.
- 45 Data initialized. Going to check for memory wrap around at 0:0 and finding the total system memory size.
- 46 Memory wrap around test done. Memory size calculation over. About to go for writing patterns to test memory.
- 47 Pattern to be tested and written in extended memory. Going to write patterns in base 640K memory.
- 48 Pattern written in base memory. Going to find out amount of memory below 1M memory.
- 49 Amount of memory below 1M found and verified. Going to find out amount of memory above 1M.

4B	Amount of memory above 1M found and verified. Check for soft reset and going to clear memory below 1M for soft reset.
4C	Memory below 1M cleared. Going to clear memory above 1M.
4D	Memory above 1M cleared. Going to save memory size.
4E	Memory test started. About to display the first 64K memory size.
4F	Memory size display started. This will be updated during memory test. Going for sequential and random memory test.
50	Memory testing/initialization below 1M complete. Going to adjust display memory size for relocation/shadow.
51	Memory size display adjusted due to relocation/shadow. Memory test above 1M to follow.
52	Memory testing/initialization above 1M complete. Going to save memory size information.
53	Memory size information is saved. CPU registers are saved. Going to enter in real mode.
54	Shutdown successful, CPU in real mode. Going to disable gate A20 line and disable parity/NMI.
57	A20 address line, parity/NMI disable successful. Going to adjust memory size depending on relocation/shadow.
58	Memory size adjusted for relocation/shadow. Going to clear. Hit message.
59	Hit message cleared. <WAIT...> message displayed. About to start DMA and interrupt controller test.
60	DMA page register test passed. To do DMA#1 base register test.
62	DMA#1 base register test passed. To do DMA#2 base register test.
65	DMA#2 base register test passed. To program DMA unit 1 and 2.
66	DMA unit 1 and 2 programming over. To initialize 8259 interrupt controller.
67	8259 initialization over.
7F	Extended NMI sources enabling is in progress.

- 80 Keyboard test started. Clearing output buffer and checking for stuck key. About to issue keyboard reset command.
- 81 Keyboard reset error/stuck key found. About to issue keyboard controller interface test command.
- 82 Keyboard controller interface test over. About to write command byte and initialize circular buffer.
- 83 Command byte written. Global data initialization done. About to check for lock key.
- 84 Lock key checking over. About to check for memory size mismatch with CMOS.
- 85 Memory size check done. About to display soft error and check or password or bypass setup.
- 86 Password checked. About to do programming before setup.
- 87 Programming before setup complete. Going to uncompress SETUP code and execute CMOS setup.
- 88 Returned from CMOS setup program and screen is cleared. About to do programming after setup.
- 89 Programming after setup complete. Going to display power on screen message.
- 8B First screen message displayed. <WAIT...> message displayed. About to do Video BIOS shadow.
- 8C Video BIOS shadow successful. Setup options programming after CMOS setup about to start.
- 8D Setup options are programmed. Mouse check and initialization is next.
- 8E Mouse check and initialization complete. Going for hard disk controller reset.
- 8F Hard disk controller reset done. Floppy setup to be done next.
- 91 Floppy setup complete. Hard disk setup to be done next.
- 94 Hard disk setup complete. To set base and extended memory size.
- 95 Memory size adjusted due to mouse support. Initialization of different BUSES and optional ROMs from C800 to start.

96	Going to do any initialization before C800 optional ROM control.
97	Any initialization before C800 optional ROM control is over. Optional ROM check and control will be done next.
98	Optional ROM control is done. About to give control to do any required processing after optional ROM returns control.
99	Any initialization required after optional ROM test over. Going to setup timer data area and printer base address.
9A	Return after setting timer and printer base address. Going to set the RS-232 base address.
9B	Returned RS-232 base address. Going to do any initialization before coprocessor test.
9C	Required initialization before coprocessor is over. Going to initialize the coprocessor next.
9D	Coprocessor initialized. Going to do any initialization after coprocessor test.
9E	Initialization after coprocessor test is complete. Going to check extended keyboard, keyboard ID and num-lock.
9F	Extended keyboard check is done, ID flag set, and num-lock on/off. Keyboard ID command to be issued.
A0	Keyboard ID command issued. Keyboard ID flag reset.
A1	Keyboard ID flag reset. Cache memory test to follow.
A2	Cache memory test over. Going to display any soft errors.
A3	Soft error display complete. Going to set keyboard typematic rate.
A4	Keyboard typematic rate set. To program memory wait states.
A5	Memory wait states programming over. Going to clear the screen and enable parity/NMI.
A7	NMI and parity enabled. Going to do any initialization required before giving control to optional ROM at E000.
A8	Initialization before E000 ROM control over. E000 ROM to get control next.

