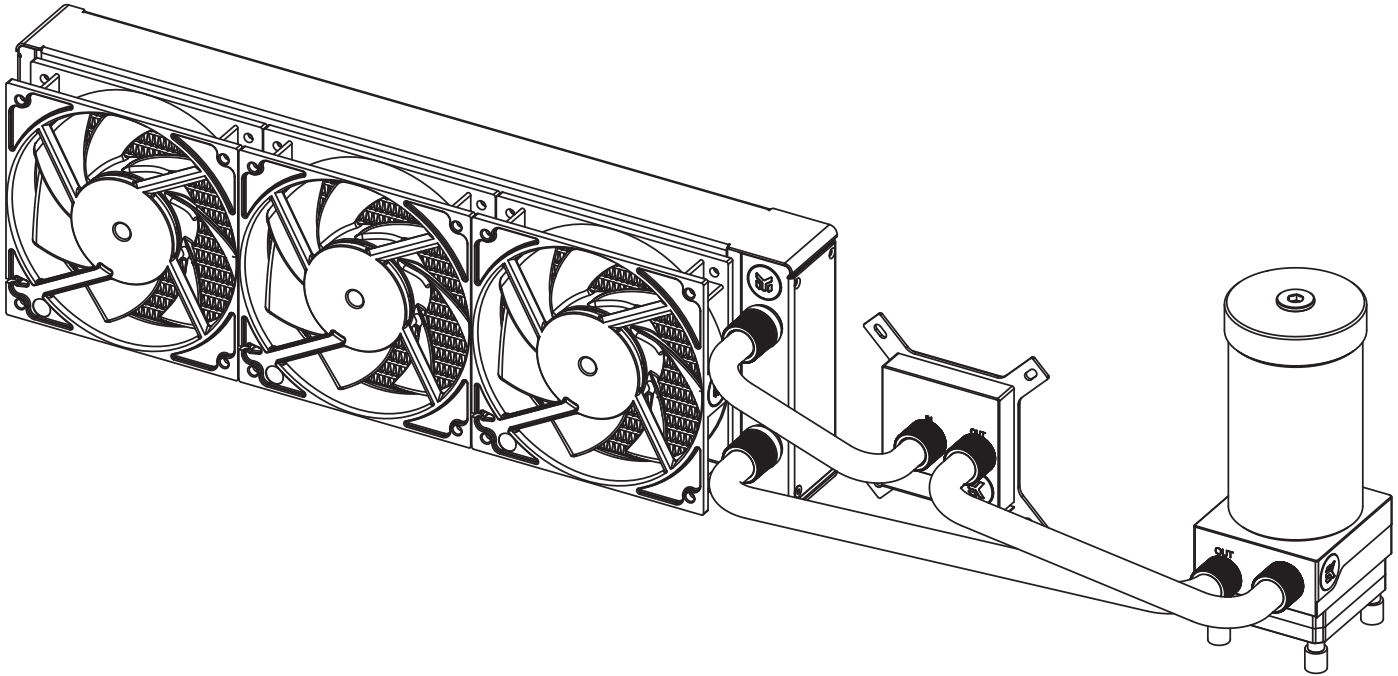
ekwb

Starter Liquid Cooling Kit

Classic RGB / S240 / S360 / P240 / P360



For EK-KIT Classic series units | 1st revision, jun 28th 2019

INSTALLATION MANUAL

EK Water Blocks bears the name of its founder Edvard König, who started experimenting with liquid cooling in 1999. From the humble beginnings in the early years of the previous decade, the company grew steadily to become a global premium liquid cooling gear manufacturer. Today, EKWB offers a complete range of products for liquid cooling, from a renowned Supremacy line of CPU water blocks, wide range of inhouse developed CoolStream radiators and Vardar High pressure fans to Phoenix all-in-one (AIO) Modular Liquid Cooling (MLC) solution, providing overclocking enthusiasts and PC builders with the best of what the market can offer. EK-KIT Classic the cooling solution is the next step to bring extreme liquid cooling performance in the hands of dedicated gamers and PC enthusiasts around the world.

⚠ Safety precautions

1. Keep and store the product away from the reach of children.
2. Check the component list and condition of the product before installation. If there is any problem, contact the shop where you have purchased the product to get a replacement or refund.
3. EKWB d.o.o. is not responsible for any damages due to external causes, including but not limited to, improper use, problems with electrical power, accident, neglect, alteration, repair, improper installation, and improper testing.
4. CPU and motherboard are subject to damage if the product is incorrectly installed.
5. This product is a CPU liquid cooling solution kit, comprising of individual original EKWB parts. Combining this liquid cooling unit with parts, other than EK Water Blocks products, may lead to warranty loss.
6. The product warranty period is 24 months.

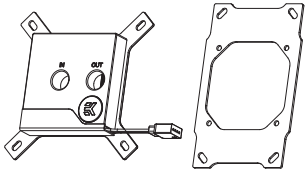
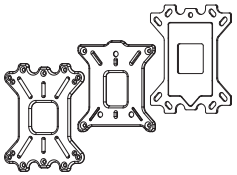
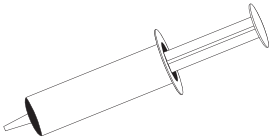
TABLE OF CONTENT

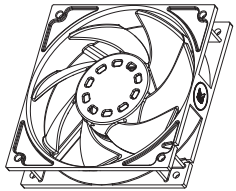
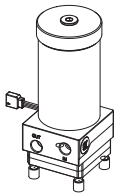
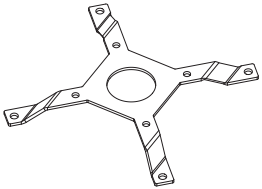
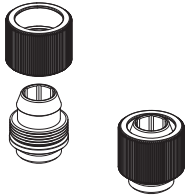
SCOPE OF DELIVERY 3
REQUIRED TOOLS 4

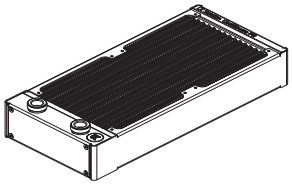
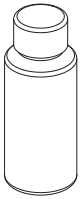
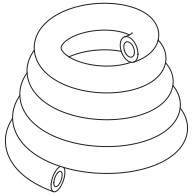
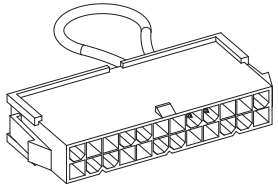
QUICK INSTALLATION GUIDE

RADIATOR SPACE CONSTRAINT REQUIREMENTS 5
DOZEN GOOD ADVICES FOR THE NEWCOMERS 6
LIQUID COOLING SYSTEM 6
GENERAL INFORMATION ON WATER BLOCK COMPATIBILITY 7
INSTALLING THE WATER BLOCK 8
LGA-2011(-3) SOCKET MOTHERBOARDS 8
LGA-115x SOCKET MOTHERBOARDS 10
AMD® SOCKET MOTHERBOARDS 13
INSTALLING THE RADIATOR AND FANS 17
INSTALLING THE RADIATOR AND FANS 17
INSTALLING THE RADIATOR AND FANS IN ONE GO 18
INSTALLING THE PUMP-RESERVOIR UNIT 20
INSTALLING THE PUMP-RESERVOIR UNIT ON THE CHASSIS BOTTOM 20
CONNECTING THE TUBING 22
ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS 24
CONNECTING THE PUMP-RESERVOIR UNIT 24
RECOMMENDED FILLING AND LEAK TESTING PROCEDURE 25
CONNECTING THE FANS, PUMP AND CPU LED LIGHTS 26
FILLING THE SYSTEM FOR THE FIRST TIME 27
DRAINING OF THE LOOP 29
POSSIBILITIES OF THE SYSTEM EXPANSION 30
MAINTENANCE 31
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 32
IN CASE OF CPU OVERHEATING 33
TROUBLESHOOTING 33
THE COOLER IS TOO LOUD 34
GENERAL LIQUID COOLING PARTS CLEANING GUIDE 35
PREVENTIVE STEPS 36
SUPPORT AND SERVICE 38
SOCIAL MEDIA 38

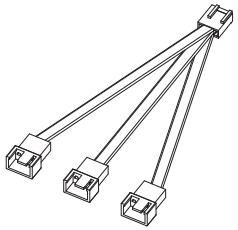
SCOPE OF DELIVERY

CPU Water Block with AMD® Mounting Plate	CPU Backplate Mechanism	Thermal Grease	CPU Mounting Mechanism
			

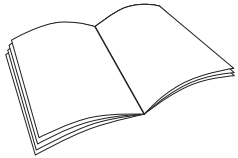
RGB Fans	Pump-Reservoir Combo	UNI Holder Spider	Compression Fittings
			

