



**MERIDIAN**

CES/ISE Edition, 2009

# News

## Meridian Sooloos: a perfect match



Big news at the show is Meridian's recent acquisition of innovative New York-based media server system manufacturer Sooloos. It's a perfect pairing for both companies: as the market moves towards more downloads and server-based content, integrating Sooloos high-quality server technology into Meridian's proven audio/video pedigree makes a great deal of sense. As Tim Ireland, Meridian's CEO put it, "Combining Meridian and Sooloos takes both over many hurdles; the two companies share striking similarities in culture, product philosophy, pursuit of excellence and market approach."

Peter Wellikoff, Sooloos COO and a three-decade veteran of high-end consumer electronics agrees. He said, "We've successfully established Sooloos as the most technically advanced, and ergonomically sophisticated innovator in this still very young media-server and systems sphere."

"Now, under the Meridian corporate umbrella, we gain advantages in global market access, as well as a network of engineering and technology resources that are unequalled anywhere."

We'll be showing the complete range of Meridian Sooloos products, including disk storage units, multi-zone playback components and new touchscreen control consoles that bring the system alive with a touch and allow you to select, access and control your music and media. Turn the page to learn more about Meridian Sooloos components and systems.



## See us at CES & ISE



At CES (Venetian Tower: 31-105, 31-106, 31-111 and 31-115, January 8-11), and at ISE (Booth 1F120 in the Amsterdam RAI, February 3-5), Meridian is showing the latest products, and members of the Meridian team will be on hand to answer questions and demonstrate the latest innovations. We welcome visits from our dealers and distributors around the world: please contact us for an appointment, or just drop by.

We'll be showing the amazing 810 Reference Video System – the world's highest-performing home theatre video system; the HD621, which separates audio and video in an HDMI stream and offers 6-to-1 switching; the new AC11 SpeakerLink hub and several speaker models that now include SpeakerLink Cat 5 connections; the new i80P dock for iPod that allows you to connect your iPod to any system with analogue audio inputs; and of course Meridian Sooloos media server systems (see separate stories).

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## MERIDIAN sooloos



### Media server systems are all the rage today. So what makes Sooloos, and the Meridian-Sooloos connection, so unique?

The answer is in a great many ways. Flexibility, quality and an inspired interface are just some of the ways that make a Meridian Sooloos system the perfect addition to a home entertainment installation in general – and a Meridian system installation in particular.

Let's start with quality – after all, superb digital audio quality is one of Meridian's classic and unique benefits. Unlike many servers, Sooloos uses lossless encoding, which means that the sound is always bit-accurate to the original CD or other source media. Yet at the same time as you're listening to your music at home, Sooloos is creating a library of your tracks especially for playing on your personal stereo, exportable at any time to take your music with you. Rip your music

once; or quickly import existing files. One library, with both quality at home, and convenience on the go. That one library can even be synchronised between different systems across the world via the Internet.

Then consider the unique touch-screen interface. Select albums by virtually any criteria you can imagine. Focus on anything: an artist; a genre; even on someone in the band, then find everything in your library that fulfils those requirements. In a moment. In fact, access to your music has never been easier: no hunting through text lists or boxes of CDs. Instead, go straight to what you want – and even find music you couldn't remember you had, just when you want it. At the heart of the Sooloos indexing system is a powerful metadata aggregation engine that cross-checks all the facts on a track or album and puts that information at your fingertips – literally!

And look at how Sooloos communicates. The playback unit hooks into your home entertainment system, analogue or digital, single or multiple zones. Disk storage is a separate unit, out of the way, while the touch-screen controller is in front of you, fully integrated with your home automation like the rest of your system. Everything is networked via Ethernet.

Read more about Meridian Sooloos systems and components on the web site at [www.sooloos.com](http://www.sooloos.com), and see them at the show. The story has only just begun.

### DSP8000 has Speakerlink

Meridian's flagship DSP8000 digital active loudspeaker system now boasts the innovative SpeakerLink connection that allows an increasing number of Meridian digital loudspeakers to be interconnected with a single Cat 5/ RJ45 cable.

In addition, the new DSP8000 has an entirely redesigned digital signal processing system which delivers enhanced high-resolution performance for the most impressive sound available today. See the story opposite for a look inside the DSP8000 and how we get that fantastic sound.

