



818 Reference Audio Core

Network Audio Player/Preamplifier



Overview

Since its introduction in 1998, Meridian's 800 Reference Series has provided a platform from which the company has been able to showcase the very best in surround sound, DVD, CD, and network music playback. Through its regular updates and iterations, it has also proven to be an immovable benchmark against which performance standards have been set throughout the audio industry. 818 is the latest product to join the 800 Reference Series, and as such benefits from almost 15 years of 800 Series product innovation.

Meridian's Audio Core concept combines the source connectivity features of a high-performance preamplifier with a full suite of proprietary resolution enhancement technologies, and provides connectivity to Meridian's unique range of DSP Loudspeakers. In addition to its external source connectivity, 818 also provides an internal Meridian Sooloos source through a network connection to any Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System.

Maximum quality & I/O flexibility

As part of the 800 Reference Series, 818 is the highest performance two-channel preamplifier and Sooloos end-point manufactured by Meridian.

Connecting at the centre of an incredible Meridian music system, 818 offers simple networked integration with any Meridian

Sooloos Digital Media System plus an array of other sources.

818 features twin SpeakerLink outputs for "home run" connection in an all-digital system with any of Meridian's SpeakerLink equipped DSP Loudspeakers. And as part of the 800 Reference Series, 818 features superb, high-quality analogue pre-amplifier outputs via both balanced and single-ended connectors, ensuring 818 can also be used in more traditional audio systems.

Meridian's SpeakerLink connection system delivers the highest quality digital signals to Meridian's DSP Loudspeakers on discreet, low-cost cables with simple connectors. SpeakerLink helps make a Meridian system easier to install and far less intrusive than other high-end audio systems. The advantage of the twin SpeakerLink output is that left and right loudspeakers can both be connected directly to the 818, further simplifying wiring structure and making cables even easier to hide.

In common with other Audio Core units such as the Audio Core 200, 818 may be used to control and configure Meridian DSP loudspeakers that do not have their own display, such as the DSP3200 and M6. Features such as Bass, Treble, Balance and Boundary Gain Compensation can be set from the Audio Control unit.

Resolution Enhancement

In common with the rest of Meridian's 800 Reference Series, 818 employs triple FIFO buffering, DSP upsampling and apodising filters to get the very best performance from all digital sources.

Product highlights

Reference preamplifier featuring Meridian enhancement technologies such as triple FIFO buffering, DSP upsampling and apodising filters to deliver the very best performance from any digital source.

New ID41 Sooloos Card connects direct to a Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System to make the 818 an audio endpoint, rendering audio streamed from the Digital Media System. Magnetically-isolated design maximises audio quality

Control the Meridian Sooloos Play Queue with the remote control or front panel, or for complete control use the Sooloos Core Control App for iPad.

Full range of analogue and digital inputs allowing the 818 to handle all your sources, with Meridian enhancements on the digital inputs.

High-resolution USB input for top quality audio from your computer system.

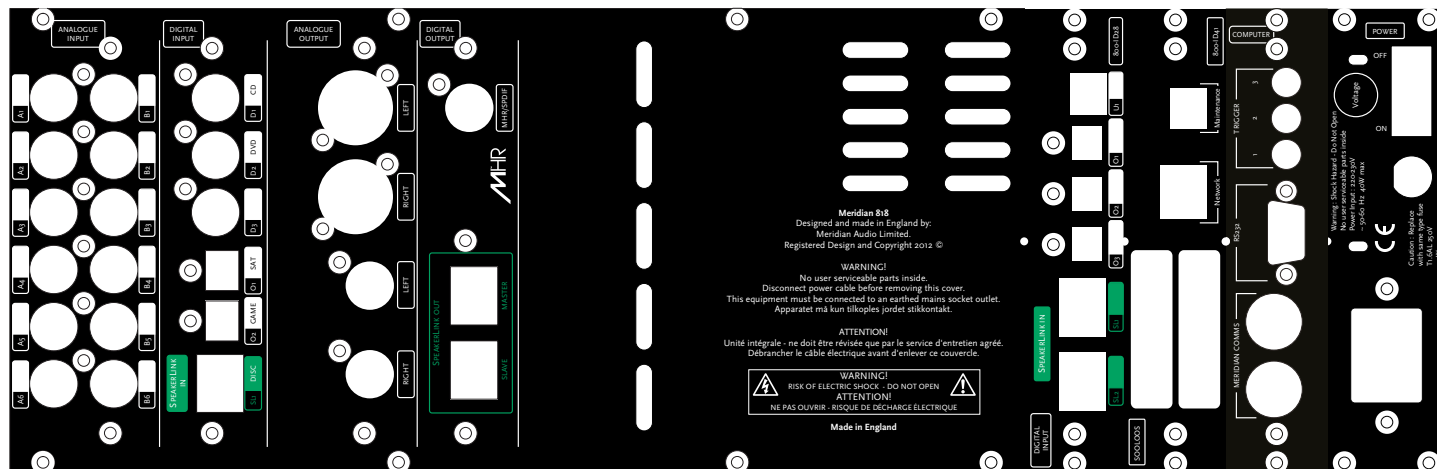
Meridian SpeakerLink connection for ultimate quality and convenience of installation when driving Meridian DSP Loudspeakers.