Radiator	Coolant	Tube	ATX Bridging Plug
			

Fan Cable Y-splitter

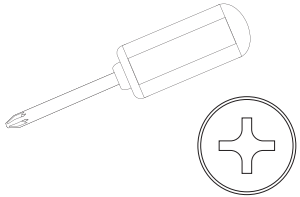


Installation Manual

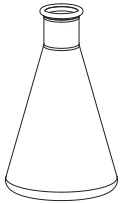


REQUIRED TOOLS

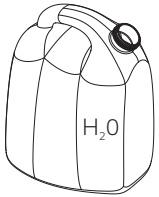
Phillips-head Screwdriver



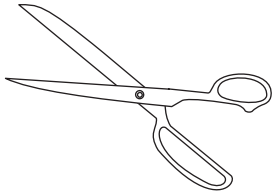
Mixing Bottle



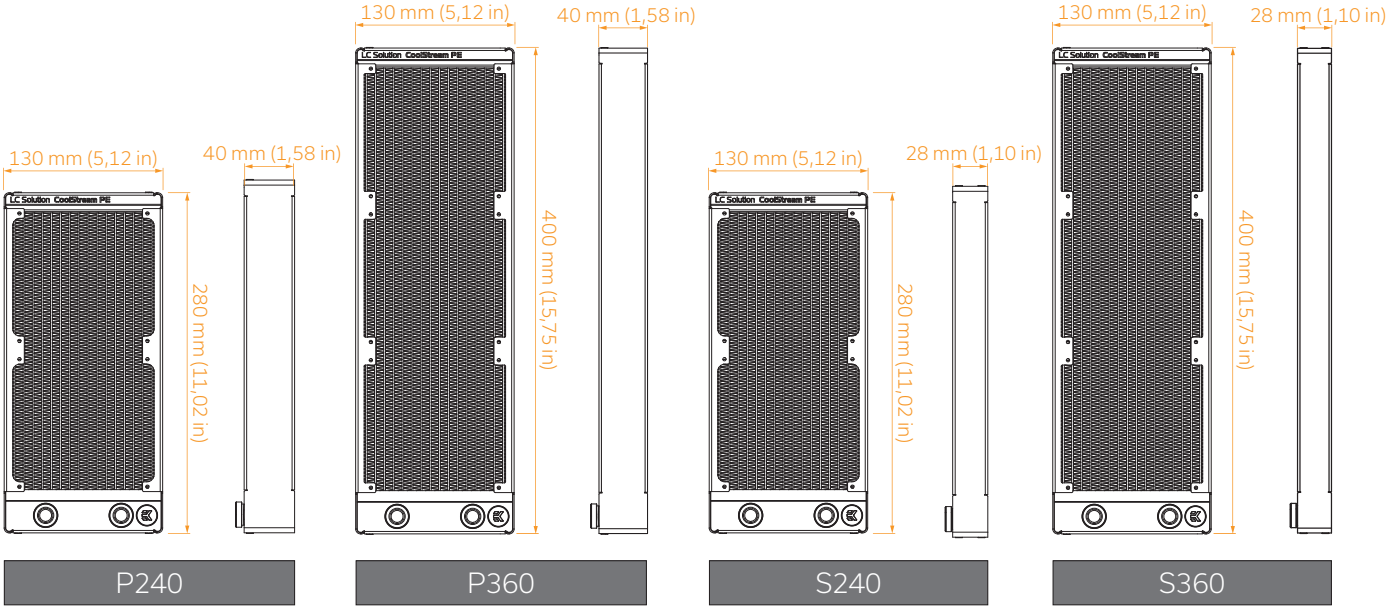
1L Bottle of distilled Water



Pair of Scissors



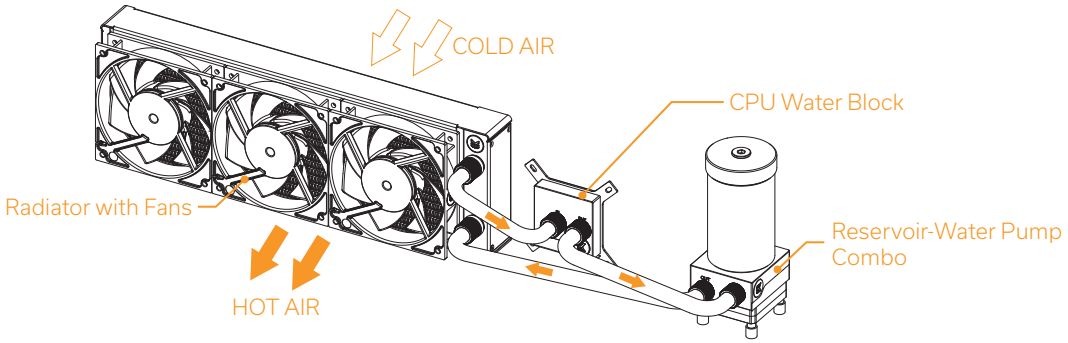
RADIATOR SPACE CONSTRAINT REQUIREMENTS



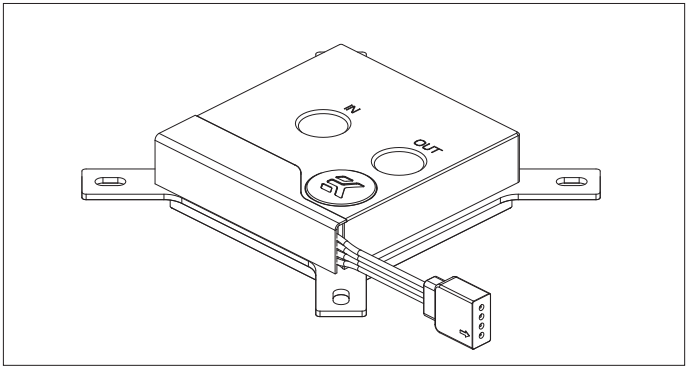
DOZEN GOOD ADVICES FOR THE NEWCOMERS

1. In order to lower shipping costs, we have decided to enclose only the coolant concentrate for liquid cooling. Therefore you need to provide 1 liter (1L) of distilled water. You can get it at every gas station or supermarket.
2. **Never run this system on tap water and always use the enclosed cooling concentrate in the correct ratio.**
3. Never use alcohol, alcohol derivatives or alcohol based solvents in the system. Using alcohol might result in permanent damage to water cooling KIT components, especially acrylic parts of the system.
4. The Reservoir must be positioned above the height level of the water pump in order for the liquid to flood the pump which is crucial for the first start-up.
5. Generally, for optimal performance, the Reservoir must be positioned before the pump in the water loop.
6. Generally, for optimal performance, the CPU water block should be right after the Radiator in the water loop.
7. Generally, for optimal performance, the Pump should be positioned before the Radiator in the water loop.
8. It is best practice to do a proper leak test before using your computer.
9. If you spot any leaks, turn off the power immediately!
10. Optimize tubing length in order to prevent excessive bending and kinking of the tubing.
11. **Never let your pump run dry**. If this is happening for a prolonged period of time you may risk destroying the water pump's bearing, rendering the pump useless.
12. You are encouraged to periodically clean the radiator assembly as it will collect dust over time. This is best done with a soft wide tip brush and vacuum cleaner. See chapter 'General liquid cooling parts cleaning guide.'

LIQUID COOLING SYSTEM



GENERAL INFORMATION ON WATER BLOCK COMPATIBILITY



This CPU liquid cooling unit is pre-assembled for use with modern Intel desktop socket type motherboards. By default (out of the box) this water block supports the following CPU sockets:

- Intel® Socket LGA-115x
- Intel® Socket LGA-2066/LGA-2011(-3)
- AMD® Socket AM4*
*requires replacing Intel® mounting plate with AMD® one.

This product is also fully compatible with AMD® AMx/FMx sockets but requires a user to replace factory installed Intel mounting plate with AMD® one. The following sockets are then compatible:
- AMD® Socket AMx
- AMD® Socket FMx

WHAT IS ENCLOSED

The following items are enclosed with each EK-Supremacy Classic RGB water block:

- EK-Supremacy Classic RGB - Nickel + Plexi
- EK-Supremacy PreciseMount – Nickel
- AMD Mounting Mechanism
- EK-Supremacy Backplate
- Backplate rubber gasket
- Backplate for Intel® LGA-115x socket motherboards

- AMD® Mounting Plate
- Allen Key 2.5mm
- EK-TIM Ectotherm (1g) Thermal Grease

INSTALLING THE WATER BLOCK

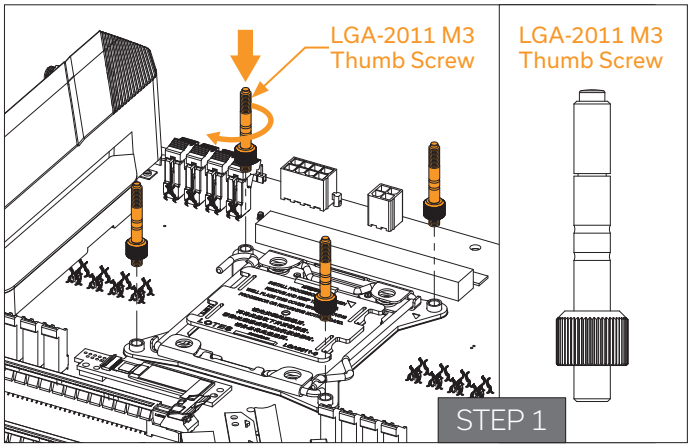
LGA-2011(-3) SOCKET MOTHERBOARDS

STEP 1

Prepare the foil bag with mounting mechanism, which is enclosed with the CPU water block delivery.

Install four (4) specific LGA-2011 M3 thumb screws into four threaded stubs on the LGA-2011 socket's integrated latch mechanism (ILM). The screws are to be installed using no tools (i.e. pliers).

It is recommended to remove the motherboard form the PC chassis before proceeding with installation of the CPU water block because of the space constraint limitations of various computer cases.

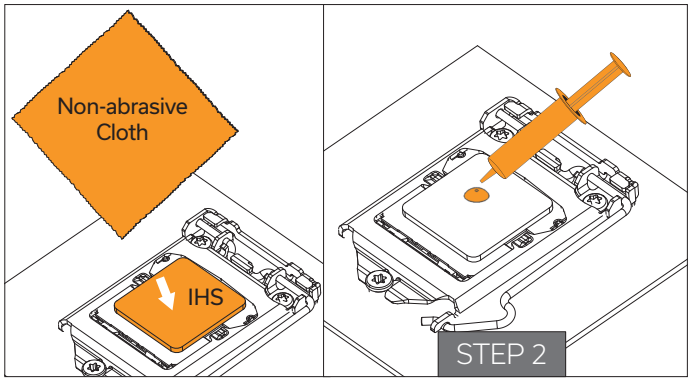


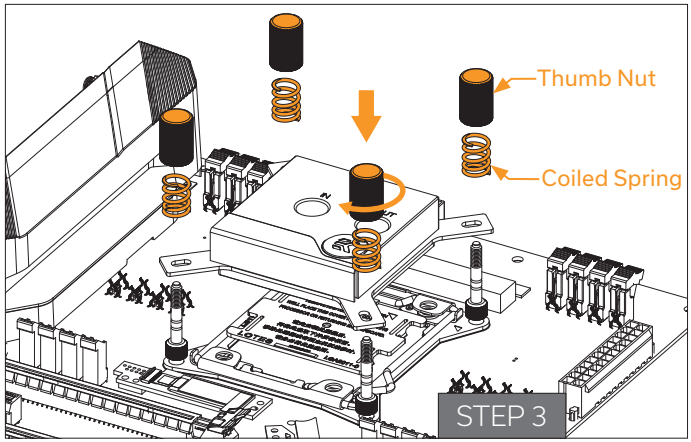
STEP 2

Cleaning the CPU: Wipe the CPU's contact surface (by using non-abrasive cloth or Q-tip, as shown on the sample photo).

Applying thermal compound: EK recommends blob or line method of applying the enclosed thermal compound to the CPU heat spreader (IHS) - see sample photo on the right.

The quantity of about two rice grains is just about right. There is no need to cover the whole IHS. Applying too much thermal grease will have negative impact on the cooling performance!





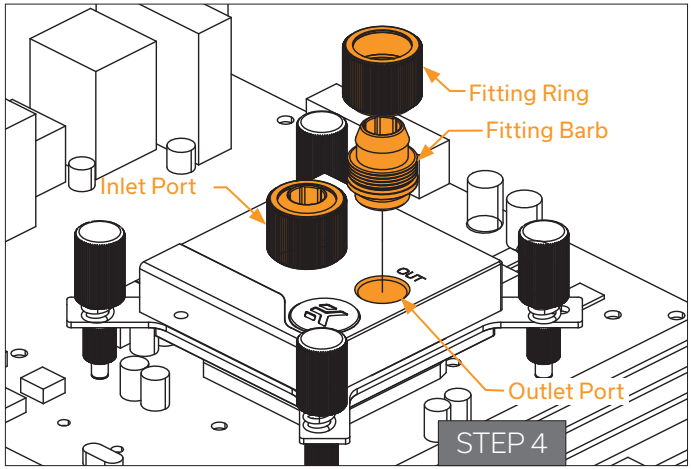
STEP 3

Take the waterblock and remove the sticker from the cold plate.

Align the water block over the mounting screws on the LGA-2011(-3) motherboard with pre-installed CPU.

> Before proceeding with the installation it is mandatory to remove the protective foil from the backside of the water block.

Place an enclosed compression spring and thumb nut over each M3 thumb screw. Start fastening two thumb nuts at a time, preferably in a cross pattern and do not tighten them fully until all of them are partially screwed in. Then - using your fingers only - screw in all four thumb nuts until you reach the end of the thread.



STEP 4

Tighten the fitting barbs in clockwise direction until the gasket underneath is compressed.

The installation of the CPU water block is now complete.

> With EK-Supremacy Classic series water blocks it is mandatory to use the port that is nearest to the center of the water block as INLET port. Mixing the ports may result in less than ideal thermal performance of the water block.

LGA-115x SOCKET MOTHERBOARDS

STEP 1
If already installed, please remove the motherboard from your computer and place it on an even surface with the front facing down.

