



NEXT BIG
THING

TRANSPORTABLE HIGH-END SYSTEM

Meridian adds horse power

Ferrari's first foray into home entertainment kit is no cynical marketing exercise – not when the audio and video expertise of Meridian is behind it

FERRARI AND MERIDIAN: not obvious bedfellows, but in the new F80, they've collaborated to create an all-new kind of product. This is a 'transportable' entertainment system (at 7kg, it's hardly 'portable'), aimed at providing true Meridian performance with CD, DVD and DAB/FM/AM radio, from just one modestly sized, sexily styled box.

Does the F80 perform that well? We can't say for sure: we're awaiting our chance to review one thoroughly. But the way it managed to fill a large, people-packed room at its launch – without sounding strained – implies the claimed 80 watts of power per channel isn't hype. Consider that the system also includes an active 2.1 speaker set-up with Meridian's rather clever DSP programming, and a composite structure (done with Ferrari's help) to maximise structural integrity, and you'll see that the F80 is about as close to a portable radio as a Ferrari is to a little city runabout.

You can have your F80 in a range of five Ferrari colours (yellow, black, silver, white and, of course, red) or, for £300 extra, swathed in leather. And as to that price...well, at least £1495 is cheaper than the cars, eh?



The Meridian will spin both CDs and DVDs, and is also capable of reading CD-Rs encoded with MP3 or WMA music files. DVD-Video outputs are restricted (a little surprisingly) to S-Video and composite – there's no

HDMI – but given this system's first focus is audio, that's probably fair enough. Naturally, there's an iPod input, analogue and optical digital inputs for other kit, and the tuner (see above) is backed by an alarm.





"This is a transportable home entertainment system, aimed at providing Meridian quality with CD, DVD and radio from just the one box"