

# Hands On: KanexPro Long-Runner HDMI Extender with Ethernet

Integrator explains how he turned to this solution after other brands failed him.

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Have you noticed that there is an entire CI product category dedicated to extending the length and effectiveness of HDMI?

One of the newest manufacturers to address this integration challenge is [KanexPro](#) with its Long-Runner HDMI Extender with Ethernet. KanexPro is unique in that it also [leverages HDBaseT](#) support of long-distance transmission of HDMI signals as large as 4K x 2K and 3D video.

The company says the Long-Runner solution is capable of sending HD as far as 330 feet or 100 meters over a single Cat 5 or Cat 6 cable. Adding to its credibility, the solution took home a [CI BEST Award](#).

## Specifications:

- Extend signals up to 330 feet on single Cat 5e cable
- Infrared signal input/output, embedded over extension
- Integrates 3-Ethernet ports for network devices
- Supports resolutions from 1080p/60@48bit to 4Kx2K
- Supports data rates up to 10.2 Gbps
- Enables 3D pass-through
- HDCP and EDID compliant

- Front panel-LEDs for link activity and HDCP authentication
- External power supplies included
- **MSRP:** \$450
- [www.kanexpro.com](http://www.kanexpro.com)

Rather than take the manufacturer's word for it, here are one of your colleague's thoughts on the product.

**Reviewer:** Michael Palm, [TechGuys](#), Lakewood, Calif.

### **Describe a project in which you used the KanexPro Long-Runner HDMI Extender with Ethernet.**

We first tested this in a customer's home. It was a retro project with a 76-foot run of twin Cat 6 to a 60-inch plasma. While testing Blu-ray, we noticed static on the screen as well as a flicker.

We tested both Cat 6 lines, which were perfect and of identical length. We then checked all settings in the BDP which were all correct. Further troubleshooting promoted a stable image when the BDP was set to 1080i.

There was our answer: The [brand deleted] baluns were rated to produce 1080p at 100 feet on Cat 5 but failed at 76 feet on Cat 6. We went to our backup [brand deleted] which has similar ratings and it failed as well.

Both worked fine at 1080i but the core responsibility of any CI is to deliver the best quality possible at a reasonable cost. It was at this time that I remembered I had the KanexPro sample with me.

We set the BDP to 1080P, installed the [KanexPro] HDBASE100MSW on one of the Cat 6 cables and bam! ... beautiful 1080p without flicker or image irregularity.

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I realize this particular product is rated to work at a longer distance. That said, when you're on-site, it's critical that the products you're working with work without issue.

Bottom line, the KanexPro product worked as specified. The other brands did not.

**Which features or specs were instrumental in your decision to use this product versus another solution?**

The ability to offer 1080p with 3D support over great distances with IRE and Ethernet over a single Cat 5e/6. There are other brands that offer this, but in many cases the control units are larger.

This module has attachable mounting hardware and is less than an inch thick making it easy to hide.

**For what types of applications do you recommend this product to other commercial integrators?**

There are many reasons why running actual HDMI cables at distances greater than 30 feet is not a good idea. This solution makes a much easier run and offers far more than HDMI alone.

We use this solution for conference rooms, lunch rooms, hospital waiting rooms and nearly all custom home theater projects. It's the bang-for-buck theory. HDMI, IRE and Ethernet from one cable saves time, costs and headache.

When you add up the cost of twin Cat 5 x5 for typical baluns and Ethernet equivalent plus an IR Repeater, you're way higher than the cost of this single unit.

**How difficult or easy was the installation of this product?**

Installation consists of running a Cat 5e/6, terminating the ends, mounting and plugging in the modules. I recommend using Cat 6 over 100 feet, but that's just me.

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Regarding Ethernet, on the transmitting side, you only need to plug one cable [into] any port. This sends Ethernet to all three ports on the Receiver side.

**What are the three biggest benefits—"pros"—for an installer using this product?**

**Easy Installation**— Ability to offer 1080p with 3D support over great distances with IRE and Ethernet over a single Cat 5e/6.

**Value**—HDMI, IRE and Ethernet from one cable saves time, costs and headache.

**Reliability**—We left the set running on a bench for over a week. We even heated up the modules and tapped them with a rubber mallet. They never failed.

**What are the three biggest negatives—“cons”—for an installer using this product?**

1) The IR Emitters are too big and not aesthetically pleasing. Though we understand the capture aspect of the design, the shape, color and size may not fit well in certain applications.

2) The cable length of the IR Emitters is way too short. Due to the small size of LED-LCDs and custom nature of hiding equipment, these cables would have to be extended in nearly all cases.

3) It would be beneficial to have Ethernet at speeds faster than 100 Mbps.

4) Power Cords could be a little longer as well.

**What else should commercial integrators know about this product?**

The product does everything it claims to do. It's a difficult sell to customers sometimes but when you explain that it's actually cheaper than the hardware equivalent they get it.

It's also beneficial to some customers to be able to “take their equipment” if they move. This cannot be done with traditional hard wiring.