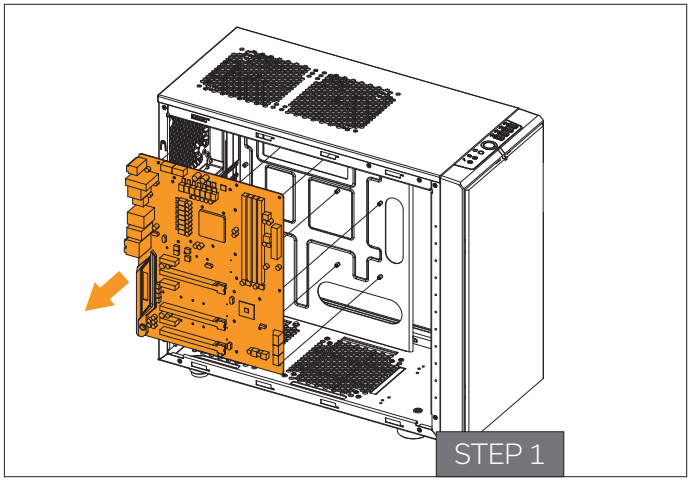
STEP 2
Preparing backplate rubber gasket
The enclosed rubber gasket is an essential part of the backplate and mounting system and must be used every time you install this water block on your motherboard.

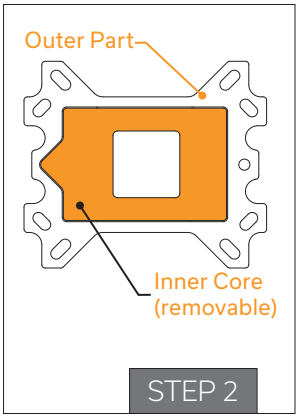
> ⚠ The rubber gasket has a partially cut inner part which needs to be removed when installed on Intel® LGA-115x motherboard. The rubber is held on four places and can be peeled away by hand.

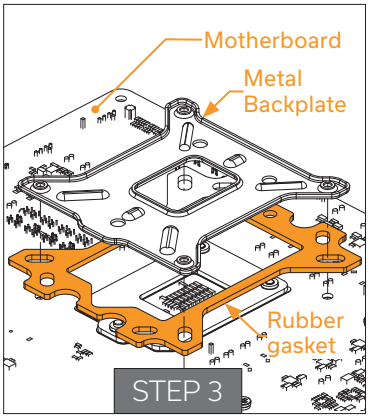
STEP 3
Install backplate rubber gasket and place metal backplate for Intel® LGA-115x socket to the back of your motherboard RIBBED SIDE UP! (Facing away from the motherboard) Align the holes on the motherboard with holes on rubber gasket and backplate.

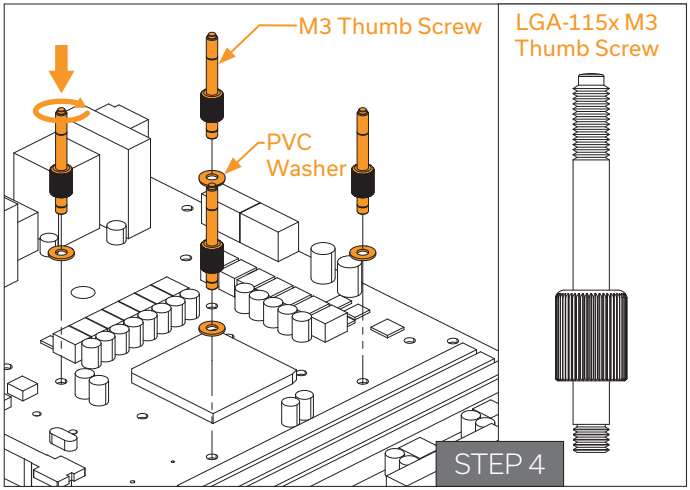
> ⚠ Make sure to orientate the rubber gasket to fit past the CPU socket ILM backplate. On certain ITX form factor motherboards, the rubber gasket may need to be trimmed using household scissors.

Carefully rotate motherboard assembly with front side facing up with one hand while holding the backplate and rubber in place with the other hand.



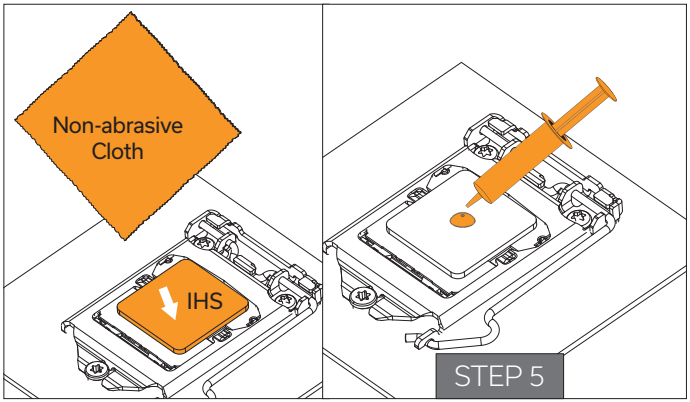






STEP 4

Install four (4) M3 thumb screws onto your motherboard. It is mandatory to put 0.7mm plastic washer underneath each of the M3 thumb screws. Tighten the screws to the metal backplate until you reach the end of the thread. Using tools (such as pliers) is not recommended.

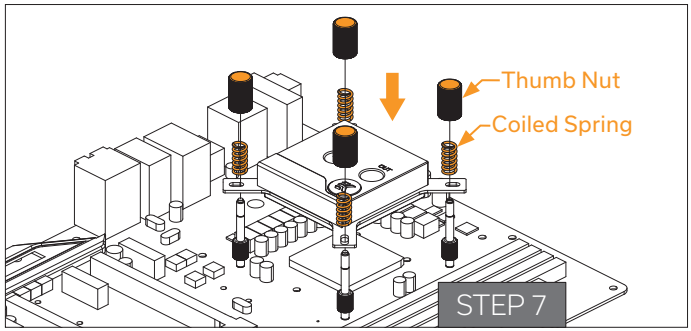


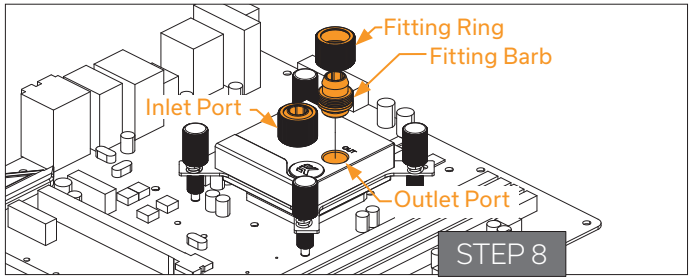
STEP 5

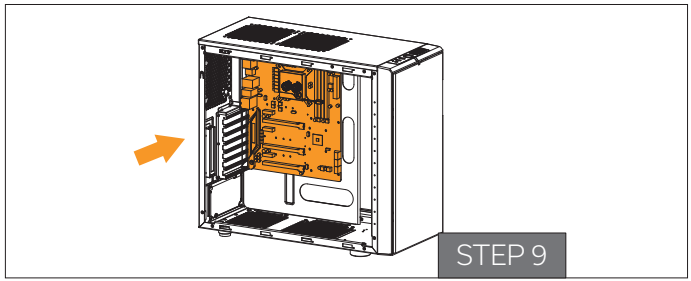
Cleaning the CPU: Wipe the CPU's contact surface (by using non-abrasive cloth or Q-tip, as shown on the sample photo).

Applying thermal compound: EK recommends blob or line method of applying the enclosed thermal compound to the CPU heat spreader (IHS) - see sample photo on the right.

The quantity of about two rice grains is just about right. There is no need to cover the whole IHS. Applying too much thermal grease will have a negative impact on the cooling performance!







STEP 6

Align the water block over the mounting screws on the LGA-115x motherboard with pre-installed CPU.

> ⚠ Before proceeding with the installation it is mandatory to remove the protective foil from the backside of the water block.

Place an enclosed coiled spring and thumb nut over each of the M4 thumb screws.. Start fastening two thumb nuts at a time, preferably in a cross pattern and do not tighten them fully until all of them are partially screwed in. Then – using your fingers only - screw in all four thumb nuts until you reach the end of the thread.

STEP 7

> ⚠ With EK-Supremacy Classic series water blocks it is mandatory to use the port that is nearest to the center of the water block as INLET port. Mixing the ports may result in poor thermal performance of the water block.

Tighten the fitting barbs in clockwise direction until the gasket underneath is compressed.

STEP 8

Install the CPU water block along with the motherboard back into the computer chassis.

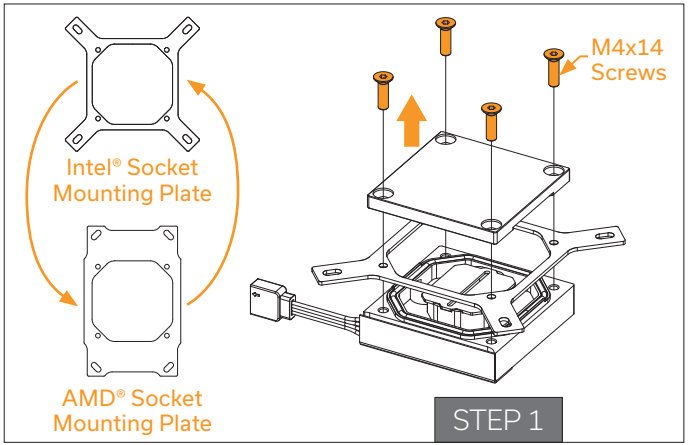
The installation of the CPU water block is now complete.

AMD® SOCKET MOTHERBOARDS

STEP 1

Replacing the mounting plate:

Place the water block on an even surface and remove the four M4x14 DIN 7991 screws attaching the copper base to the top using 2,5mm Allen key in counter-clockwise direction.



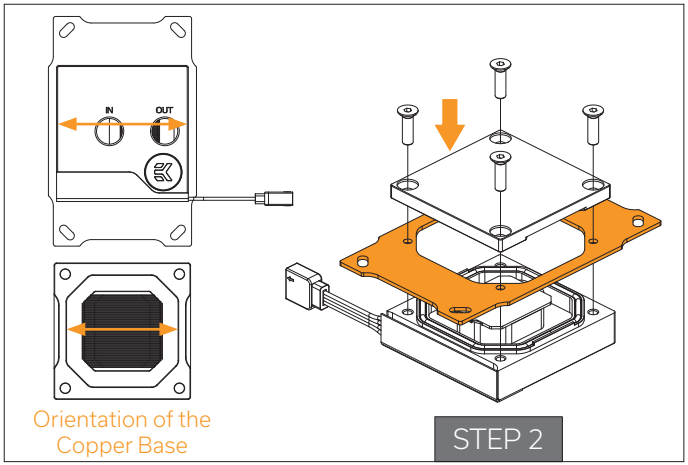
STEP 2

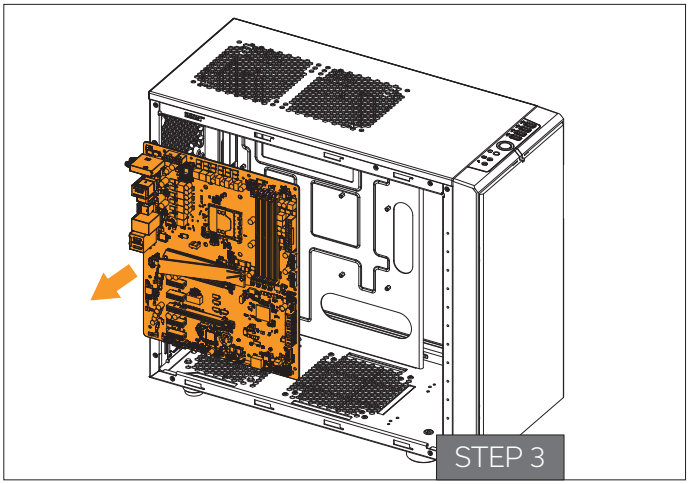
Replace the Intel® factory installed mounting plate with AMD® one. You will feel the mounting plate locking into the position when placed correctly onto the top.

