

HIGHER FIDELITY



BOOTHROYD STUART
MERIDIAN

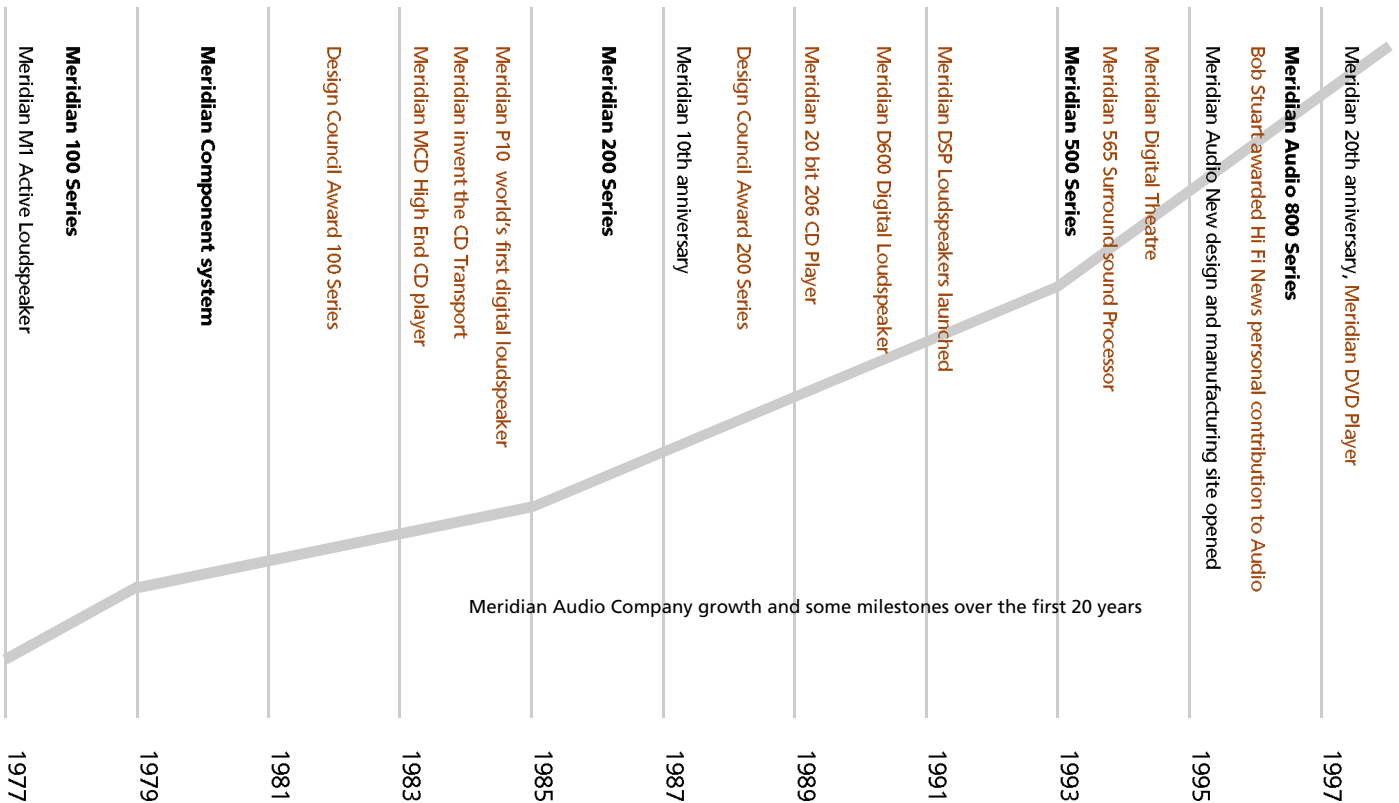


Bob Stuart studied Psychoacoustics, Electronics Engineering and Management at Imperial College, London. A passion for music soon caused him to specialise in audio design.

Allen Boothroyd trained originally as a mechanical engineer, going on to study industrial design at the Royal College of Art. In addition to his role at Meridian he also runs a Design Group in Cambridge.

Boothroyd and Stuart met in Cambridge, discovered shared interests and philosophies in audio equipment design and founded Meridian in 1977.

Since then, their designs for Meridian Audio have gained much critical and industrial acclaim winning the coveted Design Council Award for Outstanding British Product an unprecedented three times in addition to the EISA European Product of the year award twice and many other international accolades.

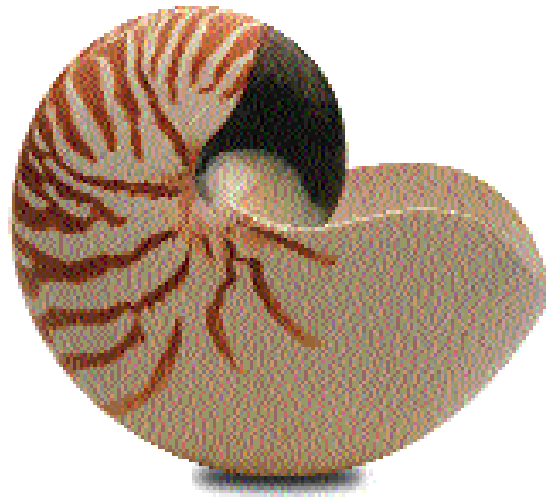


DIGITAL: MUSIC TO THE EARS?

Digital technology is now widely regarded by industry experts as the best means to music in the home.

In simple terms, it's because music recorded by computer, as on CDs, can be played back with no change from the original, even over long distances, like Morse code over a telegraph line.

Why is this important? Traditional analogue systems behave much like the childhood game in which each player repeats a whispered message into the next player's ear, and so on down a chain.



Each analogue link – turntable, amplifier, cable, speaker – whispers an analogy of what it hears to the next, but something is always lost or added. What emerges at the end, while charming, may not resemble the original message.

A pure whisper.

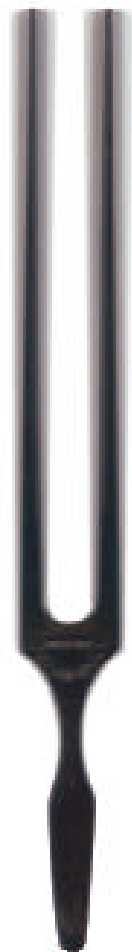
By contrast, digital audio first encodes music as digits – ones and zeros – in patterns describing specific sound waves. This is the CD language of computers, which are very unlikely to mistake a one for a zero.

No matter how long the chain, at its end digital equipment listens only for patterns of those two digits, which it reassembles into music, ignoring all other whispered information as noise. Hence the crystal clarity of good digital sound: no detail lost, no noise added.

This technology should utterly reshape the nature of our best music systems, replacing a long chain of traditional equipment. Yet fundamental change has been glacially slow at the extreme high end of audio.

Why?

A MESSAGE TO AUDIOPHILES (AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM):



From day one, digital technology has troubled the high-end audio community. Early CDs clearly were primitive, yet trumpeted by their marketers as perfect. Purists reacted by closing ranks, refining proven analogue methods, condemning digital as musical heresy and often ignoring its real and rapid progress.

