

## Re: BAD Problems with Asus Mobos

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*Source:*

<http://newsgroups.derkeiler.com/Archive/Alt/alt.comp.periphs.mainboard.asus/2005-07/msg00662.html>

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- *From:* [nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx) (Paul)
  - *Date:* Tue, 19 Jul 2005 14:38:13 -0400
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In article <tvadnbdbEpjUmUDfRVn-rA@xxxxxxxxxxx>, "Steve" <spfouche@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

> Thanks Paul, this was a very informative post. I know that on one occasion  
> that the entire USB controller did seem to die, but the mobo worked  
> otherwise. I had to RMA the board for the USB controller problem, but the  
> board failed a month later completely...again. I wonder if this southbridge  
> problem could kill the entire board? From the one picture it appears  
> possible, but I've checked the southbridge controllers on every RMA because  
> I remember reading where they could get extremely hot on occasion but I  
> wasn't sure why. I didn't find any sign of burning or discoloring however.  
> The northbridge seems to run hot on these boards as well, but I haven't  
> checked the temp on the southbridge. One thing that your post made me  
> wonder was that in each of these configurations I was using a RAID 1 setup  
> using the ICH5R chip with dual Seagate drives. I wonder if the failures are  
> due to the RAID 1 possibly combined with the USB problem?..or due to the  
> RAID 1.  
>  
> Thanks again for your post, plenty of airflow in these systems so whatever  
> is happening isn't normal.  
>  
> I wasn't even aware of the USB problem until your post.  
>  
> -Steve  
>

I think one poster mentioned losing USB functionality, without the chip being burned. If the bond wire (or gold button, if this is flip chip) fails first, it is possible the USB I/O will just lose power, without the rest of the chip being damaged. But there seem to be more reports of board-killing meltdown of the Southbridge, then of just the loss of USB functionality. (And, even if you use a PCI USB card in each computer, to avoid the risk of ESD killing the motherboard USB ports, I'm not even certain that will be enough to prevent all failures.)

I own a P4C800-E Deluxe, with the ICH5R, so I cannot say I'm at all happy about the situation. Asus does seem to be replacing the

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Southbridge on the boards returned for RMA (and with the right techniques and materials, a replacement like this can be done up to three times, before the board is too beat up to be repaired). But, I expect they are using the same mask revision chips from Intel, to make the repair, and so another failure is also likely to happen. The way the chip business works, is you don't spin new