### HD621 HDMI Audio Processor



On show for the first time is the HD621 HDMI Audio Processor. Not only is it a 6-into-1 HDMI switch, it also separates audio and video in the stream, so you can run HDMI video to your display and hook up your Meridian audio components directly to the HD621's SmartLink digital audio outputs.



## Highest quality home theatre

**The 810 Reference Video System, shipping now, delivers the highest resolution of any home theatre system available.**

The complete package consists of the 810 projector and its accompanying scaler. Its resolution, 4096 x 2400 pixels, is *five times* that of conventional full-spec HD (1920 x 1080).

Several different lens packages are available for the projector, from ultra-short throw (for back-projection) to long throw for large-scale theatres, and most of them include the special motorised anamorphic lens assembly, shown here. This lens enables the projector to show Cinemascope® movies with a 2:35:1 aspect ratio using the entire 10 megapixels of display capability, rather than simply letterboxing the image and thus wasting quite a sizeable proportion of the projector's prodigious resolution. The lens is mounted on a motorised slide assembly, so that it can be moved into position immediately when a suitable movie is to be shown.

Impressive though the projector is, it's only half the story. A vital part of the equation is the accompanying scaler, which takes standard and HD sources and upgrades them to the astonishing resolution of the projector itself. It employs five of the world's most powerful digital video processing subsystems, from Marvell Electronics.

Yet there's more. However clever the processing, however astonishing the projector resolution, if the system is incorrectly set up, then all that is wasted. That's why noted video guru William Phelps developed special software to unlock the full potential of the 810, exclusively for Meridian. The procedure is so exacting, using special software tools and scientific instruments of pinpoint accuracy, that it takes literally days to carry out. Each projector is individually calibrated by trained Meridian staff at our own test and calibration facility.

Quick off the mark with orders for 810 Reference Video Systems were two leading custom integrators, one on the East and the other on the West coast of the US. Digital Ear, based in Tustin, CA and Electronic Environments, out of Manhattan, have several installations in process. There are already several completed installations out there, in some of the most lavishly-appointed home viewing environments in the world, and customers have been extremely impressed by the results.

Shazad Berenjian, co-owner of Digital Ear, commented that he already has four 810 installations scheduled in the near future and is giving the system pride of place in their showroom.

ISE visitors can see an installation at Meridian dealer Art Cinema in Enkhuizen.

## Meridian in China



Meridian recently appointed Richcom AV as our distributor for Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China as a whole. A special launch event was held at the newly-redesigned Richcom store in the Central district of Hong Kong, the HiFi Gallery, which includes a full high-end Meridian Digital Theatre system.

Over 50 people, including both Hong Kong and Chinese luxury and hi-fi press and dealers, along with Meridian's Export Sales Manager Martin McCue and Customer Support Manager Des Ford, were in attendance.

Richard Tang, Richcom's Managing Director made a speech and, with Operations Manager Winky Tse, cut the ribbon to declare the store open. We wish Richcom great success!

## i8op offers iPod connectivity for all



Now available by popular demand is the i8op, a version of the iPod docks for the AD88 and F80 that will connect to any audio system with a pair of analogue phono inputs.

# New Meridian web site, advertising & brochure

Meridian recently launched an entirely new web site. As well as delivering a complete and accessible guide to every Meridian product available, the site, at [www.meridian-audio.com](http://www.meridian-audio.com), also offers a simple navigation system that lets you find what you need as quickly and painlessly as possible.

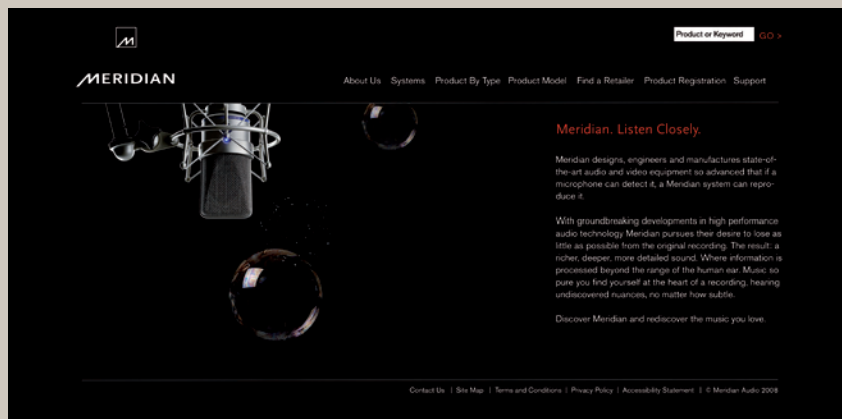
Visitors can view a series of recommended systems and access products directly either by type – such as CD players or surround sound processors – or model. A short description is displayed and access to detailed information and specifications are just a click away. Meridian retailers – whether Premium Partner, Compact System Reseller or Design Consultant – can be located by simply entering a postal code.

