

REMOTE EXTENDERS
BEYOND PLATINUM REMOTE CONTROL EXTENDER

Extended control

VITAL STATS

Range.....Up to 100 feet
TransmissionRF
IR Emitter cable
.....Single eye supplied, three eye optional
PRICE.....R499

VERDICT

The Beyond Platinum radio frequency remote extender is an innovative product that offers even more practicality than its RF competition.

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It's not too often that something interesting and innovative comes around, particularly one that actually delivers on its promises.

At first glance the Beyond Platinum remote extender doesn't actually look that new or exciting. It is after all just a remote extender, and there are plenty of these around. Over the years Audio Video has even given quite a few away as prizes.

What sets the Beyond Platinum Extender apart from these other devices is that it puts its radio frequency transmitter inside almost

any remote control, and this in turn converts the remote into a RF remote control that can operate equipment without having to be pointed at an Infrared pickup. This simplifies installation and enhances practicality.

Let's now compare installation procedures for the Beyond Platinum remote extender and the more usual IR types.

Typical IR extenders have a unit that is located in, for example, a bedroom. This unit needs a power point, has to be in line of sight of a remote control, and when it receives infrared signals from a remote

control, converts them into radio frequency signals, which are then received by a second unit that is located close to the component being controlled.

The remote is limited to use in the room where the pickup is.

Now the Beyond Platinum Extender. This puts the radio frequency transmitter into



the remote itself, and this means that whenever a button on the remote is pressed, RF signals are transmitted and these are received by the same kind of receiver that a conventional extender uses. The difference is, that you don't have to point the remote at anything, you don't have a second unit to plug in, and the remote can be used anywhere in a home, as long as it's within range of its receiver.

Okay, so now you can see some of the benefits of putting the transmitter into the remote, and I'm certain more than a few of you want to know how this is accomplished.

The extender is supplied with a little transmitter module that is just a little shorter than an AAA battery. You then plug a rechargeable battery into the back of the transmitter and the combination is then the same size as a conventional AAA battery. The transmitter simply replaces one of the batteries in your remote. The remote is also supplied with an AA

battery size adaptor, and this means that it will work with remotes that use AA or AAA batteries.

A second rechargeable battery is supplied, and this is charged by placing it in the charging slot in the base of the receiver unit.

To test the Beyond Platinum extender, I replaced one of the batteries in my CD player's remote with the transmitter battery, plugged the RF receiver into the mains, and placed it in front of the IR eye of the CD player. For a more stealth look, I could have stuck the eye of the supplied emitter cable over my player's receiving eye, but as this was a review unit that I would have to return, I obviously didn't do this.

Next I turned my system on, loaded a CD, covered the IR LED on the CD player's remote, pressed the play button on the remote...and the CD started to play. I then took a walk around my home, and was able to operate my CD player from every room.

So yes, the Beyond Platinum remote extender certainly did work as advertised, and I certainly did appreciate it that I could control equipment from anywhere in my home.

The Beyond Platinum extender was also used with a DSTV remote, and once again it worked as advertised.

On the downside, I didn't have the unit for long enough before I wrote this review to find out exactly how long the charge on the transmitter battery lasts, and it didn't work in my amplifier's remote control. This however was machined out of a solid billet of aluminium, so it's possible that the RF signals simply couldn't penetrate the remote's casing.

You can however buy extra transmitters and batteries, and there is a three eye emitter cable available, and this means that you could control up to three pieces of equipment from anywhere in your home.

Joel Kopping

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