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# P183 USER'S MANUAL

At Antec, we continually refine and improve our products to ensure the highest quality. It's possible that your new case will differ slightly from the descriptions in this manual. This isn't a problem; it's simply an improvement. As of the date of publication, all features, descriptions, and illustrations in this manual are correct.

## **Disclaimer**

This manual is intended only as a guide for Antec's computer enclosures. For more comprehensive instructions on installing the motherboard and peripherals, please refer to the user's manuals that come with those components.

The P183 does not come with a power supply (PSU). Make sure you choose a power supply that is compatible with your computer components and has a long enough power harness to reach your motherboard and peripheral devices. We recommend our CP series, TruePower or Signature Series power supplies for the latest ATX specification compliance, broad compatibility, and energy-saving capability.

Although care has been taken to prevent sharp edges in your Antec case, we strongly recommend taking the appropriate time and care when working with it. Avoid hurried or careless motions. Please use reasonable precaution.

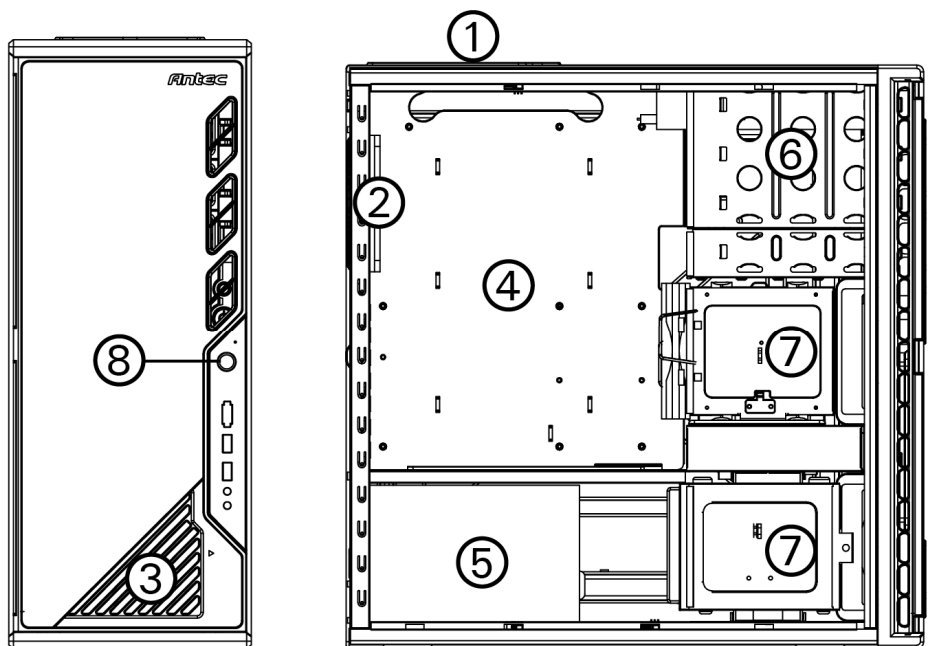
This manual is not designed to cover CPU, RAM, or expansion card installation. Please consult the motherboard manual for specific mounting instructions and troubleshooting. Before proceeding, check the manual for your CPU cooler to find out if there are steps you must take before installing the motherboard. While installing hardware, keep your case on a flat, stable surface.

## 1.1 CASE SPECIFICATIONS

Case Type	Advanced Mid Tower
Color	Gunmetal Gray
Dimensions	21.3"(H) x 8.1"(W) x 19.9"(D) 540 mm (H) x 205 mm (W) x 507 mm (D)
Weight	31.0 lbs / 14.0 kg
Cooling	1 x Rear 120 mm TriCool™ fan 1 x Top 120 mm TriCool™ fan 1 x Lower chamber 120 mm TriCool™ fan (optional) 1 x Front 120 mm fan mount (optional) 1 x Middle 120 mm fan mount (optional)
Drive Bays	11 Drive Bays: - 4 x External 5.25" drive bays - 1 x External 3.5" drive bay - 6 x Internal 3.5" drive bays - 2 x Internal 2.5" drive bays
Expansion Slots	7
Motherboard Size	Mini-ITX, microATX, Standard ATX
Front I/O Panel	2 x USB 2.0 1 x USB 3.0 AC'97 / HD Audio In and Out

## 1.2 DIAGRAM

1. 120 mm top TriCool™ fan
2. 120 mm rear TriCool™ fan
3. Washable air filters
4. Motherboard mount
5. Power supply mount
6. 5.25" drive bays
7. 3.5" drive bays
8. Front I/O panel



# HARDWARE INSTALLATION GUIDE

## 2.1 SETTING UP

1. Place the case upright on a flat, stable surface with the rear of the case facing you.
2. Remove the thumbscrews from the right side panel. Grip the panel at the top and bottom and slide it toward you to open the case.
3. Remove the screws from the left side panel. Grip the panel at the top and bottom and slide it toward you to remove the left side panel.