In extreme backlash, certain nostalgic purists even reverted to high-priced resurrections of vinyl-and-vacuum-tube designs a half-century old.

But serious audiophiles who now accept CDs as the preferred source are forced to choose among digital equipment conceived largely by engineers mired in an analogue tradition. The tendency is to treat digital as a virus to be contained, by converting it to analogue as early in the chain as possible.

This is quaint, but amounts to refining a 1950s tubed computer to run a modern virtual-reality program: certain to deliver the worst of both worlds.

Meridian suggests the time has come to face the music and recognise digital for what it is: a fast-evolving vindication of the highest audio doctrine.

Rich man's tone controls.

We're speaking of course of the so-called pure signal path. Paramount among audiophile truths is that music's electronic journey to our ears should be as short and unadorned as possible; this preserves the fragile nuances of live performance. This is why, for example, audiophiles have long rejected analogue tone controls, correctly

seeing them as electrical mazes where musical subtleties are lost or rearranged.

Yet the typical purist hi-fi is hardly pure. Rather, it's a confusion of components with varying reactive properties, tangled together through a rat's nest of electrically whimsical cables. Each piece lengthens the path and damages delicate harmonic, phase and other relationships that contour music. The amusing irony is, these boxes and cables are generally assembled for tone control: an elaborate whispered child's game, each piece chosen for how its voice changes the message.

Why not simply replace the whole corrupt chain with one transparent digital link, particularly if the music source is digital already? The answer is, audiophiles have grown fond of certain analogue distortions and the rituals to invoke them. But there is a better way.

The Meridian way.

HOT ROD OR HI-FI?

Did you buy your car engine from one manufacturer, your suspension and transmission from others?

Yet this is how high-priced hi-fi's are typically assembled. Rarely is the system's total performance envelope known, or even knowable. Components are chosen piecemeal, often on the weight of irrelevant or anecdotal information, outside the context of how they will sound in the home system.

This is why audiophiles and high-end dealers can spend more time and money playing 'musical cables' than playing music. They struggle to force a chain of electrically independent designs to communicate and sing together in a seamless, systemic voice: this elusive Grail is known as 'musicality'.

At best, these hi-fi's are hot-rods: they do one thing well. This is why expensive

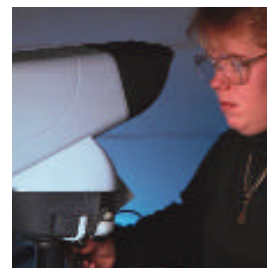
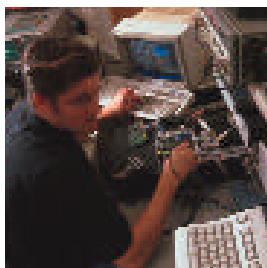
systems often sound good playing only one kind of music.

Meridian believes a system should be judged on how well the entire package performs in the real world; this is why all our components clearly speak the same electric and acoustic language. They behave perfectly well with other manufacturers' gear, yet positively sing when in chorus with equipment of their own pedigree.

And lest you believe no manufacturer can excel in more than one field of componentry, consult *Stereophile* magazine's list of recommended components: Meridian is consistently represented in more major categories than any other single manufacturer. Clearly, our years of focusing on the total system have schooled us well in all major aspects of design.

In 1996 the new Meridian design and manufacturing facility was opened in Huntingdon by the Prime Minister The Rt.Hon.John Major MP.

All Meridian products are designed and made at this advanced factory where many dealers and distributors attend regular training courses.



A Meridian Starter System:

506 CD PLAYER, 504 TUNER, 551 AMPLIFIER AND A500 LOUDSPEAKERS





BUILDING A SIMPLE MERIDIAN SYSTEM.

Meridian's hallmark pursuit of systemic audio far predates the digital revolution. Hence our simplest hi-fi's today reflect our deep analogue tradition, refined over decades of experience.

The result: musically seamless systems, informed by ingenious circuitry and understated sophistication – testament to the integrity of a Meridian playback chain. These are classic engineering values we hold dear despite flashy marketing trends elsewhere.

By combining the exceptional 551 integrated amplifier with A500 speakers, for instance, we provide an outstanding conventional 'starter' music system representing excellent cost performance. The A500, our full-range traditional speaker, sounds superb and allows a logical staircase upgrade path, avoiding the costly 'component-of-the-month' trade-in syndrome later on.

For example, to a 551 you can add a 556 power amplifier; this allows bi-amping as the 551 powers the tweeters and controls the system while the new amp drives the bass. Or start with the separate 501 control unit and a 556, dedicating a second 556 later to bass. These steps can be taken without sacrificing previous purchases.

Graduate to a full surround system over time: add digital speakers (discussed herein) up front and keep your analogue equipment for the rear channels.

Other Voices, Other Rooms.

Or take advantage of the two-room software that comes nested in the 551 (and in most 500 Series equipment), using the A500s as a main or satellite system for your study or family room. With Meridian, you can enjoy your music source twice but pay for it only once.

This building-block design philosophy is very powerful, with upgrade ladders throughout our product line; see your Meridian dealer for full possibilities.

A Meridian Digital System:
500 CD, 562 CONTROL WITH DSP5000 LOUDSPEAKERS





MERIDIAN DIGITAL SYSTEMS.

Analogue solutions go just so far in a digital world. For best music from a compact disc – now and in the future – only an all-digital playback system will do; it can uplift audio at home as profoundly as it has in the recording studio. An all-digital strategy finally unlocks musical realms only dreamt of in primitive days of vinyl records and two-channel stereo.

And almost alone on the market, Meridian makes all-digital music systems. Indeed, if you have never experienced a full Meridian digital system, we invite you to suspend your assumptions about high-end audio – not only in terms of sound, but appearance, function and elegance.

Significantly, Meridian spearheads new digital recording technologies as well, driving the developing science of how best to encode a music disc.

These twin strengths – at the recording and playback ends of the audio chain – become startlingly apparent when you first hear one of the many excellent commercial CDs produced on Meridian studio mastering processors, played back through a Meridian digital music system.

What is a digital active loudspeaker?

A typical Meridian digital system is built around our acclaimed digital active loudspeakers. Simply, these are fully self-contained, powered speakers with all necessary equipment (except music source, such as CD transport) built-in.

Compact, reliable and simple to use, Meridian digital speakers are orchestrated by hidden computers. This approach solves audio problems previously insurmountable, and sets new home performance standards without intruding on a gracious living environment.

We offer models ranging in scale from demure to dreadnought. All pack unexpected power for their size, and are engineered with attention to exotic materials for performance and looks, such as extensive use of pure silver wire and hand-rubbed piano lacquer or hardwood finishes. All are fully remote-controlled and use DSP (digital signal processing) technology to perform engineering feats that will delight music lovers accustomed to the frustrating limitations of traditional audio equipment.

TIME TO 'UNLEARN' STEREO?

While for many technical reasons, a pair of Meridian digital speakers will outperform traditional equipment in familiar stereo mode, please consider this: One of the frustrating limitations of analogue audio has been the very shortcoming of two-channel music itself. We have, since mono, trained our ears to 'listen through' stereo's limitations. Now there is a better way.

