



MERIDIAN



DSP8000 XE
USER & SYSTEM
APPLICATIONS GUIDE

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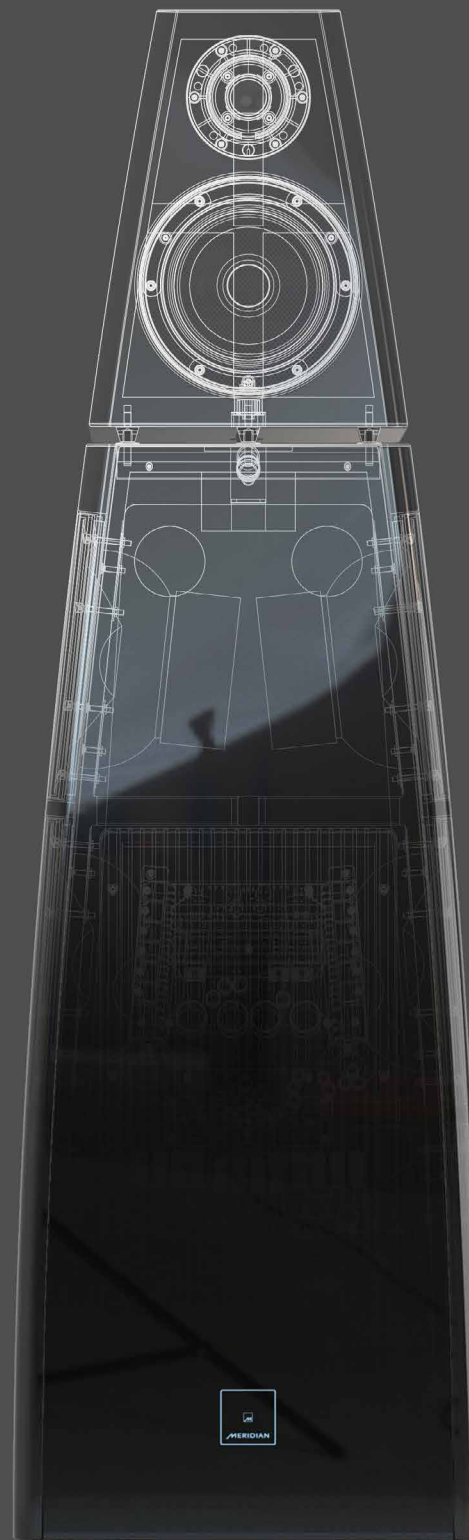
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1. INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to assist with the installation and use of the DSP8000 XE loudspeakers. The first part of the guide covers information specific to the loudspeakers and the accessories supplied with them. The second part of the guide explains how the loudspeakers are installed, configured and used within several differing system applications.

System applications

The user-interface of the DSP8000 XE itself is limited to the illuminated badge on its front panel. As a result, many settings and features can be accessed and adjusted only via other Meridian equipment connected to the loudspeakers. This additional user-interface may come from a comprehensive controller product, such as the Meridian 818v3, or it may be provided by just the Meridian B-Link module used in conjunction with a smartphone or tablet running the Meridian Control app.

Aside from the combination of just the loudspeakers and the B-Link module, every installation use-case requires additional equipment to be connected to the loudspeakers.

The DSP8000 XE can be used with Meridian products, non-Meridian products or, more typically, a mixture of the two. Different products require different set-up methods, so installing a system can involve several different processes. To that end, this guide covers several typical set-up scenarios for the loudspeakers. It explains which processes and methods are required in each case.

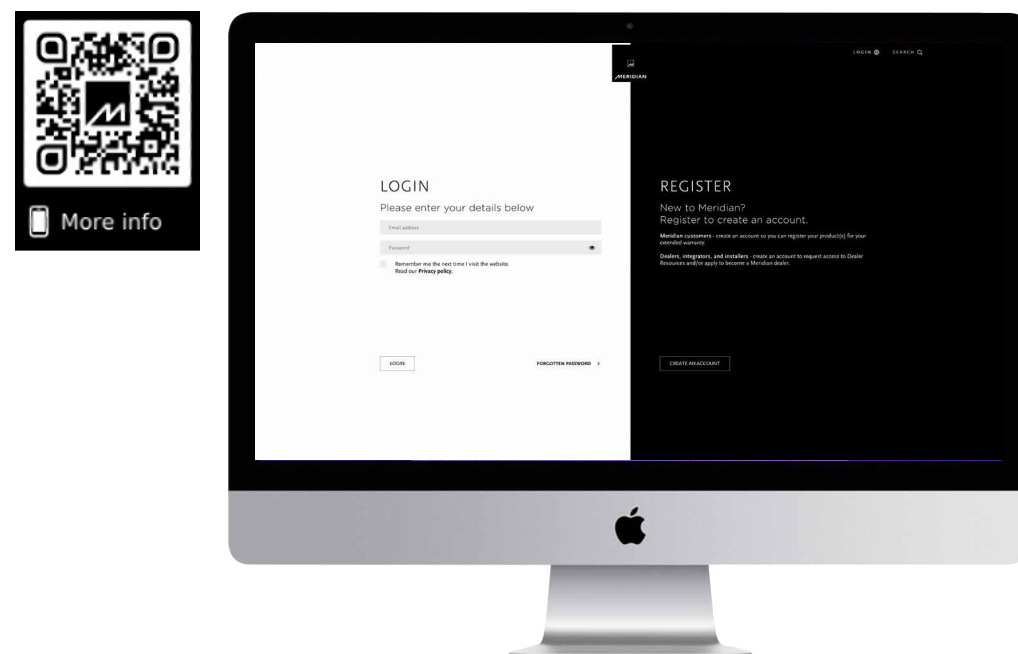
This guide does provide advice relating to other Meridian products where it is relevant to their being installed, configured and used with DSP8000 XE loudspeakers. However, to avoid over-complicating the guide, pointers to user guides for other products are given. The intention is to provide a description which is concise enough to follow, and yet detailed enough to lead you to success.

Sales and service

All direct support for Meridian products, systems and associated software is provided through our authorised distribution network. If you require any such advice or information, you should contact your Meridian dealer.

Product registration

Register your DSP8000 XE Digital Active Loudspeakers at:
meridian-audio.com/my-meridian



2. UNPACKING AND ASSEMBLY

Before you begin installation you should ensure that your loudspeakers are the correct voltage for your local mains AC supply. If they are not, do not try to install them, and contact your dealer. You should not make any connections to the loudspeakers, or to any other component in your system, while the mains power supply is connected and switched on.

Care when unpacking

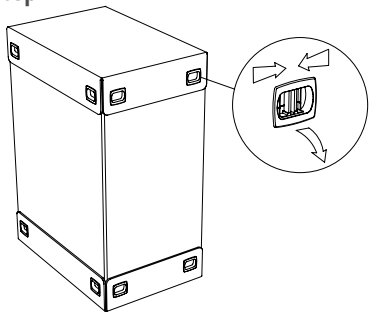
Take great care when unpacking or re-packing the loudspeakers that you do not put undue pressure on the drive units, as they may be damaged if pressed. Particular care should be taken to avoid any contact with the dome at the centre of the tweeter. To help achieve this, the tweeter is covered by a protective foam cover when packed. The tweeter cover should be removed only once the loudspeaker has been fully unpacked, positioned in its intended location and the head-unit has been mounted onto the main cabinet.

The head-units and main cabinets are supplied in separate cartons. The weight of the main cabinets requires that they be lifted only with assistance from at least one other person.

Unpacking the main cabinets

The outer packaging comprises of four cardboard sections which are held together by removable plastic clips. End-pieces form the top and bottom of the packaging, and a two-piece sleeve forms the sides of the box.

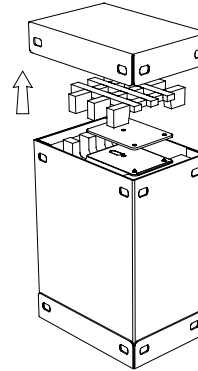
Step 1



Ensure the packed cabinet is standing on its base; this can be confirmed by checking that the information printed on the box is the right-way up.

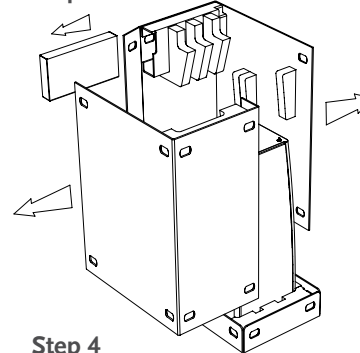
Remove all 18 plastic clips from the packaging. To do this, the two fins in the centre of each clip should be pinched firmly together between thumb and forefinger. This allows the clip to be pulled out of location. There are eight clips on each cardboard end-piece and two more on the main cardboard sleeve holding the two halves together. The force required to remove the clips can vary and some may require considerable pressure to release.

Step 2



Lift off the top cardboard end-piece.

Step 3

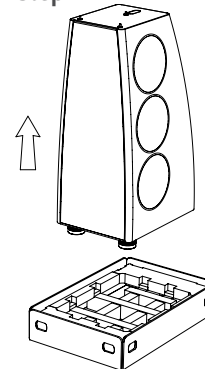


Lift out the multi-piece foam packing and flat foam pad which are fitted over the top of the cabinet.

Remove the two halves of the main sleeve. When doing this, bear in mind that one loudspeaker in each pair is packed with an accessories pack held in a folded section with the sleeve. Take care that the accessories pack does not slide out of its recess and fall to the ground.

Locate the accessories pack from the relevant cabinet packaging, remove it and keep it for use later.

Step 4



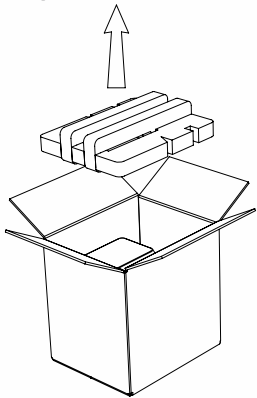
With the assistance of at least one other person, lift the main cabinet out of bottom cardboard end-piece and place it carefully onto the floor.

Remove the protective foam sheeting which covers the cabinet.

It is advised that the empty packaging is reassembled with all packing pieces contained within it so it can be reused should there be any need to transport the loudspeakers at a later date.

Unpacking the head-units:

Step 1

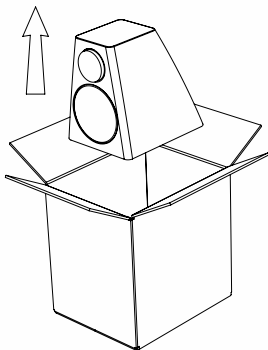


Ensure the carton is standing on its base; this can be confirmed by checking that the information printed on the carton is the right-way up.

Using a box-opener tool, or with careful use of a blade, open the carton by splitting the tape on its top surface. Take care not to allow any blade to penetrate the cardboard by more than a few millimeters.

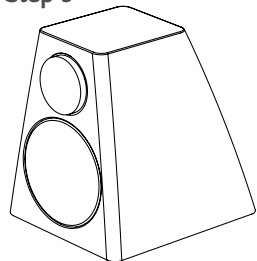
Once the carton is open, remove the top packing piece.

Step 2



Taking care not to apply pressure to the drive units, the head-unit can now be lifted out of the carton and placed carefully on an appropriate surface.

Step 3



Remove the protective foam sheeting which covers the head-unit. It is strongly advisable to leave the foam tweeter cover in place to protect the tweeter until the loudspeakers are fully installed and ready to be used.