**Note:** Do not use your fingernails to pry or lift the panels.



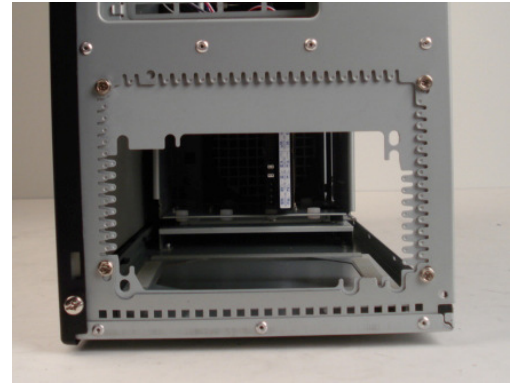
## 2.2 POWER SUPPLY INSTALLATION

1. Between the two chambers there is a plastic structure that lets you run the cables to the upper and lower chambers. It is a two-piece structure – one large and one small. Both pieces can slide back and forth to adjust the openings.
2. Loosen the two thumbscrews holding the plastic structure. Slide the large piece all the way to the rear of the case to fully extend the opening. Take any cables that will not be routed through the cable management chamber and carefully guide them through the openings to the upper chamber.
3. Fasten the power supply to the back of the case with the screws provided.
4. Slide the small plastic piece to the rear of the case to fully extend the other opening.
6. Slide both the large and small plastic pieces all the way to the front of the case to close the openings when finished with the hard drive installation.
7. Tighten the two thumbscrews on the plastic structure.



## 2.3 CP SERIES POWER SUPPLY MOUNT

Your Antec P183 enclosure comes with a power supply mounting adapter to mount either a standard-size power supply or Antec's exclusive CP Series high-performance power supply. This adapter is mounted to the chassis with standard Phillips-head screws. In order to install a CP Series power supply, remove the mounting plate first.



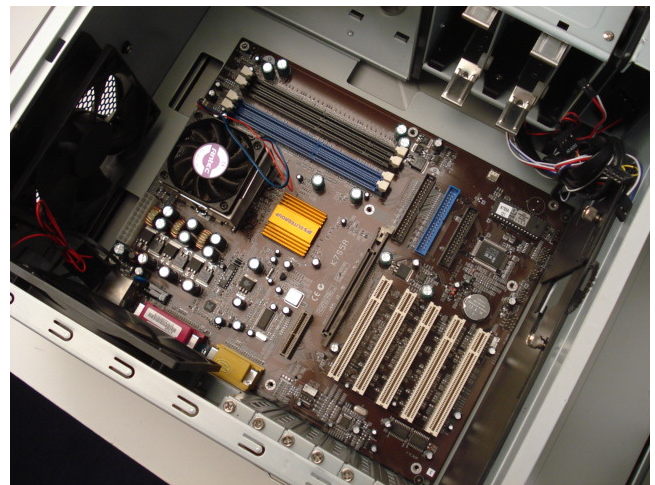
## 2.4 CABLE MANAGEMENT

There is a cable management compartment between the motherboard and right side panel. You can tuck or route excess cables in this compartment.

1. Remove both side panels.
2. Choose the cables you would like to pass through the holes behind the motherboard tray and pull them out of the power supply chamber toward the right side of the case.
3. Use the cable ties provided to hold them in place.
4. Feed the cables back through the insertion point nearest the destination of the cable. Connect the cable and then pull the slack back to the right side of the case.

## 2.5 MOTHERBOARD INSTALLATION

1. Lay the case down, with the open side facing up. The drive cages and power supply should be visible.
2. Make sure you have the correct I/O panel for your motherboard. If the panel provided with the case isn't suitable, please contact your motherboard manufacturer for the correct I/O panel.
3. Align your motherboard with the standoff holes and remember which holes are lined up. Not all motherboards will match with all the provided holes; this is normal and won't affect its functionality.
4. Remove your motherboard by lifting it up.
5. Install standoffs as needed and put the motherboard back in.
6. Screw in your motherboard to the standoffs with the provided Phillips-head screws.



