



hi-fi news
BEST
CD PLAYER
HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED
2006

MERIDIAN G08 £2250

A tribute to Allen Boothroyd's brilliant industrial design, Meridian's G Series line still looks as fresh today as it did when launched in 2003-4. The performance hasn't dated either, and the G08 player still fended off five promising rivals in our group shootout of July 2006.

Based on a high-speed CD-ROM drive, it upsamples to 176.4kHz before D/A conversion by dual differential 24-bit DACs. Meridian's slightly higher-than-average output voltage might mislead in A/B comparisons, but the sound clearly combines neutrality with authority and grip, with a bass that is powerful

and weighty yet always in proportion. At its best, the Meridian G08 could give a fine impression of effortless inner detail, in a presentation that was always smooth and confident.

While judged here on its abilities with CDs alone, it's a multi-talented machine, being able to handle discs of MP3 files and CD-R/CD-RW discs too.