It is advised that the empty packaging is reassembled with all packing pieces contained within it so it can be reused should there be any need to transport the loudspeakers at a later date.

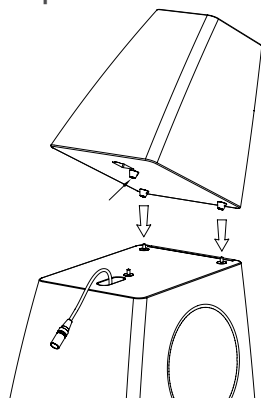


Fitting the head-units to the main cabinets

Each head-unit sits on three steel spikes protruding from the top of the main cabinet; two spikes towards the front of the cabinet, one towards the rear. These fit into three matching “spike-cups” on the underside of the head-unit. A short connecting cable, which emerges from the top surface of the main cabinet, plugs into a socket on the underside of the head-unit.

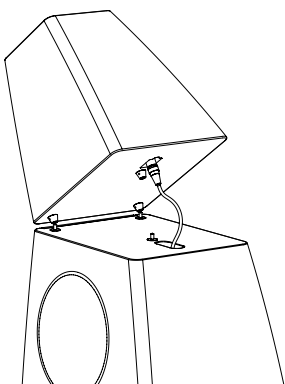
It is strongly advised that the task of fitting the head is performed by two people working together. Particular care should be taken to avoid any contact with the dome at the centre of the tweeter. It is strongly advised that the foam tweeter cover is left in place on the head-unit until the loudspeakers are fully installed and ready to be used.

Step 1



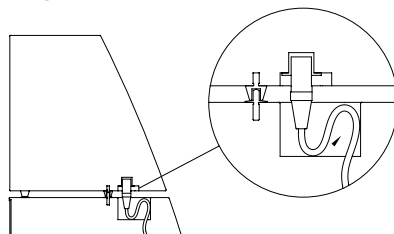
Hold the head-unit at a slight forward angle above the main cabinet and lower it carefully, so that the front two spike-cups fit over the front two spikes on the main cabinet. Carefully lower the rear of the head-unit so the rear spike-cup locates onto the rear spike.

Step 2



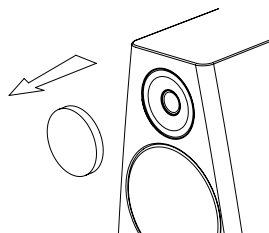
Next, lift the rear of the head-unit slightly to allow the short connecting cable to be located and plugged into the socket on the underside of the head-unit. This connection is latched, so a click should be felt as the cable is pushed fully home.

Step 3



Carefully lower the rear of the head-unit so the rear spike-cup locates onto the rear spike, while simultaneously manipulating the cable so it is tucked into the recess towards the top rear edge of the main cabinet.

Step 4



When the loudspeaker is ready to be used, remove the tweeter-cover and retain it so it can be used if required at a later date.

Accessories supplied with the loudspeakers

- One B-link Bluetooth adapter (not supplied with the vertical centre Version of the DSP8000 XE)
- Two grille extractor tools
- One microfibre cleaning cloth
- One short Speakerlink cable per loudspeaker
- One power cord per loudspeaker
- One IA21 Analogue Input Module per loudspeaker
- Four M3 x 6mm fixing screws for each IA21 Analogue Input Module

If any of these items is missing, please contact your dealer.

3. POSITIONING THE LOUDSPEAKERS IN THE ROOM

The enormous variety of dimensions, design and construction methods used in domestic rooms means that there are no hard and fast rules for exactly where the loudspeakers should be located to maximise sonic performance. In many cases, aesthetics will come into play and the visual appeal of the DSP8000 XE can influence the decision on where they are located. There is also the important matter of personal preference. Beauty can be in the ear of the beholder, meaning that listening tests are invariably the most successful method for achieving the best results.

There are, however, some guidelines to use as a starting point for where to place the loudspeakers. Listening tests can then be used to experiment with different adjustments to find the final positioning which suits the installation in question.

TWO-CHANNEL SYSTEMS

A starting point

If possible, position the loudspeakers in front of the most acoustically absorbent wall in the room. Ideally, have each loudspeaker at least 50cm (20 inches) from any corner, and position them at least 25cm (10 inches) away from the wall behind them.

A well-proven starting point for a two-channel system is to have the two loudspeakers and the centre of the listening position all equidistant from each other. In other words, when viewed from above, the two loudspeakers and the centre of the listening position form an equilateral triangle. This guideline can be used regardless of the distance of the listening position from the loudspeakers, meaning it can be applied in rooms where certain dimensions cannot be changed; for example, the seating is in a pre-determined position.

As mentioned, this is a starting point and it is often worthwhile experimenting with having the loudspeakers moved slightly further apart or slightly closer together. Naturally, the two loudspeakers should be kept at an equal distance from the centre of the listening position to maintain ideal stereo balance between the left and right loudspeakers.

If circumstances dictate that the equilateral triangle layout cannot be used, the next best thing is to ensure the two loudspeakers are still positioned so that they are equidistant from the listening position. This gives us a triangle with two sides of equal length and one side which is either longer or shorter than that length. As you may remember from your school geometry, this is known as an isosceles triangle. In general, the closer this is to being equilateral, the better.

Further apart?

As the loudspeakers are moved slightly further apart in comparison to the distance to the listening position, the width of the stereo image can be increased, and this may produce desirable results by increasing the impression of being immersed in the sound. However, having the sound spread too wide can also seem unnatural and, if the loudspeakers are moved too far apart, sound quality can really suffer.

One aim of correctly positioning loudspeakers is so they can form a three-dimensional “soundstage” which portrays the original event. A sonic image with depth, width and even height is produced. This is done by accurately reproducing subtle cues within the recording in the same proportions as they existed in the original event. Having the loudspeakers spread too far apart can cause the subtlety of these cues to be lost. Sounds just seem to come directly from either one or other of the loudspeakers, with none of the nuances present in a good soundstage.

Closer together?

As the loudspeakers are moved slightly closer together in comparison to the distance to the listening position, the ability for the loudspeakers to create a solid, three-dimensional soundstage can be increased. However, this can come at a price. Unsurprisingly, the width of the stereo image is reduced and, if the loudspeakers are moved too close together, this narrowing of the sound can mean a noticeable loss of scale and impact on direction cues within the image.

Toe-in: Angling for the best image

Toe-in is the term used from the way the loudspeakers are angled in relation to the listening position. If a pair of loudspeakers are angled inwards so that they are pointing directly at the listening position, they are said to be fully toed-in. If loudspeakers are positioned without being angled in, so that their front panels are perpendicular to the side-walls (in a rectangular room), they are said to have no toe-in.

Adjusting toe-in can affect the definition of the stereo image as well as the apparent size of the soundstage. This is due to fact that the “off-axis” frequency response of a loudspeaker tends to differ from its “on-axis” response. This variation is usually most marked in regard to the output of the tweeter. In addition, changing the angle of the loudspeakers changes the pattern of reflected sound within the room. Given these variables, the effect of toe-in is more pronounced with some loudspeaker models than others, and it is invariably room-dependent.

The Meridian DSP8000 XE loudspeaker is designed to have excellent off-axis characteristics, but there is still merit in using listening tests to experiment with the amount of toe-in used. Start by listening to the loudspeakers with them pointing directly down the room. Then, try them with their front-panels angled slightly inwards towards the listening position. Gradually increase the inwards angle, listening to them each time. Ensure the angles are equal for both loudspeakers for each test. It may be necessary to move back and forth between positions to ascertain where the optimum image and soundstage are attained.

Off-centre listening? Image Focus

Circumstances can dictate that the listener is positioned off-centre, rather than being equidistant from the two loudspeakers. This could be a permanent arrangement due to the layout of the seating in the room, or it may be that there is an alternative listening position which is used from time-to-time. The DSP8000 XE loudspeakers feature Meridian’s **Image Focus*** technology which can compensate for such situations. **Image Focus** is adjusted in the same way as a “Balance” control but, unlike a conventional balance control which simply varies the left and right volume levels, **Image Focus** combines gains and delays between the two loudspeakers to steer the stereo image. When sitting off-centre, the user is able to adjust the setting so that the image snaps into focus, allowing a realistic soundstage to be experienced.

Is it all going over your head? Image Focus Plus

Most loudspeakers are designed to have the tweeters at the same height, or slightly higher than, the listener’s ears. This maintains the relative timing of sound travelling from the tweeter and the mid-range driver

This is often a moot point because seating is usually selected for reasons other than the sitting height relative to the sound system! This can mean that if the tweeters are much too high or too low, the listener is stuck with the situation. However, the DSP8000 XE loudspeakers feature Meridian’s **Image Plus Focus**** technology which can compensate for such differences in heights. The **Image Focus Plus** setting adjusts the delay between the tweeter and the mid-range driver to steer the image up or down to the height of the listener’s ears.

* The DSP8000 XE is the first Meridian product to show this setting as Image Focus. Previous products featured the same technology, but it showed simply as a “Balance” control.

** The DSP8000 XE is the first Meridian product to show this setting as Image Focus Plus. Previous products featured the same technology, but it showed as the “Axis” control.

SURROUND-SOUND SYSTEMS

In surround-sound systems, the display screen plays a large part in deciding where to position the front three loudspeakers, for the left, centre, and right channels. However, several aspects come into play and these factors can conflict with each other. Many systems require a degree of compromise between the various constraints.

Guidelines for positioning loudspeakers in surround systems usually refer to the angle of each loudspeaker (when viewed from above) in relation to a central listening position. In such cases, the centre of the screen is said to be at zero degrees, whereas a position directly to the left or the right side of the listener would be at 90 degrees.

Both Dolby and THX advise that the left and right loudspeakers should be positioned symmetrically at an angle which is between 22° and 30° from the centre-line. This may or may not be achievable, depending on other factors.

Ideally, each loudspeaker should be at least 50cm (20 inches) from any corner and positioned at least 25cm (10 inches) away from the wall behind them.

Soundtracks are created with the intention that the left and right loudspeakers are positioned just inside the edge of the screen.

This is feasible with acoustically transparent screens, but a complication arises if the screen features adjustable masking on its sides. The loudspeakers need to just inside the masking material when the screen is masked to its narrowest.

For non-acoustically transparent screens, the left and right loudspeakers should be positioned just beyond the outside edges of the screen.

If a DSP8000 XE is used as a centre-channel, it should be placed centrally and equidistant from the main left-right pair. If possible, arrange for the tweeters of the three loudspeakers to be at approximately the same height. Ideally, this height should match the “ear-height” of the listeners.

In a system which uses a DSP8000 XE as a centre-channel, Meridian’s Image Focus Plus control can be used to steer the image towards seating positions which are higher or lower than the height of the tweeter of the centre-channel.

For obvious reasons, the centre-channel should not be positioned behind a non-acoustically transparent screen!

Meridian’s authorised distribution network has access to the Meridian Design and Specification Service which assists with the specification and installation of surround-sound systems featuring Meridian products.

4. CONNECTIONS, CONTROLS AND INDICATOR LIGHT

FRONT PANEL INDICATOR

The status of the DSP8000 XE is shown by the illuminated badge on the front of the loudspeaker.

