



MERIDIAN

Summer 2008

News

Elegant entertainment



Hot on the heels of the success of the F80 compact audio/video system comes the Alfred Dunhill AD88, offering complete entertainment in a new luxury package.

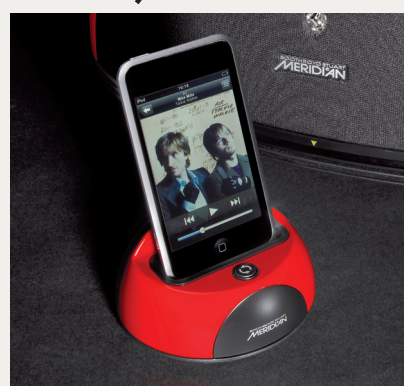
The Alfred Dunhill AD88 is a complete home entertainment system engineered specifically by Meridian Audio for dunhill. Combining high-performance audio & video and the latest technologies with a traditional, hand-crafted lacquered cabinet (a little reminiscent of a fine motor yacht) and discreet styling, the Alfred Dunhill AD88 is the perfect home entertainment solution – and a beautiful marriage of invention and tradition. Above all, the sound quality is astonishing, belying its compactness.

The dunhill brand can be traced back to 1893, when Henry Dunhill's saddlery business was founded on London's Euston Road. Although the product range has grown substantially since that time, certain characteristics remain unchanged. Alfred Dunhill products are always distinctive and sophisticated, innovative yet timeless.

This sense of English understatement and elegance led dunhill to Meridian Audio. dunhill customers value elegance and practicality, two attributes for which Meridian products regularly win awards. Each unit includes a matching i88 iPod Dock and slim magnetic remote.

The product will be available from both Meridian and dunhill outlets.

Add your iPod!



A new Universal Dock for iPod is now available for the Meridian F80 (and is included with the Alfred Dunhill AD88, see separate story).

The compact and elegant i80 is one of the most advanced iPod docking systems available. It plugs into the special input on the rear of the entertainment system with the cable provided and allows full browse and play access to the iPod from the F80's remote control or front panel, with track information shown on the display.

The i80 has a black finish, with red and yellow trim available. F80 customers will find a free i80 trim in the box, suitably coloured to complement their purchase. Existing F80 owners of a red or yellow unit should contact their Meridian retailer for a free trim to match their F80 if they intend to purchase an i80, or email support@meridian-public.com for more details.

In this issue...

- Introducing the Alfred Dunhill AD88.
- The i80 Universal Dock for iPod.
- Inside the new DSP7200.
- F80: Best of the Best – of the Best!
- Handel House – A 'Private Deliberation' with Bob Stuart.
- Inside Meridian: Guided assembly.
- Video: Announcing the MF10
- Meridian in the Movies – *What Happens in Vegas*.
- Germany's Audio Reference.
- New appointments in the US.

New Products

Inside the new DSP7200

In the last Newsletter, we talked about the technical innovations that have gone into the new 808.2 CD Player. Some of that research has now also been integrated into the new DSP7200 Digital Active loudspeaker.

Meridian invented the Digital Active loudspeaker over 15 years ago. Since then we have released a carefully-selected range of models, from the compact DSP3100 to the flagship DSP8000.

Latest in the line is the DSP7200, a medium-sized loudspeaker standing a little over a metre high. It's a "3½-way" acoustic reflex system with two 200mm long-throw bass drivers, a 160mm polypropylene midrange unit and a 25mm aluminium-domed tweeter featuring silver wire and Meridian's short horn-loaded design. It's a 'comfortable' size – a little over a metre high – and its sleek design suits any listening environment.

DSP loudspeakers are much more efficient than a traditional passive design. The crossover is implemented digitally instead of at loudspeaker level – which, apart from wasting a great deal of energy and introducing coloration, requires components designed for power handling rather than quality. A digital crossover can offer filter characteristics that are simply impossible with an analogue design.

