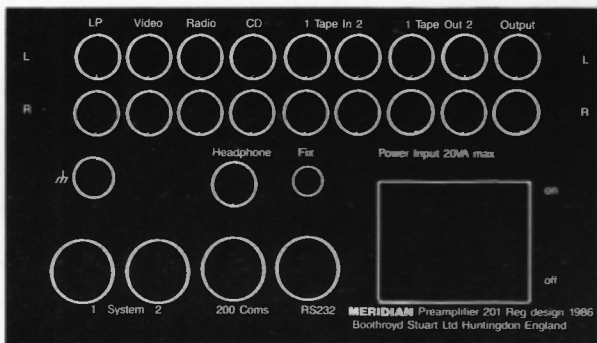
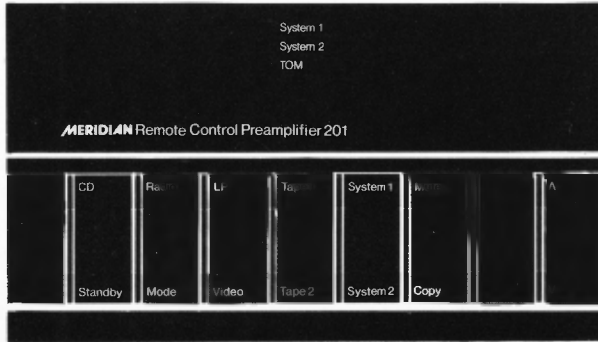


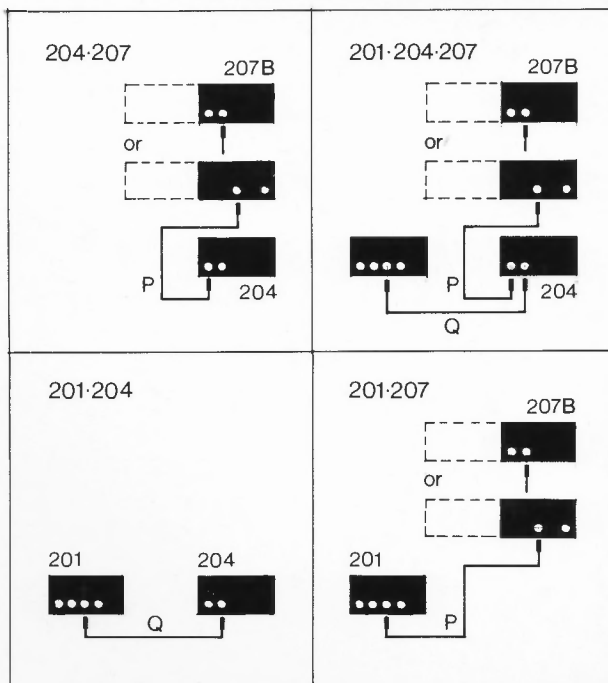
MERIDIAN PREAMPLIFIER 201 INSTRUCTION MANUAL

BOOTHROYD STUART
MERIDIAN[®]

Meridian 201 Front/Rear Panels



Meridian 200 Series Network Connections



1 Unpacking

Be sure to retain the packaging for possible future transportation. In the pack you should find:

- 201 Preamplifier
- Power cord suitable for your territory

2 Accessories (not included)

Remote Control Unit Model 209 (optional extra)

System 2 plug-in module (optional extra)

P-lead for communication 201 or 204 to 207

Part number J22207

Q-lead for communication 201 to 204

Part number J22204

Power cord for Europe

Part number J21953

Power cord for USA and Canada

Part number J21954

Power cord for UK

Part number J21955

3 Installation

3.1 Siting

Do not place the 201 on top of a power amplifier or near radiators.

Avoid locations where the 201 would be subjected to direct sunlight.

3.2 Connecting

See opposite a diagram showing the connections which can be made to the back of the 201.

