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MERIDIAN ANNOUNCES INTRODUCTION OF 818 REFERENCE AUDIO CORE - HIGH-PERFORMANCE PRE-AMPLIFIER AND MERIDIAN SOOLOOS PLAYER

Press release



Meridian Audio has announced the introduction of its 818 Reference Audio Core, which seamlessly combines the source connectivity features of a high-performance pre-amplifier 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.

As part of the acclaimed Meridian 800 Reference Series, 818 is the highest performance two-channel pre-amplifier 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 through high-performance analogue and digital inputs.

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.

In common with the entire Meridian 800 Reference Series, 818 employs triple FIFO buffering along with a full suite of Meridian's proprietary resolution enhancing DSP technologies, including apodising up-sampling of standard-rate digital inputs.

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

Key Points for Editors

- 818 Reference Audio Core is more than a pre-amplifier. It uses triple FIFO buffering, DSP upsampling and apodising filters to get the best performance from all digital sources.
- 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. The new card has been designed with particular attention being paid to magnetic isolation, a factor which is able to help 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 audio inputs, both analogue and digital. These inputs 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 a way to connect and control almost any audio source the user might want to enjoy on DSP Loudspeakers.
- The high-speed USB input on 818 allows a simple high-quality connection to be made between a personal computer and the Reference Audio Core, allowing 818 to function as an external soundcard for the computer. This simple method of digital connection enhances the sound from all media on a computer, whether stored locally or streamed across a network or the internet.
- 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.

More information here: <http://www.meridian-audio.com>

Hi-res images here: <http://media.meridian-audio.com>

Meridian 818 Reference Audio Core. Suggested UK Retail Price £7,500.00
Available from February 2012

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

All information provided is subject to change without notice. All prices quoted are recommended retail and include VAT.

RELEASE ENDS/ Embargo until 10th January 2012

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About Meridian Audio

Meridian is based near Cambridge, UK, and was founded in 1977 by Bob Stuart and Allen Boothroyd. With over 30 years' history of innovation and development of uncompromised consumer home entertainment systems offering exceptional performance, this award-winning company is widely recognized as a world leader in high-quality audio and video reproduction. Meridian developed the first audiophile CD player, the world's first consumer digital surround controller, and the MLP lossless packing system included in Blu-ray Disc. The company's optical disc players, DSP-based loudspeakers, video projectors, and scalars are unique in the industry, maintaining a super-quality digital signal throughout the path from the studio to the home, using advanced digital signal processing to deliver both a sweet, natural sound and smooth, crystal-sharp images with true cinematic realism. In late 2008, Meridian acquired leading networked media server developer Sooloos, and today the Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System offers a unique combination of superb digital audio quality with the world's most innovative, flexible and intuitive touchscreen-based home entertainment system.

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