

8K 2×1 HDMI 2.1 Switcher with Audio De-Embedding

40Gbps, HDCP 2.3, HDR/Dolby Vision, Optical + 3.5mm Audio Output

MPN: SW-2X1A8K



APPROVED OVERVIEW

Switch between two 8K HDMI 2.1 sources on a single display while independently routing audio to optical or analog outputs — without upgrading your AV receiver. The KanexPro SW-2X1A8K is a compact 2×1 HDMI switcher with built-in audio de-embedding that resolves a common integration pain point: connecting next-generation 8K and 4K@120Hz sources to a display while simultaneously extracting audio for a separate sound system. Its 8-position EDID DIP switch ensures reliable handshake with virtually any source/display combination.

Compliant with HDMI 2.1 and HDCP 2.3, the switcher delivers up to 8K@60Hz 4:2:0 and 4K@120Hz 4:4:4 at 40Gbps bandwidth. Full HDR pass-through — HDR10, HDR10+, Dolby Vision, and HLG — preserves cinematic image quality. VRR, ALLM, and FVA support optimize gaming performance. Audio de-embedding outputs via S/PDIF optical (LPCM/Dolby/DTS 5.1) and 3.5mm analog (PCM 2.0). Control via IR remote, front-panel button, or auto-switch. Housed in a compact metal enclosure drawing just 5.25W.

1 PRODUCT OVERVIEW

DESIGNED FOR

AV integrators, home theater installers, and tech-forward consumers deploying 8K/4K@120Hz displays with separate audio systems.

THE CHALLENGE

Connecting next-gen HDMI 2.1 sources to a display while extracting audio for an existing sound system typically requires either an expensive AVR upgrade or a separate audio extractor — adding cost, cabling, and failure points.

THE KANEXPRO ADVANTAGE

Combines 8K 2×1 switching and dual-format audio de-embedding (optical + analog) in a single compact device with an 8-position EDID DIP switch — at a price point that undercuts feature-matched competitors like WyreStorm by ~40%.

2 PRODUCT POSITIONING

The KanexPro SW-2X1A8K is the compact 8K HDMI 2.1 switcher for AV integrators and tech-forward end users who need to route two next-generation sources to a single display with independent audio breakout — without the cost or complexity of upgrading an AV receiver or adding a separate audio extractor.

3 APPLICATIONS

Home Theater / Media Room

Switch between a 4K@120Hz gaming console and an 8K streaming box on a single TV while routing Dolby/DTS audio to a soundbar via optical — no AVR upgrade required.

Conference & Huddle Rooms

Toggle between a laptop and a room PC connected via HDMI, extracting audio to ceiling speakers through the 3.5mm output for clear voice reproduction during video calls.

Retail & Digital Signage

Alternate between promotional content players on a single large-format display. Auto-switch ensures seamless fallback if one player goes offline.

Education & Lecture Halls

Instructors switch between a document camera and a laptop. EDID presets guarantee correct resolution negotiation with ceiling-mounted projectors.

Broadcast & Production Monitoring

Feed two camera or playback sources into a confidence monitor at up to 8K while de-embedding audio for headphone monitoring via the 3.5mm port.

Gaming Stations & Esports

VRR, ALLM, and 4K@120Hz 4:4:4 support deliver tear-free, low-latency switching between two consoles on a single high-refresh gaming display.

4 WHO THIS IS FOR

AV Integrators

Home Theater Installers

IT/AV Managers

Broadcast Engineers

Retail/Signage

Education AV

Ideal User

Residential AV integrator (CEDIA member), age 30–55, specifying AV infrastructure for custom homes and MDU projects. Also: IT/AV manager at SMB deploying conference room upgrades.

Project Types

Residential custom install, corporate AV, education, hospitality, retail/digital signage, broadcast monitoring

Typical Buyer

Lead integrator or AV consultant (residential); IT director or facilities manager (commercial)

5 KANEXPRO PRODUCT COMPARISON

The SW-2X1A8K sits between the basic SW-2X18K (no audio de-embed) and the higher-port SW-4X18K/SW-4X1HDAUD models in the KanexPro switcher lineup.

MODEL	BEST FOR	KEY CAPABILITY	HOW IT DIFFERS
SW-2X1A8K	8K source switching + audio breakout	2×1 HDMI 2.1, 40Gbps, optical + 3.5mm audio de-embed	This product — only KanexPro 2×1 with audio de-embedding
SW-2X18K	Basic 8K 2×1 switching	2×1 HDMI 2.1, 48Gbps, top-button switch	No audio de-embed; no IR remote; lower price (~\$52)
SW-2X28K	8K switch/splitter	2 in / 2 out HDMI 2.1, 40Gbps	Splits to 2 displays; different topology
SW-4X18K	Multi-source 8K switching	4×1 HDMI 2.1, 48Gbps	4 inputs; no audio de-embed (~\$104)
SW-4X1HDAUD	4K switching + ARC audio	4×1 HDMI 2.0, ARC, audio breakout	HDMI 2.0 only (4K max); has ARC

Choose SW-2X1A8K when you need 8K/4K@120Hz source switching AND independent audio routing to a soundbar or amplifier.

Q: How does this compare to the KanexPro SW-2X18K?

The SW-2X1A8K adds optical and 3.5mm audio de-embedding outputs that the SW-2X18K lacks. Choose the SW-2X1A8K when the installer needs separate audio routing to a soundbar, amplifier, or ceiling speakers.

Q: Why 40Gbps instead of 48Gbps?

40Gbps fully supports 8K@60Hz 4:2:0 and 4K@120Hz 4:4:4 — the real-world ceiling for current consumer and prosumer content. The 48Gbps spec on some competitors covers 8K@60Hz 4:4:4, a format with virtually no source content today.

Q: Does it support ARC or eARC?

No. The audio path is de-embed only (source → optical/analog). For ARC-based audio return from the display, consider the WyreStorm EXP-SW-0201-8K or the BZBGear BG-8K-HS41A (4×1).

Q: Can it pass Dolby Atmos?

Dolby TrueHD (Atmos container) passes through on the HDMI output. The de-embedded optical output supports Dolby Digital 5.1 — lossy Atmos (DD+/Atmos via optical) depends on the sink device and source encoding.

Q: What EDID mode should I use?

Default (111) copies the connected display's EDID. For forced resolution, use 010 (8K) or 101 (4K@60Hz 4:4:4). Integrators often fix EDID to prevent renegotiation when switching sources.

Q: How does pricing compare to BZBGear?

The BZBGear BG-8K-HS21A lists at \$99 (MSRP). KanexPro at \$119.96 is ~\$20 higher but includes a multinational PSU and 8-position EDID DIP switch standard. The BZBGear RS-232 model (BG-8K-HS21AR) is \$249 — positioning KanexPro well below the "pro" tier.

Q: Is RS-232 or IP control available?

Not on this model. Control is via IR remote, front-panel button, or auto-switch. For RS-232/IP control in the KanexPro switcher line, refer to the 4×1 models (SW-4X18K or SW-4X1HDAUD).