Reseat the O-ring gasket (57x2,2mm) into the gap between the mounting plate and the water block top.

> ⚠ Be careful that the orientation of the copper base is as shown on the picture

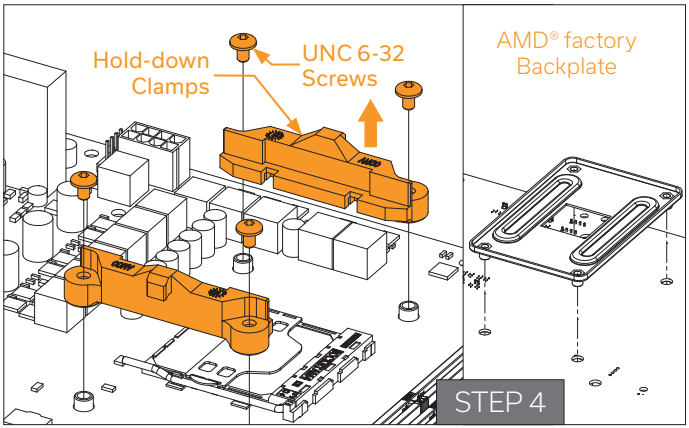
Reinstall the M4x14 screws and tighten them using 2,5mm Allen key to screw them in the clockwise direction.





STEP 3

If already installed, please remove the motherboard from your computer and place it on an even surface with the front facing up.



STEP 4

Removal of the original plastic hold-down clamps:

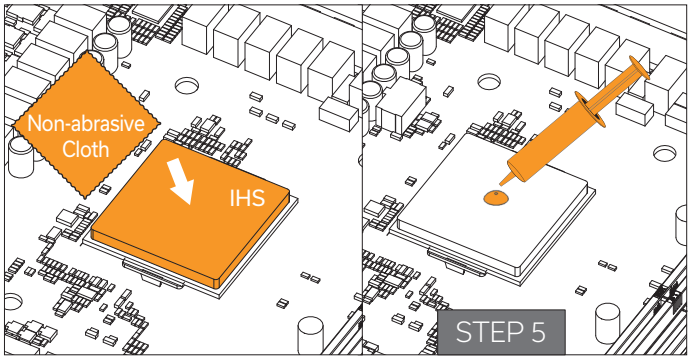
Using Philips-head screwdriver remove the four UNC 6-32 screws securing the original plastic hold-down clamps around the socket as shown on the sketch. You can use factory backplate for mounting the EK-Supremacy Classic.

STEP 5

Cleaning the CPU: Wipe the CPU's contact surface (by using non–abrasive cloth or Q-tip, as shown on the sample photo).

Applying thermal compound: EK recommends blob or line method of applying the enclosed thermal compound to the CPU heat spreader (IHS) - see sample photo on the right.

The quantity of about two rice grains is just about right. There is no need to cover the whole IHS. Applying too much thermal grease will have negative impact on the cooling performance!



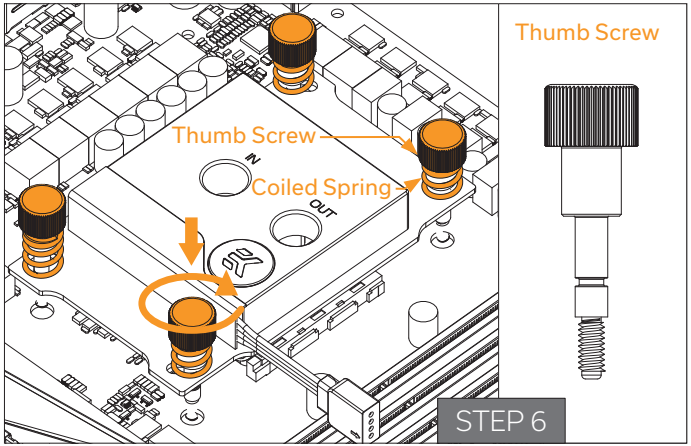
STEP 6

Align the water block with the preinstalled mounting screws on the AMD® socket motherboard.

Before proceeding with the installation it is mandatory to remove the protective foil from the backside of the water block.

Start fastening two thumb nuts at a time, preferably in a cross pattern and do not tighten them fully until all of them are partially screwed in.

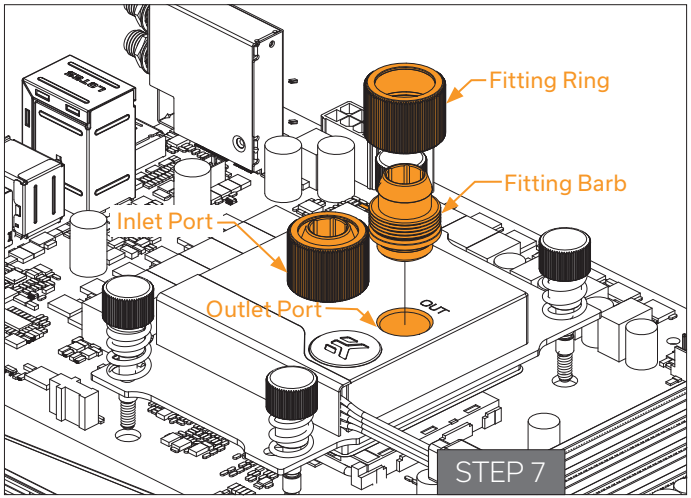
Then – using your fingers only - screw in all four thumb nuts until you reach the end of the thread.



STEP 7

With EK-Supremacy Classic series water blocks it is mandatory to use the port that is nearest to the center of the water block as INLET port. Mixing the ports may result in poor thermal performance of the water block.

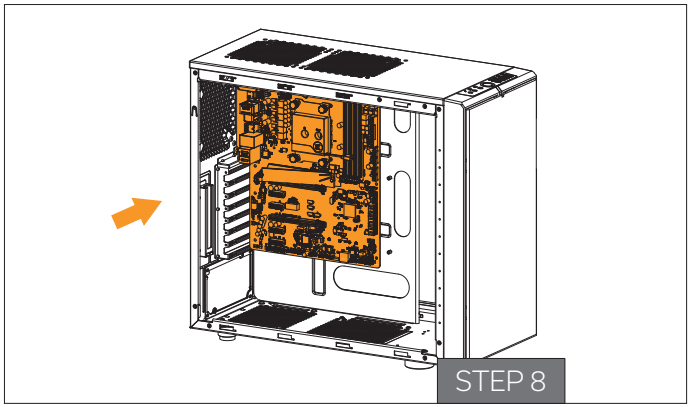
Tighten the fitting barbs in clockwise direction until the gasket underneath is compressed.

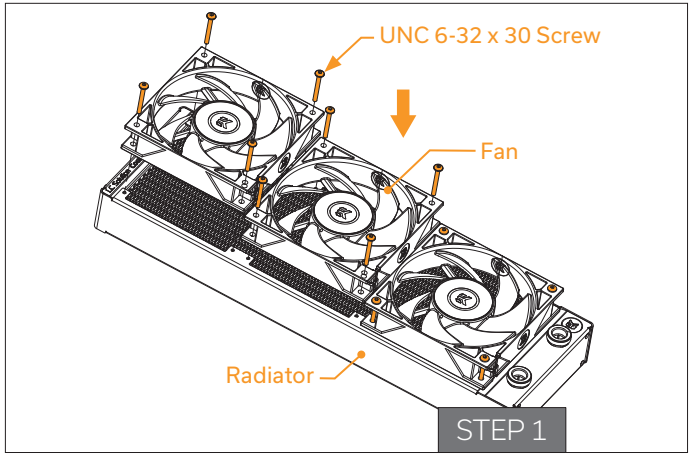


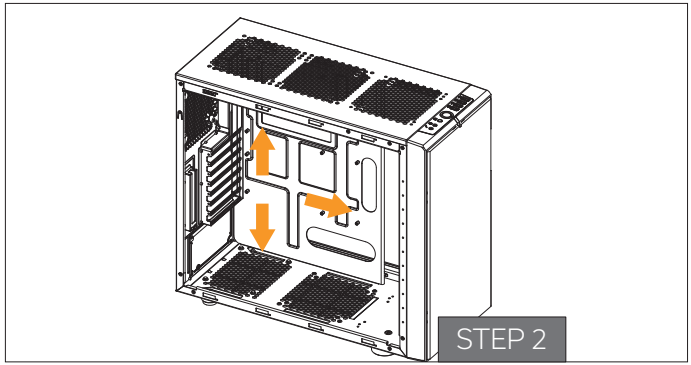
STEP 8

Install the CPU water block along with the motherboard back into the computer chassis.

The installation of the CPU water block is now complete.







OPTION #1:
INSTALLING THE RADIATOR AND FANS

STEP 1

Install the fans on the radiator.

Ideally, the radiator should either:
A) **receive the coldest air possible** (by placing the radiator on the air inlet) or
B) **serve as an overall hot air exhaust** (by placing the radiator on the exhaust).
The latter results in the overall decrease of temperature throughout the entire computer chassis but also leads to slightly higher liquid temperatures. A reversed air flow is viable option but one should always strive to achieve unidirectional flow of air throughout the chassis.

Take the four UNC 6-32x30mm screws for each fan and screw them in. Use enclosed Allen key to tighten the screws in the clockwise direction.

STEP 2

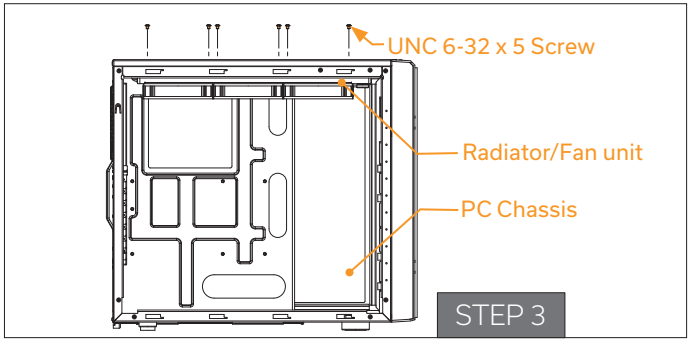
Prepare your suitably-sized PC chassis for installation of radiator unit. The position of the unit in the chassis depends on the size, fan mounting holes, and the hardware you have installed. You must make sure that the unit fits into the chassis. Usually, the chassis have standard fan mounting holes pre-drilled so you should look for holes with the spacing of 105mm (a standard computer cooling 120mm fan) or 125mm (for 140mm cooling fan).

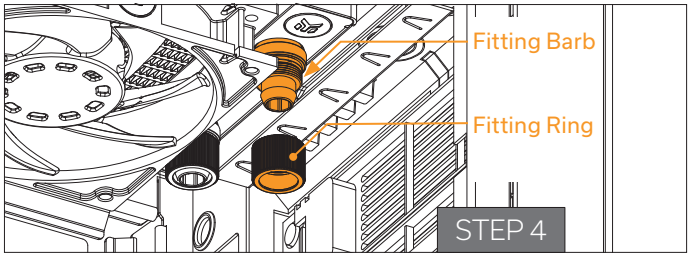
STEP 3
Align the holes on the radiator with the ones on the PC chassis.