Meridian Audio Limited

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818 rear panel drawing

The ID41 Sooloos Card enables 818 to connect directly to a Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System. When connected, the 818 becomes an audio endpoint and renders audio streamed from the Digital Media System. This new card has been designed with particular attention paid to magnetic isolation. This helps maximise the performance of the Sooloos source without the need for external cable filtering.

Control commands sent through the 818 can be used to manage music held in the Sooloos's current Play Queue, while the Sooloos apps for iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch can all be used to control 818 as a

source within a Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System.

818 offers a diverse range of high-performance audio inputs, both analogue and digital. These allow all your audio sources to be switched and processed using the same powerful audio enhancing DSP as the internal Sooloos source. It also offers an elegant way to connect and control almost any audio source you might want to enjoy on a pair of Meridian DSP Loudspeakers.

A high-resolution USB input allows a simple high-quality connection to be made between your personal computer and the

Reference Audio Core, allowing 818 to function as an external soundcard for your computer. This simple method of digital connection enhances the sound from all media on your computer, whether stored locally or streamed across a network or the internet.

818 Reference Audio Core features a power supply design built around a true toroidal transformer for minimum noise and maximum signal integrity.

818 is available in three standard 800 Series colours; Graphite, Silver and Piano Lacquer Black, as well as the full range of Meridian Select colour options.

Outline Technical Specification

Stereo Outputs:

Analogue:

- 1x unbalanced on phono
- 1x balanced on XLR-3M

Digital:

- Coaxial S/PDIF ≤96kHz/24-bit
- Twin SpeakerLink, RJ45 balanced (AES/EBU) digital interface for single-cable connection to other Meridian equipment, ≤96kHz/24-bit with MHR

Stereo Inputs:

Analogue:

- 6x unbalanced on phono

Digital:

- 3x Coaxial S/PDIF ≤96kHz/24-bit
- 5x Toslink optical ≤96kHz/24-bit
- 3x SpeakerLink ≤96kHz/24-bit
- 1x High-resolution USB

Sources:

Meridian Sooloos:

- RJ45 Ethernet connection

Comms:

Meridian Comms:

- 2x 240 degree 5-pin DIN
- 2x SpeakerLink inputs with Comms
- 2x SpeakerLink outputs with Comms

RS232:

- 9-pin D-sub, remote control & configuration

Triggers:

- 3x 12V (barrel connectors)

Construction:

- Black lacquer, graphite, or silver metallic finishes in metal and glass. Meridian Select colours also available.

Controls:

Front panel:

- Source, Play/Pause, Previous, Next, Mute, Volume+, Volume-, Off

Behind long door:

- Menu, Up, Down, Left, Right, F-Fwd, F-Rwd, Setup, Source, Display, Mute, Volume+, Volume-

Remote Control:

- Via MSR+ (supplied) and RS232

Display:

20-character LED:

- With adjustable brightness and contrast.

Dimensions (HWD):

- 75mm (6.9in) x 480mm (18.9in) x 411mm (16.2)

Weight:

- xxkg (xxlbs)

Power:

- 110 - 120 Volt 50/60Hz
- 220 - 240 Volt 50/60Hz

Max Power Consumption:

- 40 Watts