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**Harmony Remote**



Photo:

By DAVE CONABREE  
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There are few things in this universe more powerful the remote control. He, or she who wields it, can consider themselves the real head of the household. Of course, if you're ready to take this ego trip to the next level, you have a few options.

A. Be happy with the plethora of remotes you've built up and battle for each one as it is needed.

B. Pick up a basic learning remote and hope it works with all your stuff.

C. Turn that power symbol into an Internet-connected, more-options-than-you-can-shake-a-stick-at, grand Yoda of remotes.

If you picked option C, the Harmony Remote is where it's at. The 13-button unit sports a USB connection that gives this remote some rather unique advantages.



Photo:

Harmony Remote

For one thing, you can set it up on-line. Just head to [www.harmony.com](http://www.harmony.com), fill in the details on your satellite decoder, TV, stereo, etc., etc., etc., and it downloads all the info you'll need. If the settings aren't yet available, you can still put it through the standard button-by-button training session. The built-in software can sort out the multitude of IR languages and work them all with ease.

The second cool feature is the ability to set up "activities." As an example, if you want to watch TV at my house, you have to turn on the TV, the satellite receiver AND the sound system. The Harmony makes it simple by allowing you to set all of these up under the activity of "Watching TV." Hit the trackwheel and everything you need comes on at the same time. Want to listened to music instead? Just select the activity and you can turn off all the TV stuff and be listening to your tunes with one click.

The third eye-catcher is the mini-TV-guide function. The unit has a built in LCD that, once configured on-line, can actually let you channel surf directly on the remote itself. And in case that isn't techie enough for you, the unit boasts the "ZAP" feature. Spot a commercial or a show you like, tap the ZAP button and the unit will send the info on-line next time you connect and provide any available info on the program.



**Software  
Wireless**

The Harmony sells for \$299 at Holt Renfrew or can be ordered [on-line](#).

The specs are listed at the company's [Web site](#).

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