

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.

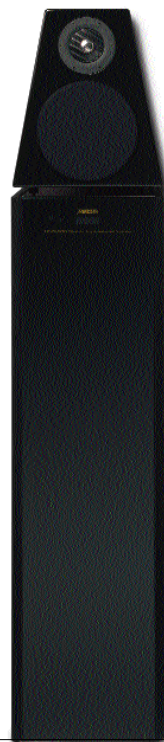
Technical superiority.

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. Phoney 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 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