

FAN CONTROLLERS



MANUFACTURER	AKASA	AKASA	ZALMAN	ZALMAN	COBALT3
Model	Fan Control Jr	Fan Control Pro	Multi Fan Speed Controller	Fan Mate 1	Pyramid V
Model number	AK-FC-06-BK	AK-FC-03	ZM-MFC 1	Fan Mate 1	Pyramid V
Rating	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★
Drive bays used	3½"	5¼"	5¼"	Internal	Internal
Fans supported	3	4	6	1	3+
Dials	3	4	4	1	None
Temperature sensor	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Temperature alarm	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Temperature/fan rpm display	No	Yes (7-colour display)	No	No	No
LED indicators	No	No	Yes	No	No
Auto speed adjustment	No	No	No	No	Yes
Extras	USB header cable	4 fascias, 3- to 4-pin converter	2 switches	None	None
Price inc VAT	£8.81	£35	£18	£5	£19
Supplier	www.overclockers.co.uk	www.overclockers.co.uk	www.quietpc.com	www.quietpc.com	www.quietpc.com
Details	www.akasa.co.uk	www.akasa.co.uk	www.zalman.co.kr	www.zalman.co.kr	www.quietpc.com
	<p>Unusually, the Fan Control Jr fits into a 3½" drive bay and adds two USB ports to the front of your computer. For these to work you must have a spare motherboard USB header, though. The unit can control only three fans, but each has its own dial. With the added advantage of the USB ports, it's a good-value upgrade.</p>	<p>The Akasa Fan Control Pro is the most expensive fan controller in this round-up, but it has lots of features. With a choice of five coloured aluminium fascias and two alternative transparent front panels (with black or white writing for optimum clarity), plus a seven-colour LED display, it will look great in your case whatever its colour scheme. This controller isn't just a looker, though: it has temperature alarms to safeguard your components too.</p>	<p>The cool, acrylic-fronted Multi Fan Speed Controller from Zalman fits into a 5¼" drive bay. It supports up to six fans, four of which can be adjusted individually using the speed dials. The other two, which must be two-pin devices (and not necessarily fans), are controlled by a two-level toggle switch. It's very simple to install and is sensibly priced, but you'll need to rely on your motherboard to monitor temperatures.</p>	<p>This simple little fan-speed controller is extremely easy to install. You plug the fan you want to control into the Fan Mate 1, then plug the Fan Mate's cable into the motherboard. You can then use the dial on the Fan Mate to adjust the speed of the fan, but you have to open the side of your case to access it. It may be useful for taming a single over-zealous fan, but continuous adjustment is impractical.</p>	<p>The unusual-looking Pyramid V is like an advanced version of the Zalman Fan Mate 1, with the significant advantage that it reacts to the case temperature. Equipped with a temperature sensor it keeps your PC quiet when it's fine to do so and speeds up the fans when it detects more heat. You can connect two three-pin case fans directly to the Pyramid as well as any number of daisy-chained four-pin case fans. It's quite expensive, but an it's easy way to cut noise.</p>
					