

## Amilo M 3438 notebook MXM options

This notebook has two variants: 3438 and 4438. Both notebooks share the same chassis but the 4438 has a WUXGA screen. The platform has a Type III MXM slot and can be easily serviced. It was ODM'd by Uniwill and also saw service as Alienware m5700 and has seen a number of other clones as well.

Unfortunately, the 6800 that was equipped has shown to be a vulnerable card over the years and many people are looking for a replacement card. In the past, we sold 7900GS cards for this notebook but saw horrible return rates for it. To date, it is not clear why. In some cases, ill informed thermal interface material choice could have been to blame, in others perhaps bad installation and maybe some notebooks were damaged in another way and caused the card to fail in the end but all in all we could not pinpoint why these cards went to silicon heaven so fast. We also sold 7600 cards for them and they were a moderate success, mainly due to the ease of install. Unfortunately it is no longer possible to source these cards.

We currently offer x1800 and x1900 cards for this platform. The installation procedure is exactly the same.

### *Tools required:*

A Dremmel with a cutting wheel and a screwdriver

You just have to remove a single backpanel. Before you do that, remove the battery as a precaution. After that, you can lift the panel with your nail. Notice that there's one screw that is longer. Make absolutely sure you place it back in the correct hole, labeled K/B, when closing your notebook again. Failing to do so will destroy your brand new card



When the panel is removed, you'll have to remove all screws indicated with the yellow circles. Make sure not to touch parts of the motherboard, as ESD can kill your notebook. Make sure to discharge yourself every now and then on a well grounded item (water pipes,...) This will allow you to carefully remove the heatsink assembly. Make sure to disconnect the fan plug first. Once again, your nail is the primary tool for this job. I took the time and opportunity to apply AS5 on the CPU, but that is obviously optional. AS5 can also be ordered from MXM Upgrade.



After having removed the heatsink, two more screws keep the MXM on the motherboard. Remove them and then take out the 6800. When you place the x1800 against the heatsink, you will notice that one of the coils (square blocks) on the MXM card interferes with the heatsink.

Enter the Dremmel.

No skills are required (as evidenced by the picture of the heatsink) but some courage is not optional before you put the cutting blade in a part of your beloved notebook. It takes about 15 minutes. Make sure to remove the heatpads from the heatsink before starting to cut into the metal as the small metal parts get stuck to the heatpads and can form a kind of conductive metal film on it with a high potential for disaster. Do the dremeling as far as you can from your exposed notebook for pretty much the same reason. Make sure the heatsink is whiped clean and while you have easy acces to the heatsink: blow out the fan and radiator so no dust is left behind. In the future, you will have to do this on a regular basis. They sell cans off compressed air for this, I highly recommend having one at hand.



You can reuse the heatpads on the memory, but MXM Upgrade will supply you with 2 heatpads for the GPU die. At this time, apply the yellow one and mount heatsink and new card. Remove the heatsink again and inspect the heatpad. If you did a good job on the heatsink then the GPU die will leave a rectangular print on the heatpad. If this is not the case you will have to check your work again. Once you are satisfied with the heatsink, apply the high performance grey heatpad. Please note that it will most likely not survive more than one application so make sure you get it right the first time!

Once installed, you can close up your notebook again and boot her up. You will notice the fan will not react to the MXM card. It will still run if the CPU requires it, but the GPU temperature remains unchecked. This is acceptable for desktop/webbrowsing/wordprocessing but obviously not for gaming.

Firstly, install new ATI drivers for your card. You can find them [here](#).

Once this is done, you need to install Notebook Hardware Control, which you can find [here](#). Install it and then download the ACPI files for your notebook [here](#). Extract the files in the ACPI folder of NHC, which usually can be found under Program Files. Start NHC again and head for the ACPI tab. You should now be able to toggle "enable ACPI". From the few options below, we highly recommend to have the fan run slowly at all time during "normal" operation but it is mandatory to have it run full speed while gaming.

Make sure you keep your radiator clean, lift the back of the notebook a bit (I use two CD cases for this, only game on even surfaces, make sure nothing blocks the fan in- or outlet. Actually, in general: take good care of your notebook and enjoy your new card!

***x1800 cards are currently for sale for 200 €, which includes shipping, taxes and heatpads. Prices are the same for the EU and US. The x1900 ships for 350 € for the EU (again including taxes, shipping and heatpads), the US can get them for 330 €. Artic Silver 5 tubes can be ordered for an additional 8 euro***

***We never offer a "buy it now" or comparable button. The reason is simple: we want to review all purchases with our costumers first so that they make their purchased well informed and understand what they are doing. So, if you are ready to pull the trigger, send us a [mail](#) and tell us what you want, where you live and what notebook you have. We will review the request, comment if needed and forward you payment details (which can be Paypal or a banktransfer.***

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