During normal use		During a firmware update	
COLOUR	STATUS	COLOUR	STATUS
Flashing blue	Loudspeaker powering up	Magenta	Erasing non-volatile memory
Blue	Loudspeaker in Standby	Flashing White	Updating non-volatile memory
White	Loudspeaker operating	Red	Error during update
Not lit	Loudspeaker not powered, or loudspeaker operating but with indicator switched off	Green	Update successful
Cyan	Loudspeaker in Configuration mode		

IR RECEIVER

The loudspeaker features an infra-red receiver. This is integrated into the illuminated badge on the loudspeaker's front-panel. Only a Master loudspeaker can use its IR receiver. Slave loudspeakers cannot receive infra-red. See the section **Master and Slave** on page 13 and **IR Control** on page 15. Only one Meridian product within a system should be controlled by IR commands from the remote control. If two or more Meridian products receive IR commands, problems can arise with control of the system. For this reason, it may be necessary to disable the IR receiver on one or more products in the system. Instructions for how to achieve this in various system scenarios are given in the system set-up sections towards the end of this guide.

REAR PANEL

The connection panel on the back of the loudspeaker



SpeakerLink connections

SpeakerLink is a proprietary interface used by Meridian products. On the DSP8000 XE, SpeakerLink carries audio and control signals into and out of the loudspeaker. SpeakerLink cables are constructed using RJ45 connections and network cables of Cat5e (or higher) specification.

DSP8000 XE loudspeakers are factory configured so that the SpeakerLink connections are active and ready to be connected to other Meridian products. This means that, in many system scenarios, no additional configuration of the loudspeakers required.

Meridian Controller products feature a SpeakerLink output for each of the output channels in the system. In systems featuring a Meridian Controller product, each loudspeaker typically has its SpeakerLink input connected to the Controller product while its SpeakerLink output remains unused. This is known as a “star-wired” or “home run” arrangement. To facilitate this, Meridian two-channel controllers have two SpeakerLink outputs, while Meridian surround-sound controllers have eight outputs to support loudspeaker layouts of up to 7.1 channels.

An alternative to star-wiring is to have pairs of loudspeakers connected in a “daisy-chain” arrangement with the SpeakerLink output of the first loudspeaker connected to the Speakerlink input on the second. However, within surround-sound systems, only specified pairs of loudspeakers can be daisy-chained. Refer to the surround-sound controller's User Guide for details.

Other connections

In addition to its SpeakerLink input, the DSP8000 XE features three other audio inputs. These inputs can be fed directly from digital audio sources with the appropriate output types.

Note: These other audio inputs are available only on the Master loudspeaker in the system. An explanation of the Master loudspeaker is given in the section **Master and Slave** on page 13.

Digital In

Co-axial digital audio input (RCA phono) supporting sampling rates up to 192KHz @ 24-bit resolution.

Opt In

Optical digital audio (Toslink) supporting sampling rates up to 96kHz @ 24-bit resolution.

USB Audio

USB digital audio [type C] supporting sampling rates up to 384kHz @ 24-bit resolution.

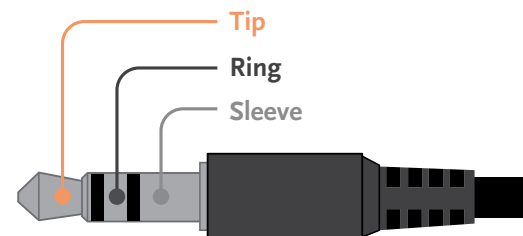
IR Input

3.5mm three-pole “minijack” socket for the connection of a Meridian G12 IR Sensor or a third-party IR receiver which uses 12V and is wired as shown here. Note: the loudspeaker has an infra-red receiver integrated into the badge on its front-panel. A separate IR receiver is required only if the receiver on the front-panel is obscured, for example, if the loudspeaker is used behind a projection screen or a stretched fabric wall-covering.

Tip: +12v DC

Ring: Sensor Output

Sleeve: Ground



Maintenance

USB-B socket for use with third-party control systems Also used for uploading firmware to the loudspeaker.

Channel selector switch

When used in a Meridian system, the SpeakerLink input of the DSP8000 XE is always fed with a two-channel digital audio signal. Typically, this is a left and right channel pair. The Channel Selector switch determines which of these channels the loudspeaker will play, or it can be set to play a mix of both channels.

Using the loudspeaker on the left of the system

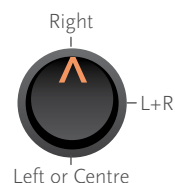
- Set the Channel Selector switch to **Left or Centre**.



In a multichannel system this applies to all loudspeakers on the left-hand side of the room.

Using the loudspeaker on the right of the system

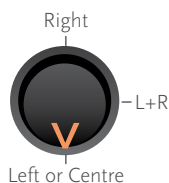
- Set the Channel Selector switch to **Right**.



In a multichannel system this applies to all loudspeakers on the right-hand side of the room.

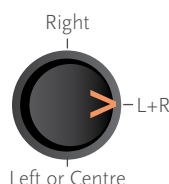
Using the loudspeaker as a centre channel

- Set the Channel Selector switch to **Left or Centre**.
- If required, enable Image Elevation by switching on **Centre Mode** using the Meridian Control app in conjunction with the B-Link adapter (see opposite).



Using the loudspeaker to play a mix of left and right audio

- Set the Channel Selector switch to **L+R**.



This will play a balanced mix of left and right audio, allowing a single loudspeaker to reproduce all the audio present in a stereo recording. It also provides a useful option for systems using multiple loudspeakers where the listening area does not have clearly-defined left and right loudspeaker positions.

Power switch

The On/Off power switch controls the mains power supply to the loudspeaker. When initially powered-up, the DSP8000 XE goes through a short boot-up process indicated by the front-panel indicator flashing blue. The loudspeaker then goes into its Standby mode. It is then switched between its Standby and operating modes by the appropriate communication signals from another Meridian product or, when the loudspeaker is configured accordingly, from the IR receiver on the front of the loudspeaker. Signals from the other Meridian product are received on the SpeakerLink input socket of the loudspeaker when the rest of the system is switched between Standby and operating modes.

Factory Reset button

Sets the loudspeaker back to its factory defaults. This includes assigning all sources to the SpeakerLink input.

Mains fuse

Removable mains fuse. Replace with same type fuse: T5AH 250V for 230V, T10AH 250V for 100/115V.

The DSP8000 XE features Image Elevation technology. As well as improving the sense of dialogue coming from centre-stage, Image Elevation can enhance the integration of sounds that pan from left and right in a multichannel system. Once Image Elevation is enabled by switching on **Centre Mode** in the AUDIO MENUS section of the Configuration options available on the Meridian Control app, it can be activated and adjusted using the **Centre Elevation** control on the Meridian Surround Controller product

5. MASTER AND SLAVE

In a system featuring any Meridian loudspeakers, one of the Meridian loudspeakers is designated as the “Master” loudspeaker, the others are designated as “Slaves”*. When each DSP8000 XE is powered up, it automatically senses how it is connected within the system and assigns itself as either Master or Slave. In most system set-ups, there is no need for the installer or user to be aware of these roles. The exceptions are explained below.

*This does not apply when using the IA21 Analogue Input Modules with DSP8000 XE. See the section on **IA21** on page 16.

SITUATIONS WHERE IT IS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY WHICH LOUDSPEAKER IS THE MASTER

When the loudspeakers are to be controlled using IR remote control. Only a Master loudspeaker can respond to infra-red commands received by the IR receiver on the front-panel, or via a remote IR sensor connected to the IR Input socket on the back-panel.

When any source is to be connected to the Digital Input, the Optical Input or USB Audio input. This applies to systems with no Meridian Controller product, or systems with a Meridian Controller product but also one or more sources connected directly to the loudspeakers. Only a Master loudspeaker can have the additional audio inputs activated. Slave loudspeakers can use only their SpeakerLink input to receive audio signals.

HOW A DSP8000 XE IS ASSIGNED AS THE MASTER

In systems featuring a Meridian two-channel controller product, e.g. 818v3 or 218

The controller product carries two SpeakerLink output sockets; one labelled “Master”, the other “Slave”. The DSP8000 XE which is connected to the Master socket will assume the role of Master.

In systems featuring a Meridian surround-sound controller product, e.g. 861v8 or G65

The Meridian surround-sound controller must be configured to tell it which loudspeaker is the Master. By default from the factory, the front-left loudspeaker is assigned the role of Master. This setting can be changed on the controller using the Meridian set-up program, “MConfig”. In addition, whichever loudspeaker is assigned as Master must be connected

to the appropriate SpeakerLink output socket on the controller. The SpeakerLink outputs comprise of four pairs of sockets arranged in two rows. The Master must be connected to one of the four sockets in the row labelled as “Master” (a green band runs through this row), with the specific socket determined by the role of the Master in the system:

Role	Socket pair to be used
Left or right front	L + R
Centre channel	C + Sub
Side surround	Side L + R
Rear surround	Rear L + R

In systems with no Meridian controller product

Only the Master loudspeaker can be fed audio from source products, so the physical location of the source(s) in relation to the two loudspeakers may affect the choice of Master. The SpeakerLink output of the Master is then connected to the SpeakerLink input of the other loudspeaker.

6. B-LINK

OVERVIEW

The B-Link supplied with the DSP8000 XE loudspeakers supports Bluetooth® wireless technology. When combined with the Meridian Control app, the B-Link performs the following tasks:

- It allows access to set-up menus for the configuration of the loudspeaker during installation. Such installation settings are stored in the loudspeaker's non-volatile memory, so they are retained even if the B-Link is disconnected.
- It provides an intuitive interface for control of the loudspeakers from a smartphone or tablet; to adjust the volume level, to switch the loudspeakers on and off, and to access other settings, such as treble and bass.

In addition, the B-Link can act as a high-quality source of audio streamed wirelessly from a Bluetooth device such as a smartphone, tablet or computer.

THE MERIDIAN CONTROL APP

The **Meridian Control** app is available for download for iOS devices from the Apple App Store and for Android devices from the Google Play Store. In either case, search for **Meridian** to find the app or scan the QR code shown below.

When run for the first time, the app includes a simple step-by-step installation process. Once installed, the B-Link can be used to configure and control the DSP8000 XE loudspeakers, or to stream audio using Bluetooth.

Scan this QR code to get the **Meridian Control** app



The status of the B-Link is shown by the illuminated band which runs around the device.

Colour	Status
Blue with steady blinking	Powering up
Blue	Standby
White	Normal mode
White with heartbeat blinking	Pairing mode
Blue with heartbeat blinking	Pairing disabled
Cyan	Configuration mode



7. IR CONTROL

The loudspeakers can be controlled using infra-red commands from a Meridian System Remote. However, this feature needs to be activated. By default, the loudspeakers will not respond to IR commands. Only a Master loudspeaker can have its IR reception activated. For further explanation of the Master loudspeaker, refer to the section **Master and Slave** on page 13.

When the loudspeakers are used in a system which features any other Meridian products capable of receiving IR commands, it is important that only one of the products has its IR receiver activated. If two or more Meridian products receive IR commands, problems can arise with control of the system.

The configuration setting relating to activating the IR receiver on Meridian products has three options:

- Controller
- Not controller
- Auto (or “Automatic” on some products)

When set to Controller, the product's IR receiver is active and is ready to receive commands.

When set to Not controller, the product's IR receiver is disabled and will not receive commands.

When set to Auto, the product's IR reception capability can be set using the Auto IR Set-up process described below.

On the DSP8000 XE, the setting for Controller/Not controller/Auto is accessed using the Meridian Control app in conjunction with the B-Link module.

