



NETWORK: MERIDIAN SOOLOOS 2.0

For the past few years, we've seen audiophiles in the odd position of being way behind the curve. Whilst the rest of the world has apparently moved to iTunes and hard disk based (i.e. computer) music playback, most of us have continued to insert small silver discs into Compact Disc players. After all, we argue, where's the sonic benefit with computers? They're full of electrical noise, with less than ideal grounding paths, and the quality of their internal components is a world away from hi-fi separates. In 2009 however, we began to see computer-based audiophile music playback systems appear in

earnest, the most striking of which is Meridian's Sooloos 2.0.

Here's a product that does more than play MP3s from its hard drive; it offers a great new way to access your song library, with super sonics too. Central to the Sooloos is its large touchscreen user interface, which works seamlessly with its bespoke software to give a far more intuitive way of accessing your albums than scrolling down a list of artists or album titles. Yet it's so much more than just a pretty face, because when Sooloos rips music to its hard drive in FLAC format, it polls five different databases for information about the artist and album. You can then cross reference

this, and search your music library very powerfully; for example, it will find every album you own produced by Rick Rubin, or every recording with Matthew Seligman playing bass guitar. As well as being a compact, single-package hard disk-based music system with unusually powerful search and playback facilities, it's also an impressive music maker.

The Sooloos 2.0 sounds easy, open and organic, with oodles of detail and strong dynamics. Whether you slot it into your existing system, or partner it with Meridian active loudspeakers, it's a brilliant twenty first century music centre.

MERIDIAN SOOLOOS CONTROL 10/ENSEMBLE

Meridian

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tested:

£6,990

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