Take the four UNC 6-32x5mm screws for each fan and guide them through the holes on the chassis to screw them into the threaded holes on the radiator. Tighten them in the clockwise direction using the Allen key.

STEP 4
Install the compression fittings on both G1/4 extender openings on the radiator. Tighten the fittings barb in the clockwise direction until the gasket underneath is compressed.

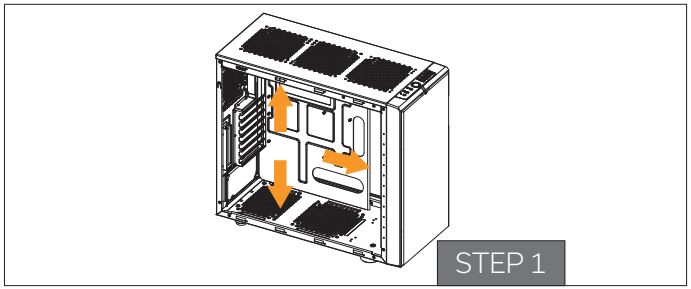
The installation of the radiator and radiator cooling fans is now complete.

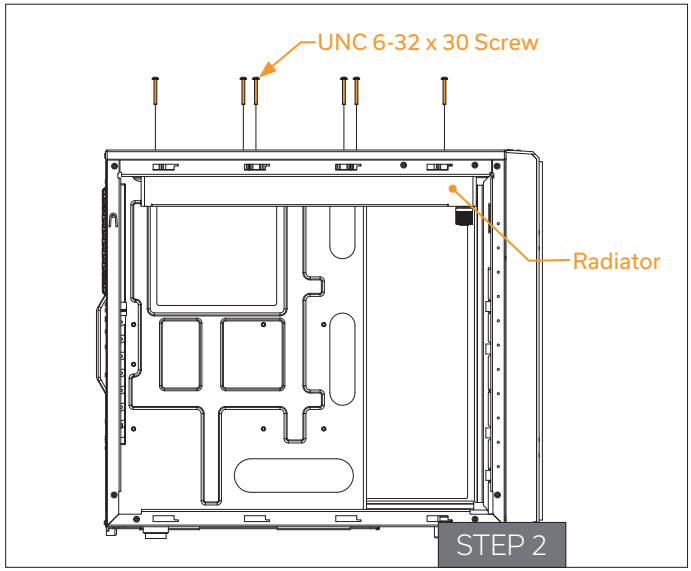




OPTION #2:
INSTALLING THE RADIATOR AND FANS IN ONE GO

STEP 1
Prepare your suitably-sized PC chassis for installation of the radiator unit. The position of the unit in the chassis depends on the size, fan mounting holes, and the hardware you have installed. You must make sure that the unit fits into the chassis. Usually, the chassis have standard fan mounting holes pre-drilled so you should look for holes with the spacing of 105mm (a standard computer cooling 120mm fan) or 125mm (for 140mm cooling fan).



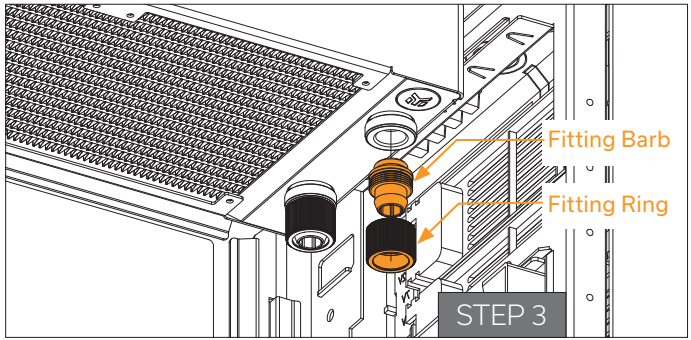


STEP 2

Align the holes on the fans and the radiator with the ones on the PC chassis.

Ideally, the radiator should either:
A) **receive the coldest air possible** (by placing the radiator on the air inlet) or
B) **serve as an overall hot air exhaust** (by placing the radiator on the exhaust).
The latter results in the overal decrease of temperature throughout the entire computer chassis but also leads to slightly higher liquid temperatures. A reversed air flow is a viable option but one should always strive to achieve unidirectional flow of air throughout the chassis.

Take the four UNC 6-32x30mm screws for each fan and guide them through the holes on the chassis and fans to screw them into the threaded holes on the radiator. Tighten them in the clockwise direction using the enclosed Allen key.



STEP 3

Install the compression fittings on both G1/4 extender openings on the radiator. Tighten the fitting barbs in the clockwise direction until the gasket underneath is compressed.

The installation of the radiator and radiator cooling fans is now complete.

INSTALLING THE PUMP-RESERVOIR UNIT

INSTALLING THE PUMP-RESERVOIR UNIT ON THE CHASSIS BOTTOM

STEP 1

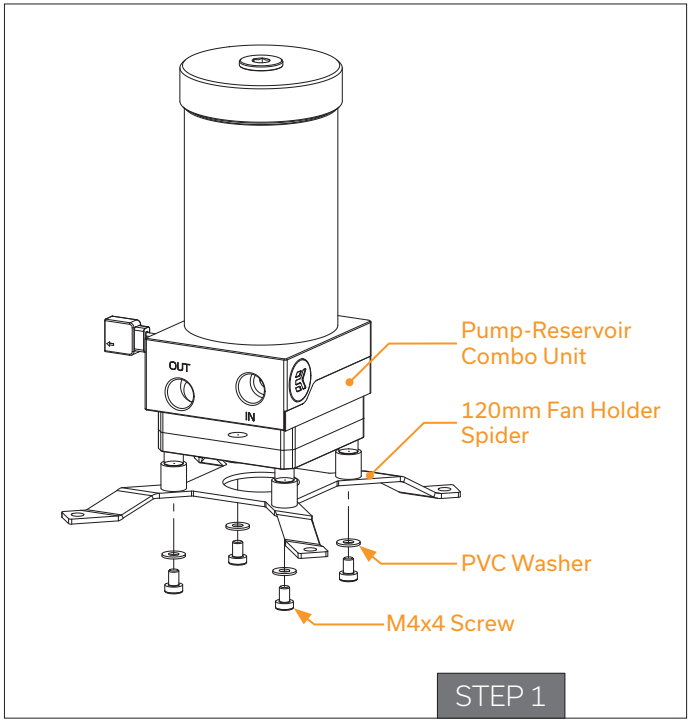
The KIT comes with a combined pump and reservoir unit with preinstalled anti-vibration holder.

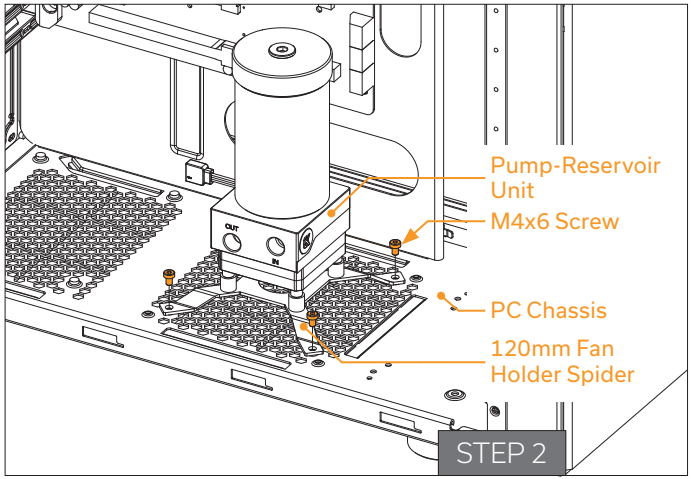
Take the unit and place it on the EK-UNI Holder Spider (120mm fan) vertically, as shown on the picture.

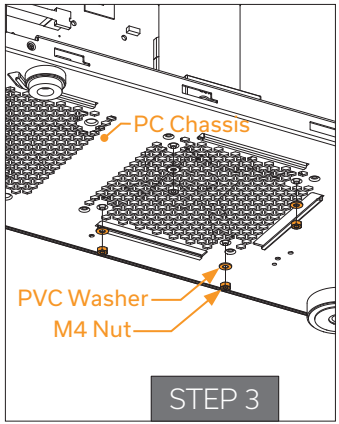
> Turn your pump in any direction, as long as it is not turned upside-down.

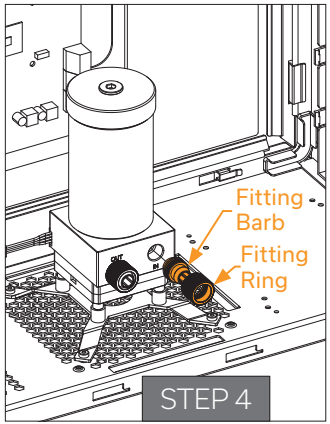
Secure it from the back side using four M4x10 screws and PVC washers. Tighten them in the clockwise direction using the enclosed 2,5mm Allen key.

> This unit can be installed anywhere where there is a 105x105mm rectangular mounting hole pattern on the chassis, without using any pump brackets.









STEP 2

The position of the unit in the chassis depends on the fan mounting holes and the hardware you have installed. Usually, the chassis have pre-drilled standard fan mounting holes on the bottom so you should look for holes with the spacing of 105mm (a standard computer cooling 120mm fan).

> Alternatively, you can drill four Ø4,5mm holes using the electric power drill on the most suitable place on the bottom of your computer chassis.

Put four M4x6 DIN7984 screws through the holes on the UNI pump bracket from the upper side.

STEP 3

Secure the M4x6 screws from the previous step with four M4 nuts and PVC washers. Tighten them using the 2,5mm Allen key with the screws.

> Make sure that the screws are holding tight but do not exaggerate with the force applied.

STEP 4

> The pump-reservoir unit has clearly remove one space (IN) and outlet (OUT) G1/4 ports. Not taking that into account will lead to reversed flow.

Tighten the fitting barbs in the clockwise direction until the gasket underneath is compressed.

The installation of the unit is now complete.

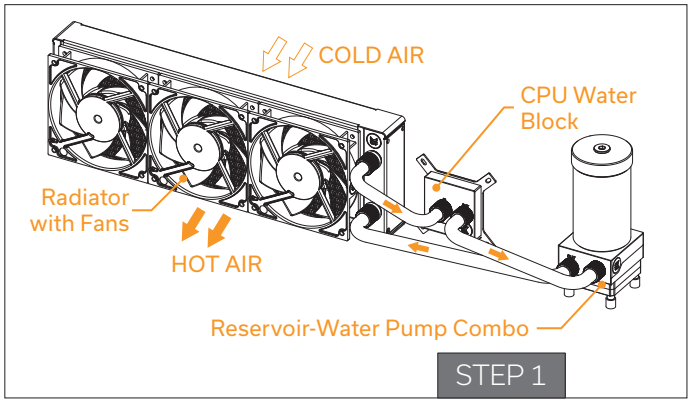
CONNECTING THE TUBING

If you are adding an additional unit to the water cooling loop, please proceed to Page 30, chapter POSSIBILITIES OF EXPANDING THE SYSTEM.

STEP 1

In order to successfully route the tubing, it is recommended that you check the water cooling scheme on the picture.

