Introduction

On startup, computers perform a Power-on Self Test, commonly referred to as a POST. If problems are found while booting, you can usually diagnose them using the error codes displayed on the screen. However, if nothing displays on the screen, the computer might use sounds (i.e., beep codes) to tell you what is wrong. Many of these errors indicate hardware problems that should be fixed.

AMI (American Megatrends)

Beeps	Meaning
1 short	DRAM refresh failure
2 short	Parity circuit failure in the first 64 KB of RAM: Likely a bad RAM IC, or possibly one of the hardware tests has failed
3 short	Memory failure in the first 64 KB of RAM: Likely a bad RAM IC
4 short	System timer failure: Bad clock IC or bad RAM in the first bank of memory
5 short	Processor failure: The CPU has failed.
6 short	Keyboard controller Gate A20 error: The keyboard controller has failed. Due to its integration into the system board, you usually must replace the motherboard.
7 short	Virtual mode exception error: CPU has generated an exception error; bad CPU or motherboard
8 short	Display memory Read/Write test failure: Bad video card
9 short	ROM BIOS checksum failure: BIOS is defective
10 short	CMOS shutdown Read/Write error
11 short	Cache Memory error: Specifically, the L2 cache is bad.
1 long, 2 short	Video system failure: Error in video card BIOS, or a horizontal retrace has failed
1 long, 3 short	Conventional/Extended memory failure: RAM is bad
1 long, 8 short	Display/Retrace test failed: Video adapter is defective or missing

The information is from the BIOS Central AMI BIOS Beep Codes page.

Mylex Bios

Beeps	Meaning
1	Normal boot: No problems
2	Video adapter error: Video adapter is not seated or is faulty
3	Keyboard controller error: Keyboard controller IC bad
4	Keyboard error: Keyboard itself might be bad, or the controller IC on the motherboard
5	PIC 0 error: The programmable interrupt controller IC is bad
6	PIC 1 error: Same as above
7	DMA page register error: DMA controller IC is bad
8	RAM refresh error
9	RAM data error
10	RAM parity error
11	DMA controller 0 error: DMA controller IC for channel 0 has failed
12	CMOS RAM error: Bad CMOS RAM
13	DMA controller 1 error: DMA controller IC for channel 1 has failed
14	CMOS RAM battery error: Dead CMOS battery; can usually be replaced
15	CMOS RAM checksum error: CMOS RAM failed
16	BIOS ROM checksum error: BIOS RAM failed

Quadtel BIOS

Beeps	Meaning
1 short	Normal boot: System is booting normally.
2 short	CMOS IC error: The CMOS RAM is faulty. Replace the IC if possible.
1 long, 2 short	Video failure: The video adapter is faulty. Reseat the video adapter or replace the adapter if possible.
1 long, 3 short	Peripheral controller error: One or more of the system peripheral controllers is bad. Replace the controllers and retest.

The information is from the BIOS Central Quadtel BIOS Beep Codes page.