

Meridian promises updates

DVD-Audio compatibility to be added for key Meridian models

Upgrades to the Meridian 500 and 800 Series have been announced, to provide DVD-Audio capability and improved RS232 functionality.

Key upgrades to the Meridian 861 processor are its new DSP engine and digital input card, containing the MHR Smart Link to match output from either a Meridian 800 V3 or 598 DVD player; and a new 'ultra-high' grade multi-channel input card. Many internal parts need to be factory-fitted for the 800 CD/DVD upgrade. A progressive scan video card is anticipated as part of the upgrade, expected to be available from July once

Meridian has satisfied initial demand for the 800 V3. The latest options include a new digital output card supporting MHR Smart Link functioning for full six-channel 96kHz/24-bit operation. Dolby Digital and DTS film soundtracks are decoded in the 800 player and upsampled to 24/96 before being passed to the 861. The Meridian MHR Smart Link is not yet fully compatible with the DVD-A specification, though. When playing 24-bit, 192kHz stereo music, the 800 or 598 players must first *downsample* to 96kHz sampling frequency.

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