

**PCI EXPRESS SLOT:** PCI Express (PCIe) expansion slots will eventually replace the PCI and AGP expansion slots that have been used in nearly all computers for several years. The standard PCI Express x1 slot is about 1 inch (26mm) long; the x16 slot (replacing the AGP slot for graphics cards) is the same length (90mm or 3.5 inches) as existing PCI slots.



**EXTERNAL SATA CONNECTOR:** An advantage of SATA over PATA is that manufacturers can place the SATA connector outside the PC's case for easier connections. SATA devices are faster than their USB and FireWire counterparts.

CMOS Battery

**PCI SLOT:** The familiar PCI slot won't disappear right away. Most motherboards equipped with the new PCIe slots come with PCI slots too.

North Bridge

South Bridge

IDE drive connector

**RAM SOCKET:** Adding memory to your system is a snap, literally. Place the memory module on an open socket and push gently. The module will seat itself in the socket, and the retaining clips at either end will snap shut by themselves.

**INTERNAL SATA CONNECTOR:** The serial ATA interface supports more bandwidth than its predecessor, parallel ATA. SATA also greatly simplifies connecting hard drives and optical drives to your motherboard.

**CPU SOCKET:** You will probably never need to swap out your CPU because your system's other components will become outdated first. However, if you do upgrade your CPU (or overclock your current one—see [find.pcworld.com/49360](http://find.pcworld.com/49360)), you may need a more efficient cooling fan.

ATX Power Connector

FDD port  
Floppy drive



