



## Director FAQs

### Introducing Director

Meridian's Director is a high-quality DAC (Digital to Analogue Converter) designed to deliver superior audio quality from today's digital sources, including media players and computers, as well as legacy digital sources such as CD players, when listened to on analogue hi-fi systems. Built in Britain to the same exacting standards as any Meridian product, Director will appeal to aspiring audiophiles who seek the highest possible performance at a price within their reach, and to brand-conscious consumers seeking a credible, market-leading audio solution to fit their requirements.

Director is Meridian's re-entry into the DAC category, which it created in the 1980's with the introduction of 207. It benefits from years of category leadership, including Meridian's resolution enhancement. These unique technologies, first seen in Meridian's 800 Reference Series range, provide the Director with the highest sound quality in its category.

From its unmatched audio performance to the elegant presentation packaging **Director is the perfect introduction to the Meridian Experience.**

#### • Why do I need Director?

Director converts a digital source to an analogue output with all of the detail, resolution, and passion of the live event. Meridian's many years of expertise and experience with digital-to-analogue conversion provides a truly emotional and engaging experience.

#### • What does Director do?

Director performs the digital-to-analogue conversion using precision reference oscillators, precise digital clocking and utilising similar audiophile-grade components found within the flagship 800 Series. Director allows for native 24/192 audio streams from PC's via USB and takes on the role acting as the computer sound card, providing much higher performance than the internal computer audio card. All 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz audio streams from either a USB or S/PDIF benefit from Meridian resolution enhancement technologies, including Upsampling and Apodising to 24 bit 88.2kHz or 96kHz. Individual inputs can be independently selected on the front of the Director.

#### • What are the benefits?

Due to its carefully selected audiophile-grade components and their positioning on the audio board, as well as Meridian Resolution Enhancement technologies, Director produces a more lifelike and authentic sound from your digital source or computer.

#### • Why purchase Director and NOT Explorer?

Director is a high-performance DAC that is designed for home use, whereas Explorer is designed for portable use. Because of these two different applications, Director can offer higher performance due to its external power supply, larger quality chassis, and its connectors. Due to its size limitation, these components were scaled down for portability in Explorer. On the other hand, the Director's size means that it is not practical for use on the go. In other words, you should own both!

#### • What outputs does the Director have?

Analogue stereo pair (gold-plated phono) 2v RMS fixed.



# Director: FAQs and Set Up

## •What inputs does the Director have?

Director has 1 x USB and 2 x Digital audio inputs. The digital input is a single 3.5mm combination socket that allows either Optical or Coax digital inputs; adaptors (gold plated for coax) for both types are included.

## •Does the Director have a headphone socket?

No, it is designed as a high-quality home DAC. Its outputs can, however, be connected to a headphone preamplifier for private listening.

## •Does Director have a variable output (volume control)?

No, it requires connection to a preamplifier for volume control.

## •Does Director benefit from Upsampling and Apodising?

Yes, Director shares these features with our Reference 800 Series. Director upsamples and apodises any 44.1 kHz or 48kHz sample frequency signal to 88.2kHz or 96kHz with a 24 bit depth (24/88.2 or 24/96) on either USB or SPDIF input.

## • Upsample the audio signal before Director?

This is not necessary and sometimes it is better if a native lower resolution is passed to Director. For example; when playing a CD from a CD player or a native 16/44.1 (CD quality) or 16/48 (DVD quality) audio stream from a computer, Director will upsample and apodise the incoming audio signal using 24/88.2 or 24/96 (dependent on the original input signal). This means configuring a computer to output a higher resolution from a native CD or DVD quality audio stream is not using Meridian's Resolution Enhancement technologies and their sonic advantages.

## •Can Director remember inputs after power outage?

Yes. Director will return to "last input" after power is restored, ensuring the Director is maintenance free, even in situations of power loss. As such, Director is ideal for use in cabinets and racks.

## •Is Director made in the UK?

Yes. Director is designed and manufactured by the same skilled artisans that manufacture all Meridian products.

## •How does Director get power?

Director receives power via the USB input, either from the power supply included, or from the computer's USB output.

## • What do Director's lights mean?

USB = the USB input is selected.

S/PDIF = the Coax/Optical input is selected.

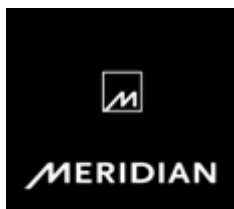
1x = light indicates there is a connection and Director is receiving a 44.1/48kHz signal.

2x = light indicates Director is receiving a 88.2/96kHz signal.