A Meridian Theatre System:

500 CD, 565 CONTROL WITH DSP5000 LOUDSPEAKERS





STEP INTO THE MUSIC, DIGITALLY.

Music has shape. Performed live, its dimensions envelop us.

However, the best home stereos merely open windows to music; they fail to draw us in. Crude attempts to embrace the listener with surround sound have fallen short over the years; too much detail is lost in the circuitry.

So music lovers have accepted sonic gimmickry for home cinema, and purist two-channel stereo for serious listening. This has required two systems, each leaving something to be desired. Until now.

Enter the computer.

Meridian's all-digital surround system is the world's only sound system to fully apply computers to the task of recreating music's true shape in the home.

Engineers have long known stereo recordings contain ambient phase information – three-dimensional phantoms of live music – lost in two-channel playback. But powerful computers in the Meridian system properly extract it for the first time.

Finally, you can step through the stereo window into a world of three-dimensional music, the world of Meridian digital surround sound.

A (digital) mind for music.

A stunning stage of sound unfolds when you add one apparently simple little device to your system: a Meridian surround processor. First in the market, this product pioneered digital surround sound, being capable of delivering thunderous cinema effects with grand weight and authority, and three-dimensional music with delicate grace, clarity and scale.

You can easily teach it to recover natural sounds of different venues, in your listening room – from an intimate jazz club to an opera hall – any setting you choose. The key word is 'natural' – only information extracted from the recording is used for effects, because Meridian believes tricks such as reverberation are unsuitable for serious music systems.

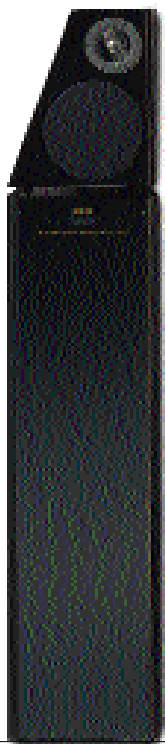
Characteristically Meridian, the 565 is software-driven, so unlike all other processors on the market it can be efficiently upgraded to future formats. For instance, the first 565 processor, sold in 1994, is fully upgradeable now to DTS/MPEG protocol. This is a crucial feature in the fast-evolving world of digital audio.

Meridian's new 800 Series, launched in '97, includes our reference standard surround processor 861 (a development from the 565) and the 800 CD/DVD machine. This stunning modular and future-proof system is introduced later in this brochure.

MERIDIAN DIGITAL THEATRE.

Like all Meridian systems, digital surround can be assembled piecemeal over time. Traditional equipment can bloom through surround sound processors, with delightful results.

But for the ultimate audio experience, take Meridian surround sound as a seamless whole, with computerised Meridian digital speakers orchestrated by the 565 or the new 800 Series and controlled by wireless remote.



REAR LEFT CHANNEL

The beauty of a full-blown Meridian Digital Theatre is its seamless uniformity and power, combining the intelligence of our digital speakers and processor in a technical tour de force. By knowing precisely all elements in the music chain, the processor's computers work with those nested in Meridian speakers to extract maximum performance for your specific room.

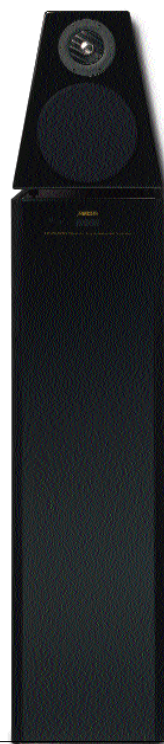
Technical superiority.

Projecting believable, 'holographic' sound into three-dimensional space is psychoacoustically delicate; the ear is convinced by engineering, not cheap trickery. Specifically, stereo and other spatial illusions rely largely on correct timing and phase. Electrostatic, point-source, dynamic analogue and hybrid loudspeaker systems all have audiophile followings for varying success addressing these difficult issues, but each suffers serious compromises which cannot be recovered even by a good processor.

Meridian digital loudspeakers – the first to operate deeply into the digital realm with proper crossover blending – control time and phase with unprecedented precision and thus project a stereo image virtually unmatched by analogue equipment.

And in a surround system – with not just two but many speakers in a room – these time and phase benefits become far more crucial. Phasey analogue equipment simply cannot compete with the precision of fully orchestrated digital speakers.

Meridian digital speakers are also active design, which makes them far more dynamic, efficient and responsive; multi-amplified, which optimises them for best performance in a demanding surround-sound system; and self-protecting, for years of trouble-free operation even with heavy home cinema use. See your dealer for full appreciation of these design parameters.



LEFT SIDE CHANNEL

PRESENTING THE
WORLD'S FINEST
MUSIC SYSTEM.

The ultimate Meridian sound system, a digital thoroughbred for music and home theatre, shown with DSP6000 main, DSP6000C centre channel, DSP6000 side channels and rears, 800 DVD and, at the heart of the system, 861 Reference surround controller. Much of this equipment must be hidden from view. Amplification, conversion and control functions are built into each speaker, whose computers work with those in the 861 for sophisticated system effects. Everything is controlled by one wireless remote.



MAIN LEFT CHANNEL



CENTRE



PRESENTING THE
REVOLUTIONARY 800
SERIES MODULAR
ELECTRONICS SYSTEM.

The 800 Series components are designed in the 19" rack format and can be so mounted as an option. All connections and processing electronics are located on cards which are assembled for each customer. This thoughtful design provides complete flexibility guaranteed to keep pace with this fast moving world of changing formats.



CHANNEL

MAIN RIGHT CHANNEL



Musical flexibility.

Convenience is not the ultimate goal of an elegantly engineered system, but is its natural birthright. In the Meridian Digital Theatre we finally offer an audiophile system with transparent bass and treble controls, as well as absolute phase correction, digital tweeter tilt for different listening heights, and time compensation if you sit off-centre. Is room configuration a problem? Meridian Digital Theatre allows software corrections – leave the speaker where convenient and simply manipulate system controls to ‘move the wall, not the speaker’ for best sound.



RIGHT SIDE CHANNEL

SIMPLICITY IS NOT EASY.

Rarely, if ever, does a full Meridian Digital Theatre appear on the used market. This system usually marks the end of a long odyssey for the highly evolved audiophile, or the beginning of a long and charming relationship for the music and cinema arts lover who prefers Muses to fuses.

We suggest you consider the elegance of a total Meridian system. Multiply the traditional stereo clutter by a factor of three for surround sound, and you have an aesthetic nightmare. Meridian simplifies the whole system to a sophisticated minimum.

However, simplicity is not easy. Meridian Digital Theatre is a very advanced system and its select dealers have been factory-trained to guide your choice and installation wisely. It is a credential not to be taken lightly. Call Meridian to find your closest qualified dealer.

“HOW DOES IT WORK? IT WORKS GREAT!”

That’s a quote from a delighted Meridian customer, and it speaks volumes about our approach. You needn’t understand the wealth of technology built into your Meridian system in order to enjoy it.

The Meridian System Remote (MSR) distills the world’s most-sophisticated audio equipment to a few intuitive controls, issuing virtually every conceivable command from your listening chair. It operates all Meridian equipment.