**Note:** The P183 comes with a CPU cutout on the motherboard tray, which will allow you to change your CPU heatsink without removing the motherboard.



## 2.6 INTERNAL 3.5" DEVICE INSTALLATION

With the front bezel facing you, swing the front door open. It can swing 270° so the door will be parallel with the side of the case. You can see there are four 5.25" and one 3.5" external drive bays. Inside the case there are two 3.5" drive cages, which can house up to six hard drives.

**Note:** We recommend using the lower HDD cage to maximize cooling and quiet computing.

### Upper HDD Installation

1. Remove the thumbscrew holding the upper HDD cage.
2. Remove the HDD cage from its position by pulling the ring toward you.
3. There are two HDD trays inside the cage. Squeeze the metal clips on each side of the tray and slide the tray out.
4. Mount your hard drive into the drive tray with the special screws provided. Don't over-tighten the screws as this will reduce the vibration and noise dampening ability of the silicone grommets.

**Note:** Always mount the HDD with the thicker side of the silicone grommets facing up.

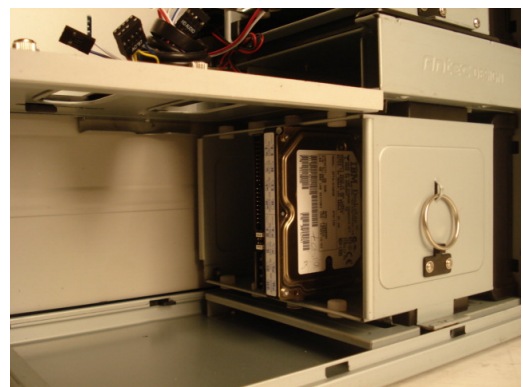
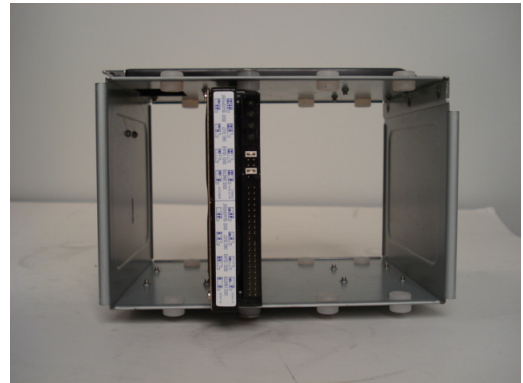
5. Slide and lock the tray back into the cage.
6. Slide the cage back into the case and fasten the thumbscrew.
7. Find the right Molex or SATA connector on the power supply and connect it to the hard drive.
8. Repeat the same procedure for the other drives.

### Lower HDD Installation

1. Remove the thumbscrew holding the lower HDD cage.
2. Remove the HDD cage from its position by pulling the ring toward you.
3. You can mount four hard drives inside the cage. They are mounted vertically with the silicone grommets sitting at both sides.
4. Mount your hard drive into the drive cage with the special screws provided. Don't over-tighten the screws as this will reduce the vibration and noise dampening ability of the silicone grommets.

**Note:** Always mount the HDD with the thicker side of the silicone grommets facing up.

5. Slide the cage back into the case and fasten the thumbscrew.
6. Find the right Molex or SATA connector on the power supply and connect it to the hard drive.
7. Repeat the same procedure for the other drives.



## 2.7 EXTERNAL 3.5" DEVICE INSTALLATION

There is one external 3.5" drive bay.

1. Carefully remove the plastic drive bay cover and metal plate covering the drive bay.
2. Find a pair of 3.5" drive rails in the included hardware kit box.
3. Mount the drive rails onto the sides of the 3.5" device. Make sure the metal portion is angled on the outside and facing forward.
4. Slide the device into the drive bay until it clicks into place.
5. Connect a small 4-pin connector from the power supply to the 4-pin connector on the floppy drive.

## 2.8 EXTERNAL 5.25" DEVICE INSTALLATION

There are four 5.25" drive bays that need a total of eight drive rails.

1. Carefully remove the drive bay cover/filter assembly by pressing the two tabs inward, then remove the metal plate covering the drive bay.
2. Mount the drive rails onto the sides of the 5.25" device. Make sure the metal tab is angled away from the drive.
3. Slide the device into the drive bay until it clicks into place.
4. Mount the other devices accordingly.
5. Connect the appropriate Molex or SATA connector from the PSU to the power connector on each of the devices.