Auto IR Set-up

This process requires the use of a Meridian System Remote (MSR, MSR+ or MSR2). The products should be connected together using SpeakerLink cables (or other appropriate comms cables) so that they are able to receive and transmit Meridian comms.

Ensure all the products in the system are in Standby and they are set to “Auto” as described above. From a position which is in direct line-of-sight with all the IR receiving “eyes”, point the Meridian System Remote at the products and press the “Clear” key once. The products will communicate with one other and the most appropriate product will be set to have its IR receiver enabled. All the other products will disable their IR receivers. The products store how they are set in non-volatile memory, so they can be powered off and on without losing the settings.

Notes

The products must be connected as they are to be used in the installed system. SpeakerLink leads or other appropriate Meridian comms cables must be in place.

All the products should be set to “Auto”. Products set to “Not controller” will not participate in the process and will remain with their IR receivers disabled. Having any products set to “Controller” leads to a risk that two products will end up with enabled IR receivers. This will result in problems with inconsistency in control functionality.

The product which has its IR receiver enabled is chosen according to a hierarchy which is pre-programmed into the products. The Auto IR Set-up process will always select the product which is highest in this hierarchy. If, for some reason, this product is not the most appropriate to be the IR receiver, the products should be set manually to Controller or Not controller, and the Auto process should not be used.

If it is not possible for all the IR receivers on the products to be in line-of-sight of the remote control when the “Clear” key is pressed, the process should not be used.

8. IA21 ANALOGUE INPUT MODULE

OVERVIEW

The IA21 is designed to allow the DSP8000 XE to be fed from an analogue pre-amplifier or an analogue source which features a volume control.

The IA21 carries a balanced analogue input on an XLR socket and an unbalanced analogue input on an RCA phono socket. Either of these inputs can be used, but not both simultaneously.

The IA21 connects to the SpeakerLink input of the loudspeaker. In addition to supplying power to the module, this SpeakerLink connection carries digital audio from the IA21 to the loudspeaker.

The high-quality analogue-to-digital conversion built into the IA21 outputs a 192kHz signal when used with DSP8000 XE. When the loudspeaker is powered up, the IA21 configures the loudspeaker so that the module and loudspeaker adopt the same external functionality as an analogue active loudspeaker. This includes setting the loudspeaker gain to an appropriate fixed level and disabling the loudspeaker's internal volume control. The other audio inputs (**Digital Input, Optical Input and USB Audio**) and the IR receiver are also disabled. As the IA21 connects to the SpeakerLink input, the B-Link module cannot be used to directly control the loudspeakers. This means that both loudspeakers in a pair must be fitted with the IA21 and each should be fed independently from the analogue pre-amplifier or volume-controllable source.



FITTING THE IA21 TO THE LOUDSPEAKERS

IA21 module is designed to be bolted to the underside of the loudspeaker using the four screws supplied. The connections and controls should face rearwards, below those on the loudspeaker itself.

Once fitted, the SpeakerLink output of the module connects to the SpeakerLink input on the loudspeaker using the SpeakerLink cable supplied with the loudspeakers.

Alternatively, the IA21 can be positioned remotely from the loudspeaker and connected using a suitably long SpeakerLink cable.

INPUT SENSITIVITY SWITCH

The three-way input sensitivity switch should be set to suit the output level of the equipment feeding the module. If the sensitivity is set too low, the input of the IA21 could be overdriven, resulting in distorted sound. If the sensitivity is set too high, the maximum attainable volume level of the system may be lower than desired. Having the sensitivity set correctly also maximises the usable range of the volume control of the pre-amp, allowing fine adjustment of the listening level. The sensitivity can be set to either 0.5v, 1.5v or 2.5v.

STATUS LED

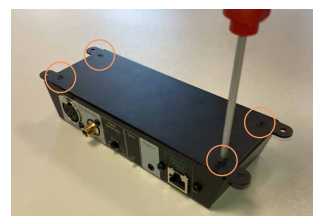
When connected to the DSP8000 XE, the LED shows the following:
Blue = Standby, White = On, Yellow = Clipping.

TRIGGER IN

The trigger input connection is a mono 3.5mm minijack socket which allows the loudspeaker to be switched in and out of Standby from third-party equipment equipped with a trigger output which delivers 5-30v DC.

SIGNAL SENSE

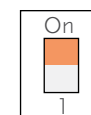
The IA21 features circuitry which automatically switches the loudspeaker out of Standby when audio is received on the analogue input. By default, the loudspeaker reverts to Standby mode if no audio is received for approximately 20 minutes. Signal sense can be disabled via a small switch within the module.



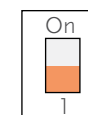
Remove the four Torx T10 screws from the top of the IA21



Switch set to "On" – Signal Sense enabled



Switch set to "Off" – Signal Sense disabled



9. SPECIFICATION

INPUT CONNECTIVITY	• 1 x Meridian SpeakerLink connector [RJ45] • 1 x co-axial digital audio [RCA phono] supporting up to 192kHz @ 24-bit • 1 x optical digital audio [Toslink] supporting up to 96kHz @ 24-bit • 1 x USB digital audio [type C] supporting up to 384kHz @ 24-bit • Bluetooth via the Meridian B-Link [supplied] • 1 x balanced analogue audio [XLR] on analogue input module • 1 x unbalanced analogue audio [RCA phono] on analogue input module
OUTPUT CONNECTIVITY	• 1 x Meridian SpeakerLink connector [RJ45]
CONTROL OPTIONS WITHOUT ANALOGUE INPUT MODULE	• Meridian comms via SpeakerLink • Bluetooth via Meridian B-Link module and the Meridian Control app • Integrated IR receiver • External IR receiver connection • RS232 via SpeakerLink input • USB via Maintenance connection
CONTROL OPTIONS WITH ANALOGUE INPUT MODULE	• Automatic signal-sense detect. Switch on detect time less than three seconds; switch to Standby time-out approximately 20 minutes. • Trigger input on analogue input module [3.5mm minijack]
PERFORMANCE	• Peak SPL: 120dB@1m for a single speaker • Frequency response in room within 3dB: 18Hz – 40kHz
FRONT-PANEL INDICATOR	• Blue in Standby, White in use [can also be unlit in use]
REAR-PANEL CONTROLS	• Power On/Off, channel selector switch, input sensitivity switch [on analogue input module]

TWEETER AMPLIFIER	• Class-AB, capable of greater than 150W into 4Ω, < 1% THD • THD + noise @ 1kHz < 0.005% • Bandwidth >100kHz
MID-RANGE AMPLIFIER	• Class-AB, capable of greater than 150W into 4Ω, < 1% THD • THD + noise @ 1kHz < 0.005% • Bandwidth >100kHz
BASS AMPLIFIERS	• Six bridged pairs of Class-D amplifiers - each pair capable of greater than 240W into 4Ω, < 1% THD. • THD + noise @ 1kHz < 0.008%
TWEETER	• 25mm beryllium dome with silver voice-coil, steel custom waveguide
MID-RANGE DRIVERS	• 1 x 160mm with non-conductive voice-coil former and anti-resonance clamp-ring mounting system
BASS DRIVERS	• 6 x 200mm polypropylene long-throw [up to 24mm excursion] with anti-resonance clamp-ring mounting system
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT	• WIDTH: 400mm [15.2in] tapering to 158mm [6.2in] • DEPTH: 528mm [20.8in] tapering to 210mm [8.3in] • WEIGHT: 110.5kg [243lbs] • HEIGHT*: 1350mm [53.2in]*
HEAD UNIT PACKED	• WIDTH: 490mm [19.3in] • DEPTH: 490mm [19.3in] • WEIGHT: 20.0kg • HEIGHT*: 400mm [5.7in]
MAIN UNIT PACKED	• WIDTH: 650mm [25.6 in] • DEPTH: 800mm [31.5in] • WEIGHT: 107.0kg • HEIGHT*: 1350mm [53.1in]

*With feet/spikes fitted

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DSP8000 XE includes MQA Renderer technology, which can connect to an MQA Core signal and complete the final unfold of an MQA file.

SPECIFICATION

09

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UNPACKING
AND ASSEMBLY

POSITIONING THE
LOUDSPEAKERS

CONNECTIONS
AND CONTROLS

MASTER
AND SLAVE

B-LINK

IR CONTROL

IA21 ANALOGUE
INPUT MODULE

MAINTENANCE
AND CLEANING

TROUBLESHOOTING

SYSTEM
APPLICATIONS

10. MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

FITTING AND REMOVING THE GRILLES

The loudspeakers are designed to be used with their grilles fitted over the bass-drivers and the mid-range driver. If preferred for cosmetic reasons, the grilles can be removed using the two grille-removal tools supplied with the loudspeakers.

To remove a grille, insert the hooked ends of the extractor tools into the grille mesh close to the outer edge of the grille, at the 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock positions. Grip the tools so that slight finger pressure can be used to restrain the grille as it is removed. Pull the grille out of the groove around the drive-unit before lifting the grille away from the loudspeaker.

DISMANTLING THE LOUDSPEAKERS

When dismantling the loudspeakers, always first disconnect the mains power supply.

It is advisable to remove the head-units when moving the loudspeakers. While doing this, great care should be taken to avoid any contact with the dome at the centre of the tweeter. To assist with this, it is advised that the foam tweeter cover supplied with the loudspeaker is refitted over the tweeter.

To remove the head-unit, carefully tilt the head-unit forward far enough to allow access to the lead which plugs into the underside of the head-unit.

Important: The socket for the lead features a latched connection, so it is necessary to depress the latch tab on the socket in order for the lead to be unplugged.

The head-unit can then be lifted clear of the main cabinet.

Take care while the head is not in position on the main cabinet as the mounting spikes on the main cabinet are exposed. Also avoid placing the head-units directly onto delicate surfaces as the spike-cups on their underside could cause damage.

CLEANING

Small marks on the lacquer surface can usually be removed with a damp cloth.

Deeper scratches can be removed by treating with additional polyester lacquer filler and then polishing carefully. Consult your authorised Meridian dealer for advice before attempting any repair.



11. TROUBLESHOOTING

ILLUMINATED BADGE ON FRONT PANEL NOT LIT

If the loudspeaker is in Standby mode, the illuminated badge on front of the loudspeaker will illuminate blue. When the loudspeaker is activated, the indicator illuminates white. However, if the DSP8000 XE receives the relevant control command from another Meridian product, the indicator can be switched off, so it is not lit even though the loudspeaker is activated and out-of-Standby. This situation could lead to doubt about the status of the loudspeaker.



The loudspeaker always reverts to Standby when power is first applied. So, to return the loudspeaker to a known state, simply switch off mains power and then switch on again. The indicator should light up blue. If it does not light up, the mains supply and the mains inlet fuse should be checked.

ONE OF THE LOUDSPEAKERS COMES ON, THE OTHER REMAINS IN STANDBY

Check that the Slave loudspeaker is connected to the system via its SpeakerLink Input socket.

If a pair of loudspeakers are connected in a “daisy-chain” arrangement, check that the SpeakerLink Output of the first loudspeaker is connected to the SpeakerLink Input of the second.

If one of the loudspeakers has had its mains power switched off since the system was last used, cycle the system in and out of Standby in order to get both loudspeakers into the same state. Once the loudspeakers are out-of-Standby, it is also advisable to adjust the volume control to bring both loudspeakers to the same volume level. Even a change of just one step ensures both loudspeakers are synchronised with each other.