RIGHT REAR CHANNEL

Sources:

MERIDIAN CD PLAYERS



Meridian built the world's first audiophile CD player in 1983, and introduced the first two-box transport and converter in 1986; we have led the way ever since. We emphasise good mechanical and digital engineering. For example, we know players work better if the CD is mounted directly onto the turntable. Our players offer convenient front-drawer loading without compromising sound. Our non-magnetic disc-clamping mechanism includes a carbon and glass-fibre turntable to radically reduce vibration; this means

the servo correction circuit works more leisurely ensuring better sound. We also design our own servo circuits and – unique in the industry – write all our own control software.

Jitter, a damaging form of digital distortion arising from time errors, is virtually eliminated by our precision re-clocking methods; 75-ohm amplifiers drive long cables jitter-free,

Our 508.24 player is the world's best single-box CD player, with 24-bit dual-differential delta-sigma digital converters. Like all Meridian CD players, it uses multi-regulated power supplies, discrete class A amplifiers, and four-layer partitioned PCBs normally found in the aerospace industry.



500 Compact Disc Transport.

The 500 is our best transport, ideal for Meridian digital speakers or with the 565 digital surround processor. Combined with our 566 DAC, it's the finest CD playback system Meridian offers, the separate boxes providing the best electrical and mechanical separation possible.



566 Digital to Analogue Converter.

The balanced-operation 566 uses a new true 24-bit high-resolution, dual-differential, delta-sigma converter. Jitter so low it is virtually unmeasurable is achieved by precision twin phaselock loops and re-clocking.



508.24 High Resolution CD Player.

The world's best single-box player (Stereophile Class A), 508.24 combines in one chassis the unique high-resolution, dual-differential, delta-sigma 24-bit converter of the 500/566 combination with a high-precision internal clock, and includes balanced and unbalanced outputs. Unique servo software improves resolution and the playability of discs by adapting to each CD.



506.20 CD Player.

The 506.20 is a superb single-box CD player featuring 20-bit delta-sigma conversion for outstanding performance.

500 Digital outputs: Ultra-low jitter and 20ppm clock accuracy. One each of: coax SPDIF, high-speed EIAJ optical, AES/EBU on XLR.

566 Controls: D1, D2 and D3 select digital inputs; Optical selects optical digital input; Phase toggles absolute phase.

Input connections: Three coax digital audio, additional AES/EBU XLR connection on D1. One EIAJ optical digital input. 32kHz-48kHz.

Output connections: Unbalanced analogue 2V rms. Balanced audio additionally on XLRs.

Noise and distortion: Less than -96dB.

508.24 Digital outputs: Precision re-clocked for low jitter, one coax SPDIF digital, one high-speed EIAJ optical digital.

Analogue outputs: 2V rms unbalanced.

Balanced on twin XLRs.

Noise and distortion: Less than -96dB.

506.20 Outputs: One coax SPDIF digital, one high-speed EIAJ optical digital. Analogue output 2V rms unbalanced.

Noise and distortion: Less than -95dB.

General Controls: Drawer Open/Close, Play, Stop, Pause, Display, Previous Track, Next Track, Off (standby). Full remote control via Meridian System Remote (MSR) provided.

Display: Eight-character alphanumeric of track, time and index, or blank.

Dimensions: 88mm (3.46in) H, 321 (12.64) W, 332 (13.07) D.



Sources:

MERIDIAN DVD PLAYER AND MERIDIAN FM STEREO TUNER





586 DVD Player. Meridian, who 14 years ago introduced high-end CD and still make the very finest players, are proud to announce a new performance leadership, high-end DVD.

DVD Video is an exciting new format. Although it looks like a CD, by using high-quality MPEG2 video compression with Dolby Digital or MPEG sound formats, one DVD disc can hold a complete motion picture.

Meridian's design team brought the full benefit of their CD experience as well as important psychoacoustic and psychovisual insights to this design. As a result, it offers sound and picture quality that is second to none with the features needed to exploit DVD in high-end home theatre.

The 586 is a powerful statement by Meridian on the potential quality of the new DVD medium. The digital output of 586 has the lowest jitter yet for a transport and we are justifiably proud of its performance for CD as well as DVD.

586 Controls: *Open, Play, Stop, Pause, Next and Previous. DVD handset controls for Menu, Subtitle, Angle, Zoom etc.*

Outputs: *Very low jitter outputs for CD and DVD 5.1 encoded or 2 channel. Composite, S-Video and Component broadcast-quality output. Analogue output for 2 channel compatibility.*

Display: *Twelve-character alphanumeric and on-screen video display, or blank.*

Meridian Comms and RS232 connection.

Dimensions: *88mm (3.46in) H, 321 (12.64) W, 332 (13.07) D.*



504 FM Stereo Tuner. Perhaps because many of us grew up listening to portables or car sets we tend to overlook radio as a rich source of listening pleasure.

The 504 is the latest in a long line of Meridian tuners with a reputation for stunning sound quality. It features a dual gate MOSFET input to pull in distant stations, while the matched ceramic filters ensure fine selectivity to cope with more crowded locations.

A Walsh function stereo decoder gives remarkable clarity and freedom from interference. The 504 has full remote control and can store up to 30 stations in memory showing their names for your convenience.

504 Tuner Controls: *Tune, Mono, Store, Display, Previous and Next Preset, Off.*

Presets: *Up to 30 stations, each with custom label for display.*

Input: *FM 75W unbalanced, 87.5 through 108MHz.*

Sensitivity: *1.5V for ultimate quieting.*

Output: *2V rms.*

Distortion: *Less than 0.2% mono, 0.4% stereo, noise below -70dB.*

Display: *Eight-character alphanumeric for showing station name, frequency, preset number, signal strength and tuning accuracy, or blank.*

Dimensions: *88mm (3.46in) H, 321 (12.64) W, 332 (13.07) D.*

Control:
MERIDIAN AUDIO CONTROL UNITS





562 Digital Control Unit.

The 562 is a digital-output control unit for use with Meridian digital loudspeakers. All analogue inputs are routed via a precision delta-sigma analogue-to-digital converter. The display can be conveniently customised to show useful source labels.

A very high quality MC or MM phono stage is available. The 562 can also be fitted with an optional analogue variable output module that converts it to a full analogue preamplifier. The Copy control allows independent selection of a source for recording, or a second room.



518 Digital Processor and Control Unit.

A home version of the professional Meridian 618 Mastering Processor used by leading recording studios worldwide, the 518 is three products in one: a digital preamplifier able to replace your analogue one; a world-class de-jittering device with proprietary resolution-enhancing and dithering characteristics; and a mastering processor that adjusts word length and applies state-of-the-art noise-shaping algorithms. This unit, inserted in any high-quality digital path, will dramatically improve its sound.

501 Control Unit.

The Meridian 501 control unit is a high-quality full-function analogue preamplifier for use with any traditional high-performance audio system, sharing many features of the 502.



502 Analogue Controller.

The 502 is by far the best preamp Meridian has built. Constructed in dual-mono to match the 557 power amp, the 502 receives balanced inputs from the 508 CD Player or 566 DAC, and when used with 500 Series amps or M60 active loudspeakers, completes a fully balanced analogue system.