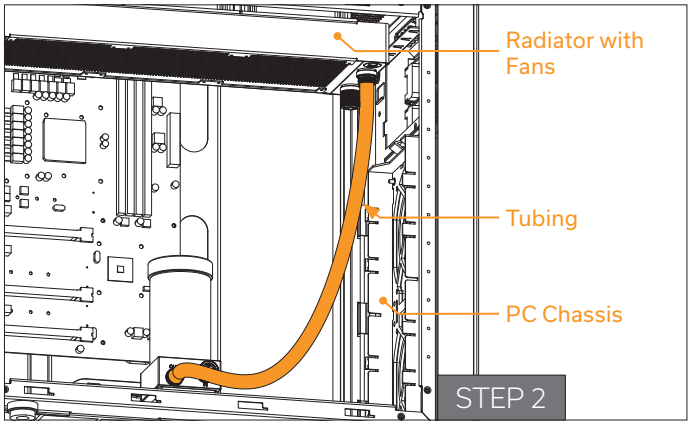
It is best that the water block receives the coldest fluid as possible, therefore you should connect the radiator's outlet port with the water block's inlet port. This is the best practice but it is not mandatory.

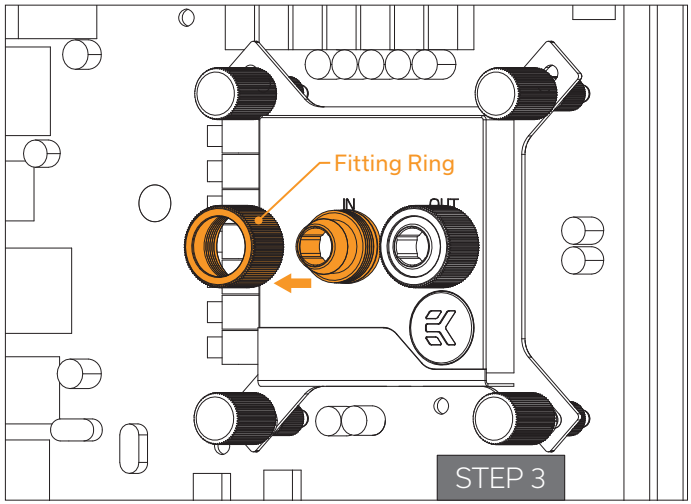


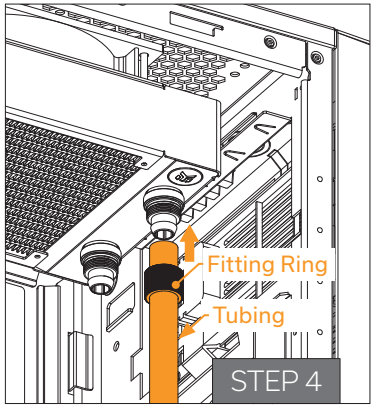
STEP 2

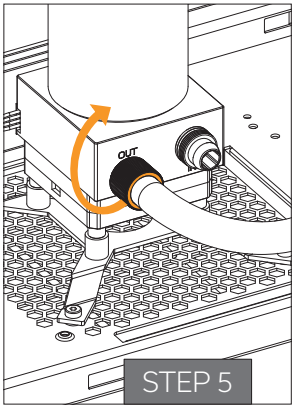
Visualize the tube's routes and then measure the distance by trying to fit it into the chassis. Mark the required length with a marker. Before cutting, it is recommended that you leave the additional 2 or 3 centimeters to spare. You can shorten it afterward.

Please make sure that the tube is not bent or twisted. This way, the coolant will be able to flow without restriction.









STEP 3

If you have assembled the components according to this installation manual, you should have all of the compression fittings already installed.

In order to install the tubing onto the compression fittings, you will have to remove the fitting rings by rotating them in the counter-clockwise direction.

STEP 4

Slide the fitting ring along the tube with the threaded side facing the fitting barb.

Install the tube on the fitting barb. If needed, heat the tube with warm water. You can do that by forcing it to slide over the edge as far as it goes.

STEP 5

Slide the fitting ring towards the barb and tighten it in the clockwise direction as far as it goes.

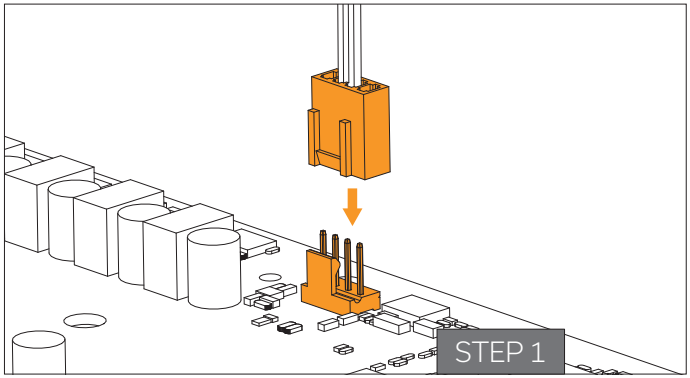
Repeat the procedure on all the fittings in order to connect the water cooling loop.

ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING THE PUMP-RESERVOIR UNIT

STEP 1
Take the 4-pin female connector and plug it to the female connector header located on the motherboard. Always use CPU-dedicated fan headers if possible.

> Always use CPU fan header. On the majority of motherboards these headers usually offer the best PWM regulation.

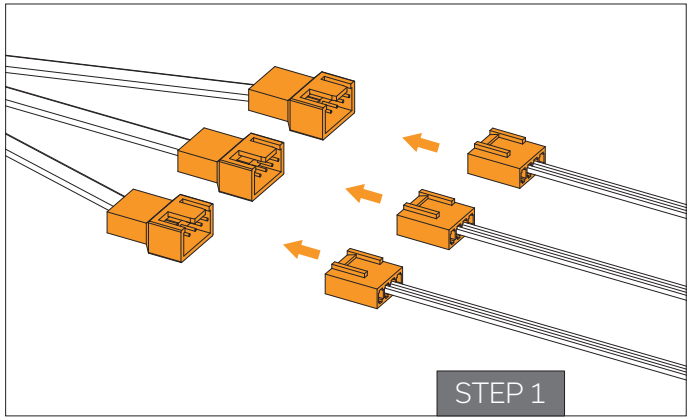


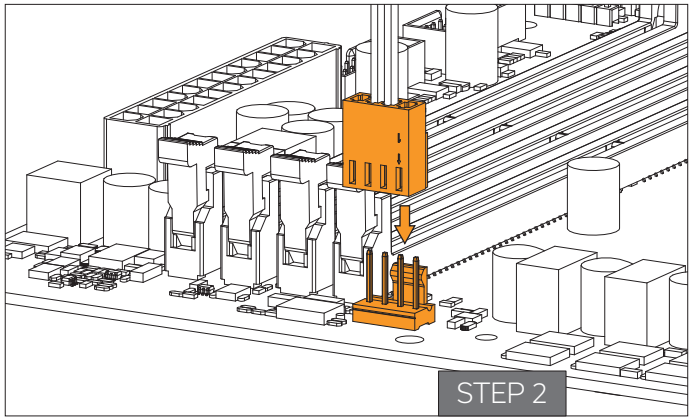
CONNECTING THE FANS

STEP 1
To connect the fans you might need EK-Cable Y splitter.

> The EK-Cable Y splitter is enclosed with the KIT delivery.

Connect the female connectors from the fans with male connectors on the fan splitter cable.

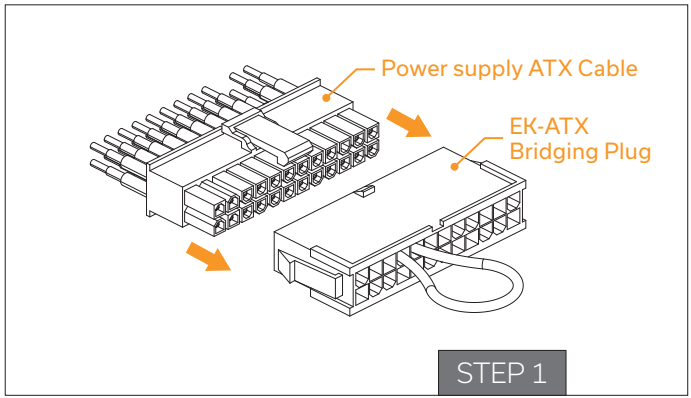




STEP 2

Connect the female EK-Cable Y-splitter connector to the male connector header located on the motherboard. Always use CPU-dedicated fan headers if possible.

Always use CPU fan header. On the majority of motherboards these headers usually offer best PWM regulation.



RECOMMENDED FILLING AND LEAK TESTING PROCEDURE

STEP 1

It is mandatory to do the following:

1. Disconnect all PSU power connectors (4/8-pin ESP, 24-pin ATX, PCI-express power, SATA power) in your computer.
2. Plug the EK-ATX Bridging plug (enclosed) to your 24-pin ATX PSU cable which allows jump starting your computer.

This procedure requires only the pump to be connected to the power supply (PSU). Everything else needs to be disconnected!

These steps must be done to prepare the power supply for the pump in order to fill the water cooling loop with coolant and run a leak test.

Your system is now ready to be charged for the first time.

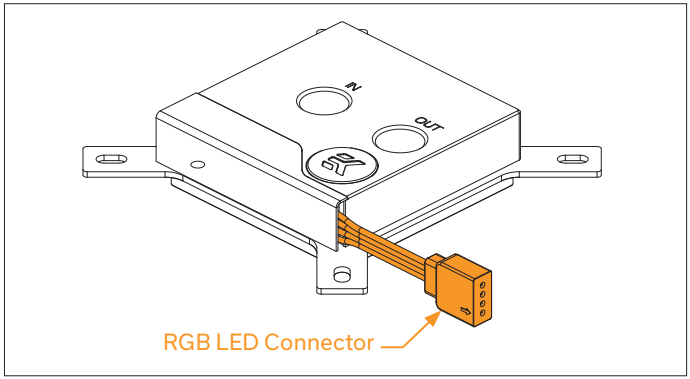
CONNECTING THE FANS, PUMP AND CPU LED LIGHTS

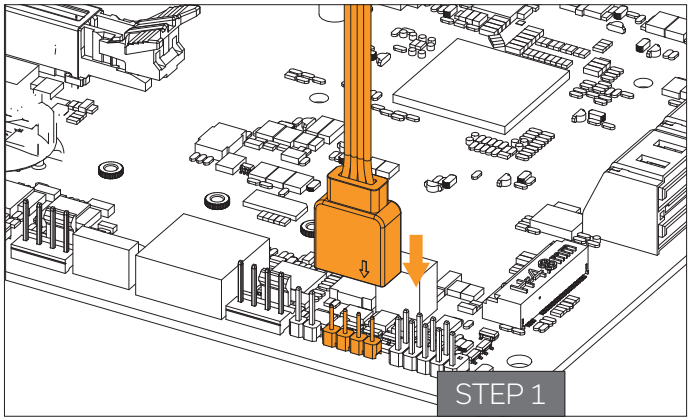
STEP 1

Plug the 4-pin connector from Water block's and fan's RGB LED light to the RGB header on the motherboard. The LED will work if the pin layout on the header is as follows: **+12V G R B**.

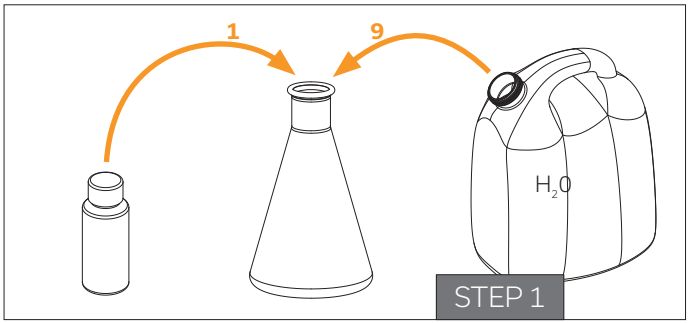
> ⚠ Please ensure that the arrow indicated on the connector is plugged into the +12V line as indicated on your motherboard.