## 2.9 INTERNAL 2.5" DEVICE INSTALLATION

Your case has two HDD trays in the upper HDD cage that can each support one 2.5" device. Note that installing a 2.5" device in one of these trays will make it unavailable for 3.5" device use.

1. Remove the thumbscrew holding the upper HDD cage.
2. Pop the pull-ring free from its holder. Remove the HDD cage from its position by pulling the ring toward you.
3. There are two HDD trays inside the cage. Squeeze the metal clips on each side of a tray and slide the tray out.
4. There are four silicone grommets pre-installed on the tray. Re-configure them for a 2.5" device by moving all 4 grommets to their positions on the inside of the tray.
5. Mount your hard drive into the drive tray with the special screws provided.

**Note:** Always mount the silicone grommets with the thicker side of the silicone grommets facing up, and place the hard drive on top. Don't torque or over-tighten the screws, as this will reduce the vibration- and noise-dampening ability of the silicone grommets.

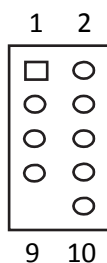
5. Slide and lock the tray back into the cage.
6. Slide the cage back into the case and fasten the thumbscrew.
7. Find the right Molex or SATA connector on the power supply and connect it to the hard drive.
8. Repeat steps 3-5 for an additional 2.5" drive if applicable.



# CONNECTING THE FRONT I/O PORTS

## 3.1 USB 2.0

Connect the front I/O panel USB cable to the USB header pin on your motherboard. Check the motherboard manual to ensure that it matches the table below:



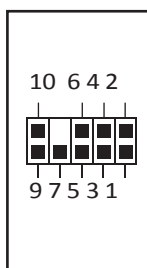
Pin	Signal Names	Pin	Signal Names
1	USB Power 1	2	USB Power 2
3	Negative Signal 1	4	Negative Signal 2
5	Positive Signal 1	6	Positive Signal 2
7	Ground 1	8	Ground 2
9	Key (No Connection)	10	Empty Pin

## 3.2 USB 3.0

There is a pre-routed cable for the front-panel USB 3.0 port. Plug the back end of this cable into an on-board USB 3.0 port on your motherboard to enable the front USB 3.0 port.

## 3.3 AC'97 / HD AUDIO PORTS

There is an Intel® standard 10-pin AC'97 connector and an Intel® 10-pin HDA (High Definition Audio) connector linked to the front panel of the case.



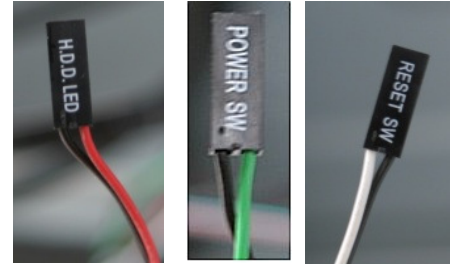
Pin	Signal Names (HDA)	Pin	Signal Names (AC'97)
1	MIC2 L	1	MIC In
2	AGND	2	GND
3	MIC2 R	3	MIC Power
4	AVCC	4	NC
5	FRO-R	5	Line Out (R)
6	MIC2_JD	6	Line Out (R)
7	F_IO_SEN	7	NC
8	Key (no pin)	8	Key (no pin)
9	FRO-L	9	Line Out (L)
10	LINE2_JD	10	Line Out (L)

You can connect either the AC'97 or the HDA connector, depending on your motherboard. Locate the internal audio connectors from your motherboard or sound card and connect the corresponding audio cable. Consult your motherboard or sound card manual for the pin-out positions. Even if your system supports both standards, only use one connector.

### 3.4 POWER SWITCH / RESET SWITCH / HARD DISK DRIVE LED CONNECTORS

Connected to your front panel are LED and switch leads for power, reset, and HDD LED activity. Attach these to the corresponding connectors on your motherboard. Consult your motherboard manual for specific pin header locations. For LEDs, colored wires are positive ( + ). White or black wires are negative ( - ). If the LED does not light up when the system is powered on, try reversing the connection. For more information on connecting LEDs to your motherboard, see your motherboard manual.

**Note:** Polarity (positive and negative) does not matter for switches.



### 3.5 REWIRING MOTHERBOARD HEADER CONNECTIONS

There may come a time when you need to reconfigure the pin-out of a motherboard header connector. Examples could be for your USB header, audio input header, or some other front panel connector such as the Power Button connector.