A9	Returned from E000 ROM control. Going to do any initialization required after E000 optional ROM control.
AA	Initialization after E000 optional ROM control is over. Going to display the system configuration.
B0	System configuration is displayed.
A1	Going to copy any code to specific area.
00	Copying of code to specific area done. Going to give control to INT-19 boot loader.

The system BIOS gives control to various BUSES at the following checkpoints to do various tasks on different BUSES.

POST Code AMI HiFLEX BIOS/WinBIOS Checkpoints of the BUSES

2A	Different BUSES initialization to start if present.
38	Different BUSES initialization to start if present.
39	Display different BUSES initialization error message.
95	Initialization of different BUSES optional ROMs from C800 to start.

While control is inside the different BUS routine, additional checkpoints are outputted to port 80h as WORD to identify the routines under execution. These are WORD checkpoints: the LOW BYTE of the checkpoint is the system BIOS checkpoint from where the control is passed to the different BUS routines and the HIGH BYTE of the checkpoint is the identification of which the routine is being executed in the different BUSes. The details of HIGH BYTE of these checkpoints are as follows:

HIGH BYTE XY

The upper nibble 'X' indicates the function #is being executed. 'X' can be from 0 to 7.

- 0=func#0, disable all devices on the BUS concerned.
- 1=func#1, static devices initialized on the BUS concerned.
- 2=func#2, output devices initialized on the BUS concerned.
- 3=func#3, input device initialized on the BUS concerned.
- 4=func#4, IPL device initialized on the BUS concerned.
- 5=func#5, general device initialized on the BUS concerned
- 6=func#6, error reporting for the BUS concerned.
- 7=func#7, add-on ROM initialized for all BUSes.

The lower nibble 'Y' indicates the BUS on which the different routines are being executed. 'Y' can be from 0 to 5.

- 0=Generic DIM (Device Initialization Manager).
- 1=On-board system devices.
- 2= ISA devices.
- 3=EISA devices.
- 4=ISA PnP devices.
- 5=PCI devices.

AWARD BIOS POST Test Code Listing

Post Code	Award POST Routine Description
C0	Turn off chipset cache.
01	Test processor flag register.
02	Test all processor registers except SS, SP and BP with pattern FF and 00.
03	Initialize Chips (RTC, 8254, 8237, 8259), reset math coprocessor, clear CMOS shutdown byte and page register.
04	Test DRAM refresh.
05	Black video, and keyboard controller initialization.
07	Test CMOS interface and battery status.
BE	Initialize chipset with power on BIOS defaults.
C1	Memory presence test (OEM specific test to size on-board memory)
C5	Early shadow (OEM specific-early shadow enabled for fast boot).
C6	Cache presence test (external cache size detection).
08	Setup low memory (base 64K memory test).
09	TEST CMOS RAM checksum, load default value if test is bad.
0A	Setup interrupt vector table.
0B	Test CMOS RAM checksum and load default value if test is bad.
0C	Initialize keyboard (detect keyboard type and set NUM_LOCK status).
0D	Initialize and detect video adapter interface.
0E	Test video memory, write sign-on message to screen. Set up shadow RAM - Enable shadow according to setup.
0F	Test DMA controller 0.
10	Test DMA controller 1.
11	Test DMA page registers (74612).

14	Test Timer 0 counter 2
15	Test 8259-1 interrupt mask register (port 21H)
16	Test 8259-2 interrupt mask register (port A1H)
17	Test stuck 8259's interrupt bits.
18	Test 8259 interrupt functionality.
19	Test stuck NMI bits (verify NMI can be cleared).
1A	Display CPU clock.
1F	Set EISA mode.
20	Enable Slot 0 (initialize slot 0 - system board)
21-2F	Enable Slot 1-15 (initialize slot 1 to 15)
30	Size base memory and extended memory.
31	Test base memory and extended memory.
32	Test EISA extended memory. Skip in ISA mode.
3C	Setup enabled.
3D	Initialize and setup mouse.
3E	Setup cache controller.
BF	Chipset initialization (program chipset registers with setup values)
40	Display virus protest disabled or enabled.
41	Initialize floppy drive and controller.
42	Initialize hard drive and controller.
43	Detect and initialize the serial, parallel and game ports.
4E	Check manufacture POST loop.
4F	Security check.
50	Write CMOS (write all CMOS values back to RAM and clear screen).
51	Pre-boot enabled (enable parity check, NMI and cache).
52	Initialize option ROMs (address range from 0C800H to 0EFFFFH).