3.3 AC connection

Before connecting to the AC supply check that the unit is adjusted to the correct voltage for your supply.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT MAKE CONNECTIONS OR INSERT OR REMOVE PLUGS WHILE THE UNIT IS CONNECTED TO THE AC SUPPLY AND SWITCHED ON.

Connect to AC power with the cord provided.

3.4 Turntable connection

A grounding terminal is fitted to the back of the unit to ground the turntable or tone-arm where necessary.

201 Preamplifiers leave the factory with the phono module set for Moving Magnet cartridges. If you wish to use a Moving Coil cartridge it will be necessary to remove the case of the 201 and move the switch on the phono module to the 'MC' position (position 1). Do not do this with the AC supply cord connected.

Remove the screw in the centre of the back of the unit and carefully slide the case off backwards. Looking in on the top of the unit you will see the switch on the phono module near the back of the unit.

3.5 CD connection

If you are adding the 201 to an installation previously centred round a 207 you may have to change the grounding switch at the back of the 207A from grounded to ungrounded. In addition you will need a P-lead to correlate control of the units. The P-lead is normally supplied with the 207.

3.6 Tuner connection

A radio tuner can be connected to the Radio sockets. When using the *Meridian* 204 FM tuner, the Q-lead (supplied with the 204) should be connected between 201 and 204 in addition to the screened audio connections. This lead will allow full use of the *Meridian* 209 Remote Control Unit.

3.7 Video connection

The audio output from a video recorder or any other line-level source can be connected to the Video sockets.

3.8 Tape connection

One or two reel, DAT or cassette recorders can be connected to the Tape 1 and Tape 2 In and Out sockets.

3.9 Headphones

There is a standard 1/4" stereo headphone outlet on the back panel designed for high impedance headphones.

3.10 Comms

The DIN socket marked '200 Comms' is for interconnecting a P-lead when the installation includes a 207 CD player, or a Q-lead if there is a 204 FM tuner in which case the P-lead will go between the 207 and 204.

These leads are needed in addition to the screened audio leads. Their function is to correlate the controls of the three units to allow full remote control from the *Meridian* 209 unit. See section 2 for part numbers.

3.11 Output

The output from the two phono sockets of the 201 Preamplifier must be connected to the input of your power amplifier or to the inputs on *Meridian* active loudspeakers.

The audio outputs are also available on pins 1 and 4 of the System 1 and System 2 DIN sockets. (Pin 2 common).

4 Operation

4.1 Conventions of this manual

Text printed in bold, centred on the page, indicates a key on the front of the 201 that you are asked to press. Thus

Standby

has the meaning 'press the front-panel key marked Standby'.

Where there are two keys referred to with a * between them like this

Copy * Mode

you are asked to press **Copy**, then **Mode**.

Text enclosed in square brackets indicates the expected display on the right-hand side of the 201 front window, thus e.g. **[C. 27]**

is a display.

- 4.2 The power switch is at the back of the unit. Normally the 201 is switched on, even when the unit is not in use. The sound quality of the unit is at its best when the temperatures of the components have reached normal working levels. The various presettings which can be made to the 201, described in this section, are only 'remembered' so long as the power switch at the back is on, unless the installation includes a 204.

You should however switch off all audio equipment if you expect to be away from the house for a period of time.

- 4.3 Switch on at back. The Standby key will show green. To start up the 201 press

Standby

or any of the six input keys

CD, LP, Radio, Video, Tape 1, Tape 2

To shut down the 201

Standby

4.4 Inputs

To switch from CD to another input, say Radio,

Radio

The other inputs to the unit, LP, Video, Tape 1 and Tape 2 can be selected in like manner. Notice that an indicator light shows behind the key selected.

- 4.5 **Volume**
 To raise or lower the volume press the top or bottom
red key
 The volume level is displayed and ranges from [0] to [64].
- 4.6 **Mute**
 To mute the sound **Mute**
 The display now shows the muted level [0]
 and the mute key lights up red.
 To demute (restore the sound level) **Mute**
 The Mute key light goes out.
 The Mute key 'toggles' between mute and demute.
- 4.7 **System 1/System 2**
 Without System 2 module fitted these keys will have no effect. The System 2 key will cause the error display. **[Err.]**
 With System 2 module fitted – see appendix.

