



## RAM GUY TECH NOTE

### A Question & Answer Session About Corsair's New XL Series



**Q: Tell us about this new XL series of modules.**

A: The 3200XL family is a screaming fast group of DDR modules. We're shipping them in classic black and platinum heat spreaders and in our PRO series. These are phenomenal products because they're so overclockable and support 2-2-2-5 latencies.

**Q: Many people said that 2-2-2-5 timings were dead after Winbond BH-5 IC's were phased out. How is Corsair able to pull off these super tight timings?**

A: The XL family is based on a new Samsung chip that really zips. We got early samples through our direct relations with Samsung. First tests showed that the parts were unusually fast. Our President, Andy Paul, and VP of Product Development, John Beekley, flew to Seoul to meet Samsung to secure a steady supply of these special revision chips for mass production. The Samsung chips are not currently available on the open market.

**Q: Do the XL parts have any other cool features?**

A: They do come with our Plug-n-Frag™ technology, which means the 2-2-2-5 latency settings are pre-programmed into the module's SPD, so the system will automatically boot up with fast latencies. And if that's not enough, then take a look at the -3200XLPRO modules which come with memory activity LED's.

**Q: We all know that Corsair has great engineers working behind the scenes to pick and qualify IC's, so how do the XL modules work on different platforms? Can they run 2-2-2-5 on all the current chipsets and processors?**

A: Our people are very talented at finding the next big overclocking part. We've found that AMD platforms deliver optimal performance at extremely low latencies, and Intel platforms give best results at very high clock speeds. The XL parts are ideal for BOTH platforms because they support very aggressive 2-2-2-5 latencies at DDR400, and overclock nicely to DDR500 (PC4000) at slightly relaxed latencies. We've seen typical results of 2.5-3-3-7 at DDR500 in our labs.

**Q: That is some great news for enthusiasts and gamers around the world, but what about pricing?**

A: So far our manufacturing yields on these parts have been excellent. We pay a slight premium for the special revision of the RAM chips, but we plan to price the XL modules very competitively. They will be far cheaper than any Hynix-based modules due to the huge tariffs on Hynix.

**Q: Recently I have seen products like OCZ's PC-3200 Platinum Limited Edition come out in VERY limited quantities and vanish once it's sold out. Is this something we can expect with Corsair's XMS XL memory?**

A: NO! Corsair has never had a strategy of teasing the market with a handful of super fast "Limited Edition" parts that nobody can buy. XL modules will be produced in volume and readily available to the entire public through our resellers worldwide.

**Q: When will these modules be available for purchase?**

A: We try to carefully time our launches so we announce a product and start volume shipping at about the same time. Unexpected delays or shortages sometimes happen, but I'm confident XL parts will be shipping in volume this week.

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*This interview took place between Joe James and Nathan Kirsch on May 25, 2004.*

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