A news section keeps readers up-to-date with all the latest developments at Meridian, and there is a series of downloadable White Papers illuminating and explaining Meridian's technology. Customers can also register products on-line.

Meridian's Chief Marketing Officer Graeme Taylor commented, "We wanted the new website to accurately reflect Meridian's new, contemporary corporate identity whilst still emphasising the values on which the company has been based for over 30 years. It's a clear, customer-focused site to let visitors easily discover more about the brand and, importantly, where they can experience it, by directing them to one of our retail partners. New features will be added all the time, and thanks to a powerful content management system we can add new content almost instantly."

Two new print advertisements have recently been added to the existing F80 ad, one on the ideal pairing of the 808.2 CD Player and DSP7200 speakers to make up a stunning stereo system, and the other featuring Meridian's installation products.

Work is also nearing completion on a brand-new full-line brochure, which is scheduled for release in early 2009.



Above: the new web home page. Below: the second ad in the new campaign.



# Secrets of the Meridian DSP Loudspeaker



The soft edges avoid generating unwanted additional high frequency sounds, which can blur the image



The narrow shape with separate head emulates aspects of the human form, which psychoacoustics suggests provides a more realistic performance.



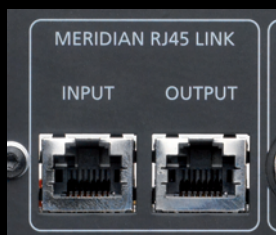
The cabinet is hand-fabricated from a high-pressure laminate of birch plywood and aluminium damped with mineral-filled epoxy resin



The separate head unit, which generates all the subtle musical detail is decoupled from the bass cabinet at three points to reduce colouration



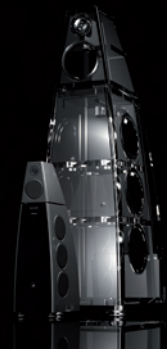
The bass system has six powerful drive units arranged in opposing pairs to cancel cabinet vibration



SpeakerLink allows digital audio and Meridian Comms to be carried by a single Cat 5 cable.



Each speaker drive unit is powered by its own amplifier and each amp is individually controlled by a sophisticated DSP crossover



A conventional passive speaker would have to be four times the size to deliver the same performance as a Meridian DSP Active Loudspeaker



For perfect stability, the loudspeaker stands on three adjustable foot assemblies machined from solid aluminium



Several unique technologies go into the making of a Meridian DSP loudspeaker. This page shows the key features of the DSP8000; other models may not include all the features shown here.

# Meridian meets Alfred at Bourdon House

**Late last year, Alfred Dunhill proudly opened the doors of its new London home. Bourdon House, formerly the London residence of the Duke of Westminster, reflects Alfred Dunhill's own legacy as a curator of the very finest, offering not only superlative products but the ultimate in services and experience too.**

Spread over several floors, Bourdon House caters to every modern gentleman's need. The ground floor boasts the impressive dunhill luxury product offerings – simply the very best in menswear, leather, accessories and gifts, including the Alfred Dunhill AD88 entertainment system. The first floor reflects dunhill's commitment to personalisation, luxury and exclusivity by presenting the Discovery Room – housing custom menswear, Alfred Dunhill limited edition products and elegant museum pieces from the brand's archives.

Alongside the Discovery Room are a spa with two treatment rooms and a traditional gentlemen's barber. The basement accommodates a private screening room replete with a state-of-the-art Reference Digital Theatre system by Meridian. Alfred Dunhill has always enjoyed exclusive partnerships with like-minded British brands, and this dedication to the best of British extends to a complete lifestyle experience with the private screening room.

Meridian equipped the screening room to the highest standard. The components include an 800 optical disc player and 861 surround processor, while the projector is an MF10 driven by a DVP1080 video processor. The loudspeakers are DSP7200s at the front with a DSP5200 centre, and DSP420 in-walls at the sides and rear. An SW1600 subwoofer is also included.

The 12-seater screening room is available for private hire and boasts its own personal attendant serving drinks and snacks as required.



*Above: Bourdon House; below: the exclusive 12-seater screening room.*