Before performing any work, please refer to your motherboard manual or your motherboard manufacturer's website to be sure of the pin-out needed for your connector. And we strongly recommend making a notated drawing before beginning work so that you can recover if your work gets disturbed.

1. Determine which wires you need to remove in order to rewire your plug to match the USB pin-outs on your motherboard (refer to your motherboard user's manual). Working on one connector at a time, use a very small flathead screwdriver or similar tool to lift up on the black tab located beside the gold posts (squares). This will allow you to easily slide out the pins from the USB plug.
2. Working carefully so as not to damage the wires, connectors, or pins, slowly remove the pin from the connector. Repeat these steps for each wire you need to change.
3. Working carefully so as not to damage the wires, connectors or pins, slowly reinsert the pin into the correct slot of the connector then snap closed the black tab that was lifted in step 1. Repeat these steps for each wire you need to change.



# COOLING SYSTEM

## 4.1 TRI-COOL™ FANS

Rear / Top TriCool™ Fan – There are 120 x 25 mm TriCool™ fans pre-installed at the rear and top of the case. They have external, three-speed switches that let you choose between quiet, performance, or maximum cooling on each of the fans. The default speed setting is Low. The two fans are mounted so that the air is blowing out of the case. There are externally accessible switches for these fans located at the top rear of your case.

Size: 120 x 25 mm TriCool™ fan  
Rated Voltage: 12V  
Operating Voltage: 10.2V - 13.8V

Speed (RPM)	Input Current	Air Flow	Static Pressure	Acoustic Noise	Input Power
High 2000	0.24A (Max.)	2.2 m <sup>3</sup> / min (79 CFM)	2.5mm-H2O (0.10 inch-H2O)	30 dBA	2.9W
Medium 1600	0.20A	1.6 m <sup>3</sup> / min (56 CFM)	1.5mm-H2O (0.06 inch-H2O)	28 dBA	2.4W
Low 1200	0.13A	1.1 m <sup>3</sup> / min (39 CFM)	0.9mm-H2O (0.04 inch-H2O)	25 dBA	1.6W

**Note:** The minimum voltage to start a 120 mm TriCool™ fan is 5V. We recommend that you set the fan speed switch to High if you choose to connect the fan(s) to a fan control device or to the Fan-Only connector found on some Antec power supplies. A fan control device regulates the fan speed by varying the voltage, which may start as low as 4.5V to 5V. Connecting a TriCool™ fan set on Medium or Low to a fan-control device may result in the fan not being able to start because the already lowered voltage from the fan control device will be further reduced by the TriCool™ circuitry below 5V.

## 4.2 OPTIONAL FANS

There are three optional 120 mm fan mounts – two front fans (in front of the upper HDD cages) and a middle fan (at the rear end of the upper HDD cage). These three fans should be installed so that the air is blowing into the case from the front.

**Front Fans** – The front fans are designed to enhance HDD cooling.

**Middle Fan** – If you decide to mount any HDD into the upper cage, you will not be able to use the middle fan. The middle fan is specially designed to cool the graphics card and even a dual graphics card configuration. In this case, the HDD cage acts as a duct drawing fresh cool air from the front of the case. You can choose to mount only the middle fan or you can mount both the front and the middle fans to enhance the cooling as two fans will serve a push and pull function, bringing the air in more efficiently.

1. Find the two fan wire brackets from the tool bag.
2. Install the wire brackets into the HDD cage.
3. Clip the fan into position.

**Note:** In order to build a quieter system, we recommend NOT installing the optional fans unless it is necessary for cooling. If you choose to install them we recommend using Antec 120 mm TriCool™ fans and setting the speed to Low.

## 4.3 WASHABLE AIR FILTERS

There are two hinged washable filters located behind the front door, as well as additional filters covering all of the external drive bay covers. Occasionally, it will be necessary to wash the air filters. Not washing the filters may result in high system temperatures and possible stability problems. We recommend checking the air filters at least once a month initially. The frequency will change depending on environmental conditions and system usage. Users who run their systems 24/7 will have to check their filters more often than those who don't run their systems every day.

### To remove the hinged filters:

1. Push one of the fan grills at the right middle edge to separate the grill from the chassis. The filter will still be attached by a hinge on the opposite side of the filter. Swing the filter out so that it is perpendicular to the case.
2. Using both hands, lift the filter up and angle the base of the filter toward you until both tabs detach from the hinge. Remove the filter.

### To remove the drive bay cover filters:

1. Depress the tabs of the filter inward and pull the filter away from the front panel.

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