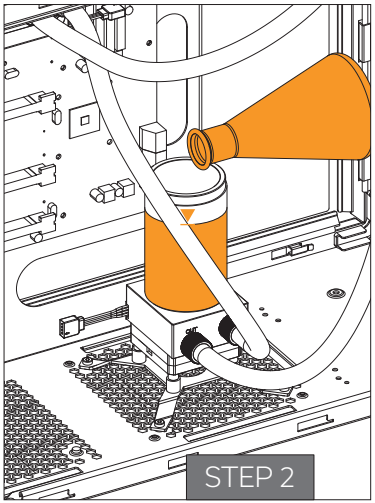
Failure to do so will damage your motherboard or the LED strip.

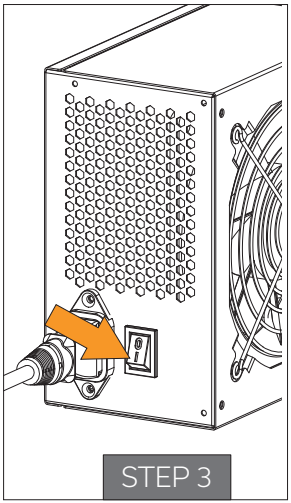




FILLING THE SYSTEM FOR THE FIRST TIME







STEP 1

Preparing the cooling liquid.

The coolant comes in the concentrated form. In order to prepare the cooling liquid, you must take a 100mL clear coolant concentrate, which is enclosed with the kit, and mix it with 900mL of distilled water.

Make sure you mix the mixture properly before pouring it into the water cooling loop.

> ⚠ Store the remaining liquid into a PET bottle. Do not use any food or beverage container!

STEP 2

Remove the top cover of your reservoir by unscrewing it in the counter-clockwise direction.

> It is recommended to protect the exposed hardware with a few paper towels in case of a leak.

Take the pre-mixed coolant and pour it into the reservoir until the coolant level is about 2 centimeters below the top.

STEP 3

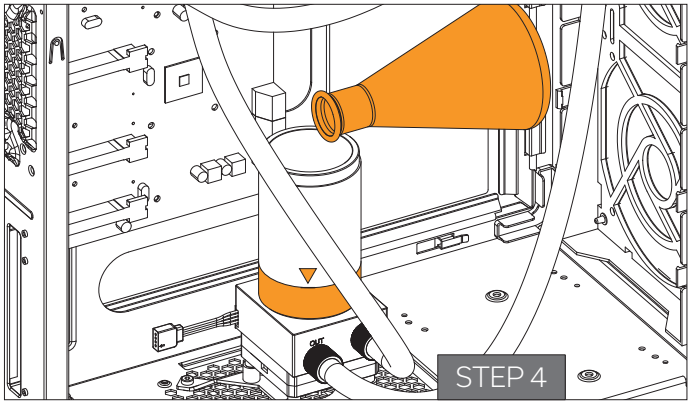
> ⚠ Please check again if you have plugged in the EK-ATX Bridging Plug and EK-Cable Pump Testing Adapter correctly. Refer to Page 25, chapter RECOMMENDED FILLING AND LEAK TESTING PROCEDURE.

Turn the power supply on briefly and make sure that only the pump is running.

STEP 4
When you turn on the power supply, the coolant should be pushed from the reservoir to other water cooling components, therefore you have to fill the coolant continuously while the pump is running.

> Alternatively, you can cycle (turn on and of) the power supply in a few second intervals to speed up the air bleeding process.

When the coolant level becomes steady, fill the reservoir so that the coolant level is about 2 centimeters below the edge. Screw back the reservoir top in the clockwise direction.

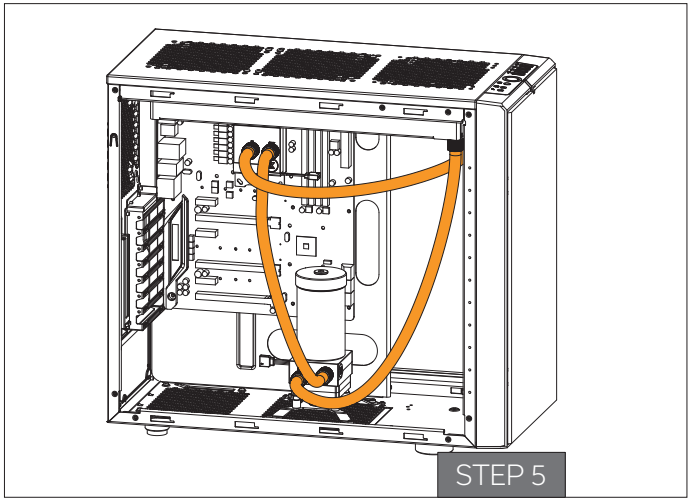


STEP 5
Shake and tilt the PC chassis to remove any air possibly trapped in the radiator. You may need to add more coolant.

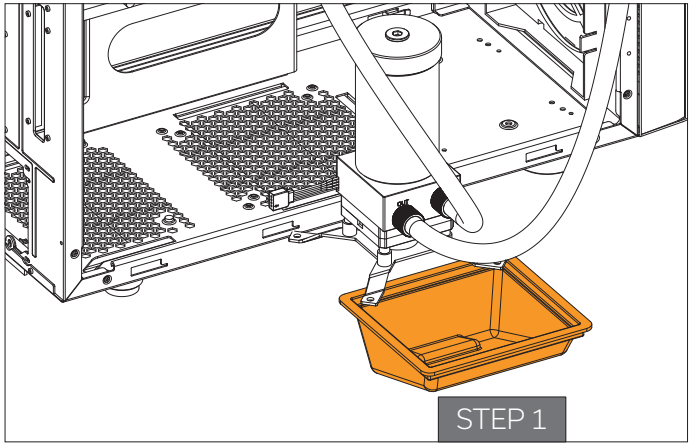
STEP 6
24 HOUR LEAK TEST

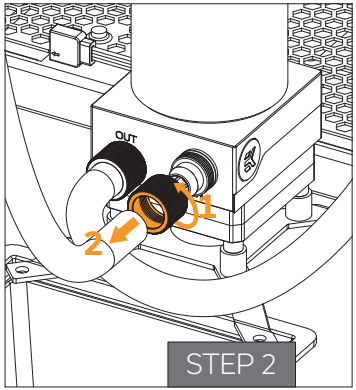
> It is best practice to run your pump for at least 24 hours in order to ensure the system is leak free. Once the 24 hour leak test has been completed and there is no sign of a leaking fluid, you are free to finish your computer build.

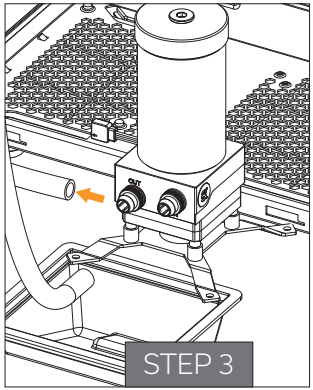
You will not be needing the ATX Bridging Plug cable anymore. Connect all the necessary cables to the motherboard, graphics card and expansion drives.



DRAINING OF THE LOOP







STEP 1

Before disassembling the water cooling loop, it is mandatory to turn off your computer and pull the power cord from the socket. Prepare some paper towels and stack them over the hardware.

Unscrew the four M4 nuts securing the EK-UNI Holder Spider (120mm Fan) on the PC chassis. Slowly pull the pump-reservoir unit along with the bracket outside of the case. Do not pull the tubing off the fittings at this stage.

Take a container and put it under the pump-reservoir unit.

STEP 2

Unscrew the fitting ring on the outlet port of the pump-reservoir unit. Rotate the ring in the counter-clockwise direction.

Gently pull the tube off the fitting and direct it into the container.

Let the coolant flow into the container.

STEP 3

Disconnect the other tube that is connected to the pump-reservoir unit inlet port.

Keep one tube directed to the container and blow into the other tube to additionally drain the system.

To thoroughly drain the pump-reservoir unit you can tilt it in multiple directions, or even remove the top cap and pour the coolant out of the reservoir.

Keep the disconnected tube ends over the paper towel to prevent the coolant spillage. You can additionally dry the tubes and the pump-reservoir to keep the hardware safe.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE SYSTEM EXPANSION

The best part of custom water cooling loop is that the system can be expanded and the cooling capacity can be extended almost without limitations.

For maximum performance, the rule of thumb is to use at least one 120mm radiator (section) per each water cooled component plus one 'spare'.

For example, if one radiator is liquid cooling a CPU and a single high-performance graphics card, it is recommended to use at least one 240mm (2x 120mm) radiator for optimal performance. Ideally, you would get a 360mm (3x 120mm) radiator for best performance and overclocking headroom. Motherboard and memory water blocks usually have lower power output, therefore, they are not included in this equation.

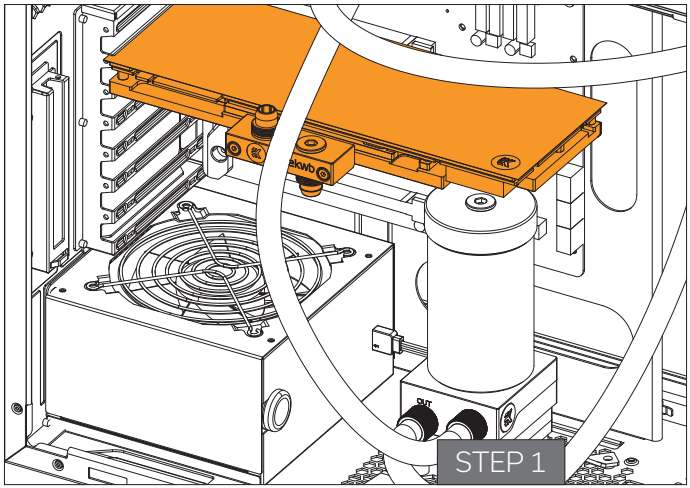
In this manual, we will expand the loop with an additional GPU full cover water block. You can also expand the loop with an additional radiator, reservoir, motherboard block, etc.

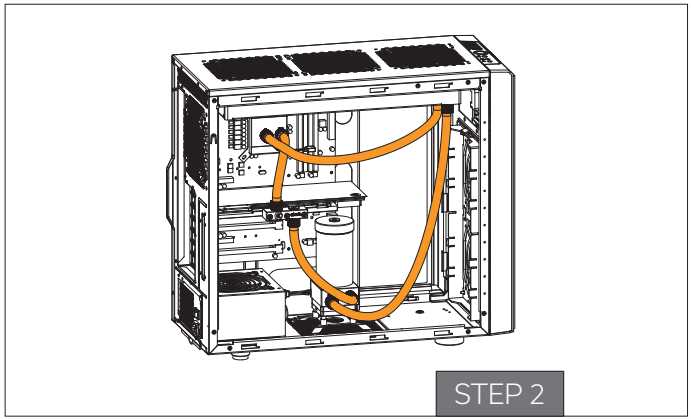
STEP 1

If already filled, drain the water cooling loop according to the instructions in the chapter DRAINING OF THE LOOP.

Install the unit, with which you are expanding the system according to its installation manual. When positioning it in the loop, pay attention that water blocks must receive the coldest coolant possible.

Carefully determine the optimal tube routing and install the compatible fittings (10/13mm) and, optionally, the plugs.





