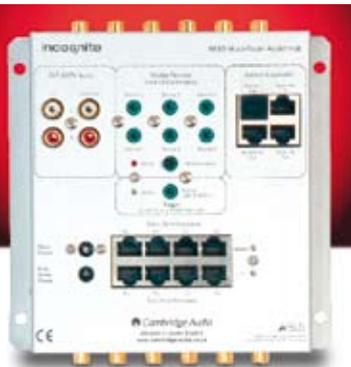


## CATCHING THE A-BUS

With Australia's A-BUS multiroom technology now licensed to 15 different overseas distributors and manufacturers, there's a slew of new A-BUS products aiming to make our lives easier.

First up is A-BUS's own iBus for the iPod, a docking station that recharges as well as plays iPods in A-BUS equipped rooms. Wherever the dock is installed, you can listen to your iPod without disturbing audio feeds to other rooms, and when your iPod is removed, the A-BUS system will revert to the usual central feed in around 30 seconds. It's priced at \$340. [www.a-bus.com](http://www.a-bus.com).



Cambridge Audio and Harman Kardon have also released new A-BUS gear. Cambridge Audio has an entire Incognito range, with in-wall and outdoor speakers, a learning remote, and a stylish discreet KP10 wallpad/amplifier (pictured right). For a single extra room, the KP10 is all you need, plus a Cat5/Cat5e Ethernet cable back to an Ethernet-equipped amp/receiver such as Cambridge's V2 amps. The KP10 wallpad (\$350) offers not just volume control, but also bass, treble and source select.

If you use the active AS10 speakers (\$695), you don't even need the keypad, since the speakers include built-in amplification *and* a remote sensor so you can control everything by simply waving the LR10 learning remote (\$195) at your speakers.

If you need things more complex, Cambridge's AH-10 Audio Hub (above left, \$995) and VH-10 Video Hub (\$595) are designed to handle all your routing and switching even if your other equipment wouldn't know an A-BUS from the 144 to Manly Wharf. Passive speakers are also available, and Cambridge has a neat website at [www.cambridgeaudio.com/incognito-configurator](http://www.cambridgeaudio.com/incognito-configurator) to work out what you'd need for any given set-up. [www.synergyaudio.com](http://www.synergyaudio.com)

Harman Kardon has released the AB 1 in-wall amplifier module, together with the ABH 4 Multiroom Hub. The AB 1 houses a stereo amp to power a pair of speakers without the need for any other connection, even power. Many of HK's receivers are already A-BUS-ready with a rear Ethernet socket to run an additional music zone; just connect an Ethernet cable through to the AB 1 and you're away. The AB 1 includes a volume control and an IR sensor that relays commands (from HK Zone II remotes) to the receiver or component via its A-BUS connection.

More complexity is available from the ABH 4, which connects to your receiver (by Ethernet if compatible, otherwise via a pair of 'audio in' RCA plugs) and has four buffered A-BUS outputs to run four extra AB 1-powered zones. Multiple ABH 4s can be cascaded if you need more. (You can't, however, switch different sources to different zones, since they all take their input from the receiver's Zone 2 output.) The ABH 4 also has four IR-emitter outputs to relay instructions supplied from the remote AB 1 wallplates. Prices are \$399 for the AB 1 in-wall amp module and \$499 for the ABH 4.



[www.e-hifi.com.au](http://www.e-hifi.com.au)

## WHAT IS A-BUS?



A-BUS is an Australian-created multi-room audio system which has fast become an industry-standard system not only here in Oz but also in the US, where it has won numerous design and technology awards. Simple and relatively inexpensive (A-BUS estimates \$2000 to do four rooms, plus around \$150 cabling and installation per room), you need just an A-BUS data-line cable to each room, where a matchbox-sized amplifier sits behind a light-switch-sized wallplate. The volume control on the plate controls the speakers for that room, connected with a short run of speaker cable. Multiple sources, including CD, DVD, radio, TV and now iPod can be distributed from A-BUS's centralised system.