And talking of filters... The DSP7200 benefits from the same filter research that went into the 808.2. Meridian's work on 'apodizing' filters yielded a special new upsampling filter that appears in both products.

Signals originating at normal sample rates, such as 44.1 and 48 kHz (found on regular CDs and DVD-Video discs) are upsampled with the new filter, which is carefully designed to avoid the pre-echoes usually resulting from complex ordinary filter designs.

As a result the filter can be more sophisticated and thus offer much finer discrimination. The resulting sound is so good, it makes your CD collection sound like High Definition recordings. The filter can even correct faults caused by less-advanced filters earlier in the chain – including in the original recording!

The DSP7200 is also the first loudspeaker product to include Meridian's new SpeakerLink Cat 5 (Ethernet-style) component interlink system for incredible ease of installation. SpeakerLink does away with expensive, bulky cables, requiring just a single wire back to the driving component plus a power cable. The SpeakerLink cable carries balanced digital audio, plus Meridian communications and RS232 control signals. A special accessory unit will be available shortly to interface new SpeakerLink-equipped components with existing Meridian products.

Needless to say, the DSP7200 is already the subject of extensive critical acclaim: it sounds excellent, as you can hear for yourself at a Meridian retailer. It's available in silver and black piano lacquer.

In addition, the future DSP7200 owner can specify a special colour when ordering from their retailer – for example by providing a sample swatch, Pantone or RAL number – who can have them specially ordered from the factory.



Above, the rear panel showing RJ45 SpeakerLink connectors, which allow Cat 5 cables to be used to interconnect the latest Meridian components.



Meridian in the Movies

What Happens In Vegas... with Meridian.

Meridian's components appear in the latest film starring Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher: *What Happens in Vegas*, a romantic comedy from director Tom Vaughan.

Two strangers awake together to discover they've got married following a night of debauchery in Sin City, where one of them wins a huge jackpot after playing the other's quarter.

The newlyweds devise ever-escalating schemes to undermine each other and get their hands on the money – only to find themselves falling in love amid the mutual backstabbing.

The couple's apartment is seen (including in the trailer, shown here on the web site, <http://www.whathappensinvegasmovie.com>).



[whathappensinvegasmovie.com](http://www.whathappensinvegasmovie.com)) with a nice collection of Meridian products. The movie opened worldwide in May.

Events news

Handel House hosts audio 'Private Deliberation'

Noted Baroque composer George Frederick Handel's Central London home, now a museum, was the focus recently for a very special Meridian presentation by co-founder Bob Stuart.

Meridian Audio hosted a private London celebration of the art of delivering pure and authentic sound at Handel House on Tuesday 22 April to introduce the brand to opinion-leading press and influencers from the luxury lifestyle world.

At the event, entitled *The Authenticity of Sound*, Bob Stuart shared fascinating insights and research into the science of sound to invite debate amongst the very select group of guests in attendance – including representatives from the *Financial Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *City AM* and others – and position the company as a true leader in the field of sound reproduction. Three sound systems were unveiled.



Meridian before Meridian:
the award-winning Lecson

From Baroque to Rock

Handel House Museum was home to the baroque composer George Frederick Handel from 1723 until his death in 1759. It was here that he composed some of the greatest music in history, including *The Messiah*, *Zadok the Priest* and *The Musick for the Royal Fireworks*. Moving on to more recent times, the site also lays claim to being rock star Jimi Hendrix's London pad during his heyday – a photographic exhibition is currently on display recording his time there.

Handel has always been held in high esteem by his fellow composers – and this is still the case today. Beethoven, for example, described him as 'the master of us all'. Thus, Handel House was the perfect setting for Meridian to present a 21st century reference for quality and sound in its truest sense.

Experts in the science and art of sound

At the event, as well as demystifying psychoacoustics and DSP technology, Bob illustrated the journey Meridian has taken through time, from ground-breaking inventions of the past like the design classic 1970's Lecson (left), on permanent display in the New York Museum of Modern Art, to equally significant innovations of the present day. The F80 (already a design classic itself), 808.2 and DSP7200 were presented as 'ravishing new systems to feed the soul'.

