



861 Reference Surround System

RS232 Control Information

861 System RS232 Commands

This document provides relevant RS232 commands for the Meridian 861 Surround Processor. All basic commands take the form of two ASCII characters followed by a carriage return to execute. Once a basic command is sent, the 861 provides a twenty character feedback of what is displayed on the processor itself.

The physical connection to the 861 Reference System consists of a Null Modem / RS232C cable.

RS232 Port Settings:

Baud Rate – 9600, Data Bits – 8, Stop Bits – 1, Parity – None, Flow Control – None

Source Commands:

| RS232 Command | Description | Feedback | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------|------------|----|
| CD | Selects CD Source | CD | Trifield | 65 |
| RD | Selects Radio | Radio | Music | 65 |
| DV | Selects DVD | DVD | Cinema | 65 |
| AX | Selects Aux | Aux | Discrete | 65 |
| DC | Selects Disc | Disc | Music | 65 |
| TA | Selects Tape | Tape | Music | 65 |
| TV | Selects TV | TV | TV Logic | 65 |
| CB | Selects Cable | Cable | Pro Logic | 65 |
| SA | Selects Satellite | Sat | Trifield | 65 |
| V1 | Selects VCR1 | VCR1 | Pro Logic | 65 |
| V2 | Selects VCR2 | VCR2 | Pro Logic | 65 |
| GA | Selects Game | Game | THX Cinema | 65 |

Volume Commands:

| RS232 Command | Description | Feedback | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|----------|----|
| VP | Volume + | CD | Trifield | 66 |
| VM | Volume - | CD | Trifield | 64 |
| VNnn | Goto Volume (1-99) | CD | Trifield | 87 |
| MU | Mute | Mute | | |



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General Commands:

| RS232 Command | Description | Feedback | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------|----------|------|
| SB | Standby | | . | |
| MR | Menu Right | CD | Centre | +0dB |
| ML | Menu Left | CD | Balance | <0> |
| MP | Menu Plus (Up) | CD | Balance | <1 |
| MM | Menu Minus (Down) | CD | Balance | 1> |
| PNnn | Goto Preset | CD | Trifield | 65 |

Additional Source Commands:

| RS232 Command | Description | RS232 Command | Description |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| PL | Play | rp | AB Repeat |
| ST | Stop | AB | AB Repeat |
| PS | Pause | PH | Phase |
| RP | Repeat | TB | T (MSR 3) |
| NE | Next | #B | # Button |
| PR | Previous | CH | Chapter (MSR 3) |
| DI | Display | SE | Setup |
| SR | Store | ME | Menu |
| CL | Clear | RT | Return |
| DP | Decimal Point | EN | Enter |
| FF | Fast Forward | TM | Top Menu |
| FB | Fast Back | NP | Next Page |
| N0 – N9 | Number Keys 0 – 9 | PP | Previous Page |
| OP | Open | cl | Function + Clear |
| MO | Mono | sr | Function + Store |
| SL | Slow | di | Function + Display |
| BA | Band | mu | Function + Mute |
| AU | Audio | mp | Function + Menu Up |
| SU | Subtitle On / Off | mm | Function + Menu Down |
| su | Subtitle Choice | ml | Function + Menu Left |
| OS | OSD | mr | Function + Menu Right |
| RC | Record / Copy | vp | Function + Volume Up |
| AN | Angle | vm | Function + Volume DN |



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DSP Preset Commands:

| RS232 Command | Description | RS232 Command | Description |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| PN0 | Direct | PN11 | PLIIX Music |
| PN1 | Music | PN12 | PLIIX Movie |
| PN2 | Trifield | PN13 | PLIIX THX |
| PN3 | Ambisonics | PN14 | Discrete |
| PN4 | Super | PN15 | Cinema |
| PN5 | Stereo | PN16 | PLIIX Music6 |
| PN6 | Music Logic | PN17 | PLIIX Movie6 |
| PN7 | n/a | PN18 | THX |
| PN8 | n/a | PN19 | THX EX |
| PN9 | Mono | PN20 | THX Ultra Cinema |
| PN10 | TV Logic | PN21 | THX Music |



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Direct Access Commands:

These commands allow for direct control of certain options within the 861 Surround Processor. Commands are not viable at all times dependent on incoming audio stream and DSP preset selected (see restrictions section for details).

The command string uses the following syntax: APnnxx

Where 'nn' selects the menu option and 'xx' sets the value. Both values are represented by hexadecimal numbers.

