



MERIDIAN

Hooking Up SpeakerLink

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The DSP7200 is the first of a new breed of Meridian DSP loudspeaker design; the 808.2 Signature Reference Compact Disc Player includes significant new technical developments that make CD sound like high resolution. One common feature they share – a feature you'll be seeing on other Meridian products as time goes by – is an RJ45 "Ethernet-style" socket on the rear panel labelled "SpeakerLink".

What is SpeakerLink?

SpeakerLink allows Meridian products to be connected with a single CAT5 cable. It carries both balanced digital audio (with SmartLink) and Meridian Comms signals (plus RS232 and some other features). In the future, Comms connections on Meridian products will either be handled only with SpeakerLink or with BNC connectors (already in place on many Meridian components).

Note that although SpeakerLink employs standard CAT 5/6 cable and RJ45 connectors, the interface is proprietary and should only be used to interconnect Meridian products.

Why SpeakerLink?

SpeakerLink allows two Meridian units to be linked by a single cable. Balanced digital audio means there is less likelihood of interference being experienced. However SpeakerLink is particularly useful simply for its convenience in custom installation environments, where CAT5 is common.

What cables do I need?

No cables are supplied with the product as you can use standard Ethernet cabling as long as it is STP (Shielded Twisted Pair) CAT 5 or 6 cable. You may need to meet additional standards when installing cable in-wall, but as far as SpeakerLink is concerned, CAT 5/6 STP is all there is to it.

We have been researching and auditioning a variety of CAT5 cables and have developed a flat cable that we will introducing in the near future as a Meridian-branded CAT5 interconnect for critical audio applications. We have selected this cable for its extremely high technical specifications and sound quality.

These Meridian cables will be available for sale as pairs in a variety of lengths. Full details, including pricing and availability, will be announced shortly.

What if I've already buried Meridian M and S leads in walls/under floors?

The simple answer is to cut the existing DIN connectors off and replace them with BNC connectors for the Meridian Comms lines.

If this is not possible for some reason, we can help by supplying DIN-to-BNC adaptors. Contact Tech Support for assistance.

What are my options wiring up products that don't have SpeakerLink?

If you're an existing Meridian dealer with a quantity of unused Meridian S leads in stock, you can recycle them by chopping off the DINs and soldering on BNCs.

New leads employing BNCs instead of DINs are available from us. Please contact the Meridian Sales Office.

You can also use any cables of your choice.

For the digital audio, the requirement is for a low loss, coaxial cable with an impedance of 75Ω, built to S/PDIF digital audio standards and with gold-plated phono connectors.

For Meridian Comms, if you don't have to hand any BNC-to-BNC cables, use any inexpensive RCA-to-RCA cable with

inexpensive RCA-to-BNC adaptors on each end. There's no need to worry about the quality of this cable, or impedance issues regarding the cable or adaptors: this is not for critical audio – it is merely a hookup for Comms.

Key Points

SpeakerLink carries balanced digital audio, Meridian Comms and RS232.

The cables are standard CAT5/6 cables with RJ45 connectors, but the interface is proprietary.

You can use any Ethernet cable as long as it is CAT5/6 and features STP (Shielded Twisted Pair)

If you can't use SpeakerLink because not all the components in the system utilise it, hook up digital audio with digital phono cables, and Meridian Comms with almost any type of cable with a BNC on each end.

DIN-based Meridian Comms is being phased out.

Future Developments

In the near future we will be offering the AC11, a unit that converts Meridian DIN-based Comms to SpeakerLink-based RJ45.

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