

# European Home Theatre Decoder of the Year 95/96



## MERIDIAN 565

**T**he Meridian 565 is an innovative digital signal processor with two inputs and eight outputs. Equally at home with music or film, its sound configurations include Academy, Dolby Surround, THX, and eventually Dolby AC-3. All signal manipulations, even those for Dolby Surround, are handled in the digital domain by two very fast Motorola processors.

Unlike most AV processors, the 565 has taken the audio world by storm with its music settings. Aside from basic mono and two-speaker stereo, the 565 also has stereo with phantom centre speaker, genuine three-speaker Trifield, multi-speaker Ambisonic and the pseudo-Ambisonic Super Stereo modes.

Film sound is also handled with aplomb, leading to sound quality that can transform the performance of any home theatre system. And that's regardless of whether the remaining system components wear Meridian badges.

Even the near-Luddite sensibilities of Malcolm Steward were shocked into submission when he reviewed the entire Meridian 5000 system in issue 140. He felt that the 565 was "the true core component in this system, controlling the flow of sonic traffic to each speaker". He also reckoned that it set out to "significantly advance the art of reproducing recorded music, and to enhance realism without resorting to tricks or spectacle". The ultimate accolade? This veteran Flat-Earther confessed that he could be "sorely tempted into owning" the entire Meridian system, with the superb 565 processor at the helm.

That may be one reason why the 565 wears this year's Home Theatre Decoder award.

*Meridian 565, £1,995*

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