DRIVE UNITS MOVE WHEN THE SPEAKER IS SWITCHED ON OR OFF

Movement of the drive units is normal at these times and relates to the loudspeaker’s electronic circuitry powering up or down.

THERE IS RADIO INTERFERENCE

The DSP8000 XE loudspeaker is a digital audio and computing device which has been designed to very high standards of electromagnetic compatibility. If this equipment does cause or suffer from interference to/from radio or television reception then the following measures should be tried:

- Reorient the receiving aerial (or antenna) or route the antenna cable of the receiver as far as possible from the DSP loudspeaker and its cabling.
- Ensure that the receiver uses well-screened antenna cable.
- Relocate the receiver with respect to the DSP loudspeaker.
- Connect the receiver and this product to different AC outlets.

If the problem persists contact your dealer.

SOUND IS ODD OR MONO

Check the Channel Selector switch on each loudspeaker is set appropriately. See the section on page 12.

THE LOUDSPEAKERS DO NOT RESPOND TO IR COMMANDS FROM A MERIDIAN SYSTEM REMOTE CONTROL

Only the Master loudspeaker can be controlled via IR from a remote control so the remote commands must be directly at the Master loudspeaker.

The loudspeakers can be configured to have the IR receiver disabled. Check the configuration of the Master loudspeaker to ensure it is set to “Controller”. Refer to the section **IR Control** on page 15.

UNIT GOES SILENT WHEN PLAYED HARD

The DSP8000 XE features protection technology which prevents overheating of the electronics. Sound will resume once when the loudspeaker has cooled.

12. SYSTEM APPLICATIONS



DSP8000 XE WITH 218 ZONE CONTROLLER

Overview

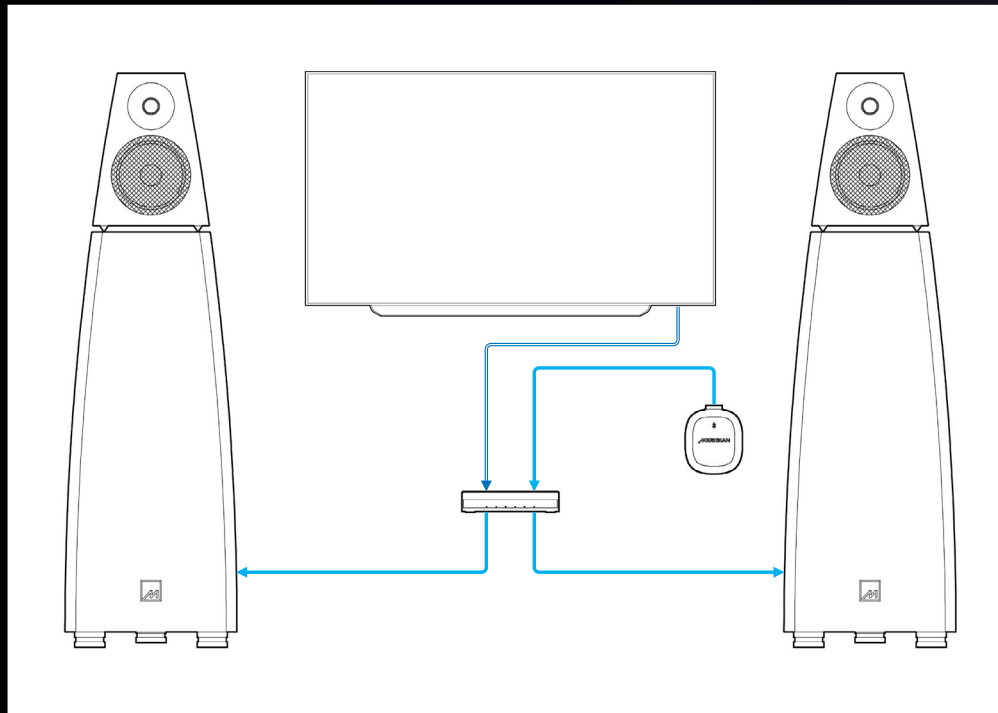
When using the 218 with a pair of DSP8000 XE loudspeakers, the 218 acts as the hub for the sources within the system. Source products are connected to the inputs on the 218 and the 218 is connected to the loudspeakers using SpeakerLink cables; one cable if the loudspeakers are “daisy-chained”, two if they are “star-wired”. In addition, the B-Link Bluetooth module supplied with the loudspeakers can be connected to the 218 to provide a means of streaming audio from a Bluetooth device such as a smartphone, tablet or PC.

The Channel Selector switch on the back-panel of each loudspeaker must be set appropriately to play either the left or right audio channel.

For advice on where to locate the loudspeakers within the room, refer to **Positioning the loudspeakers to obtain the best sound** on page 7.

Example system

218 Zone Controller, 2 x DSP8000 XE, Flat-screen TV, Meridian B-Link



Key

— SpeakerLink

— Optical

Configuring a system based on 218

By default, the 218 has its sources assigned as follows:

Source label	Input on 218	Description
CD	Digital In	Digital co-ax connection on RCA phono socket
Radio	Analogue In	Left + right pair of analogue line-level RCA phono sockets
SLS	Network	Internal networked audio endpoint connected to network via ethernet cable
TV	Optical In	Digital optical connection on Toslink socket
Tape	Analogue In	Left + right pair of analogue line-level RCA phono sockets
Sat	Optical In	Digital optical connection on Toslink socket
Disc	SpeakerLink In	Digital audio and Meridian comms connections on SpeakerLink socket (RJ45)
Cable	Optical In	Digital optical connection on Toslink socket
DVD	SpeakerLink In	Digital audio and Meridian comms connections on SpeakerLink socket (RJ45)
USB	Digital In	Digital co-ax connection on RCA phono socket
Game	Optical In	Digital optical connection on Toslink socket

If changes to the default settings are required, the 218 can be reconfigured using the Meridian Control app or from the 218’s Configuration Web Page.

Configuration using the Meridian Control app

The Control app communicates with the 218 via the Network connection on the product. Hence, the device running the app must be connected to the same network as the 218. It is recommended that an unmanaged network switch is inserted between the 218 and the network router.

Download the Meridian Control app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Once open, the app will automatically detect any network-connected Meridian products and display them in a list showing their current status. Without selecting the 218 (or any other product), tap on the menu icon in the top left-hand corner and the options available within the app will be shown. This is where the app can be switched between Control and Configuration of products. Tap on “Configuration” and the app will display a list of the products which are available to be configured. Tap on the 218 to reveal its configuration settings. Tap on “SOURCES” to access the Audio Input options. Changes made within the app need to be transferred to the product by tapping on “Store Settings” at the bottom of the page. Exit the 218 Configuration page by tapping on the “Back” button. Tap on the Menu icon to return to the main options within the app.

Configuration using the 218 Web Page

The 218 features a built-in web page which allows the product to be configured. To access the page, browse to the IP address of the 218 on a device connected to the same network as the 218. Changes can be made and then stored to the product.



Additional local sources connected directly to the loudspeakers

In addition to the SpeakerLink input, the loudspeakers feature three other audio inputs; digital co-ax, optical and USB-C. One of the loudspeakers can be configured so that these other inputs are available for use with sources connected directly to the loudspeaker. This can be useful if up to three sources are located close to the loudspeakers, while the 218 and other source products are located elsewhere.

In such a set-up, the loudspeaker which is to act as the hub for these local sources must have its SpeakerLink input connected to the “Master” SpeakerLink output on the rear of the 218. The local sources can then be connected to the other audio inputs on the loudspeaker. This loudspeaker is designated as the Master. Further explanation regarding the Master loudspeaker is given in the section **Master and Slave** on page 13 of this guide.

As an example, imagine there is a TV on the wall between the loudspeakers, but the 218 and other sources are far away at the back of the room. The TV can be connected via its optical output directly to the Master loudspeaker while other sources would be routed via the 218.

Up to twelve sources can exist in a Meridian system. These sources exist in a “global” fashion across the system so that more than one Meridian product can react simultaneous from a single command. This avoids the need for multiple key-presses to change settings on various products.

In the example above with our local TV source, selecting TV causes the 218 to change to the TV source. It switches to whichever input is assigned to TV, but this is of no consequence as the Master loudspeaker switches away from its SpeakerLink input and instead switches to its optical input. All of this happens from a single key-press and is invisible to the user.

Setting the loudspeakers for use with local sources in this way requires the Master loudspeaker to be configured using the B-Link module. (See section relating to the **B-Link** on page 14).



Configuration for IR remote control

The DSP8000 XE has an IR receiver eye integrated into the illuminated badge on the front of the loudspeaker. By default the IR receiver is disabled. The 218 and the loudspeakers also feature a connection for an external IR receiver.

Although neither the 218 nor the loudspeakers themselves have a digital display to provide visual feedback of volume level or other parameters, it may be desirable to provide IR control of the system. Settings are shared across the various control interfaces available from the system, so a change to the volume level made from an IR remote control will be displayed within the Meridian Control app, or it could be passed to a third-party control system.

Within a Meridian system, the product which receives and acts upon IR commands is designated as the “Controller”. In this case, either the 218 or the Master loudspeaker (but not both), can be selected to be the Controller. Naturally, if the 218 is to be the Controller, it must have an external IR receiver eye connected to its “IR in” socket.

Please note: Having only one Controller in a Meridian system is essential to avoid conflicts in command and control. Having more than one Controller, even inadvertently, can cause the system to behave erratically and inconsistently.

To ensure there is only one Controller, two settings are required in all cases. Whichever product is to use its IR eye should be set to “Controller”, while the other product should be set to “Not Controller”. Both settings are available from the Meridian Control app. The app can be used directly with the 218 to set it to be Controller or Not Controller within the “Comms” section of its configuration menus. To use the app to set the Master loudspeaker to Controller or Not Controller, the B-Link module must be connected to the loudspeaker’s SpeakerLink input. The app can be used to set the loudspeaker to be Controller or Not Controller within the “Comms” section of its configuration menus. Once the settings are made, they are stored in non-volatile memory, so the app can be closed and, in the case of the Master loudspeaker, the B-Link can be disconnected and put to one side if no longer required.

Further details for configuration using the B-Link can be found in the section **Configuration using B-Link** on page 14.

Using DSP8000 XE with 218

When the loudspeakers are connected to a Meridian Controller product, the products communicate with each other via the SpeakerLink connections so they work in unison as a fully integrated system. Commands are automatically executed transparently across the products making up the system. This gives the user the ability to access and adjust all relevant settings via their preferred control method, whether that is the Meridian Control app, an IR remote control, or a third-party control system. In addition, changes made on one interface are passed to the others so, for example, turning the volume up using an IR remote control will increase the volume number shown on the Control app.



Using the Meridian Control app

The Control app communicates with the 218 via the Network connection on the product. Hence, the device running the app must be connected to the same network as the 218. It is recommended that an unmanaged network switch is inserted between the 218 and the network router.



Download the Meridian Control app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Once open, the app will automatically detect the 218 providing access to control source selection, volume, and more.

