

# SOUND & VISION®

From spotlight test report on four multiroom systems, "Music Around the House," in January 2004 S&V. © 2004 by Hachette Filipacchi Media, U.S., Inc. All rights reserved.

fast facts				
	A-BUS	ELAN SYSTEM6	NETSTREAMS MUSICA	OXMOOR Z6N
<b>BASIC COST PER ZONE *</b>	\$235 (six-zone/one-source) \$374 (four-zone/four-source)	\$500 (six-zone/six-source)	\$667 to \$867 depending on keypad (six-zone/four-source)	\$1,197 ** (four-zone/five-source)
<b>ZONES IN BASIC SYSTEM</b>	two to six depending on hub used	six	six	four
<b>EXPANDABILITY</b>	any number of zones can be added with additional hubs	not expandable (but any number of rooms can be added within each zone)	18 zones maximum (six per Audio Distribution Center, up to three ADCs)	any number of zones can be added by daisy- chaining routers
<b>RATED POWER</b>	7.5 watts per channel	40 watts per channel	25 or 50 watts per channel depending on keypad	30 watts per channel
<b>OUTBOARD AMPLIFICATION POSSIBLE?</b>	yes (with Russound A-KP2 keypads)	yes (selectable fixed or variable line-level outputs)	yes (with NetStreams MU290 amp or any amp with an AP300 local port)	yes (with optional Direct Box amp-connection module, \$149)
<b>NUMBER OF SOURCES PLAYED SIMULTANEOUSLY</b>	one in base system; expandable to four with an A-Bus hub	six	four (FM keypad adds local radio source)	nine
<b>LOCAL SOURCE INPUT</b>	yes	yes (included above)	yes	yes (included above)
<b>INFRARED RECEIVER BUILT INTO KEYPAD</b>	yes	yes (with optional IR target or Z150 numerical keypad)	yes	yes
<b>DIY RATING</b> (0 = impossible, 10 = no brainer)	10	0 (requires programming tools available only to dealers)	8	9 without IR control of sources; 6 with IR control (using ZIR-232 module)
<b>KEYPAD ERGONOMICS</b> (0 = tough to use, 10 = easy)	10 (very limited functions, basically just an electronic volume control, make operation simple)	9 (button layout intuitive; direct access to all sources)	8 (LCD screen easy to read; two-layer button functions a little tricky)	4 (IR commands cumbersome to access with jog/wheel; changing TV channels very tricky)
<b>KEYPAD STYLING</b> (0 = deadly dull, 10 = dead sexy)	Russound A-KP2: 7 (simple, clean, inoffensive look; green backlight)	S6KP: 5 (smallish buttons can be hard to read, no backlighting) Z200: 8 (larger buttons and traditional navigation layout more stylish; no backlighting)	9 (LCD screen very slick; selectable green or amber backlighting a nice touch)	10+ (this silver knob belongs in your BMW 740iL — soft blue backlighting and LCD screen screams "Cool!")
<b>PAGING</b>	yes (with third-party modules)	yes (with optional Z600 Comm Controller)	no	yes (built-in)
<b>PRICES OF SYSTEM COMPONENTS USED</b>	Honeywell MDADZ600 hub, \$275; Russound A-PS power supply, \$139; Russound AH-484 hub, \$599; Russound A-KP2 keypads, \$189 each; Russound A-LC2 local- source module, \$129	System6 controller/amp, \$1,770; S6KP or Z200 keypad, \$205 or \$360 each; Z150 numerical pad, \$160 each	MU4602 Audio Distribution Center, \$1,600; AP300 local ports, \$130 each; 25-watt keypad, \$400 each; 50-watt keypad, \$500 each; 50-watt FM keypad, \$600 each	ZR-98 router, \$1,159; ZAC-60 keypad, \$599 each; ZIM-4 input module, \$498 a pair; ZIR-232 Device Commander, \$239