53	Initialize time value in 40h; BIOS area.
60	Setup virus protection according to setup.
61	Set system speed for boot.
62	Setup NumLock status according to setup.
63	Boot attempt (set low stack, and boot via INT 19H).
B0	Spurious (if interrupt occurs in protected mode).
B1	Unclaimed NMI (if NMI occurs, press F1 to disable NMI, F2 for reboot).
E1-EF	Setup pages (E1 - page 1, E2 - page 2, ... etc).
FF	Boot the operating system.

Phoenix BIOS POST Test Code Listing

POST Code	Phoenix POST Routine Description
02	Verify real mode.
04	Get CPU type.
06	Initialize system hardware.
08	Initialize chipset register with initial POST value.
09	Set in POST flag.
0A	Initialize CPU register.
0C	Initialize cache to initial POST values.
0E	Initialize I/O CPU register.
0F	Initialize the local BUS IDE.
10	Initialize power management.
11	Load alternate registers with initial POST values.
12	Jump to UserPatch0.
14	Initialize keyboard control.
16	BIOS ROM checksum.
18	5254 timer initialization.
1A	8237 DMA controller initialization.
20	Test DRAM refresh.
22	Test 8042 keyboard controller.
24	Set ES segment register to 4 GB.
26	Autosize DRAM.
2A	Clear 512K base RAM.
2C	Test 512K base address line.
2E	Test 512K base memory.

32	Test CPU BUS-clock frequency.
34	Test CMOS RAM.
35	Initialize alternate chipset registers.
37	Reinitialize the chipset.
38	Shadow system BIOS RAM.
39	Reinitialize the cache.
3A	Autosize cache.
3C	Configure advanced chipset registers.
3D	Load alternate registers with CMOS values.
40	Set initial CPU speed.
42	Initialize interrupt vectors.
44	Initialize BIOS interrupts.
46	Check ROM copyright notice.
47	Initialize manager for PCI option ROMs.
48	Check video configuration against CMOS.
49	Initialize PCI BUS and devices.
4A	Initialize all video adapters in system.
4C	Shadow video BIOS ROM.
4E	Display copyright notice.
50	Display CPU type and speed.
51	Initialize EISA board.
52	Test keyboard.
54	Set key click if enabled.
56	Enable keyboard.
58	Test for unexpected interrupts.
5A	Display prompt "Press F2 to enter setup".

5C	Test RAM between 512 to 640K.
60	Test extended memory.
62	Test extended memory lines.
64	Jump to UserPatch1.
66	Configure advanced cache registers.
68	Enable external and CPU cache.
6A	Display external cache size.
6C	Display shadow message.
6E	Display non-disposable segments.
70	Display error messages.
72	Check for configuration errors.
74	Test real-time clock.
76	Check for keyboard error.
7C	Setup hardware interrupt vectors.
7E	Test coprocessor if present.
80	Disable onboard I/O ports.
82	Detect and install external RS-232 ports.
84	Detect and install external parallel ports.
86	Reinitialize onboard I/O ports.
88	Initialize BIOS data area.
8A	Initialize extended BIOS data area.
8C	Initialize floppy controller.
90	Initialize hard disk controller.
91	Initialize local BUS hard disk controller.
92	Jump to UserPatch2
93	Built MPTABLE for multi-processor boards.

94	Disable A20 address line.
96	Clear huge ES segment register.
98	Search for option ROMs.
9A	Shadow option ROMs.
9C	Setup power management.
9E	Enable hardware interrupts.
A0	Set time of day.
A2	Check key lock.
A4	Initialize typematic rate.
A8	Ease F2 prompt.
AA	Scan for F2 stroke.
AC	Enter SETUP.
AE	Clear in-POST flag.
B2	POST done - prepare to boot operating system.
B4	One beep.
B6	Check password (option).
B8	Clear global descriptor table.
BC	Clear parity checkers.
BE	Clear screen (option).
BF	Clear virus and backup reminders.
C0	Try to boot with INT 19.
D0	Interrupt handler error.
D2	Unknown interrupt error.
D4	Pending interrupt error.
D6	Initialize option ROM error.
D8	Shutdown error.

DA	Extended BLOCK move.
DC	Shutdown 10 error.

The following are for boot block in Flash ROM

POST Code	Pheonix POST Routine Description
E2	Initialize the chipset.
E3	Initialize refresh counter.
E4	Check for forced Flash.
E5	Check H/W status ROM.
E6	BIOS ROM is OK.
E7	Do a complete RAM test.
E8	Do OEM initialization.
E9	Initialize interrupt controller.
EA	Read in the bootstrap code.
EB	Initialize all vectors.
EC	Boot the Flash program.
ED	Initialize the boot device.
EE	Boot code was read OK.

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