Example: AP0102 would set the treble to +1dB

AP0103 would set the treble to +1.5dB

| Menu | Hex | Steps | Min. | Hex | Max | Hex | Restrictions |
|--------------|-----|-------|--------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Preset | 00 | 1 | 0 | 00 | See Above | - | |
| RC Preset | 32 | - | 0 | 00 | 12 | - | Only for presets within MRC |
| Treble | 01 | 0.5dB | -10dB | EC | +10dB | 14 | |
| Bass | 02 | 0.5dB | -5dB | F6 | +5dB | 0A | |
| Phase | 03 | - | Off | 00 | On | 01 | |
| LR Balance | 04 | - | 10L | F6 | 10R | 0A | |
| Lipsync | 1D | 0.5ms | 0ms | 00 | 30ms | 3C | |
| Rear Level | 05 | - | 30R | E2 | 10F | 0A | |
| Centre Level | 09 | 0.5dB | -3dB | FA | 3dB | 06 | |
| Centre Delay | 0A | 0.5ms | -2.5ms | FB | 5ms | 0A | |
| Centre EQ | 0B | - | 0 | 00 | 3 | 03 | |
| Rear Delay | 06 | 0.5ms | 0ms | 0 | 30ms | 3C | Music Modes & Discrete |
| Rear Delay | 2C | 0.5ms | 0ms | 00 | 30ms | 3C | 5.1 Modes & PLII Music |
| Rear Delay | 44 | 0.5ms | 10ms | 14 | 25ms | 32 | PLII Movie & PLII THX |
| Rear Filter | 07 | - | 0 | 00 | 3 | 03 | Music Modes & Cinema |
| Rear Filter | 12 | - | 0 | 00 | 3 | 03 | Ambisonics & Super Stereo |
| Side Level | 19 | 1dB | -30dB | E2 | +10dB | 0A | |
| Side Delay | 1A | 0.5ms | 0 | 00 | 30ms | 3C | Music modes only |
| Side Delay | 2D | 0.5ms | 0 | 00 | 30ms | 3C | 5.1 Modes & PLII Music |
| Side Delay | 45 | 0.5ms | 10ms | 14 | 25ms | 32 | PLII Movie & PLII THX |
| Side Filter | 16 | - | 0 | 00 | 3 | 03 | Ambisonics & Super Stereo |
| Side Filter | 1B | - | 0 | 00 | 3 | 03 | Music Modes & Cinema |



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| Menu | Hex | Steps | Min. | Hex | Max | Hex | Restrictions |
|------------------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------------------------------|
| Axis Control | 3C | 1dB | -2 | FE | +3 | 03 | DSP Speakers Only |
| HS Out | 37 | - | Off | 00 | On | 01 | |
| Width | 0E | 0.1 | 0 | 00 | 1.5 | 0F | Trifield Only |
| Width | 0F | 0.1 | 0 | 00 | 1.0 | 0A | Super Stereo Only |
| PLII Width | 40 | - | 0 | 00 | 7 | 07 | PLII Music Only |
| Dimension | 3D | - | 0 | 00 | 6 | 06 | PLII Music Only |
| Panorama | 3E | - | Off | 00 | On | 01 | PLII Music Only |
| PLII Steering | 43 | - | 0 | 00 | 2 | 02 | 7-Ch Logic Modes Only |
| Prologic Legacy | 3F | - | Off | 00 | On | 01 | PLII Movie & PLII THX |
| Party Mode | 28 | - | Off | 00 | On | 01 | Mono Only |
| Academy Filter | 13 | - | Off | 00 | On | 01 | Mono Only |
| No. of Surrounds | 1E | - | 0 | 00 | 2 | 02 | Music Modes & Cinema |
| No. of Surrounds | 24 | - | 0 | 00 | 2 | 02 | 5.1 Modes Only (Not Discrete) |
| Compression | 29 | - | 0 | 00 | 5 | 05 | 5.1 Modes Only |
| Contrast | 2E | - | 0 | 00 | 15 | 0F | |
| Brightness | 2F | - | 0 | 00 | 15 | 0F | |
| Position | 11 | - | M | 00 | A | 06 | Ambisonics Only |
| Roll | 14 | - | 0 | 00 | 3 | 03 | TV Logic Only |
| Yaw | 15 | - | 0 | 00 | 3 | 03 | TV Logic Only |
| Mono Input | 0D | - | 0 | 00 | 3 | 03 | Mono Only |
| 2+2+2 | 46 | - | 0 | 00 | 4 | 04 | Discrete Only |
| LFE Level | 4A | 1dB | -18dB | 01 | +10dB | 1D | 5.1 Modes Only |

Current Status Commands:

These commands provide feedback via the RS232 port as to the current state of the 861 when in use.

| RS232 Command | Description | Feedback |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| CS1 | Source, DSP Mode & Volume | CD Trifield 65 |
| CS2 | Source, DSP Mode & Gain | CD Trifield -22 |
| CS3 | Source, Incoming Audio & Rate | CD PCM 2-ch 44K |