



Audio Core 200

Stereo Audio Controller



Inspired by the advanced technology in Meridian's popular 808.3 Signature Reference CD Player, the Meridian Audio Core 200 is a compact stereo audio controller with a wide range of digital and analogue inputs.

The AC200 is designed as the perfect complement to any pair of Meridian's DSP Loudspeakers, such as the DSP3200, DSP5200 or DSP420 in-wall loudspeakers, with which it can be used to build a complete system.

Two Meridian SpeakerLink connectors are provided for simple, straightforward connection to Meridian DSP Loudspeakers via Cat 5 cables. Speakers can be connected either via the 'home run' technique (recommended) straight from the Master (lower) and Slave (upper) connectors, or they can be daisy-chained. The outputs include Meridian High Resolution (MHR) encryption and operate at high sample rates (88.2/96kHz).

The AC200 also offers a 3.5mm stereo mini-jack headphone output for personal

listening. This output may be configured to turn the loudspeakers off when headphones are connected, if desired.

Inputs

On the input side, the AC200 provides a wide range of possibilities. The SpeakerLink input can be used, for example, to connect a Sooloos Control 15 or similar product, or other Meridian products with SpeakerLink outputs. Two S/PDIF coax digital inputs are provided, and these operate at sample rates up to 96kHz. Two 3.5mm mini-jack inputs are also included and these offer both analogue line level and optical digital interfaces.

A mini-DIN connector is provided for connecting an i80 iPod dock to the AC200. Connecting an i80 not only allows an iPod to play back through the loudspeakers connected to the AC200: it also charges the iPod – without requiring a separate charger – and enables it to be controlled either from the AC200 front panel or from across the room with the remote control provided.

Product highlights

Unifies all of your audio sources, and forms an elegant stereo system with any pair of Meridian DSP Loudspeakers.

Outstanding preamplifier quality, coupled with powerful audio enhancement technologies for the very best audio quality from any source.

Easy connection with the widest range of audio sources, including CD player, radio tuner, set-top box, games console, media player, PC audio replay via USB, and a Meridian SpeakerLink input for single-wire connection to a Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System.

Fully compatible with Meridian's i80 Dock for iPod. Replay your iPod via Meridian DSP speakers while it charges, and control what you hear via the front panel or remote.

Intelligent front-panel controls feature smart buttons for intuitive control, and an auto-dimming OLED display that's always at the right brightness for maximum readability.

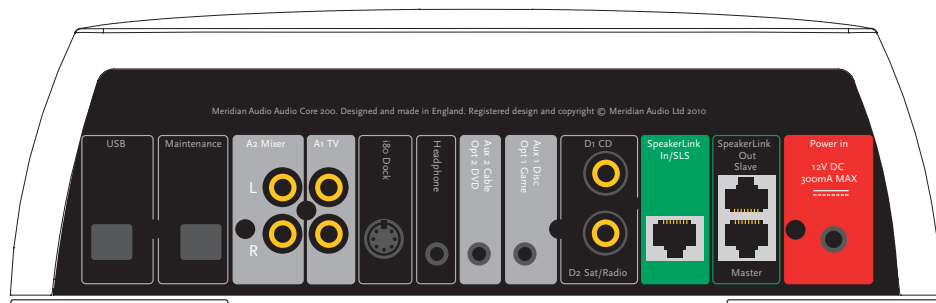
Simple, single-wire connection to Meridian DSP Loudspeakers with easy access to the DSP features that enable you to get the best sound in any environment.

Stereo width control optimises the stereo stage, freeing the sound from the loudspeakers, making it even bigger and more open.

Ideal for listening to multiple sources with Meridian DSP Loudspeakers for maximum performance in a stereo system.

Meridian Audio Limited

www.meridian-audio.com



Rear panel layout

A USB B-type connector is provided allowing the AC200 to be connected to a computer system and used as an external sound card.

Two stereo analogue inputs are provided on gold-plated phono connectors.

Power input to the unit is 12v DC at up to 300mA, provided by an external wall-mounted universal voltage power supply (included).

The rear connector panel is recessed and effectively hidden by the enclosure.

Audio processing

The Audio Core 200 features high-quality audio processing which provides treble and bass tone controls and a stereo width control. Analogue inputs are converted to digital at 96kHz sampling and all input signals are processed with Meridian's exclusive 'apodising' filter that ensures maximum audio quality and can even clean up the results of poor digital filtering at previous stages in the recording process, such as in the case of historic digital recordings. Digital inputs accept signals up to 96kHz and this is also the case with the SpeakerLink input, thus allowing the replay of high resolution files from a Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System.

Controls

The AC200 features nine front panel keys. The middle five are software-defined with their functions indicated above the buttons according to context. In addition there are four fixed function keys: the far left Home key returns to the Home display and the far right Display key cycles through different sets of information shown on the display,

including turning the display off entirely. The two remaining keys cycle through the available functions left and right. The interface is a development of that used on the M80 Compact Entertainment System.

The display is an advanced OLED design and has an automatic brightness control that adjusts the display to suit ambient light levels. As a result it's always visible – or you can turn it off completely.

A large knob controls the volume and may be pushed to mute the loudspeakers.

The Audio Core 200 communicates fully with Meridian DSP Loudspeakers, making it possible to access control features of the loudspeakers from its front panel, such as boundary gain compensation, which allows speakers to deliver the very best performance irrespective of their position or orientation in the room.*

A stereo width control feature allows the stereo soundstage to be optimised irrespective of the loudspeaker positions, increasing soundstage width when the speakers are located close together, and optimising it for best envelopment and imaging when more ideally placed.*

Enclosure

The Audio Core 200 is presented in an elegant compact enclosure with a recessed connector panel. The curved sides and top echo the curves of Meridian's M80 and DSP Loudspeakers.

The Audio Core 200 is available as standard in high gloss black and high gloss white.

Outline Technical Specification

Inputs

- Meridian SpeakerLink (RJ45)
- 2 x S/PDIF coax (phono)
- 2 x mini-optical (3.5mm jack)
- USB for use as external computer sound card
- i80 connector (Mini-DIN)
- 2 x Stereo Analogue (phono)
- 2 x Stereo Analogue (3.5mm jack) (same connectors as optical digital)

Outputs

- Twin Meridian SpeakerLink (Master & Slave, RJ45) with MHR
- 3.5mm Stereo Headphone out (optionally mutes speakers)

Processing

- Upsampling to 2xfs (88.2/96 kHz). (Output is always high resolution)
- Meridian 'Apodising' filter cleans up muddiness in digital recordings

Control

- Allows access to DSP speaker functions such as Treble, Bass, Stereo Width, Loudness, etc
- Nine front-panel keys, five of which are context-defined.
- Large knob for volume control and muting
- IR remote control (included)
- USB connector for serial control and maintenance

Display

- OLED (Organic LED) display with automatic brightness feature (can also be dimmed/brightened/disabled manually)

Power

- 12v DC, <=300mA, provided by external wall-mounted universal supply

Weight

- 2.7 kg (6 lbs)

Dimensions

- 280 x 280 x 91 mm (11 x 11 x 3.6 in) including feet but not including control knob (WHD)

Finish

- High gloss black or high gloss white.

* Feature is software version dependent.

All specifications are subject to change without notice. E & OE. Weights and dimensions should be verified against the engineering drawing.