562 Controls: Source selection including CD, DAT, Radio, VCR, Video, Cable, Tape and LP; Copy for independent control of the tape outputs; Display, Mute, Volume and Off.

Audio inputs: Seven analogue 20kV, adjustable sensitivity 500mV to 2.5V rms. Five coax digital SPDIF.

Audio outputs: Two analogue tape outputs for recorders or VCRs. Two independent coax digital for digital speakers or recorders.

Display: Four-character dot matrix for Source, Volume, Copy and Mute, or blank.

518 Controls: Source, DSP, Dither, In, Out, Display. **Audio inputs:** Three SPDIF, One TOSLINK, One AES/EBU (XLR). **Audio outputs:** One SPDIF and AES/EBU (XLR). **Processing:** Input/Output, Word-size, Dither, Volume level, emphasis. **Display:** Eight-character dot matrix for DSP, Dither, Source, Input/Output bits, Sampling frequency.

501 Controls: Source selection including CD, DAT, Radio, VCR, Video, Cable, Tape and LP; Copy for independent control of the tape output, Display, Mute, Volume and Off.

Audio inputs: Six analogue 20k, with adjustable sensitivity 27mV to 150mV.

Audio outputs: Two main variable outputs for bi-amping; uses low-distortion electronic volume control with 99 one-dB steps. One tape output.

502 Controls: as 501.

Inputs: Four unbalanced inputs on phono: 100mV to 4V rms; Three balanced inputs on XLR: 27mV to 840mV. **Outputs:** Unbalanced main output on phono: adjustable up to 4V rms. Balanced main output on XLR: adjustable up to 8V rms.

Balanced/unbalanced tape outputs.

Balanced-mode volume control with 99 one dB steps; User-adjustable sensitivity 12dB.

Phono option with new MC or MM plug-in modules for each channel. Large low-field ultra-linear power supply.

General: RS232 for computer control.

Distortion: less than 0.01%.

Signal/Noise: better than 100dB CCIR.

Dimensions: 88mm (3.46in) H, 321 (12.64) W, 332 (13.07) D

Control:

MERIDIAN SURROUND SOUND AND VIDEO PROCESSORS

Meridian is a world leader in superb-sounding Digital Signal Processing. Our pedigree goes back to the earliest days of digital audio and includes many 'firsts' like the first DSP Loudspeaker, first DSP Preamplifier and first fully DSP Surround Sound Processor.

Since its introduction in July 1994, the Meridian 565 DSP Surround Processor has become widely recognised as the benchmark processor – voted Class 'A' by Stereophile.

Among a total of 25 awards, the 565 was voted 'Home Theatre Decoder of the Year' by Home Entertainment in both 1995 and 1996, and it received the prestigious EISA award for 'Home Theatre Decoder of the Year'.

The proprietary DSP software developed for 565 has been honed for use in two new DSP Surround Controllers: the Reference 861 and 561, redefining the expectations for movie sound and creating a paradigm shift for music.

Until the recent introduction of the Meridian 861 Reference Surround Controller the 565/562V combination was recognised as an industry standard in both quality and ease of use. With 565's pedigree and 562V's ability to handle audio and video formats, the combination represents a tour de force in flexibility and upgradeability.





565 DSP Surround Sound Processor and 562V Multimedia Controller

A powerful eight-channel music computer with complete analogue and digital conversion capability, the 565 operates in THX Cinema, Pro Logic, Ambisonic, Trifield, Academy, Mono and various proprietary Meridian Music modes, including three settings for stereo. It can decode Dolby Digital, AC-3, DTS, MPEG and Lossless, in word lengths up to 22 bits, through simple software or plug-in firmware upgrades. Tune or design settings to your taste; sixteen user presets let you assign unique acoustic signatures to each source in your system – such as LaserDisc, video, LP, CD, tuner – or several just to one source.

The Dolby Digital AC-3 meets Dolby specifications but far exceeds its typical sonic standards by decoding through a highly accurate 24-bit algorithm and avoiding crude conversion stages.

Software refinements since the introduction of the 565 in 1994 include improved setup calibration tones, added side channel capability, sophisticated bass management software for use in 7.1 modes, LipSync™ function to trim delay in cinema dialogue for optimum home use, and various other features. The 565 can be used in any configuration with your existing equipment, whether passive or active, analogue or digital. Of course it blends intelligently with other Meridian products for ultimate performance and flexibility.

The Multimedia Controller 562V is a version of the 562 equipped for video switching and independent tape loops for analogue or digital audio and for video.



561 Digital Surround Controller

The 561 combines controller functions into a surround processor, bringing many of the features of a 565 + 562V combination to one box. 561 provides extensive audio and video inputs and outputs, including an analogue tape loop and support for the Meridian 2-Room system. The 561 is a full 500 Series controller, ideally suited for use with our DSP loudspeakers, CD players, power amps and 504 tuner. The 561 allows you to take control of your system: you can switch audio, video, adjust input level; you can create 16 User Presets with your own labels. It also features excellent on-screen display and extensive on-screen help for setup and calibration. These displays are available on the Composite and S-Video connections. Best of all, the 561 uses the same powerful DSP processors, and algorithms as the highly acclaimed 565!



581 Video Controller

Normally, a high-end installation will include a pre-amp or surround amplifier that includes video switching. Meridian has decided to change the architecture of video in the home theatre. The number of video sources and formats is increasing and it is no longer possible to do full justice to the video by treating it as an add-on to an audio processor. The Meridian 581 is a stand-alone video controller, providing a good number of inputs for Composite, S-Video and includes options for Component or RGB. Obviously, the switching and video processing circuits are of the very highest quality. Only broadcast-grade components are used to maintain the highest possible video bandwidth, colour fidelity and resolution.

565 Specifications

Controls: Source, Store, Display, Menu, Off.

Audio inputs: 1 analogue, 1 coax digital, 1 EIAJ optical. (More inputs available from 562V or 501V). **Audio outputs:** 8 individually configurable digital and analogue channels (using on-board delta-sigma converters).

Processing: Dolby AC-3, DTS, MPEG, Lossless (optional), Pro Logic, THX Cinema, Ambisonic, Trifield and Meridian Music modes. **Display:** Twelve-character alphanumeric and on screen graphic display for video.

562V Specifications

Controls, connections and display: as 562, see page 19.

Optical connections: 2 EIAJ digital audio inputs. 1 EIAJ digital audio output duplicating the Tape signal.

Video connections: 6 Composite and 2 S-Video inputs. 1 Composite and 1 S-Video outputs for monitor. 2 Composite and 2 S-Video outputs for VCRs. 2 function select outputs.

561 Specifications

Audio inputs: 7 analogue adjustable, 1 digital optical, 5 digital coaxial IEC1937, IEC958. **Audio outputs:** 6 analogue, 8 digital, 2 analogue tape independent copy.

Video inputs: 4 Composite, 4 S-Video.

Video outputs: Composite and S-Video for both monitor and VCR. On screen display.

Processing: as 565. Second room capability.

581 Specifications

Video inputs: 7 Composite, 7 S-Video, Option RGB adds 2 SCART in, 2 SCART out (main and tape), Option Component (YP,Pb) 3 in, 1 out.

