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Press release

Meridian Offers “M” Lens for 810 Reference Video System

Four lenses are available for Meridian’s flagship 810 Reference Video System, ranging from a specialist “Very Short” throw – ideal for back-projection use – to a long-throw lens with a range of up to 8:1. However, one of the most interesting – and the one that Meridian expects to be most commonly required for their customers’ exclusive home cinema installations – is the medium-throw or “M” lens.

The M lens features a 2.2:1 – 3.6:1 zoom ratio and is fully compatible with the 810’s anamorphic lens assembly. Nevertheless, the lens itself is particularly interesting. It is a prime example of how Meridian delivers a lot more than a simple off-the-shelf projector: indeed, as well as the lenses, every 810 Reference Video System includes a unique super-high-definition video scaler, and each system is calibrated specifically for the installation in a process that takes up to four days.

The M lens is custom-made for Meridian by Nittoh, a leading Japanese lens specialist with a history stretching back to the 19th century and a wealth of experience in producing lenses for exceptionally high-quality applications. Even so, the Meridian lens is the most sophisticated design the company has ever made.

It features 16 all-glass elements, for maximum image quality and minimum loss (many cheaper lenses use plastic). Almost every element is made of a different type of glass, and they are arranged into five groups.

Almost the entire lens is made in the Nittoh factory, with only the raw glass being bought in as each element is formed by pressing from powder under enormous pressure and intense heat. Everything else is done in-house at Nittoh, including glass grinding, polishing and fabrication of all metal parts and plastic mouldings, to final assembly, testing and calibration.

Simply making the raw glass takes over a month and a half, while polishing it into lenses takes another two. The lens features extremely high-precision mechanical systems and optics - indeed the lens elements are made to such a high degree of accuracy that the glass has to be allowed to cool for no less than three months to ensure that it meets Meridian’s exacting specifications. Moreover, as the lens is focused or zoomed, internal element groups move back and forth with an accuracy that measures in micrometres.

Often the compromise involved in commissioning a special lens to accompany a projector is that it does not offer the same level of controllability as the native lens. Typically, this means that it is manually operated. In the case of the Meridian Nittoh lens, however, the unit is fully motorised for maximum usability and ease of installation, and interfaces seamlessly into the projector’s control system.

The result is sparkling image quality from a lens made specifically to match the characteristics of the projector and to suit a wide range of home cinema applications.

Release ends/no embargo

Additional information on the 810 Reference Video System, together with high-resolution photography is available from the Meridian Media Centre:

<http://media.meridian-audio.com>

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About Meridian

Meridian is based near Cambridge, UK, and was founded in 1977 by Bob Stuart and Allen Boothroyd. With over 30 years history of innovation and development of the highest quality consumer home entertainment systems, the award-winning company is widely recognised as a world leader in quality audio and video reproduction. Meridian developed the first audiophile CD player, the world's first consumer digital surround controller and developed the MLP lossless packing system included in Blu-ray Disc. The company's optical disc players, DSP-based loudspeakers, video projectors and scalars are unique in the industry, maintaining a super-quality digital signal throughout the path from the studio to the home, using advanced digital signal processing to deliver both a sweet, natural sound and smooth, crystal-sharp images with true cinematic realism.

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