"From the beginning of Meridian, we have been dedicated to one thing: ensuring that listeners get the maximum enjoyment from their music," Bob concluded. "Music feeds the soul, and we have been making music come to life for over 30 years – allowing the listener to get the best from that most precious resource: time invested. This is what Meridian is all about."

Video Technology

The MF10: Quality meets affordability



The latest member of Meridian's growing family of quality home theatre video equipment is now shipping: the MF10 Digital Projector.

The new model offers extraordinary black reproduction capability, with 30,000:1 native contrast ratio. It also features a brand new 0.7in full high definition device and associated optical engine utilising the advanced D-ILA® system (see below). The impressive contrast ratio is obtained without the use of a dynamic iris, thus ensuring true black reproduction without loss of brightness.

Three 1920 x 1080 pixel D-ILA devices are used, one each for red, green and blue. They achieve a significant reduction in stray light

by flattening the spaces between pixels and using new, advanced liquid crystals and orientation technologies. In addition, the optical engine employs wire grid polarisers, which significantly reduce light scatter into the projection lens, further contributing to improved contrast. Improved colour rendition is made available by means of an unusually broad colour space.

Meridian's factory optimisation system is applied to each projector, which is individually tuned for colour uniformity, gamma and other parameters.

The standard motorised projection lens is a large-diameter all-glass assembly with 16 elements in 13 groups. It is made by Fujinon Corporation, noted for their quality projection lenses.

The lens minimises chromatic aberration effects and delivers maximum resolution by ensuring that individual pixels are all in focus on-screen. The 2x zoom capability permits a large, bright image even in smaller environments that do not offer normal projector-to-screen distances.

The projector also includes a special vertical stretch facility for the display of extra-wide-screen images with the addition of a third-party lens assembly: the image can be expanded vertically to facilitate the use of all 2,073,600 device pixels, dramatically increasing brightness and contrast.

To make positioning of the projector in an installation as easy as possible, the MF10 offers $\pm 80\%$ vertical and $\pm 34\%$ horizontal lens shift, and the unit may be table or ceiling mounted.

Ease of installation is enhanced by the front intake/exhaust arrangement of the low-noise fan system, which leaves only interconnects on the rear panel.

In addition, the lamp is easily accessed via a side panel wherever the projector is mounted – on the ceiling or on a table.

The projector features HDMI 1.3 inputs, allowing 225MHz bandwidth and billions of colours, enhanced resolution and higher frame rates.

Secrets of the D-ILA

At the heart of the MF10 projector is crystal-clear D-ILA technology.

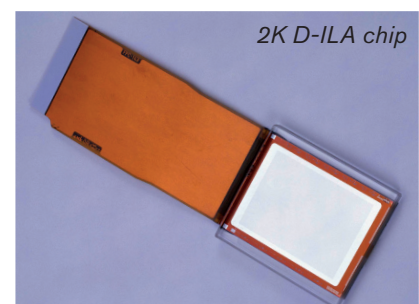
'D-ILA' stands for 'Direct-drive Image Light Amplifier' and is the key to the outstanding performance of Meridian projectors, along with the careful performance optimisation carried out on each unit at Meridian's headquarters.

D-ILA technology virtually eliminates the space between adjacent pixels (it is as small as $0.35\mu\text{m}$), limiting stray light and resulting in a smooth, 35mm-

film-like image. The latest devices, such as those in the MF10 (which uses three), have an astonishing contrast ratio as high as 40,000:1 (device contrast: some is inevitably lost in the projection system) which eliminates the need for mechanical iris, making it possible to display bright sunlight and deep shadow in the same frame: the shadow detail is not lost.

Normal devices are hard-pushed to manage better than 5,000:1 contrast, due to poor orientation of the liquid crystal molecules at pixel boundaries.

Advanced planarization, orientation technology and new liquid crystals dramatically reduce light dispersion, refraction and irregularities.



