

smartlife

THE LIFESTYLE-TECHNOLOGY BIBLE **international** CEDIA vol8 iss8 £3.95



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From the coolest furniture to the most essential tech, the home office comes of age

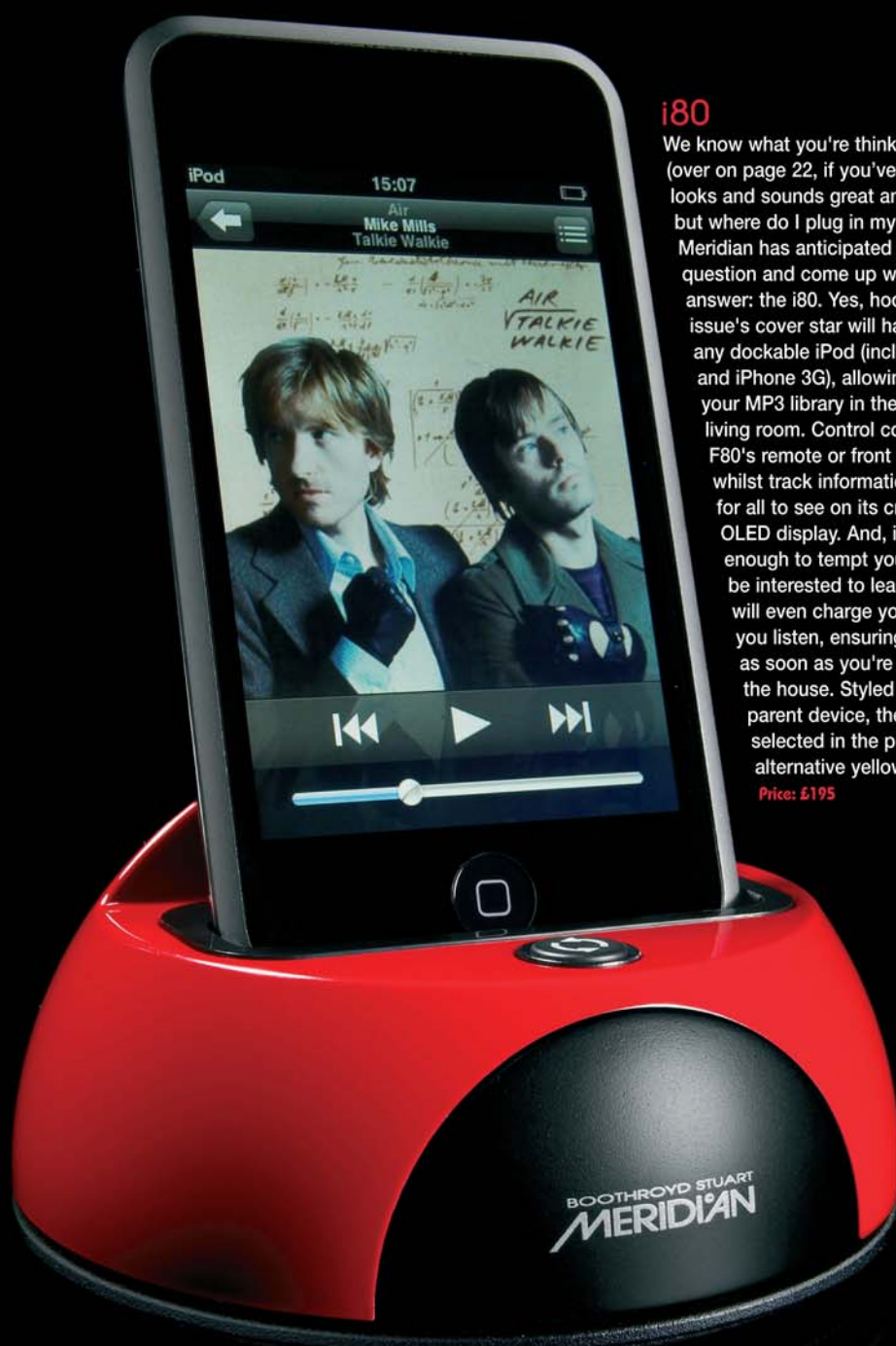
POLE POSITION

AV equipment of the gods! British experts Meridian Audio show why they're No.1 on the entertainment grid

