

502 Analogue Controller

Meridian have established a strong reputation for preamps. The Meridian 502 is by far the highest specification and best sounding preamp from this distinguished high-end company.



The 502 has been designed as a reference quality partner to the recently introduced 557 and 505 Power Amplifiers, which also features balanced operation and dual-mono construction. This preamp is ready to receive balanced inputs from Meridian's 508 CD Player, 563 or 566 D-A Converters and when used with 557, 505 or the M60 Active Loudspeaker, completes a fully balanced analogue system.

Balanced operation has always been used as a standard in professional audio bringing very substantial improvements in dynamic range – including vast reductions in inadvertent system noise due to cabling and ground-loops etc. In an audiophile setup, balanced operation guarantees that the very best sonics are obtained from a combination of components.

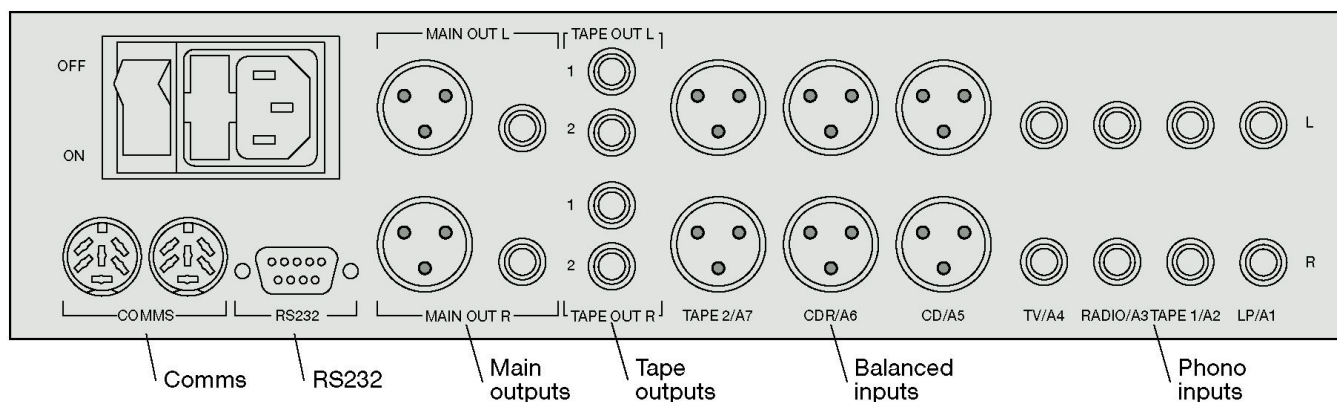
The 502 brings the very best sonic and musical results to an all-analogue hi-fi. Seven sources can be controlled – four connected as unbalanced on phono, the other three provide fully balanced operation with XLR inputs.

502 provides balanced (XLR) and unbalanced outputs so it can be used with either balanced or single-ended power amplifiers or active speakers. A balanced tape output is also provided to allow sophisticated connection for 'Pro' recorders and processors or balanced operation in a two-room setup.

502 is constructed in a dual-mono format – that means that there are separate isolated printed circuits for the left and right channels. Each channel has its own high-performance power supply which employs linear techniques, massive storage with audiophile-grade capacitors and multiple ultra-low-noise linear active regulation.

No expense has been spared in the construction – the 502 uses very high quality components including high-grade gold-plated connectors, Nichicon and polypropylene audio-grade capacitors, ultra-linear amplifier stages, four-layer PCB construction and a low-flux toroidal transformer. For vinyl lovers, two ultra-high-end mono phono modules can be fitted as an option (one for each channel).

Preamps that integrate analogue audio systems need to have a wide range of operating levels and gains. The 502 has enormous overload capacity and will accept and deliver over 4Vrms single-ended (8Vrms balanced). The gain setting allows a $\pm 12\text{dB}$ variation; this gain setting is user-adjustable for each input and automatically remembered by the preamp. Like all the Meridian 500 Series, 502 has full remote capability and it can control a Meridian system when used with the MSR system remote. The on-board controller also has RS232 access for sophisticated system integration and computer control.



Performance

Distortion less than 0.01% input to output

Signal/Noise better than –96dB CCIR (1V output, normal input) Less than –70dB for MM input and –60dB for MC

Inputs and outputs

MM input option:

Sensitivity adjustable 0.5–17mV for 5cm/s @1kHz, Overload point 47mV @ 1kHz Cartridge load 47k Ohms, 10nF

MC input option:

Sensitivity adjustable 38–1200µV for 5cm/s @1kHz Cartridge load 220 ohms, 10nF

Four unbalanced inputs on phono: 27 to 840mVrms (impedance 20k Ohms)

Three balanced inputs on XLR: 27 to 840mVrms (impedance 20k Ohms)

Unbalanced output on phono: 1.4 to 3Vrms (impedance 47 Ohms)

Balanced output on XLR: 1.4 to 3Vrms (impedance 47 Ohms)

Two Unbalanced tape outputs 1.5Vrms (impedance 47 Ohms)

Construction

Two-channel dual-mono construction

High-grade components used throughout

Phono option with new moving-coil or magnetic plug-in modules for each channel

Large low-field ultra-linear power supply

Black textured enamel and glass finish

Dimensions 88mm (3.46in) H, 321 (12.64) W, 332 (13.07) D – Weight 5kg (10lbs)

Controls, Display etc.

Source, Copy, Mute, Display, Volume up/down, Off

Volume control – 99-steps of 1dB with balanced mode

Remote control, Meridian 500-Comms and RS232 operation

Two Room Plus compatible

8-character dot-matrix LED display