In the News

Best of the Best – of the Best!



The F80, already named one of the prestigious *Robb Report's* Top Ten Products of 2008, has gone two better, winning not only the coveted *Robb Report* 'Best of the Best' all-in-one music system award, but 'Best of the Best Overall' in the Home Entertainment Category.

"Beautifully designed yet discreet, the Meridian-Ferrari F80 is engineered to provide a sophisticated audio experience that will impress even the most sensitive and discerning ears," said Robb Report's Senior Vice President/Editor-in-Chief, Brett Anderson.

Inside Meridian

Light-Guided Assembly

Today, a great deal of Meridian's product assembly at the board level is handled with surface mount technology – components that are soldered to the surface of the circuit board by large machines.

Not every component can be fitted this way, however. Some types – 'through-hole leaded components' as they're known – are only available with conventional leads and need to be inserted by hand into the PCBs.

To do this, our assembly staff have the benefit of Royonics Light Guided Assembly stations. These use a moving laser light spot to highlight the point on the board where the next component is to be placed.

First, trays are loaded with the kit of components to be hand-inserted. The board is then mounted and assembly can begin. A laser spot is projected from the unit above the table (see *picture*) and illuminates the place on the board where the component is to be inserted.

After insertion the operator steps on to the next location, and the light spot moves to the next point on the board.

When the board has been fully populated, it is taken to a cutting

machine, which trims the leads under the board to the correct length, ready for wave soldering.

Meridian has six stations for this kind of work. Light-guided component insertion reduces errors and helps to maximise quality and reliability, as well as significantly simplifying the assembly process.



Meridian People

New to US



Meridian America Inc. has announced two new appointments. Walter Schofield (*above*), formerly VP of Sales & Marketing at Mark Levinson, joins Meridian in the new post of President; while Jeff Dean has been appointed to head up operations in Meridian's new office in Los Angeles, California.

"It's an exciting time for our company, and a time of great opportunity. We need to expand the scope of our operations, and feel very fortunate to have Walter and Jeff join us," said Meridian Chairman and co-founder Bob Stuart.

Meridian has appointed Jeff Dean (*below*) to run its new Hollywood, CA office. An experienced entertainment industry consultant, Dean also served as President of Silverline Records, and as VP of Sales and Marketing at A&M.

Dean will bring Meridian's products and brand to the attention of key industry players: pursuing marketing opportunities in film, TV, and print media, furthering the use of Meridian solutions in industry environments such as screening rooms and editing suites, as well as evangelising Meridian's unique technologies.



Our partners around the world

Meridian – Germany's Audio Reference



Audio Reference has been Meridian's German distributor since 1999, but for its founder, Mansour Mamaghani, the relationship with Meridian began six years earlier. Today, Audio Reference is one of the top high-end distributors in the country.

Mansour has loved high quality sound from childhood, becoming involved in the business side of 'high end' in 1990. Three years later he started working with Meridian products.

"I have seen the different series develop over time," he says, "like the 200 and 500 series, and now the 800 and G Series ranges. High End is my passion – right after my beloved family!"

Mansour established Audio Reference at the end of 1999, and the company quickly became one of the most



important and respected distributors for 'highest end' equipment from some of the world's leading companies. "From the very beginning," Mansour goes on, "it was our intention to offer only the world's finest of audio and video to our clients."

"Currently we employ 12 passionate people. Our head office, in the heart of the beautiful city of Hamburg, offers five individually arranged and equipped listening rooms, so distributors and dealers can be trained, and meetings as well as press events can be held."

The facility also contains a complete repair shop with highly trained staff. "Because of our well trained service team we can guarantee an extremely fast service," Mansour notes with pride.

"When I founded Audio Reference in 1999, it was clear to me that Meridian was one of the first major companies I needed to see in our portfolio," he continues.

"There was no other – and there still is no other – company in the world that combines the latest digital technology with such breathtaking audiophile equipment," Mansour concludes.



Audio Reference at the recent Munich High-End Show.

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