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What's happening in the world of hi-fi



Meridian 808 CD fills in DVD-A gap

Meridian Audio, self-styled leader in high-performance Compact Disc playback, has announced a flagship CD player. The Meridian Audio 808 Signature Reference may seem a surprise addition to the range, as Meridian has been closely linked to developments in CD's 'replacement format', DVD-Audio.

Now, with the company stating that DVD and universal DVD-A/SACD players cannot get the best from CD, the 808 has been created as a statement of what can be achieved now that Meridian has 'ultimately mastered the art of refinement of every aspect of CD playback.'

Like other 800 Series products, the 808 uses a heavyweight case of metal and glass, with a modular construction comprising several different circuit boards inside.

Data buffers are utilised, with two first-in first-out (FIFO) buffers aiding the player to claim a low figure of 90 picoseconds jitter, with the jitter spectrum held below 0.1Hz. A 'Resolution Enhancement' DSP upsamples 16/44.1 CD audio to 24/176.4, using one of the player's three 150MIPs processors.

The 24-bit/192kHz-capable multi-bit/delta-sigma D/A converter chips are described as

'exquisite', and each component, down to the last resistor, is said to be selected for its sound.

An alternative to the CD-only 808 model is the 808i, which offers extra pre-amplifier functionality. This includes six analogue inputs (RCA only) and three digital inputs from a selection of three coaxial and two TosLink connectors.

The 808 is scheduled to become available in September for £7195, while the 808i pre-amp version will cost £8250.

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