

561M manual addendum, November 2000.

Congratulations, you have purchased the latest version of the Meridian 561 Digital Surround Controller. Various changes have been made to the 561, these are described here along with the features that become available when the Module is fitted.

Module

A 561M has features that benefit both the main source selection and the copy loop.

Main source

Digital input streams are routed through a jitter reduction circuit which will provide improved sound quality. Signals encrypted with the Meridian High Resolution (MHR) system will be decrypted by the module, the stream can then be processed by the DSP in the usual manner. Reception of MHR streams is indicated on the front panel along with the input sample rate, which can now be at 88.2kHz or 96kHz. E.g.

MHR 88

MHR is a proprietary encoding format which can be applied to digital audio streams between Meridian components. It has the very important benefit of lowering jitter and improving sound quality.

Copy loop - outputs

The analogue tape output level can be set as either fixed or variable, depending on application. It should be set for variable if you are using the high quality headphone circuit built onto the module. The variable output is also suitable for driving an amplifier or analogue active loudspeaker (e.g. Meridian M33) in a second room. Fixed out is used when copying signals to an analogue recorder or when using a pre-amp in the second room.

To change the headphone volume use the Function Volume keys on the MSR, or a secondary volume command from a second room.

Copy loop - analogue sources

Analogue sources are available on the Tape and Room 2 outputs as well as the headphone jack. A high quality 24bit ADC circuit is used to provide a fixed level copy of the analogue input at the digital tape output connection.

Copy loop - digital sources

All digital tape sources are copied directly to the digital tape output. PCM sources are routed through a high quality 24bit DAC and presented on the Tape, Room 2 and headphone sockets. Encoded data streams (such as Dolby Digital) will only be present on the digital tape output, i.e. the analogue output will be muted.

561s with software version 1.6 or higher will automatically detect when a module has been fitted. Pressing the display key in standby will show the software version;

561 1.6
561M 1.6

where the **M** indicates that a module has been fitted.

The auto detect feature will also enable an extra diagnostic display which indicates the status of the module. See the relevant technical information sheet.

Operation with DSP loudspeakers

The 561 is now intended to be the controller in a digital theatre system, this means the 561 will become the Infra-Red receiver for the system. Access to the speaker menus (Treble, Bass and Axis) is possible with the Meridian comms system, using the menus which are now mirrored in the 561.

In a system where the 561 is not in view from the seating position, a 512 Remote IR Sensor should be connected to the 561.

Dolby Digital THX Surround EX

This DSP mode is only available if the speaker layout includes four surround speakers, two sides and two rears. When playing a Dolby Digital source and using the Dig THX DSP preset a new menu is available. This gives the options,

THX EX Off
THX EX On
THX EX Auto

The Auto setting will detect whether the stream has been marked as EX encoded, and loads the relevant DSP mode automatically.

The default setting is Auto, to force THX Surround EX On or Off set the appropriate value in the menu and 'Store' the preset as normal. The 'On' setting forces THX Surround EX to be loaded whenever Dig THX is selected. 'Off' will not allow THX EX to be loaded, even when an EX encoded stream is detected. The main DSP display shows "THXSurEX" instead of "Dig THX" where appropriate.

Each of these settings can also be stored as a user preset.

Sinesweep control

The sine wave generator built into the 561 can now be adjusted in 1Hz steps using the next and previous keys on the MSR remote control.

THX Surround EX is a trademark of Lucasfilm Ltd.