ARTCOUSTIC INSTALL • DIGITAL RADIOS • COOL KITCHEN KIT • HIGH-END WATCHES • CUTTING EDGE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
DESIGNER BATHROOMS • THE SEXIEST SUPERYACHTS • AV FURNITURE • LOTUS CIV SKI BUGGY AND GADGETS GALORE!

objects of desire

INDULGE IN THE BEST OF THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS WITH ALL THAT'S HOT IN TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN



i80

We know what you're thinking – the F80 (over on page 22, if you've yet to see it) looks and sounds great and everything, but where do I plug in my iPod? Well, Meridian has anticipated just such a question and come up with the perfect answer: the i80. Yes, hook it up and this issue's cover star will happily accept any dockable iPod (including the Touch and iPhone 3G), allowing you to enjoy your MP3 library in the comfort of your living room. Control comes via the F80's remote or front panel buttons, whilst track information is displayed for all to see on its crystal-clear OLED display. And, if that's not enough to tempt you, you may also be interested to learn that the i80 will even charge your pod whilst you listen, ensuring it's ready to go as soon as you're ready to leave the house. Styled to match its parent device, the i80 can be selected in the pictured red or an alternative yellow trim.

Price: £195

The Best of BRITISH

CAMBRIDGESHIRE-BASED MERIDIAN AUDIO HAVE BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE AV INDUSTRY FOR OVER 30-YEARS, AND HAVE ENOUGH HIGH-END KIT TO FILL THREE PAGES OF SMARTLIFE. SO WE'VE GIVEN THEM JUST THAT...

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here at *SmartLife*, there's nothing we enjoy more than talking up a British success story – not in a thinly-veiled racist, 'one in the eye for Johnny Foreigner' sort-of-a way, you understand, but more in a self-congratulatory, 'Look at what us plucky subjects of 'er majesty (Gawd, bless 'er) can do when the Blitz spirit stiffens our upper lips etc. etc., fashion. And quite right too. Success should be celebrated – from that of bearded, rags-to-riches tycoon Richard Branson, to lottery-winning 'King of Chavs' Michael Carroll. Except that last one.

So, to return belatedly to the point, we take great pleasure in this issue taking a long, hard and admiring look at the latest wares of one of the most successful audio-visual firms to emerge from this sceptred isle in, well, ever. We are, of course, talking about Meridian Audio. Since it was established by Allen Boothroyd and Bob Stuart back in 1977, Meridian has been responsible for some of the highest quality consumer audio systems ever produced, including the world's first audiophile CD-player, and a host of innovative technologies that have never failed to provoke AV enthusiasts and journalists alike into grasping feverishly for fresh superlatives. Without further ado then, let's take a look at just what they've got to offer the stylish 21st century home...



Meridian's F80 and i80 - proof that AV can be both smart and stylish...

G Series

Newly upgraded and extended, Meridian's G Series has everything the discerning Hi-Fi and home cinema enthusiast could possibly desire. Amongst this collection of cutting edge components can be found (take a deep breath here), the G68 AXD, G68 XXD and G61R surround processors, the multi-talented G92 DVD-player/controller/tuner, the G92 DAB, the G96 DVD transport, and G06.2 and G08.2 CD-players. The latter, an evolution of the acclaimed Meridian 800 design, has earned the right to grace the page in front of you because of its fully balanced, pro-grade Class A analogue outputs, superb slot-loading optical drive (present throughout the G Series), and exclusive digital audio upsampling/reformatting to 176.4kHz/24-bit – which, in layman's terms, means it sounds fantastic.

Price: from £1695 (G06.2 CD-player); pictured G08.2: £2395



Dunhill AD88

Not satisfied with successfully teaming up with Ferrari for the F80, Meridian recently lent their awesome AV skills to Alfred Dunhill – the British luxury emporium for men. The offspring of this union is the Dunhill AD88, an all-in-one AV system packed full of the company's latest technology. First things first: clad in polished wood and piano lacquer, the AD88 is every bit as attractive as the F80, and boasts the same bright OLED display. Inside, a state-of-the-art 2.1 DSP digital sound system drives two front speakers and a rear subwoofer, effortlessly delivering a whopping 80W of audio on demand, and, like the F80, there's a DAB/FM/AM tuner and CD/DVD-player to enjoy. Unlike the F80, an iPod dock is included as part of the package, a fact that's sure to please the Apple-loving AV enthusiasts out there. A range of intelligent programming features and a user-friendly smart button/remote control user interface complete this thoroughly tempting package.