STEP 2

Measure the length of the tube that is needed to connect the CPU to the GPU water block and the GPU water block to the pump-reservoir unit. You can use a pair of scissors or a knife to cut the tube.

> ⚠ You may need an additional tubing to connect the water block.

Attach the tube onto the both fitting barbs until it sits firmly. Secure the fitting compression ring to make the assembly complete. Check again that all of the tubing is secured by compression fittings as intended. If it is not, please repeat STEP 1 to STEP 5 of chapter CONNECTING THE TUBING.

> ⚠ Fill the system by following the steps in the chapter FILLING THE SYSTEM FOR THE FIRST TIME.

MAINTENANCE

In order to obtain the best performance throughout the whole lifespan of the product, it is crucial to follow these maintenance tips:

TIP 1: DUST REMOVAL

It is mandatory to remove the dust every **2-3 months**. EK recommends using a vacuum cleaner or compressed air to blow the dust away. The dustiest is usually the radiator so pay special attention to that. Do not forget to turn off the computer and unplug the power supply. It is recommended to remove the dust outside.

TIP 2: CHECKING ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS

Once a year you should check the pump and the fans, if they are running as they should. The pump and fans must run silently without any rattling noises and must react to PWM duty cycle changes. All imperfections may lead to overheating and breakdown.

TIP 3: CLEANING THE UNIT (RELATED TO CHAPTER TROUBLESHOOTING)

Every year the unit should be thoroughly cleaned. You must let all the coolant out (Page 29). The radiator must be flushed and the pump checked and cleaned. It is recommended to change the tubing.

TIP 4: USE EK DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED PARTS ONLY

It is recommended to use only genuine EK Water Blocks liquid cooling gear, parts and add-ons to prevent any performance, compatibility or warranty issues.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q How many water blocks can you add to the loop?

A: EK-KIT Classic liquid cooling unit can be upgraded with several additional parts. However, in order to keep performance at a reasonable level, it is recommended not to upgrade EK-KIT Classic with more than:
- one (1) GPU water block (EK-KIT Classic 240)
- two (2) GPU water blocks (EK-KIT Classic 360)

The pump itself can manage the restriction of having up to 4 GPU water blocks but the loop has to be extended with an additional radiator unit.

Q What flow rates are to be expected with EK-KIT Classic?

A: This kit typically operates at about 440L/h. Installing a typical GPU water block usually drops flow rates from 440L/h to about 360L/h. Adding two water blocks would result in flow rates of about 300L/h in the same scenario.

For best performance, it is recommended to run the pump at 100% duty cycle in order to maintain highest flow rates (and thus thermal performance) when running more than one additional water block.

Q Can the Push-Pull Fan configuration be used with EK-KIT Classic?

A: Yes, this kit can accommodate additional fans on the bottom side and thus work in the push-pull regime. However, the required mounting screws are not enclosed and must be purchased separately. In order to prevent damage to the unit please use the UNC 6-32 30mm screws with standard 120x120x25mm fans!

The required set of UNC 6-32 x 30mm screws can be purchased through EK Webshop and EK Partner Reseller Network.

Q Is it possible to 'daisy-chain' the enclosed PWM splitter?

A: Yes, the enclosed PWM splitter allows for daisy-chaining of additional PWM splitter cables, such as EK-Cable Y-Splitter 2-Fan PWM (10cm) [EAN: 3831109867860], as long as the total power draw does not exceed 12W (1A on +12VDC) - the limit of KK 254 4-pin fan header on the motherboard.

IN CASE OF CPU OVERHEATING

Very high CPU temperatures are usually the symptoms of malfunctioning liquid cooling loop, assuming the contact between CPU heat spreader and water block itself is good and that the water itself is adequately cooled within the radiator. This can occur either due to:

1. **Malfunctioning or non-working water pump:** The symptoms usually include a rapid spike in temperature when stressing your CPU to the maximum (for example with Prime95 software). Make sure the pump is plugged into the power connector and that the liquid is indeed flowing through your system. You should feel the pump vibrating in your hand. Observe if there is any coolant movement in the reservoir when the pump is manually set to maximum speed.

2. **Malfunctioning or non-working cooling fans:** The symptoms usually include a rapid spike in temperature when stressing your CPU to the maximum. Make sure the cooling fans are plugged into the power connector hub and that the blades are indeed rotating.

3. **Kink in the liquid cooling tubing:** Very similar symptoms to those described above. Thin-walled tubing may collapse easily under low radius turns or when obstructed by other computer chassis elements such as closing side panel doors. Check the tubing for any signs of kink that restrict the flow. This is normally not the case when using original tubing.

4. **Clogged microchannels in the water block:** Microchannels can get clogged easily with various dirt particles and impurities, especially with plasticizer powder which has leached from the tubing (when using unsafe liquid cooling tubing). The symptoms usually include rapid spikes in temperature when stressing your CPU to the maximum. Low flow activity can be seen in the reservoir when the pump is manually set to maximum speed. Visually inspect the water block internals for any buildup or contamination and clean the system if necessary. In case the water block with translucent acrylic top is employed, this inspection can be done without disassembling the system.

5. **Thermal interface material (paste/grease) not applied or applied improperly:** Lack of - or even too much - TIM - may result in CPU overheating. Please refer to STEP 2 in INSTALLING THE WATER BLOCK section.

6. **Cooling liquid (coolant) freezing:** Running the system in a subzero temperature environment may lead to liquid freezing. The symptoms include initial rapid spike in the temperatures when stressing your CPU, followed by a substantial drop after the liquid partially thaws. Always make sure the system is operating in an environment where ambient (room) temperature doesn't drop below 5°C.

Another culprit could be partially or completely defective CPU. Some CPUs run at higher temperatures than the others. Overheating of the CPU can also occur due to:

1. Poor thermal contact within the CPU itself: Some CPUs, such as Intel LGA-1151 socket based Skylake, Intel LGA-1150 based Haswell and older, and socket LGA-1155 based Ivy Bridge are notorious for their poor thermal contact between the CPU die and the heat spreader (IHS) itself, due to the use of poor TIM. This is the problem of the processor and not the CPU liquid cooling unit. These CPUs are known to run very hot (80°C+) even on factory set frequencies. For best performance, it is usually recommended to replace the TIM between the die and the IHS or to even run the processor de-lidded. Both require hazardous IHS removal which voids processor's warranty but can lead to temperature decrease of 30°C and higher.

EKWB deems der8auer Delid Die Mate tool safe to be used by experts for de-lidding of the Intel Skylake CPUs.

Upon exhausting all options please consult EK knowledge base at http://support.ekwb.com. Raise a question through EK Support ticketing system if needed.

THE COOLER IS TOO LOUD

The EK-KIT Classic unit is equipped with fast-spinning EK-Vardar high-static pressure PWM controlled fans that run at very high speeds if the UEFI/BIOS is not set to control the fan speed. Make sure to set control mode to PWM (instead of DC)! On the majority of motherboards, this feature can be found in the 'Hardware Monitoring' section of the UEFI/BIOS. Please consult your motherboard manual on how to change the fan speed.

General ASUS Z270/X99 motherboard guide:

1. Enter UEFI and go to QFAN Control
2. Select the FAN header you wish to edit
3. Select PWM mode (instead of DC)

General ASRock Z270/X99 motherboard guide:

1. Enter UEFI and go to H/W Monitor
2. Choose the FAN header you wish to edit
3. Change from 'Full Speed' to 'Silent', 'Standard' or 'Performance' mode

General Gigabyte Z270/X99 motherboard guide:

1. Enter UEFI and go to M.I.T. → PC Health Status
2. Select (CPU Fan) Speed Control optionbox and select 'Auto', 'Normal' or 'Manual'.

General MSI Z270/X99 motherboard guide:

1. Enter UEFI and go to Hardware Monitor
2. Select the FAN header you wish to edit
3. Enable Smart Fan Mode Checkbox
4. Change ramp-up curve by dragging and dropping 4 colored squares

Make sure the 4-pin PWM Fan connector is indeed plugged in correctly into the appropriate FAN header on your motherboard. Please consult Page 24, chapter ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS.

GENERAL LIQUID COOLING PARTS CLEANING GUIDE

Liquid cooling parts may be disassembled for cleaning purposes on an occasional basis. Your warranty is not voided by disassembling of the water block. Only the leak-free guarantee is void which comes with a factory tested EK products. An old but soft toothbrush is an excellent cleaning tool!

1. Cleaning bare copper: When cleaning bare copper it is recommended to use slightly acidic cleaning agents which include the following organic agents:
- (white) vinegar (acetic acid up to 5-10%)
- lemon juice (citric acid up to 5-10%)

Certain food can also be used for cleaning the copper:
- cola (contains phosphorous- and citric acid)
- ketchup or tomato extract (contains acetic- and citric acid)
- mustard (contains acetic acid)

5% vinegar, diluted with 95% water is enough to kill 99.9% of algae and bacteria that could be present on copper in an unmaintained cooling loop.

Upon cleaning it is necessary to flush the water blocks with tap water and then rinse them with distilled water. After rinsing, we recommend wrapping the water blocks in paper towels until completely dry. It is nearly impossible to avoid the naturally occurring copper tarnishing (oxidation) as the oxidation will reoccur the moment the copper is cleaned.

2. Cleaning nickel plated copper: When cleaning nickel plated copper it is forbidden to use any aggressive chemicals (including vinegar) or rough materials as you may damage the plating and thus void the warranty. Please also note that due to the presence of dye additives and other chemicals, the nickel layer may also become discolored/stained over time. However, the staining is normally reversible with a simple flush and rinse. Cleaning the nickel plated copper should consists of these steps:
- flush the nickel plated copper with warm water
- clean the surface using a wet non-abrasive cloth and rinse with clean water
- polish the hardened deposits (such as algae or dirt) from the nickel plated copper if necessary.

EK recommends the use of asoft, non-abrasive automotive metal polish cremes. After you're finished with other cleaning methods, give the nickel plating a good polish with a non-abrasive metal or chrome polish. Apply a small amount of polish to a cloth or to the surface of the nickel. Wipe the entire surface of the nickel with the polish, using small circular motions, until it looks shiny and clean. Use another clean cloth to remove the remains of the polishing paste from the surface. Always rinse with distilled water after you are done with polishing.

3. Cleaning acrylic (plexi) glass tops:

Acrylic will fail prematurely if subjected to even the small amounts of alcohol, acetone or other aggressive chemicals.

Please do not use anything but warm, soapy water and a toothbrush to clean the acrylic (plexi) glass water block tops and reservoir tubes. Using aggressive chemicals will surely void your warranty!

Algae- or dirt deposits may be rubbed out using soft cloth in combination with warm, soapy water. Rinse with distilled water after cleaning.

4. Cleaning POM (acetal) tops: POM (polyoxymethylene) or Acetal can withstand chemicals such as alcohol or acetone but EK recommends to use these very sparingly as the drying chemicals will surely leave some residue. Usually, the POM can be cleaned easily just by the use of soft cloth and warm, soapy water - without the use of any chemicals. Rinse with distilled water after cleaning.

PREVENTIVE STEPS

1. Using corrosion inhibiting coolant: (such as EK-CryoFuel or other market proven coolants) is highly recommended for any water cooling loops. Since EK-CryoFuel is also a surfactant, it will prevent algae growth and dirt deposition on all weted surface.

2. Refrain from using: Copper Sulphate based additives in your loop in order to prevent tarnishing on your water cooling gear internals!

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SUPPORT AND SERVICE

For assistance please contact:
http://support.ekwb.com/

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