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## Middle Atlantic, Extron Initiate Half-Rack Standard

Middle Atlantic and Extron work with the Electronic Components Industry Association to seek to establish a standard for half-rack A/V systems.

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By [Jason Knott](#), February 03, 2012

Just like when ordering ribs at your local BBQ joint, integrators won't have to order a full rack when a half rack will do for their A/V installations.

[Middle Atlantic Products](#), in conjunction with [Extron Electronics](#), is initiating and supporting the establishment of a new standard for half-width



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[http://www.cepro.com/topic/tag/equipment\\_racks](http://www.cepro.com/topic/tag/equipment_racks) for A/V integration.

Working in cooperation with the [Electronic Components Industry Association \(ECIA\)](#), Extron and Middle Atlantic are seeking to establish and maintain a specific ECIA standard for what has typically been offered as a custom rack offering until now. To further strengthen the quality and application of the standard, the two companies are inviting manufacturers of compact-format devices to join a communication and working group for this effort.

Both manufacturers have recently developed product families - the [Extron Half Rack Shelf System](#) and Middle Atlantic's new HR Series Half Racks - which, respectively, fit within and incorporate the proposed 10 5/8-inch overall width defined in the proposed new standard.

Commenting on the introduction and standard effort, Middle Atlantic director of marketing Kevin Handerson says, "We are pleased to be working with device manufacturing partners to seize the initiative for establishing an ECIA standard for A/V half rack systems. Having a workable, clear standard will greatly facilitate the installation of half rack products in useful applications."

#### Photos: Best Racks of 2011

Dave Pincek, vice president of product development for Extron Electronics, adds, "Extron has long advocated the use of standard, rack-mount enclosure dimensions as a means of improving A/V system designs and integration. With this proposed new standard for a compact mounting system, key A/V equipment can now be more easily integrated into lecterns, columns, table legs, and similar spaces without sacrificing system functionality, thermal management, or room aesthetics."

Device manufacturers that would like to participate in the working group should contact Mark Tracy, director of product and business development at Middle Atlantic Products, at [Standards@MiddleAtlantic.com](mailto:Standards@MiddleAtlantic.com).

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## About the Author



Jason Knott, Editor, CE Pro

Jason has covered low-voltage electronics as an editor since 1990. He joined EH Publishing in 2000, and before that served as publisher and editor of Security Sales, a leading magazine for the security industry. He served as chairman of the Security Industry Association's Education Committee from 2000-2004 and sat on the board of that association from 1998-2002. He is also a former board member of the Alarm Industry Research and Educational Foundation. He is currently a member of the CEDIA Education Action Team for Electronic Systems Business. Jason graduated from the University of Southern California.

## 3 Comments (displayed in order by date/time)

Posted by [John Nemesh](#) on [02/03](#) at [02:51 PM](#)

SWEET! Now I finally have a rack for the Parasound "Z" series!

Posted by [Andrew S.](#) on [02/03](#) at [11:01 PM](#)

Parasound already sells a Zrack but it is only 5U.

I like the idea. I would like to build a little rack for the desk...Mac Mini, some Z stuff, etc...would be pretty slick.

Posted by [39CentStamp](#) on [02/05](#) at [11:27 AM](#)

I dont know if i need one but its so cute that i have to have it .

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