5 Tape recording

- 5.1 The 201 has two tape outputs connected in parallel; this means that whatever is fed to Tape 1 tape recorder is also fed to Tape 2 tape recorder. Normally the tape outputs are muted, this is indicated by the **TOM** (Tape Outputs Muted) light on the front panel.
 To record **Copy**
 The display will show **[COPY]**
 Now select the input you wish to copy from (LP, CD, Radio, Video, Tape 1, Tape 2)
 e.g. **CD**
 The display shows **[C. 35]**
 The CD input will now be copied to the tape outputs, the **TOM** light goes out. The **[C. 35]** stands for 'Copy', the 35 is the current volume number.
 Pressing another input e.g. **LP**
 allows an LP to be listened to whilst recording a CD. The 'C.' on the display shows that recording is continuing. You are free to change the volume setting.
 Note that for a 3-head tape recorder with separate record and playback heads connected to Tape 1 sockets **Tape 1**
 will allow listening to the recorded signal. Comparison is possible by **CD**
 to listen to the original signal again. Tape 2 operates identically to Tape 1.
- 5.2 The recorded signal can follow the input being listened to by **Copy * System 1**
 Whichever input is selected will now be fed to the Tape Out sockets. In this mode the **TOM** light is out but there is no 'C.' on the display.
Note. This mode is provided to give a tracking and fixed output in multiroom installations. It is not recommended for tape-recording generally since some tape recorders can howl-around on monitoring themselves.
- 5.3 To check which input has been set to record, a copy review is available **Copy**
 The display will show **[COPY]**
 and the key of the input being recorded will be lit. If the **TOM** light is out and no key is lit this indicates that the record mode is set to follow the input selected.
 To remove review facility **Copy**

5.4 When recording is complete, we advise you to mute the Tape Outputs.

Copy * Mute

To mute the tape outputs. Note that the TOM light is on again.

5.5 The tape outputs continue to be live even in standby so long as Copy is set. [C.]

5.6 If Copy is pressed accidentally **Copy**

again will revert to the normal display without affecting any recording in progress.

6 Customising

6.1 Mode

The 201 is as simple as possible to operate in normal use. The Mode key allows access to the more advanced functions. To prevent accidental changing of the settings, the unit can be 'locked'. The 201 will always be in the 'locked' state when first connected to the mains supply.

6.2 Mode lock

The Mode function is normally 'locked out' to prevent accidental alteration of any presets. First bring the 201 out of Standby with any input key. Then

Mode

The display will momentarily show [Loc.]

This confirms that the Mode facility is locked out.

To unlock the Mode facility **Copy * Mode**

The display shows [Unlo.]

The Mode facility may be locked out again by

Copy * Mode

Copy * Mode will toggle the unit between locked and unlocked states.

6.3 Saving settings

Whenever any alteration is made to any of the following settings of the 201, the new values must be stored:

- Start-up input and volume.
- Mute level.
- Maximum level.
- Offsets between inputs.
- Internal/External volume control.
- Open/Closed state of systems (when System 2 module fitted).

With the mode function unlocked

Mode * Standby

will store the new settings into the 201's memory.

If a 204 FM tuner is present in the system, with its Q-lead in place the settings will be stored in the 204's battery supported memory to prevent loss in the event of temporary power failure. Without a 204 the settings will return to their factory values if the mains supply is interrupted to the 201.

6.4 Start-up conditions

When the 201 is first switched on the following factory settings apply:

- Input is CD.
- Volume is 32.
- Mute level is 0.
- Offsets are 0.
- Volume is internal [Intl].
- Systems 1 and 2 are open.

The settings may be altered to any others of your choice. For instance you may wish to start up with Radio at a level of 25 with the mute level set to 14.