Price: AD88 with iPod dock: £1999



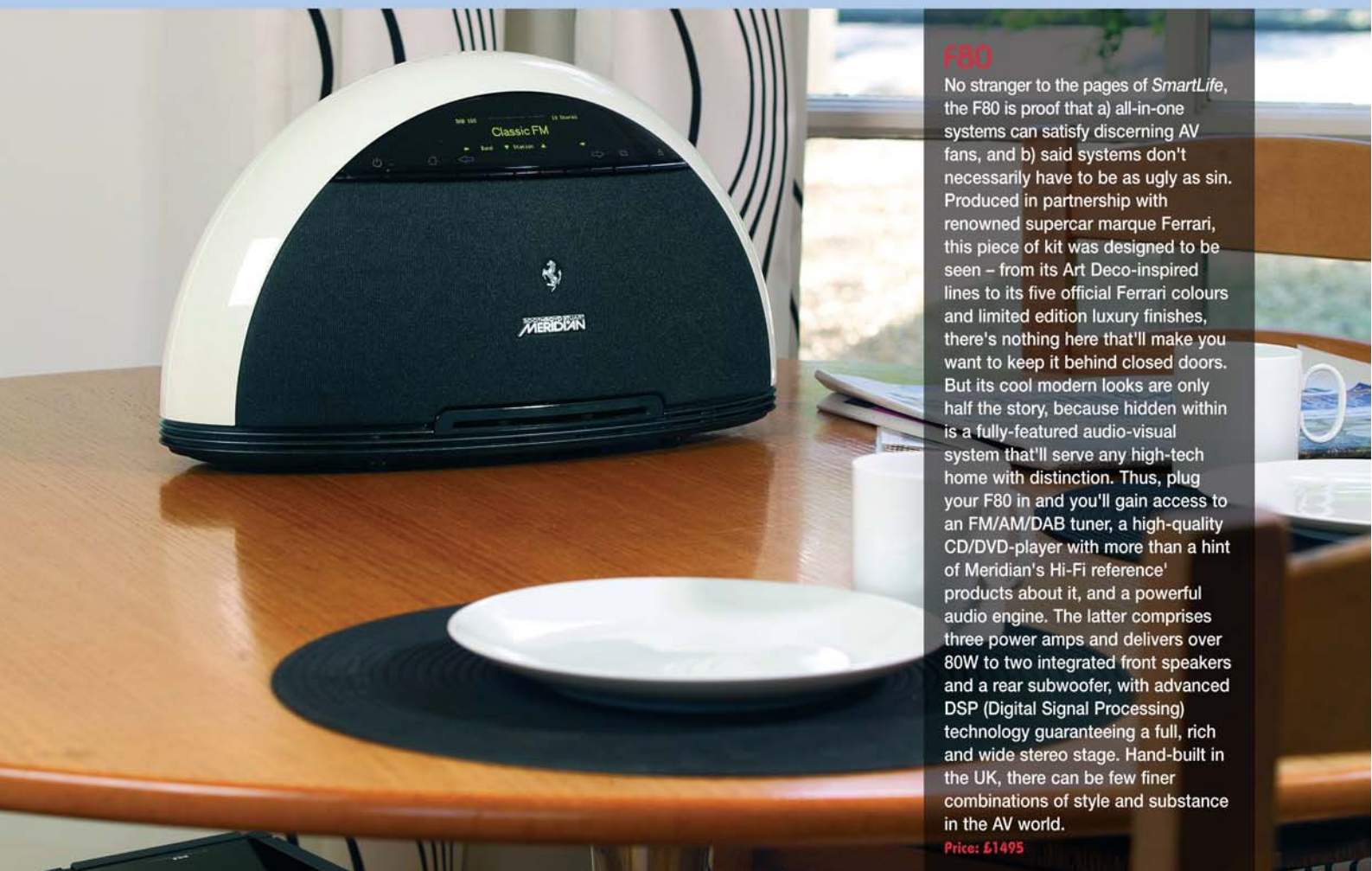
808.2 Signature Reference CD-player

Unveiled to the public back in February this year, the 808.2 Signature Reference is Meridian's very latest CD-player – and it's every bit as good as you'd expect. Improving upon its already impressive predecessor, the 808 Signature Reference, this new model boasts improved clocking and buffering systems, which combine to reduce colouration-inducing 'jitter' to almost immeasurable levels, an improved analogue section and Meridian's newly-developed digital filter – an innovation that can incredibly boost the performance of your favourite discs beyond that originally experienced in the studio. Elsewhere, SpeakerLink connectivity allows the 808.2 to be hooked up via a single cable to any of Meridian's DSP loudspeakers, whilst an 808.2i variant additionally incorporates analogue and digital audio inputs, allowing it to act as a preamplifier/controller in a 2-channel system.

Price: 808.2: £7195; 808.2i: £8250

objects of desire

INDULGE IN THE BEST OF THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS WITH ALL THAT'S HOT IN TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN



F80

No stranger to the pages of *SmartLife*, the F80 is proof that a) all-in-one systems can satisfy discerning AV fans, and b) said systems don't necessarily have to be as ugly as sin. Produced in partnership with renowned supercar marque Ferrari, this piece of kit was designed to be seen – from its Art Deco-inspired lines to its five official Ferrari colours and limited edition luxury finishes, there's nothing here that'll make you want to keep it behind closed doors. But its cool modern looks are only half the story, because hidden within is a fully-featured audio-visual system that'll serve any high-tech home with distinction. Thus, plug your F80 in and you'll gain access to an FM/AM/DAB tuner, a high-quality CD/DVD-player with more than a hint of Meridian's Hi-Fi reference' products about it, and a powerful audio engine. The latter comprises three power amps and delivers over 80W to two integrated front speakers and a rear subwoofer, with advanced DSP (Digital Signal Processing) technology guaranteeing a full, rich and wide stereo stage. Hand-built in the UK, there can be few finer combinations of style and substance in the AV world.