Settings available while listening to the system

The Meridian Control app gives access to these settings:

Setting	Range	Default	Notes
Treble	-10dB to +10dB	+0.0dB	Tilts the frequency response across the higher frequencies
Bass	-5dB to +5dB	+0.0dB	Lifts or cuts the low frequency response of the system
Image Focus	Left 10 to Right 10	<0>	Directs the sound image for off-centre listening positions
Phase	+ or -	+	The absolute phase of the audio played by the system
Image Focus Plus	-2 to +3	-1	Adjust the height of the sound image to suit the listening position
FFA	On/Off	On	Enables Meridian's FFA (Full Frequency Alignment) technology
Free-Q	Free/Wall/Corner/Shelf	Free	Options for Free-Q compensation for location of loudspeakers
Resonance Control	Off/Min/Med/Max	Off	Room-dependent compensation for certain Meridian loudspeakers.
Sub Mode	Music/Movie	Music	Changes response of any connected Meridian subwoofers
Sub Filter	Off/Sub 1/Sub 2/Wide	Off	Selects the low-pass filter for any connected Meridian subwoofers
Sub Gain	+/- 15dB	+0.0dB	Controls the relative level of any connected Meridian subwoofers
Perfect Balance	On/Off	On	Perfect Balance maintains spectral balance at all volume levels.
LipSync	0ms to 85ms	oms	Audio delay to align video with sound

Using IR remote control

The system can be controlled using a Meridian system remote, such as the MSR2 remote control. Instructions for activating IR reception are given in the above section IR remote control. Neither the 218 nor the loudspeakers feature a display capable of showing the status of settings such as volume level. This lack of visual feedback means that care should be taken not to inadvertently set the volume level too high!



DSP8000 XE WITH 818V3 REFERENCE AUDIO CORE

Overview

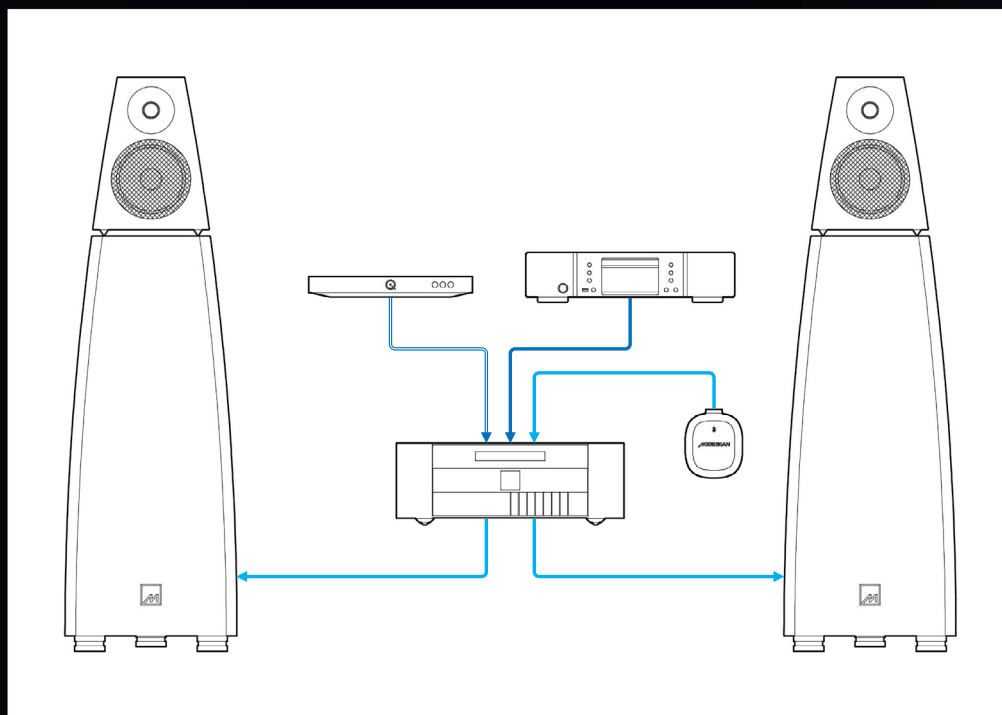
When using the 818v3 with a pair of DSP8000 XE loudspeakers, the 818v3 acts as the hub for the sources within the system. Source products are connected to the inputs on the 818v3 and the 818v3 is connected to the loudspeakers by one SpeakerLink cable if the loudspeakers are “daisy-chained”, or by two cables if they are “star-wired”. In addition, the B-Link Bluetooth module supplied with the loudspeakers can be connected to the 218 to provide a means of streaming audio from a Bluetooth device such as a smartphone, tablet or PC.

The Channel Selector switch on the back-panel of each loudspeaker must be set appropriately to play either the left or right audio channel.

For advice on where to locate the loudspeakers within the room, refer to **Positioning the loudspeakers to obtain the best sound** on page 7.

Example system

818v3 Reference Audio Core, 2 x DSP8000 XE, Satellite Receiver, Blu-Ray Player, Meridian B-Link.



Key

- SpeakerLink
- Optical
- Digital co-ax

Configuring a system based on 818v3

By default, the 818v3 has its sources assigned as follows:

Source label	Input on 818	Description
CD	D1	Digital co-ax connection on RCA phono socket
Radio	A1 + A2	Left + right pair of analogue line-level RCA phono sockets
SLS	Net	Internal networked audio endpoint connected to network via ethernet cable
TV	A3 + A4	Left + right pair of analogue line-level RCA phono sockets
Tape	B1 + B2	Left + right pair of analogue line-level RCA phono sockets
Sat	O1	Digital optical connection on Toslink socket
Disc	SL1	Digital audio and Meridian comms connections on SpeakerLink socket (RJ45)
Cable	A5 + A6	Left + right pair of analogue line-level RCA phono sockets
DVD	D2	Digital co-ax connection on RCA phono socket
USB	U1	Digital audio from a personal computer on USB Type-A socket
Game	O2	Digital optical connection on Toslink socket

If changes to these default settings are required, the 818v3 must be reconfigured using the Meridian configuration program “MConfig”.

The Meridian Control app and the ID41 Configuration Web Page

The source settings of the 818v3 can be checked using either the Meridian Control app or the ID41's configuration web page. However, neither interface allows these settings to be changed.

MConfig

This program runs on a PC and allows settings to be transferred between the PC and the 818v3 via the RS232 socket on the product. A suitable RS232 cable is supplied with the 818v3 for this purpose, but a USB-to-serial adapter will also be required if using a USB connection from the PC. The program is the only method for re-assigning system sources to non-default inputs on the 818v3.

Please note: Although the settings file created by MConfig refers to the loudspeakers on its Products page, the program is not used to configure the loudspeakers themselves



Additional local sources connected directly to the loudspeakers

In addition to the SpeakerLink input, the loudspeakers feature three other audio inputs; digital co-ax, optical and USB-C. One of the loudspeakers can be configured so that these other inputs are available for use with sources connected directly to the loudspeaker. This can be useful if up to three sources are located close to the loudspeakers, while the 818v3 and other source products are located elsewhere.

In such set-up, the loudspeaker which is to act as the hub for these local sources must have its SpeakerLink input connected to the “Master” SpeakerLink output on the rear of the 818v3. The local sources can then be connected to the other audio inputs on the loudspeaker. This loudspeaker is designated as the Master. Further explanation of the Master loudspeaker is given in the section **Master and Slave** on page 13 of this guide.

As an example, imagine there is a TV on the wall between the loudspeakers, but the 818v3 and other sources are far away at the back of the room. The TV can be connected via its optical output directly to the Master loudspeaker while other sources would be routed via the 818v3.

Up to twelve sources can exist in a Meridian system. These sources exist in a “global” fashion across the system so that more than one Meridian product can react simultaneously from a single command. This avoids the need for multiple key-presses to change settings on various products.

In the example above with our local TV source, selecting TV causes the 818v3 to display TV on its front-panel. The 818v3 also switches to whichever input is assigned to TV, but this is of no consequence as the Master loudspeaker switches away from its SpeakerLink input and instead switches to its optical input. All of this happens from a single key-press and is invisible to the user.

Configuring the loudspeakers for use with local sources in this way requires the Master loudspeaker to be set-up using the B-Link module. (See section relating to **configuration using B-Link** on page 14).



IR remote control

The 818v3 features an IR receiver eye built into its front-panel and the DSP8000 XE has an IR receiver eye integrated into the illuminated badge on the front of the loudspeaker. By default, the IR receiver on the 818v3 is enabled and the IR receiver on the loudspeakers is disabled. However, due to the way control is integrated across a Meridian system, all relevant settings can be accessed by directing all IR commands to the 818v3. Commands which are actually carried out within the loudspeakers are seamlessly passed across SpeakerLink to where they take effect.

In this case, the 818v3 is said to be the “Controller” of the Meridian system.

It is possible to override the default settings and make the Master loudspeaker the Controller of the system so that it receives IR commands instead of the 818v3. This requires the relevant setting to be changed on both the 818v3 and the Master loudspeaker. An explanation of the Master loudspeaker is given in the section **Master and Slave** on page 13 of this guide. The setting in the loudspeaker is accessed via the Configuration section of the Meridian Control app. To do this, the B-Link module must be connected to the loudspeaker’s SpeakerLink input. Once the loudspeaker is set as “Controller” within its Configuration menus, the setting is stored in the loudspeaker’s non-volatile memory. Hence, the B-Link can be disconnected and put to one side if no longer required.

The setting on the 818v3 is set using the MConfig program. The 818v3 should be set as “Not Controller” under the “Setup” tab within “Properties” for the 818v3.

Please note; Having only one Controller in a Meridian system is essential to avoid conflicts in command and control. Having more than one Controller, even inadvertently, can cause the system to behave erratically and inconsistently.



Using DSP8000 XE with 818v3

When the loudspeakers are connected to a Meridian Controller product, the products communicate with each other via the SpeakerLink connections so they work in unison as a fully integrated system. Commands are automatically executed transparently across the products making up the system. This gives the user the ability to access and adjust all relevant controls via their preferred control method, whether that is the Meridian Control app, the front-panel of the Controller, the IR remote control, or a third-party control system. In addition, changes made on one interface are passed to the others so, for example, turning the volume up using an IR remote control will increase the volume number shown on the Control app.

Settings available while listening to the system

By default, the 818v3 gives access to these settings from its front-panel keys or via IR remote control:

Setting	Range	Default	Notes
Treble	-10dB to +10dB	+0.0dB	Tilts the frequency response across the higher frequencies.
Bass	-5dB to +5dB	+0.0dB	Lifts or cuts the low frequency response of the system.
Balance	Left 10 to Right 10	<0>	The horizontal component of Meridian's Image Focus Plus technology.
Axis	-2 to +3	-1	The vertical component of Meridian's Image Focus Plus technology.
Phase	+ or -	+	The absolute phase of the audio played by the system.
Contrast	0 to 15	o	Contrast of the 818v3 front-panel display.
Brightness	0 to 15	o	Brightness of the 818v3 front-panel display.

In addition, the following settings are available if enabled within the front-panel Set-up mode on the 818v3.

Setting	Range	Default	Notes
Loudness	On/Off	On	Meridian's Perfect Balance technology.
Sub Mode	Music/Movie	Music	Changes response of any connected Meridian subwoofers.
Sub Filter	Off/Sub 1/Sub 2/Wide	Off	Selects the low-pass filter for any connected Meridian subwoofers.
Sub Gain	+/- 15dB	o dB	Controls the relative level of any connected Meridian subwoofers.
EBC	Off/Min/Med/Max	Off	Resonance Control used by relevant Meridian loudspeakers.
Position	Free/Wall/Corner/Shelf	Free	Free-Q compensation for location of loudspeakers.
EBA	On/Off	On	Meridian's FFA technology.
Input Gain	0.5v/1.0v/2.0v/2.5v	2.0v	Adjusts the gain offset of the analogue inputs.



