

AUDIO

THE MUSIC LOVERS' GUIDE TO THE BEST OF HI-FI

Meridian's better CD

Upsampling for better sound:
Meridian G08



Meridian has a brand new CD player, part of its comprehensive and very stylish G-Series which was launched at the 2004 IFA show in Berlin. The player (£2250) has evolved from the company's acclaimed 588, and also draws on the technology of Meridian's flagship 800 series disc players, from which the styling of the whole G-Series is also derived.

At the heart of the G08 is a CD/DVD-ROM transport mechanism under the control of custom Meridian software, while other proprietary software looks after disc-navigation and error correction. The company says this gives the player unparalleled reliability in disc-reading and also

allows future upgrades simply by updating the software. The digital data is also reclocked using 'first in, first out' memory buffering, allowing distortion-inducing jitter to be eliminated, with particular benefits in the area of stereo imaging.

An upsampling system upgrades the CD-standard 16-bit/44.1kHz data sampling rate to 24 bits and 176.4kHz, shifting any digital noise even further from the audible band, again with benefits to the player's overall clarity and detail levels. The player has both standard phono and balanced XLR outputs.

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Death of Peter Walker

Peter Walker OBE, the founder of Quad, one of the most famous names in British audio, died at the end of last year, aged 87.

Born in London in 1916, Walker was experimenting with home-built wireless set before he was into his teens, and was an accomplished musician, learning both the saxophone and flute while at school. He joined EMI at Hayes when he was 17, leaving after a short time and joining GEC, working on radio repairs. In 1936 he founded the Acoustical Manufacturing Company, later better known as Quad.

The company was originally a one-man operation specialising in amplifiers used in public address systems, and during the war the company made radio and intercom components for military use. Driven from its original premises in London by bombing, Walker's company moved to Huntingdon, where he started work on the design of loudspeakers in 1949.

The Quad name came from the first amplifier the company made for home use – its 'quality unit amplifier, domestic' – and in 1957 its first electrostatic speaker, the ESL57, appeared. It, and its



Quad founder Peter Walker with the celebrated ESL 57 loudspeaker

ESL63 successor, remained in production for a quarter of a century, and its design thinking is still evident in the current ESL-988 and ESL-989 models.

The company only switched from valve amplification in 1967, with its 303 amplifier, and over the years has made many classic products, not least of which was the famous 405 amplifier.

Peter Walker is survived by a daughter, Victoria, and son, Ross, who was responsible for running Quad in the 1970s and 1980s.

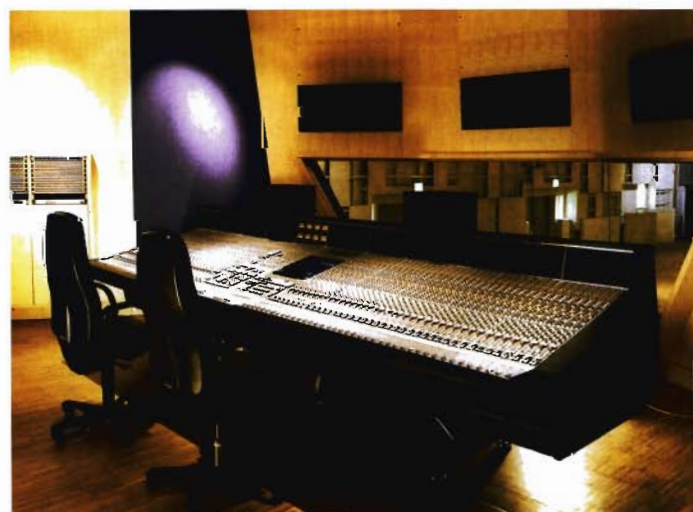
Epos adds four new speakers

No fewer than four new models have been announced by British speaker company Epos, with MkII versions of its M12 and M15 gaining veneered front baffles and a new bass driver chassis. In addition the new M15.2 offers an extra octave of bass extension over the model it replaces.

In addition two smaller models have been announced, the M5 and an accompanying M8 centre channel speaker. All the models are fully shielded, and the speakers are available from Epos dealers now, with a larger M22 and ELS subwoofer on the way.

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PMC installs monitor system in Teldex Studio



Part of the PMC active speaker set-up in the main control room at Teldex Studio in Berlin. The company's TLE1 subwoofer is reviewed this month

Teldec's celebrated classical music studio in Berlin has been renamed Teldex Studio, and for its new control room British company PMC was chosen as the supplier of a high-resolution surround monitoring system. The set-up in use comprises the Luton-based company's BB5 Active speakers for left, centre and right channels, and the smaller MB2 speakers for the rears. All of the speakers are driven by PMC electronics, developed with the company's North American distributor, Bryston.

The Teldex Studio's clients include Sony Music, Decca, BMG, Deutsche Grammophon, Warner Music and EMI.

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