

## EDITOR'S PICK

# Remote Is Intuitive

Everybody knows **Monster Cable**. The company has made a reputation out of promoting quality cable and that has been a key contributor to the growth of the custom-electronics industry. As a result, many consumers who desire high performance appreciate the need for quality cabling and power solutions and will pay for upgrades over the previously available OEM cabling products.

Recently, Monster has branched out from its line of cabling and power-conditioning products to offer everything from furniture to loudspeakers. Among the categories that Monster has entered includes the control market through the introduction of a complete family of universal remote controls and companion lighting control accessories.

At the top of the control line is the AVL300 universal-remote control, which offers users the ability to control multiple rooms of equipment via IR and RF, and lighting control via the use of Z-Wave wireless technologies. The remote ships with the company's programming software, which is compatible with both Apple and PC computers, and it is designed to expedite the programming process by eliminating the need to set up customized macro commands.

I set the AVL300 up with two of the company's lighting dimmers in my home with my primary emphasis being the control of my main entertainment system that features electronics from Bryston and Cary Audio, a cable HD set-top box and a Hitachi HDTV. After installing the software on my Dell laptop, the Monster



software automatically updated itself up to the latest version and from that point on I was free to set up my control options. The programming was a snap as it walked me through the entire process using a "wizard" type of format in a matter of minutes. With the programming complete I was able to move onto the important stuff—controlling my gear without any fuss.

That's where the remote shined, once I was comfortable with the unit, I was able to effortlessly channel surf, listen to CDs, watch DVDs, for example, without having to think about what I was doing. The remote's self-explanatory buttons and ergonomically laid-out interface shouldn't intimidate the technophobe, and with its motion-activated backlit keypad it won't disrupt the movie-watching experience of those hardcore videophile clients.

Overall I was quite pleased with the remote. For an affordable price a dealer can get a client into a well thought out remote that offer lighting and multi-room A/V system control, and they also have a

product that can be leveraged as part of a marketing initiative that targets mainstream consumers who aren't necessarily hobbyists, but know the Monster brand through its cabling products.

—Robert Archer

**MSRP for the AVL300 is \$599.**

**MSRP for the ML LD300 light station dimmer is \$99 each.**

**[www.monstercentral.com](http://www.monstercentral.com)**