For a full explanation of the settings available in Set-up mode, refer to the 818v3 User-Guide.

To enter front-panel Set-up mode:

- Put the 818v3 into Standby mode by pressing **Off** (front-panel or remote).
- Press and hold down the **Setup** key on the front-panel.
- The display shows a countdown in seconds:



- Keep holding down **Setup** until the countdown finishes.
- The display will show the first of the set-up menus.

To exit front-panel Set-up mode

- Put the 818v3 into Standby mode by pressing **Off** (front-panel or remote). Any changes that have been made to the set-up menus will be stored to non-volatile memory within the product.

Using the Meridian Control app

The Control app communicates with the 818v3 via the Network connection on the product. Hence, the device running the app must be connected to the same network as the 818v3. It is recommended that an unmanaged network switch is inserted between the 818v3 and the network router.

Download the Meridian Control app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Once open, the app will automatically detect the 818v3 providing access to primary functions such as source selection and volume level. The app does not provide access to the settings listed in the tables above.

Note: The network connection on the 818v3 resides on the ID41 card within the product. Hence, the name “ID41” is used within the app to represent the 818v3.

DSP8000 XE WITH 861V8 SURROUND CONTROLLER

Overview

When using the 861v8 with DSP8000 XE loudspeakers, the 861v8 acts as the hub for the sources within the system. Source products are connected to the inputs on the 861v8 and the loudspeakers are connected using SpeakerLink cables.

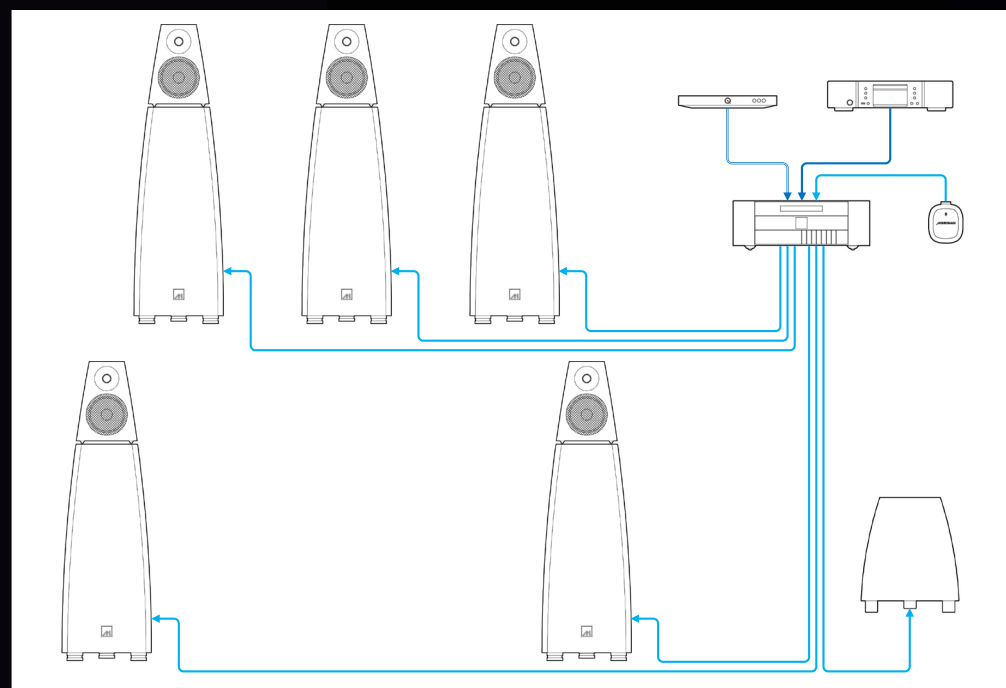
The loudspeakers must be set to play the appropriate audio channel. On the DSP8000 XE, this is done using the Channel Selector switch on the back-panel. In the example below, the DSW.2 should have its Channel Selector switch set to "2". Meridian loudspeakers featuring a digital display, such as the DSP7200 SE, must be set using a Meridian remote control. Refer to the User Guide for how to do this.

Each Meridian loudspeaker can be connected to an individual SpeakerLink output on the G65 as shown above, or specific pairs can be "daisy-chained" from a single SpeakerLink output. The pairs which can be daisy-chained are as follows:

- Left main and right main channels
- Left side and right side channels
- Left rear and right rear channel
- Centre-channel and Meridian subwoofer (acting as the LFE or Mono sub)

Additional Meridian subwoofers can be used in conjunction with any of the eight output channels above to complement or to augment bass output.

For advice on where to locate the loudspeakers within the room, refer to **Positioning the loudspeakers to obtain the best sound** on page 7.



Key

- SpeakerLink
- Digital co-ax

Configuring a system based on a Meridian 861v8

The configuration options available from the front-panel of the 861v8 are very limited. The product can be set via its front-panel to one of several standard settings, called “Types”, and the Calibration process can be run on the system.

Any further configuration requires the use of a PC running the Meridian Configuration program, MConfig.

MConfig

This program runs on a PC and allows settings to be transferred between the PC and the 861v8 via the RS232 socket on the product. A suitable RS232 cable is supplied with the 861v8 for this purpose, but a USB-to-serial adapter will also be required if using a USB connection from the PC. The program is the only method for re-assigning system sources to non-default inputs on the 861v8.

Please note: Although the settings file created by MConfig refers to the loudspeakers on its Products page, the program is not used to configure the loudspeakers themselves.

Meridian Control App and the ID40/41 Configuration Web Page

If the 861v8 is fitted with a networked audio streaming card (designated ID40 or ID41), either the Meridian Control app or the ID40/ID41 configuration web page can be used to check the source settings of the 861v8. However, neither interface allows these settings to be changed.

IR remote control

The 861v8 features an IR receiver eye built into its front-panel and the DSP8000 XE has an IR receiver eye integrated into the illuminated badge on the front of the loudspeaker. By default, the IR receiver on the 861v8 is enabled and the IR receiver on the loudspeakers is disabled. However, due to the way control is integrated across a Meridian system, all relevant settings can be accessed by directing all IR commands to the 861v8. Commands which are actually carried out within the loudspeakers are seamlessly passed across SpeakerLink to where they take effect.

In this case, the 861v8 is said to be the “Controller” of the Meridian system.

It is possible to override the default settings and make the Master loudspeaker the Controller of the system so that it receives IR commands instead of the 861v8. This requires the relevant setting to be changed on both the 861v8 and the Master loudspeaker. Refer to the section Master and Slave on page xx for an explanation of the Master loudspeaker. The setting in the loudspeaker is accessed via the B-Link module which must be connected to the loudspeaker’s SpeakerLink input. Once the loudspeaker is set as “Controller”, the setting is stored in the loudspeaker’s non-volatile memory, so the B-Link can be disconnected and put to one side if no longer required.

The Controller setting on the 861v8 is accessed using the MConfig program. The 861v8 should be set as “Not Controller” under the “Setup” tab within “Properties” for the 861v8.

Please note; Having only one Controller in a Meridian system is essential to avoid conflicts in command and control. Having more than one Controller, even inadvertently, can cause the system to behave erratically and inconsistently.

Additional local sources connected directly to the loudspeakers

Within a surround-sound system, there are situations where it is possible to take advantage of additional functionality offered by the DSP8000 XE by connecting one or more sources directly to the main left and right loudspeakers, thus bypassing the surround controller. This table illustrates these scenarios:

Additional functionality	Reason for doing this	Advantage offered
Playing audio via the loudspeaker's USB input from a source such as a PC.	The maximum sampling rate supported by the USB input on the 861v8 is 192 kHz @ 24-bit.	The DSP8000 XE accepts audio at sampling rates of up to 384kHz @ 24-bit on its USB input.
Playing authenticated MQA streams from an MQA decoder product via the loudspeaker's Digital In co-ax input.	The 861v8 does not support bit-perfect playback, so it cannot pass authenticated MQA streams onto the DSP8000 XE.	MQA audio streams can be fully rendered and played back by the main left and right loudspeakers.
Digital audio inputs located on the loudspeakers.	If a digital source is located in the room, close to the main loudspeakers, but far from the 861v8.	A convenient place to connect the source without having to run a cable to the 861v8.

Disadvantages of connecting local sources directly to the loudspeakers:

- It removes the option to listen to these sources using surround-sound presets such as Trifield.
- There is no way to apply Meridian Room Correction to the audio from these sources.

Connecting and configuring for the use of local sources:

The front left or the front right loudspeaker must be selected as the connection point for the local source(s). This loudspeaker must have its SpeakerLink input connected to the “Master” SpeakerLink output on the rear of the 861v8. The local sources can then be connected to other audio inputs **only** on this loudspeaker. This loudspeaker is designated as the Master. Further explanation of the Master loudspeaker is given in the section **Master and Slave** on page 13 of this guide.

The front loudspeaker pair must be connected in a “daisy-chain” arrangement. i.e. the Master loudspeaker must have its SpeakerLink output connected to the SpeakerLink input of the Slave loudspeaker.

The Source Configuration of the 861v8 and Master loudspeaker must be carried out in conjunction with each other so that when the local sources are listened to through the main left and right loudspeakers, the other loudspeakers fall silent. To do this, any source assigned to one of the local inputs on the Master loudspeaker must be assigned on the 861v8 to an unused input, this could be an analogue input with nothing plugged into it. For example, if CD is assigned to the USB input on the Master loudspeaker, the 861v8 must be configured with CD assigned to an unused socket.

Configuring the loudspeakers for use with local sources in this way requires the Master loudspeaker to be set-up using the B-Link module. Refer to the **B-Link** section on page 14.

If a Meridian product, such as 218, 210 or 818v3, is used as a local source, the product should be connected via SpeakerLink to either of the SpeakerLink inputs on the 861v8 in order for Meridian comms to be passed between the two products. No additional configuration is required for this connection.

Using DSP8000 XE with 861v8

When the loudspeakers are connected to a Meridian Controller product, the products communicate with each other via the SpeakerLink connections so they work in unison as a fully integrated system. Commands are automatically executed transparently across the products making up the system. This gives the user the ability to access and adjust all relevant settings via their preferred control method, whether that is the Meridian Control app, the front-panel of the Controller, the IR remote control, or a third-party control system. In addition, changes made on one interface are passed to the others so, for example, turning the volume up using an IR remote control will increase the volume number shown on the Control app.

Setting	Range	Default	Notes
Treble*	-10dB to +10dB	+0.0dB	Tilts the frequency response across the higher frequencies
Bass*	-5dB to +5dB	+0.0dB	Lifts or cuts the low frequency response of the system
Phase*	+ or -	+	The absolute phase of the audio played by the system
Axis	-2 TO +3	-1	The vertical component of Meridian's Image Focus Plus technology
Balance	Left 10 to Right 10	<0>	The horizontal component of Meridian's Image Focus Plus technology
HS Out?*	Y or No	Y	Selects whether High-Speed audio sampling rates are fed to the loudspeakers
Centre	-3.0dB to +3.0dB	+0.0dB	The relative level of the centre-channel loudspeaker
Depth	-2.5ms to +5ms	0.0MS	The relative delay applied to the centre-channel loudspeaker
C. Elev	Off, Min, Med, Max	Off	Psychoacoustically raises the sound image to the centre of a screen
Rear	30dB TO +10dB	+0dB	The relative level of the rear-channel loudspeakers
Sides	30dB TO +10dB	+0dB	The relative level of the side-channel loudspeakers
R. Delay	oms to 3oms	Varies	The relative delay applied to the rear-channel loudspeakers
S. Delay	oms to 3oms	Varies	The relative delay applied to the side-channel loudspeakers
EBA	On, Off	On	Enables or disables Meridian's FFA technology
LipSync	oms to 85ms	oms	Audio delay to align video with sound
RC	As defined	Bypassed	The selected Room Correction profile, or Bypassed for no room correction

* These parameters apply to all DSP presets.