Price: £1495



810 Reference Video System

For a home cinema experience that stands out in terms of quality (and price), you really can't go wrong with Meridian's stunning 810 Reference Video System. As you'll no doubt have gathered from the pictures, the system consists of two main elements: the 810 Video

Reference projector, an entirely new 10-megapixel (that's higher than even commercial digital cinema projectors) D-ILA-

based offering; and the 810 Video Reference Scaler, a special processor designed to optimise both hi- and standard-def images. The result, Meridian confidently claim, is a set-up that delivers the most realistic home theatre performance in the world. We're certainly not going to argue with a picture resolution of 4096x2400 pixels, a 4000-lumen lamp or a native contrast ratio of 10,000:1 – nor the absence of image noise and artefacts whether you're viewing in 4:3, 16:9 or 2.35:1 modes. We'll simply say that, whichever of the four packages you choose to spend your 100-grand on when the 810 system becomes available (it's due in limited quantities by the end of November), you'll be walking away with one of the finest home entertainment systems on the face of God's green Earth...

Price: £100,000



DSP7200 Loudspeakers

The DSP7200 is the latest high-end DSP loudspeaker to roll off the production line at Meridian. An upgraded DSP7000 or down-scaled DSP8000 (the company's flagship design) depending on how you want to look at it, the 7200 benefits from the state-of-the-art driver technology and enclosure engineering common to the entire range, as well as multiple on-board amplifiers (4x 100W), resulting in the kind of superbly dynamic and distortion-free audio only achievable with active-speaker design. Amongst many innovations, this is the first DSP model to benefit from its designer's Ethernet port-based SpeakerLink technology, which ensures that getting a pair up and running is a pleasingly simple task. All of which would be rendered irrelevant, of course, if Meridian hadn't come up with some suitably sexy finish options – luckily they have, in the form of trademark piano black lacquer and silver lacquer, with alternative colours available on request.

Price: £17,495 per pair



For further information contact:
www.meridian.co.uk