4x = light indicates Director is receiving a 176.4/192kHz signal.

## • Is Director an asynchronous USB DAC?

Yes. Director operates asynchronously using on-board, high-quality, discrete audio clocks for the DAC and S/PDIF output, rather than low-quality audio clocks derived via USB from the computer.



## Director Set Up

### Set-Up Tips - Apple Mac OSX

- **OS Requirements**

Mac OSX 10.6.4 (Snow Leopard) and above

- **Configuring Director**

Connect your Director via the USB cable provided.

Open 'System preferences.'

Click on 'Sound.'

Select the 'Output' tab.

Select 'Meridian Director USB DAC out' from the list.

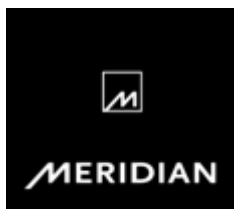
- **Optionally for best sound quality**

Select the 'Sound effects' tab.

Change 'Play sound effects' to 'Internal speakers.'

Open the 'Audio Midi Setup' utility (found in the Applications/Utilities folder).

Select 'Meridian Director USB DAC out' and select the desired required bit/sample rate.



## Director Set Up

### Set-Up Tips - Windows XP

- **Windows OS Requirements (USB driver required)**

Windows XP (Service Pack 3)

Windows 7 (Service Pack 1)

Windows 8

- **Configuring Director**

DO NOT connect your Director before running the driver install application.

- **Install the USB2**

Download and save the driver 'zip' file to a suitable location such as the Desktop.

Double click on the zip file and open the enclosed folder.

Run the driver installer by double clicking on "setup.exe" and follow the installer instructions, connecting the Director when requested.

Click on 'Continue Anyway' if Windows warns about the Director not passing Windows Logo testing.

Click on 'Finish' when done.

Windows will then show a 'Found New Hardware Wizard.'

Select 'No, not this time,' then 'Next.'

Select 'Install the software automatically,' then 'Next.'

Click on 'Continue Anyway' if Windows warns about the Director not passing Windows Logo testing

Click on 'Finish' when done.

Restart the computer.

- **Configuring Director**

Connect Director via the USB cable provided.

Open the 'Sounds and Audio Devices' control panel (Start -> Control Panel -> Hardware and Sound -> Sounds and Audio Devices).

Click on the 'Audio' tab.

Select "Meridian Director USB DAC Output" from the default device list in the "Sound playback" box.

Click on 'Apply.'

- **Optionally for best sound quality**

Connect Director via the USB cable provided.

Open the 'Sounds and Audio Devices' control panel (Start -> Control Panel -> Hardware and Sound -> Sounds and Audio Devices).

Select "Meridian Director USB DAC Output" from the default device list in the 'Sound playback' box.

Click on the 'Sounds' tab.

Select 'No Sounds' from the 'Sound Scheme' drop-down list and click on 'Apply.'



## Director Set Up

### Set-Up Tips - Windows 7 & 8

- **Install the USB2 driver**

Download and save the driver 'zip' file to a suitable location, such as the Desktop.  
Connect Director to the computer via USB, ignoring any Windows driver installation notifications.  
Double click on the 'zip' file and open the enclosed folder.  
Run the driver installer by double clicking on the 'setup' application.  
On the next window, allow the installer to make changes to the computer.  
Click on 'Install' to start the driver installation and follow the installer instructions.  
Click on 'Finish' when done.  
Restart the computer.

- **Configuring Director**

Connect Director via the USB cable provided.  
Open the 'Sound' control panel (Start → Control Panel → Hardware and Sound → Sound).  
Click on the 'Playback' tab.  
Find 'Meridian Director USB DAC audio' in the list, right click and select 'Set as Default Device.'  
Click on 'Apply.'

- **Optionally for best sound quality**

Connect Director via the USB cable provided.  
Open the 'Sound' control panel (Start → Control Panel → Hardware and Sound → Sound).  
Click on 'Meridian Director USB DAC audio' in the list.  
Click on the 'Sounds' tab.  
Select 'No Sounds' from the 'Sound Scheme' drop-down list and click on 'Apply.'  
Click on the 'Playback' tab.  
Double click on 'Meridian Director USB DAC audio' in the list.  
Click on the 'Enhancements' tab.  
Set 'Disable all enhancements' and click on 'Apply.'  
Click on the "Advanced" tab.  
If not already set then set both options in the 'Exclusive Mode' box.  
Select the desired bit/sample rate in the 'Default Format' drop-down list and click on 'Apply.'