Video outputs: 2 Composite out, 2 S-Video out. **Video processing:** S to Composite conversion, options for Composite to S, NTSC or PAL to Component or RGB, picture adjustment, 2 Trigger outputs.

General: RS232 for computer control.

Dimensions: 88mm (3.46in) H, 321 (12.64) W, 332 (13.07) D.

Amplifiers:

MERIDIAN INTEGRATED AND POWER AMPLIFIERS





Meridian's long experience with self-powered speakers has informed our approach to traditional amplifiers as well; they simply misbehave if the designer has not considered the speaker as part of the electrical circuit. We do, and our smart, fast amplifiers welcome difficult loads.

557 Stereo Power Amplifier.

Our dual-mono 200-watt 557 is a prime example. Each over-specified output stage uses 8 high-power transistors; these combined with a massive low-noise 1.6kVA toroidal transformer let the 557 deliver currents over 30A cleanly into difficult loads below 2W. Internal bridging allows full balanced operation and more than 1000W into 4W. Balanced and unbalanced inputs as well as twin outputs for bi-wiring are provided.

556 Stereo Power Amplifier.

The Meridian 556 houses two 100W amplifiers in a dual mono construction. The output stage uses 10 high-power transistors. The power delivery of this amplifier makes it ideal for driving difficult loudspeaker loads. A high-precision fast DC-precise input stage is combined with a fully complementary amplification and output stage giving exceptional transparency and depth.

505 Mono Power Amplifier.

The Meridian 505 Mono Power Amplifier represents the finest expression of Meridian amplifier technology. By dedicating a complete power supply to each channel of the system it follows in the practice of the best products worldwide. This ensures the presentation of spatiality, dynamics and clarity that is sacrificed in amplifiers that have more channels sharing a single power source.

551 Integrated Amplifier.

The 551 uses a dual-mono construction similar to the 557 but includes a high-quality preamp similar to the 501. A separate headphone amplifier allows you to enjoy music without disturbing others. The 551's multiroom software operates systems in two zones. High-quality MC or MM phono stages are available.

557 Specifications: Output Stereo or Bridged: 200W into 8V; 1000W into 4W Bridged. XLR or phono input. Twin outputs for bi-wiring. Distortion <0.05%; signal-to-noise ratio -100dB. Fully protected against dc and thermal overload. Soft start using proprietary Meridian circuit.

Controls: Rear-panel controls for Power On/Off; Bridge/Stereo Mode.

Dimensions: 174mm (6.85in) H, 385 (15.16) W, 306 (12.05) D.

556 Specifications: Output 100W per channel into 8V, distortion < 0.05%, signal-to-noise ratio <-90dB. Unbalanced Inputs on phono 1.77V rms. Fully protected against dc and thermal overload. Error corrected output stage. **Dimensions:** 88mm (3.46in) H, 385 (15.16) W, 306 (12.05) D.

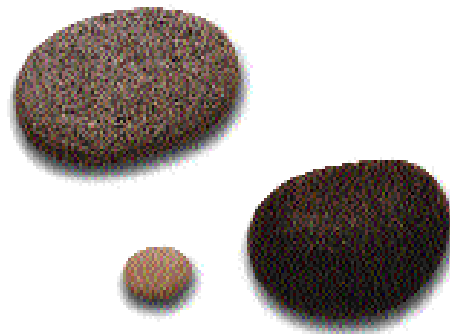
505 Specifications: Output 160W into 8V, 260W into 4V, distortion <0.05%, signal-to-noise ratio <-90dB. Inputs balanced on XLR sensitivity 2.66V rms, Unbalanced on phono sensitivity 1.27V rms. Fully protected against dc and thermal overload. Twin outputs for bi-wiring. 3 pairs of output devices per side. Error corrected output stage.

Dimensions: 174mm (6.85) H, 385 (15.16) W, 306 (12.05) D.

551 Specifications: Output 65W into 8V, distortion <0.05%, signal-to-noise <-90dB, Audio output one preamp 1.4V rms using low distortion volume control, 99 x 1dB steps. Audio inputs: 6 x 20kV, adjustable sensitivity. **Controls:** Source selection, copy for independent control of tape output, Speakers off, Display, Mute, Volume and Off.

Display: 4 character alphanumeric.

Dimensions: 88mm (3.46) H, 321 (12.64) W, 320 (12.6) D.



Loudspeakers:

MERIDIAN REFERENCE DSP6000 AND 6000C



The DSP6000 is the only active digital loudspeaker in the world to be awarded the prestigious 'A' rating by Stereophile magazine and in five successive years.

DSP6000 DIGITAL LOUDSPEAKER.

"Smart Art" is how one owner, an antiques dealer, describes DSP6000s. Their clean, classic lines and hand-rubbed piano lacquer blend into any decor, and belie the fact these slim columns house the world's most advanced home music system: an unmatched technical tour de force comprising twelve drivers, eight amplifiers, six digital converters and crossovers, and advanced sound-shaping computers – all self-contained, remote-controlled and requiring no speaker wires.



The tweeter, midrange and woofers are acoustically blended by computers; the benefit is much better three-dimensional music than any conventional hi-fi can offer in stereo or surround modes.

Indeed, DSP6000s are breathtaking in their ability to place musicians in precise locations in your room, with even subtle body movements clearly audible, such as a singer swaying or an instrumentalist stepping up for a solo. Voice and instrument timbre are utterly natural. Highs are smooth and sweet. Music sounds balanced and articulate, with clarity and tiny detail even at low volumes. And the system is easily muscular enough to effortlessly place a live orchestra or rock band in your room; we are serious in this claim.

In audiophile terms: The DSP6000 accepts only digital inputs; its digital crossovers are phase-coherent at all points, impossible with traditional design; each driver band has a dedicated DAC, boosting resolution subjectively beyond 21 bits; computers apply digital signal processing for exceedingly advanced control features.



Each DSP6000 back panel reveals the inside story of this loudspeaking wonder.

(Covers removed for clarity.)

DSP computers to control every parameter of the delivered sound.

A digital crossover feeds the DAC which is connected to the power amplifier with the shortest speaker cable possible to reduce outside effects.

4 x 75W power amplifiers, one for each speaker drive unit, provide the massive 300W output capability of each DSP6000.

Double power supplies and the highest quality capacitors.

DSP6000 System Design: Three-way active loudspeaker. DSP crossovers at 200Hz and 2.6kHz. Three channels of delta-sigma D/A conversion. Four 75W power amplifiers per channel. All processing is performed in the twin 32MHz digital signal processors (DSP).

Controls: System and speaker are operated with the included Meridian System Remote. The listener has complete control over the source and features, including bass and treble tilt, listening axis, volume, time-compensated balance and absolute phase.

Inputs: Two coax digital audio, 32kHz to 48kHz, up to 24 bit.

Response: 20Hz to 20kHz. Max. output 114dB spl.

Display: Four-character display behind front glass, can be blank.

Dimensions: 1330mm (52.4in) H, 275 (10.83) W, 425 (16.73) D.

