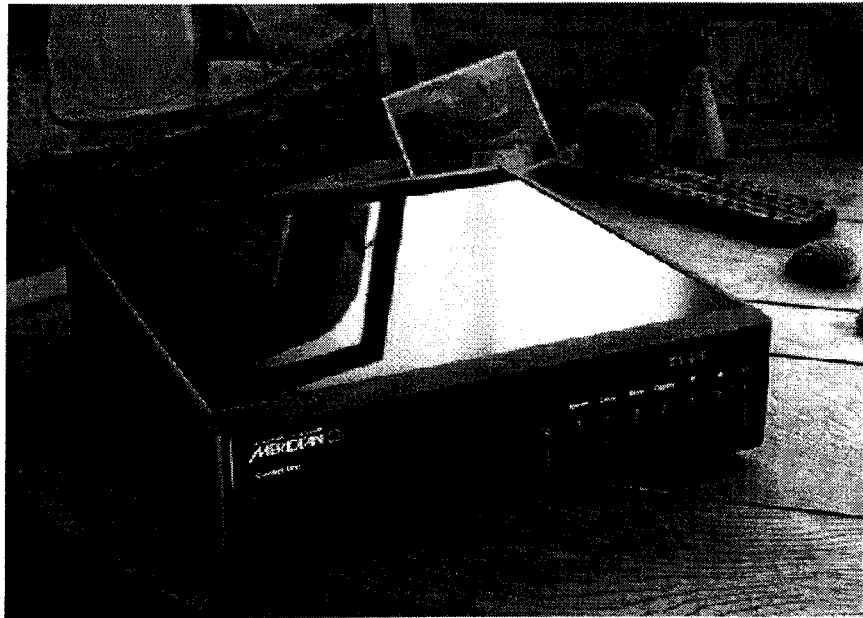


## 581 Video Controller

*From the industry leaders in high quality home theatre, Meridian's latest controller – 581 – controls and unifies the video in your system.*



### Background

Meridian is a world leader in superb Home Theatre. Their pedigree for sound goes back to the earliest days of digital and includes many 'firsts' like the first CD transport, the first Digital loudspeaker and the first DSP loudspeaker.

Meridian has been highly successful with its unique range of DSP-based surround processors, including 565 and 861.

Meridian has also led the field in high-performance DVD playback. The Meridian 586 and 800 DVD players very simply define the highest performance possible for DVD.

For some time, the Meridian 500 Series has included high-quality video switching and routing in its analogue and digital audio controllers.

### Video Architecture

Meridian decided to change the architecture of video in the home theatre.

Normally, a high-end installation will include a pre-amp or surround amplifier that includes video switching. It may also include a surround processor that adds on-screen information to the video.

There are some problems with this architecture. First, it is progressively more difficult to handle very high-resolution analogue and digital audio in the same box as high-resolution video without crosstalk, grounding or EMC problems. Second, even when the video sections are to studio grade (for example, like in Meridian's 562V or 565), passing the video through a chain of products to obtain user-feedback risks the video quality.

In addition, the number of video sources and formats is increasing and it is no longer possible to do full justice to the video by treating it as an add-on to an audio processor.

### Meridian 581

The Meridian 581 overcomes these difficulties by providing a stand-alone video controller.

The 581 provides a good number of inputs for composite, S-video and includes options for Component or RGB.

Obviously, the switching and video processing circuits are of the very highest quality. Only broadcast-grade components are used to maintain the highest possible video bandwidth, colour fidelity and resolution.

Video installations are becoming harder to control these days, so the Meridian 581 offers the facility to translate video between Composite and S-video. This means, for example, that although you may want to watch a mixture of sources, only a single Composite or S connection needs to be made to the monitor.

There is even the provision for a later add-in module to allow video decoding (so that Composite or S-video can be converted to Component or RGB) and video processing in the form of picture adjustment.

### On-screen display

The Meridian 581 is also an on-screen-display (OSD) server for the 500 Series.

The 581 can accept on-screen messages over the Meridian 500 Comms link. This allows the 581 to add user information accurately and transparently to the video. Now, any enabled product in the 500 Series can send messages for the 581 to display.

In this way, the user will be able to get status display from Meridian preamps, controllers, tuners, CD or DVD players, loudspeakers etc.

Since video is handled exclusively in the 581, and only passes through the video circuitry once, it guarantees the highest quality.

On-screen display operates simultaneously for Composite, S and Component video.

### Setup

The 581 uses Meridian's latest PC setup software and stores its settings in Flash memory.

For each Source, the user can program suitable front-panel and on-screen display options, as well as the details of the signal routing.

## Specification highlights

### Video inputs

Standard:

- 8 Composite video
- 8 S-video

Option RGB adds:

- 2 SCART in
- 2 SCART out (main and tape)

Option Component adds:

- 3 Component in
- 1 Component out

### Video outputs

- 2 composite out (main and tape/2-room)
- 2 S-video out (main and tape/2-room)

### Video processing

- S to composite conversion
- Options for:
- Composite to S conversion
  - NTSC or PAL decode to Component or RGB
  - Picture adjustment

### Controls and Display

Front panel controls for: Source, Copy, Display, Menus and Off. Other features accessed using a Meridian System Remote (not supplied).  
8-character dot-matrix display.

### Others

- Flash memory for easy updates
- RS232 for computer control, setup and software updates
- 2 Trigger outputs