

500 times four from Meridian

Meridian's 500 Series continues to develop with the release of four new products. The first, the 566 20-bit DAC, enables 500 Series owners to run their systems in fully balanced mode throughout. Priced at £995, the DAC has four inputs — three unbalanced using RCA connectors, one Toslink, and an XLR balanced connection. All are stabilised by Meridian's proprietary twin PLL circuit for low jitter.

The £6,000 *DSP5500* digital loudspeaker plugs the gap between the £3,000 *DSP5000* and £9,000 *DSP6000* models. It is, effectively, a single-box version of the *DSP6000* using forward-facing bass drivers rather than the side-firing units employed in the top model. Fully active with four 70W amplifiers on board, it's a three-way reflex system whose response extends down to a claimed 30Hz.

The 557 stereo power amplifier is designed to drive passive loudspeakers — particularly 'difficult' models. The case contains two 200W mono power amplifiers, which can be bridged to deliver in excess of 800W into an eight-Ohm load. It costs £1,295 —

the same price as the new 502 pre-amplifier designed to partner it. Also using balanced operation and full dual-mono construction for optimum dynamic range, noise and isolation performance, the 502 provides balanced and unbalanced

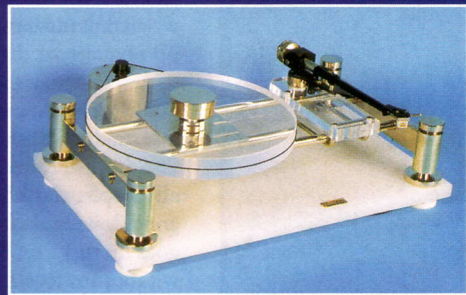
socketry. Plug-in phono modules for MC and MM cartridges are available. The preamp comes with remote control and, like the rest of the 500 Series, can connect to the Meridian communications bus for system control integration.

☎ (01480) 52144

Quasar — now with Poron

You can now obtain Sound by Design's *Quasar* turntable in a stylish *Limited Edition* format. The *LE* is a refined, brass and acrylic version of the *Quasar SE* using a shorter sub-chassis and a new spring damping material, Poron. Other refinements include a new power supply and motor, while the base-board, which is an optional extra on the *SE*, is a standard feature with the *LE*.

Priced from £1,515, the *Quasar LE* offers choices of base-board colour, brushed or matt acrylic platter, and solid brass record clamp. ☎ (0141) 943 2062



More Meridian muscle, the 502 and 557.