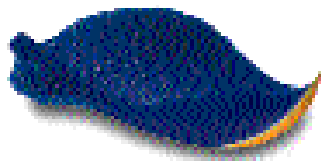
Finish: Black gloss piano-lacquer head unit and black cloth and glass bass cabinet. Cables included.

Loudspeakers:
MERIDIAN DSP5500





The DSP allows you to steer the image with the remote control – wherever you sit, you can bring the sound into sharp focus.



DSP5500 DIGITAL LOUDSPEAKER.

This model – ideal for home theatre – is a great front-facing three-way speaker that can be built into system cabinets. Its software adjusts performance for location. Heavy steel shields the speaker from TVsa and provides an extremely rigid enclosure, for clear midrange, startling dynamics and tight, visceral bass slam down to a true 30Hz.

The 5500 employs exotic silver voice-coil tweeters and the latest digital-to-analogue conversion like its brothers. Four 75-watt built-in amplifiers per speaker operate in active mode, delivering far more dynamics than passive designs of the same power. Computers blend its woofers and tweeters for perfect phase and remarkable imaging.

Like its brothers, the 5500 is remote-controlled and displays its functions on the front, showing either volume, music selection and time, radio frequency, or blank. On-board computers offer full bass, treble, absolute phase and a variety of other system commands. The balance control not only changes the relative volume of the two speakers, but also delays the sound from the speaker closest to you, so that all sounds reach your ear at the same time. Similarly, you can steer the image up and down for optimum listening: standing, sitting, or reclining on the floor.

A version is also available for centre channel use.

DSP5500 System Design: Three-way active loudspeaker. DSP crossover at 200Hz and 2.6kHz. Four channels of delta-sigma D/A conversion. Four 75W power amplifiers per channel. All signal processing is performed in the two 32MHz digital signal processors.

Controls: System and speaker are operated with the included Meridian System Remote. The listener has control over the source and features including bass, tilt, listening axis, volume, balance and absolute phase.

Inputs: Two coax digital audio, 32kHz to 48kHz, up to 24 bit.

Response: 35Hz to 20kHz. Max. output 112dB spl.

Display: Four-character display.

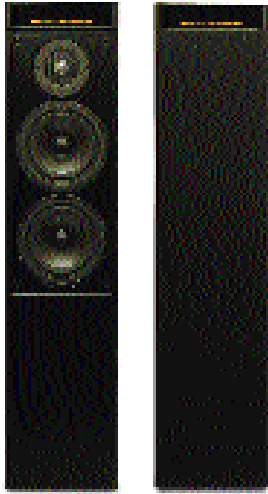
Drive units: Two 200mm high-efficiency bass drivers, one 160mm PP mid driver and one Meridian 25mm short-horn tweeter with aluminium dome and silver voice coil.

Cabinet: Veneered MDF braced, steel shielded and damped, in black ash or rosewood finish. Cables included.

Dimensions: 1100mm (43.31in) H, 284 (11.2) W, 450 (17.72) D.

Loudspeakers:
MERIDIAN DSP5000





DSP5000 DIGITAL LOUDSPEAKER.

Like its big brothers, the DSP5000 is a digital active loudspeaker of great power and finesse. The difference is one of scale; in small rooms you may prefer the 5000. In fact, the 5000 contains software to make it easier to place in tight spaces; put it in the proper mode and it performs happily with its back against a wall, or free-standing well into the room.

The self-contained system combines in each cabinet a three-way speaker, three amplifiers, a digital preamplifier, two delta-sigma digital converters, digital crossovers and computers to give you full remote control over bass, treble tilt, time-correct balance, absolute phase, tweeter axis and selection from any input, including a favourite radio station or CD track. As audio reviewers have noted, the DSP5000 is simply unchallenged by any speaker even remotely near its

parameters. It is ideal as a stereo pair, or linked with others in a surround system.



FRONT AND CENTRE. DSP5000C.

The centre channel supplies dialogue in movies, and sharpens the musical stage.

It can also add tremendous energy and should not be dismissed lightly when assembling a surround system.

The DSP5000C, arguably the world's finest horizontal centre-channel speaker, is heavily shielded for use near the largest television screens. Using Digital Signal Processing (DSP), the computers adjust bass, treble, absolute phase and loudness while remaining sonically transparent. The speaker is equipped to behave appropriately in five common acoustical positions: free-standing, wallbound, above and below TV, and behind screen. Computers also perform crossovers in the digital realm with unusually correct phase, which snaps voices and instruments into sharp relief.

DSP5000 and DSP5000C System Design:

Three-way active loudspeaker. DSP crossover at 2.6kHz. Two channels of delta-sigma D/A conversion. Three 75W power amplifiers per channel. All signal processing is performed in the 32MHz digital signal processor (DSP).

Controls: *System and speaker are operated with the Meridian System Remote, included. The listener has control over the source and features including bass, treble tilt, listening axis, volume, time-compensated balance and absolute phase.*

Inputs: *Two coax digital audio, 32kHz to 48kHz, up to 24 bit.*

Response: *35Hz to 20kHz. Max. output 108dB spl.*

Display: *Four-character display.*

Drive units: *Two 160mm polypropylene high-efficiency long-throw custom drivers, one Meridian 25mm short-horn tweeter with aluminium dome and silver voice coil.*

Cabinet: *Veneered MDF braced and damped, in black ash or rosewood finish. Cables included.*

DSP5000 Dimensions: *900mm (35.43in) H, 210 (8.27) W, 297 (11.69) D.*

DSP5000C Dimensions: *195mm (7.7in) H, 670 (26.38) W, 275 (10.83) D. Black ash only.*



Loudspeakers:
MERIDIAN M60, M60C AND A500





M60 AND M60C ACTIVE LOUDSPEAKER.

The M60 is the best analogue active loudspeaker Meridian makes, marking the culmination of twenty years experience in the field. Essentially a DSP5000 without digital features, M60 is perfect for those who listen primarily to analogue sources.

It makes an excellent partner to the 501 control unit, from which its volume can be controlled remotely.

The M60 is a three-way design sharing the same tweeter as the DSP6000 and DSP5000. It has three 75W amplifiers and analogue crossovers. M60C is the matching centre channel version of M60.

M60 System design: Three-way active loudspeaker. Active crossover at 2.6kHz. Three 75W power amplifiers per channel (225W per speaker).

Inputs: Balanced or unbalanced analogue.

Response: 35Hz to 20kHz. Max. output 108dB spl.

Display: Power light.

Drive units: Two 160mm polypropylene high-efficiency long-throw custom drivers, one Meridian 25mm short-horn tweeter with aluminum dome and silver voice coil.

Cabinet: Veneered MDF braced and damped, in black ash or rosewood finish. Cables included.

Dimensions: 900mm (35.43in) H, 210 (8.27) W, 297 (11.69) D.



A500 LOUDSPEAKER.

The A500 is the Meridian floor-standing traditional speaker. Very efficient, compact and slim baffled, it exhibits precise stereo imaging associated with the best mini-monitors; voices are beautifully conveyed and it packs a punch unexpected for its size. The glass top provides an elegant visual link to the glass-topped 500 Series electronics, to which it is perfectly matched. A great starter or second-room system pairs the A500s to a 551 integrated amplifier, which comes programmed to operate a two-room system without requiring another source.

