GENERAL

asus k55a user guide

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Introduction

The ASUS K55A is a popular mid range laptop that has earned a reputation for solid performance, a comfortable keyboard, and a price point that appeals to students, professionals, and casual users alike. Whether you are a brand new owner or a seasoned enthusiast looking for a refresher, this user guide will walk you through everything you need to know to get the most out of your ASUS K55A. From unboxing and initial setup to advanced customization and troubleshooting, we've organized the information in a clear, step by step format that is easy to follow.

Overview of the ASUS K55A

Design and Build

The K55A sports a sleek, all metal chassis that feels sturdy yet lightweight. Its dimensions are 36.5 cm × 25.4 cm × 2.2 cm, and it weighs approximately 1.9 kg, making it a convenient option for on the go use. The laptop features a matte finish that resists fingerprints and a subtle ASUS logo on the lid. The hinge is smooth and robust, allowing for comfortable screen angles.

Key Specifications

- Processor: 4th generation Intel Core i3 4200U (2 /GHz, 3 /GHz boost) or i5 4300U (2.5 /GHz, 3.2 /GHz boost)
- Memory: 4 /GB DDR3L (expandable up to 8 /GB)
- Storage: 500 /GB HDD (7200 /RPM) or optional 128 /GB SSD (SATA)
- Display: 15.6 3 LED backlit LCD, 1366 /× /768 resolution, 60 /Hz refresh rate
- Graphics: Integrated Intel HD Graphics 4400
- Connectivity: Wi Fi 802.11b/g/n, Bluetooth 3.0, Gigabit Ethernet
- Ports: 2× USB 2.0, 1× USB 3.0, 1× HDMI, 1× VGA, 1× RJ 45, 1× headphone/microphone combo, 1× SD card reader
- Battery: 3 cell, 42 /Wh (up to 5 /hours of typical use)
- Operating System: Windows 7 Home Premium (pre installed, upgradeable to Windows 10)

Getting Started

Unboxing and First Impressions

When you first open the ASUS K55A package, you should see the following items:

1. ASUS K55A laptop
2. Power adapter (AC adapter 19 /V, 2.37 /A)
3. Quick start guide (this user guide)
4. Warranty card
5. Optional accessories (e.g., USB to HDMI adapter, docking station)

Inspect the laptop for any visible damage. Check that the screen displays a clean image and that all ports are present and unobstructed.

Power On and Initial Setup

Plug the power adapter into the laptop's DC-in port and connect the other end to a wall outlet. Press the power button located on the right side of the keyboard. The first boot may take a few minutes as the BIOS performs a quick self check.

Follow the on screen prompts to configure language, time zone, and keyboard layout. When Windows 7 loads, you will be asked to create a user account or sign in with a Microsoft account. Choose the option that best fits your workflow.

BIOS Settings

Press **F2** (or **Del**, depending on your model) during boot to enter the BIOS. The BIOS interface is straightforward:

- Boot Menu: Set the boot priority to prioritize the internal hard drive.
- Advanced Settings: Enable or disable integrated peripherals (e.g., Wi Fi, Bluetooth).
- Power Management: Adjust the power saving features, such as sleep and hibernate options.

After making changes, press **F10** to save and exit.

Windows Installation (Optional)

If your K55A came with a clean Windows 7 installation, you can skip this section. For users who want to upgrade to Windows 10, you can download the Media Creation Tool from Microsoft's website and follow the prompts to perform an in place upgrade. Be sure to back up important files before proceeding.

Operating System and Software

Pre installed Software

The ASUS K55A ships with a suite of software that enhances usability:

- ASUS Live Update – Keeps drivers and firmware current.
- ASUS System Information Utility – Provides detailed hardware diagnostics.
- ASUS Audio Control – Allows fine tuning of audio settings.
- Windows 7 Media Player – Basic media playback.

Driver Installation

While Windows 7 automatically installs generic drivers, you should install the official ASUS drivers for optimal performance. Visit the ASUS Support website, enter your model number (K55A), and download the following:

- Chipset drivers
- Graphics drivers (Intel HD 4400)
- Audio drivers (Realtek ALC 892)
- Wi Fi and Bluetooth drivers
- LAN drivers

Run each installer and follow the on screen instructions. A system restart may be required after each installation.

ASUS Utility Tools

ASUS provides several utilities that streamline system maintenance:

- ASUS Live Update – Automatically checks for and installs updates.
- ASUS System Information Utility – Offers real time monitoring of CPU temperature, fan speed, and battery health.

- ASUS Audio Control – Enables 3D audio and equalizer presets.

Windows Updates

To keep your system secure, enable automatic Windows updates:

1. Open Control Panel.
2. Select System and Security !' Windows Update.
3. Click Change settings and choose Install updates automatically.

Hardware Features

Display and Graphics

The 15.6 3 LED backlit LCD offers a 1366 × 768 resolution, which is adequate for everyday tasks such as web browsing, document editing, and media consumption. The integrated Intel HD Graphics 4400 handles basic gaming and video playback with no issues. If you require higher graphics performance, consider upgrading to an external GPU via the HDMI port (note that the K55A does not support eGPU natively).

Keyboard and Touchpad

The keyboard is a full size layout with a numeric keypad, featuring a 1.5 mm key travel that provides tactile feedback. Backlighting is not available on the K55A, so it's best used in well lit environments. The touchpad is a multi touch device that supports two finger scrolling and pinch to zoom gestures. Adjust sensitivity settings in the Mouse Control Panel.

Ports and Connectivity

The K55A offers a variety of ports suitable for most connectivity needs:

- USB 3.0: High speed data transfer up to 5 /Gbps.
- USB 2.0: Standard speed ports for peripherals.
- HDMI: Connect to an external monitor or TV.
- VGA: Legacy video output for older displays.
- RJ 45: Gigabit Ethernet for wired internet.
- Audio jack: Combined headphone and microphone.
- SD card reader: Quick access to photos and files.

Audio and Webcam

The integrated Realtek ALC 892 audio chip delivers clear stereo sound. The built in webcam (720p) is sufficient for video conferencing but may lack the sharpness of newer models. If you need higher quality video, consider an external USB webcam.

Battery and Power Management

The 3 cell battery offers up to 5 /hours of typical usage. To maximize battery life:

- Enable Power Saver mode in the Power Options panel.
- Dim the screen brightness to the lowest comfortable level.
- Disconnect unused peripherals.
- Turn off Wi Fi or Bluetooth when not in use.

Customizing Your ASUS K55A

BIOS Configuration

Advanced users may wish to tweak BIOS settings for better performance:

- CPU Power Management: Enable Intel SpeedStep to allow dynamic frequency scaling.
- Integrated Peripherals: Disable unused devices such as onboard Wi Fi to save power.
- Boot Mode: Switch to UEFI if you plan to install Windows 10 with secure boot.

Power Settings

Windows 7 offers several power plans:

- Balanced: Default plan that balances performance and energy consumption.
- Power Saver: Extends battery life at the cost of performance.
- High Performance: Maximizes CPU speed but consumes more power.

Choose the plan that best fits your usage pattern.

Display Settings

Adjust the screen resolution and scaling to improve readability:

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