

ClearPC® Briefcase Instructions

(These instructions are provided on-line only and do not ship with your enclosure. Please print them out or study them thoroughly prior to receiving your new case).

Thank-you for purchasing the ClearPC® Briefcase, A.K.A., the ClearPC® Secret Agent computer enclosure. If you have any questions throughout the course of this dialogue, please email info@clearpc.ca or call 250-721-DIGI (3444) between the hours of 9AM - 9PM Monday through Sunday. We're here to help you transition to what we think is the most sought after computer gaming enclosure in the world.

Let's Begin

Before you remove your ClearPC® case from its shipping box, find a good, open spot on a kitchen table or desk top where you'll have lots of room to work. A blanket or other soft cotton towel or cloth that measures 20" x 20" will be sufficient to lay your case down to avoid scratches. If you don't have anything like that, use the ClearPC®'s plastic wrap to protect the unit while you work and move it around. First, inspect your case and its contents. Each case ClearPC® ships is strictly inspected both by the owner of the company and by our shipping staff. Should you find a problem, please inform us immediately. Your case ships with the following components:

1. A power switch (aluminum capped switches are available too, both for power and reset).
2. A reset switch
3. 9 screws (motherboard mounting) (3/8", #6-32, Machine screw)
4. 8 thumbscrews (HDD installation) (1/4", #6-32, Thumb screw)
5. 7 thumbscrews (PCI slot covers, fastening I/O cards to chassis) (1/4", #6-32, Thumb screw)
6. 2 5MM (large) blue LED lights with wire and post shunt
7. 7 chrome PCI slot covers
8. 8 CDROM drive screws (1/2", #4-40, Machine screw)
9. 4 power supply screws (3/8", #6-32, Machine screw)
10. 16 fan screws for 1CM or 2CM, 40MM Fan(s) (120mm screws ship with your fan) (1 1/4", #6-32, Machine screw)
11. 2 bay cover screws/nuts for cover fastening (1/2", #6-32, Machine screw + nut)

Optionally, you will have to purchase one 120mm fan and four, 1CM or 2CM wide (2CM preferred) 40mm fans for exhaust and HDD cooling. Bay covers, fanciful lighting and other funky gear are also optional, some of which are available direct from ClearPC®.

Recommended Tools

1 Magnetic Phillips Head Screwdriver, 1 Magnetic "Stubby" Phillips Head Screwdriver (for lower CDROM installation),

(Order Priority 1) Installing FAN(s)

We recommend that you populate all fan openings prior to using your ClearPC® Briefcase. It will be difficult to mount 40mm fans if you install your HDD.

(Order Priority 2) Installing Bay Cover

If you have purchased a bay cover, install your bay cover prior to installing your CDROM drive otherwise it will be difficult to fasten down your single bay cover with the provided screws.

(Order Priority 3) Installing CDROM(s)

We recommend that you install one or both of your CDROM drives prior to installing your main power supply unit (PSU). The CDROM drive unit's screw access is marred once the PSU is installed, however, removing the PSU is as simple as removing four screws and setting it aside (without disconnecting wiring) while you remove or upgrade a device. We thought this a minor inconvenience trading it instead for the enclosure's smaller size. We hope you agree! Access to CDROM screws is also available from the bottom of the case: we recommend a stubby magnetic screw driver for this task. Eight, 1/2" #4-40 screws are provided for installation of your CDROMs. Position your CD first, install one screw half way, install a screw on the other side half way until all four are in place and then fasten. It's easier that way!

(Order Priority 4) Installing Your Hard Drive(s)

Prior to installing your hard disk drives (HDDs), seat your 2CM wide 40MM fans using four 1 1/4" machine screws and nuts. Installation of the HDDs is completed using eight provided thumbscrews. Position your HDD's SATA or PATA connector away from the main board, so that the cable does not interfere with the movement of the two 40mm fans cooling the HDD. Position your first hard drive onto the lower thumbscrew holes and fasten.

(Order Priority 5) Installing Your Power Supply Unit (PSU)

Using the four, wider threaded machine screws (4 x 3/8" #6-32 screws), install your power supply in the provided opening. Due to the size of the ClearPC® Briefcase, we recommend you wire tie and neatly arrange your cabling so that it doesn't impede air flow or worse, become lodged in your heatsink fan. For this reason, we recommend you also turn on any CPU overheat protection in your motherboard BIOS upon POSTing (Power On Self Testing). Inspect your wiring periodically to avoid entanglements.

(Order Priority 6) Installing Your Main Circuit Board (Full-ATX or Micro-ATX)

The ClearPC® Briefcase has 9 permanently mounted acrylic standoffs that require pre-threading. Threading the standoffs for the first time requires a little effort but should be done with as little force as possible (read SLOWLY) with the provided screws. Once you've installed your CPU, CPU heatsink and computer memory onto your motherboard, you're ready for installation. For a Full-ATX or Micro-ATX board, installation is similar. Whichever board you have, we like to hold the main board by the heat sink fan as we gently lower the board into our enclosure at a 45-degree angle. Position the main board into the case with one hand as you hold the ATX I/O shield in position. Never touch the main board in any way, there is no reason to do so. As you bring the circuit board into the case opening, fit the motherboard's I/O ports into the I/O shield so that the shield is press fitted into the rear bezel and held fast. Now, simply align the main board with the standoffs and fasten the board down with the provided screws. We recommend that you use at least 4 machine screws, one in each corner of the main board.

(Order Priority 7) I/O Card Installation

All I/O cards are fastened to the rear I/O bar using seven provided thumbscrews spanning the back of the case. Once your I/O cards are installed, add the remaining PCI slot covers that came with your case to close the motherboard opening.

(Order Priority 8) USB/Firewire/Audio Adapter Installation

If you've elected to purchase the USB adapter, install it into the provided opening on the hinge door now. Three 1" machine screws and nuts hold fast the USB adapter whilst the wiring is routed through the back of the case and onto the motherboard. Consult your main board manual for instructions for USB.

(Order Priority 9) Finishing Up!

Now is the time to add your 120mm fan, cabling and cable management ties, or what ever modifications you may have otherwise planned.

Tip: Opening and Closing the Case

When you close your Briefcase, pull the doorstop so that it falls on the power supply side of the case. If the doorstop falls naturally, it will partially interfere with 8 hard drive air exhaust holes. It looks better on the power supply side too!

Special Request

Please send us a photo of the case once your modifications are complete. A 1024x768 of your finished case sent to info@clearpc.ca along with your name (pseudonym is ok too) is great. Photos are best taken on a black, red or blue background, but if you don't have that, don't worry about it. Half the fun of building these cases is seeing how people are modifying them so I'll take any photo I can get! Thanks again and enjoy your new case!

Frank G., Owner, ClearPC®

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