The cabinet is wood-veneered 18mm high-density particle board with double bracing and interior damping. The tweeter is horn-loaded and two 160mm bass-mid drivers provide excellent low frequencies.

Specifications for A500: Three-way floor-standing closed-box passive loudspeaker system with plinth.

Maximum output: 108dB spl program peaks under standard listening conditions.

Sensitivity: 90dB at 1m for 1W.

Nominal impedance: 8W.

Response: 45Hz to 20kHz.

Dimensions: 825mm (32.5in) H, 196 (7.72) W, 280 (11.02) D.

Finish: Black ash or rosewood, with black glass top panel.



Loudspeakers:

MERIDIAN M33 AND SUBWOOFERS M1500 AND M2500





M33 ACTIVE LOUDSPEAKER.

The M33 miniature loudspeaker provides a stunning performance from a smaller format. The symmetrical design allows its use in a stereo audio system or a full surround system: vertically, horizontally for the centre channel and hung on a wall as the rear effects channel. It is perfectly partnered by the compact M1500 Subwoofer or any other Meridian active or DSP loudspeaker to provide a very high quality system with all the benefits of Meridian control in the smaller room.

REAL BASS IN REAL SPACE: M1500 AND M2500.

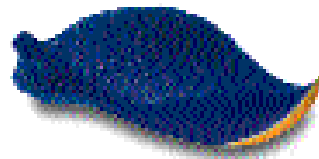
Bass is the foundation to music, a key to enjoying full-range music and spectacular Hollywood soundtracks. Unfortunately, most subwoofers compensate for lack of low bass by over-emphasising mid-bass. The result is a boomy character which might impress at first, but clouds the midrange and eventually fatigues the listener. Meridian, in contrast, emphasises extreme bass depth, clarity, control, articulation, slam and attack. The M2500 uses a 200-watt amplifier wired directly to twin 10-inch woofers in active configuration. It provides far more bass energy than a conventional design of the same power. The subwoofer is easily capable of visceral bass for subterranean theatre effects, yet nimble enough to treat the most subtle music with delicacy.

A flexible crossover blends automatically with Meridian and other high-quality speakers. If you like prodigious bass, the 565 allows up to three subwoofers.

M33 Specification: Product details and availability Summer '98.

M1500 System design: Single driver, acoustic-reflex active loudspeaker. One 100W high-efficiency power amplifier. **Maximum output:** 107dB spl. **Response:** 30Hz to 400Hz (Bypass). **Drive unit:** 250mm long-throw magnesium basket with 2Kg shielded magnet. **Cabinet:** 22mm MDF braced and damped with 6mm annealed plate glass top. **Dimensions:** 416mm (16.4) H, W, D without supplied feet or castors.

M2500 System design: Acoustic-suspension active loudspeaker. One 200W high-efficiency power amplifier. **Controls:** Input, sensitivity and crossover frequency selection. **Response:** 20Hz to 160Hz. **Maximum output:** 114dB spl. **Drive units:** Two 250mm high-efficiency long-throw custom drivers. **Cabinet:** Veneered MDF braced and damped, in black ash with 6mm annealed plate glass top. **Dimensions:** 788mm (31.1in) W, 416 (16.4) H, 436(17.2) D without supplied feet or castors.



Source



E00 CD Player
High precision CD Transport with digital output



E04 CD Player
Very High precision CD Transport with digital input and digital output. Double addressable 24 bit Digital Signal conversion



E04 HD Stereo Tuner
With Automatic Stereo decoding, balanced line. When stereo display, full stereo control



E08 DVD Player
High precision DVD Input CD playback. High performance, sports testable. Interleave HDTV, not also control



E08 SD CD Player
High precision CD Transport with digital input and digital output. 24 bit Digital Signal conversion

Converter



E09 Digital to Analogue Converter
High precision 24 bit D/A Digital to Analogue conversion with 100ns or better digital latency

Control Units



E11 Digital Processor Control Unit
High precision 24 bit precision 1 bit digital processor with 24 bit address control, digital processing and 100ns or better digital latency



E01 Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency



E10 Digital Control Unit
24 bit digital input/output, optional 24 bit digital output. 100ns or better digital latency



E03 Digital Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency



E05 Digital Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency

Surround sound processors and video controllers



E06 Digital Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency



E07 Digital Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency



E01 Digital Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency

Amplifiers



E01 Digital Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency



E02 Digital Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency



E03 Digital Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency



E04 Digital Processor
Full stereo control and digital input/output. 24 bit address control, 24 bit digital output, 24 bit digital input. 100ns or better digital latency

LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEMS

Wall mounted and Centre Channel Loudspeakers



D-400000

Digital II Input Active Centre Channel or Di II Input Passive Loudspeaker with mass accommodation for a long variety of film tones to provide enough fluid performance, optimum sound for long & shorting arrangements. Pull in also control is a part of the digital II Thru.



M-4000

Half powered Centre Channel or Di II Input Passive Loudspeaker identical to the D-400000 but without digital control system.



M-4000

Half powered true 1/2" bandwidth or with a second loudspeaker for use in dual channel systems to form stereo or mix.

Floorstanding Loudspeakers



D-400000

Digital II Input Active Floor Standing Loudspeaker with mass accommodation for a long variety of film tones to provide enough fluid performance, optimum sound for long & shorting arrangements. Pull in also control is a part of the digital II Thru.



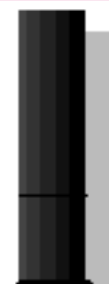
D-400000

Digital II Input Active Floor Standing Loudspeaker with mass accommodation for a long variety of film tones to provide performance, optimum sound for long & shorting arrangements. Pull in also control is a part of the digital II Thru.



M-4000

Half powered true 1/2" bandwidth or with a second loudspeaker for use in dual channel systems to form stereo or mix.



A-4000

True 1/2" bandwidth floor standing loudspeaker with mass accommodation for a long variety of film tones to provide performance, optimum sound for long & shorting arrangements. Pull in also control is a part of the digital II Thru.

True 1/2" bandwidth floor standing loudspeaker with mass accommodation for a long variety of film tones to provide performance, optimum sound for long & shorting arrangements. Pull in also control is a part of the digital II Thru.

Reference DSP Loudspeakers



D-400000

Digital II Input Reference DSP Loudspeaker with mass accommodation for a long variety of film tones to provide enough fluid performance, optimum sound for long & shorting arrangements. Pull in also control is a part of the digital II Thru.



D-400000

Centre channel version of D-400000 with identical performance.



Subwoofers



M-4000 Subwoofer

Half powered true 1/2" bandwidth floor standing subwoofer with mass accommodation for a long variety of film tones to provide performance, optimum sound for long & shorting arrangements. Pull in also control is a part of the digital II Thru.



M-4000 Subwoofer

Half powered true 1/2" bandwidth floor standing subwoofer with mass accommodation for a long variety of film tones to provide performance, optimum sound for long & shorting arrangements. Pull in also control is a part of the digital II Thru.

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In order to remain at the forefront of technology we encourage a policy of continuous development in our products and services. As a result, we try to ensure that when improvements are made, where possible, our customers retain value in their purchase through upgrade options.

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