Using the Meridian Control app

The Control app communicates with the 861v8 via the Network connection on the product. Hence, the device running the app must be connected to the same network as the 861v8. It is recommended that an unmanaged network switch is inserted between the 861v8 and the network router.

Download the Meridian Control app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Once open, the app will automatically detect the 861v8; tapping on it will allow control of source selection, volume, and more.

Note: The network connection on the 861v8 resides on the ID41 card within the product. Hence, the name “ID41” is used within the app to represent the 861v8.



DSP8000 XE WITH G65 SURROUND CONTROLLER

Overview

When using a G65 with DSP8000 XE loudspeakers, the G65 acts as the hub for the sources within the system. Source products are connected to the inputs on the G65 and the loudspeakers are connected using SpeakerLink cables. In addition, the B-Link Bluetooth module supplied with the loudspeakers can be connected to the G65 to provide a means of streaming audio from a Bluetooth device such as a smartphone, tablet or PC.

Each loudspeaker must be set to play the appropriate audio channel. On the DSP8000 XE, this is done using the Channel Selector switch on the back-panel. In this example, the DSW.2 should have its Channel Selector switch set to “2”. Meridian loudspeakers featuring a digital display, such as the DSP7200 SE, must be set using a Meridian remote control. Refer to the User Guide for how to do this.

Each Meridian loudspeaker can be connected to an individual SpeakerLink output on the G65 as shown above, or specific pairs can be “daisy-chained” from a single SpeakerLink output. The pairs which can be daisy-chained are as follows:

- Left main and right main channels
- Left side and right side channels
- Left rear and right rear channel
- Centre-channel and Meridian subwoofer (acting as the LFE or Mono sub)

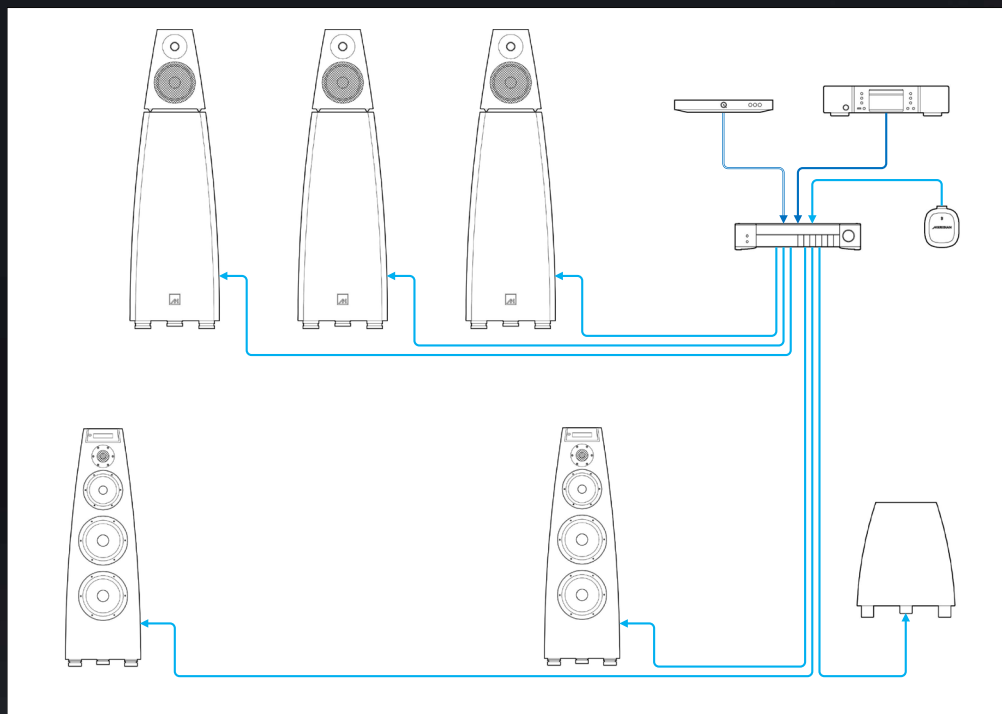
Additional Meridian subwoofers can be used in conjunction with any of the eight output channels above to complement or to augment bass output.

For advice on where to locate the loudspeakers within the room, refer to **Positioning the loudspeakers to obtain the best sound** on page 7.



Example system

G65 Surround Controller, 3 x DSP8000 XE as left, centre and right front channels, 2 x DSP7200SE as left and right rear channels, DSW.2 Subwoofer, Satellite Receiver, Blu-Ray Player, Meridian B-Link.



Key

- SpeakerLink
- Optical
- Digital co-ax

Configuring a system based on G65

The G65 features a front-panel Configuration Wizard which offers set-up menus for many of the product's configuration options. Full details can be found in the G65 User Guide.

For complete control over all aspects of the product's configuration, it is necessary to set up the unit from a PC using the Meridian configuration program, "MConfig". The program is the only method for configuring the following:

- Meridian Room Correction
- The full range of bass-management options
- Front-panel "Soft" keys



MConfig

This program runs on a PC and allows settings to be transferred between the PC and the G65 via the RS232 socket on the product. A suitable RS232 cable is supplied with the G65 for this purpose, but a USB-to-serial adapter will also be required if using a USB connection from the PC.

Please note: Although the settings file created by MConfig refers to the loudspeakers on its Products page, the program is not used to configure the loudspeakers themselves.

IR remote control

The G65 features an IR receiver eye built into its front-panel and the DSP8000 XE has an IR receiver eye integrated into the illuminated badge on the front of the loudspeaker. By default, the IR receiver on the G65 is enabled and the IR receiver on the loudspeakers is disabled. However, due to the way control is integrated across a Meridian system, all relevant settings can be accessed by directing all IR commands to the G65. Commands which are actually carried out within the loudspeakers are seamlessly passed across SpeakerLink to where they take effect.

In this case, the G65 is said to be the “Controller” of the Meridian system.

It is possible to override the default settings and make the Master loudspeaker the Controller of the system so that it receives IR commands instead of the G65. This requires the relevant setting to be changed on both the G65 and the Master loudspeaker. An explanation of the Master loudspeaker is given in the section **Master and Slave** on page 13. The setting in the loudspeaker is accessed via the B-Link module which must be connected to the loudspeaker’s SpeakerLink input. Once the loudspeaker is set as “Controller”, the setting is stored in the loudspeaker’s non-volatile memory, so the B-Link can be disconnected and put to one side if no longer required.

The G65 must be set to “Not Controller” using either the front-panel Configuration Wizard or the MConfig program. Within the Wizard, the setting is “IR”, which by default is set to “Auto”. It can be found on the home screen of the Wizard and also in section “4. Other settings”, Within MConfig, the setting for Controller can be found under the “Setup” tab within “Properties” for the G65.

Please note; Having only one Controller in a Meridian system is essential to avoid conflicts in command and control. Having more than one Controller, even inadvertently, can cause the system to behave erratically and inconsistently.



Additional local sources connected directly to the loudspeakers

Within a surround-sound system, there are situations where it is possible to take advantage of additional functionality offered by the DSP8000 XE by connecting one or more sources directly to the main left and right loudspeakers, thus bypassing the surround controller. This table illustrates these scenarios:

Additional functionality	Reason for doing this	Advantage offered
Playing audio via the loudspeaker's USB input from a source such as a PC.	The G65 does not feature a USB input.	The DSP8000 XE accepts audio at sampling rates of up to 384KHz @ 24-bit on its USB input.
Playing authenticated MQA streams from an MQA decoder product via the loudspeaker's Digital In co-ax input.	The G65 does not support bit-perfect playback, so it cannot pass authenticated MQA streams onto the DSP8000 XE.	MQA audio streams can be fully rendered and played back by the main left and right loudspeakers.
Digital audio inputs located on the loudspeakers.	If a digital source is located in the room, close to the main loudspeakers, but far from the G65.	A convenient place to connect the source without having to run a cable to the G65.

Disadvantages of connecting local sources directly to the loudspeakers:

- It removes the option to listen to these sources using surround-sound presets such as Trifield.
- There is no way to apply Meridian Room Correction to the audio from these sources.



Connecting and configuring for the use of local sources:

The front left or the front right loudspeaker must be selected as the connection point for the local source(s). This loudspeaker must have its SpeakerLink input connected to the “Master” SpeakerLink output on the rear of the G65. The local sources can then be connected to other audio inputs **only** on this loudspeaker. This loudspeaker is designated as the Master. Further explanation of the Master loudspeaker is given in the section **Master and Slave** on page 13 of this guide.

The front loudspeaker pair must be connected in a “daisy-chain” arrangement. i.e. the Master loudspeaker must have its SpeakerLink output connected to the SpeakerLink input of the Slave loudspeaker.

The Source Configuration of the G65 and Master loudspeaker must be carried out in conjunction with each other so that when the local sources are listened to through the main left and right loudspeakers, the other loudspeakers fall silent. To do this, any source assigned to one of the local inputs on the Master loudspeaker must be assigned on the G65 to an unused input, this could be an analogue input with nothing plugged into it. For example, if **CD** is assigned to the **USB** input on the Master loudspeaker, the G65 must be configured with **CD** assigned to an unused socket.

Configuring the loudspeakers for use with local sources in this way requires the Master loudspeaker to be set-up using the B-Link module. Refer to the **B-Link** section on page 14.

If a Meridian product, such as 218, 210 or 818v3, is used as a local source, the product should be connected via SpeakerLink to either of the SpeakerLink inputs on the G65 in order for Meridian comms to be passed between the two products. No additional configuration is required for this connection.

USING DSP8000 XE WITH G65

When the loudspeakers are connected to a Meridian Controller product, the products communicate with each other via the SpeakerLink connections so they work in unison as a fully integrated system. Commands are automatically executed transparently across the products making up the system. This gives the user the ability to access and adjust all relevant settings via their preferred control method, whether that is the front-panel of the Controller, the IR remote control, or a third-party control system. In addition, changes made on one interface are passed to the others so, for example, turning the volume up using a third-party control system will increase the volume number shown on the front-panel of the Controller.



Settings available while listening to the system

The G65 provides access to the following menu settings where they are applicable for the currently selected DSP preset. Individual DSP presets provide additional settings, to allow you to adjust specific features provided by that preset. For full details refer to the G65 User-Guide.

Note: Settings not relevant to the system configuration in use are omitted from the sequence of menus.

Setting	Range	Default	Notes
Treble*	-10dB to +10dB	+0.0dB	Tilts the frequency response across the higher frequencies
Bass*	-5dB to +5dB	+0.0dB	Lifts or cuts the low frequency response of the system
Phase*	+ or -	+	The absolute phase of the audio played by the system
Axis	-2 to +3	-1	The vertical component of Meridian's Image Focus Plus technology
Balance	Left 10 to Right 10	<0>	The horizontal component of Meridian's Image Focus Plus technology
HS Out?*	Y or No	Y	Selects whether High-Speed audio sampling rates are fed to the loudspeakers
Centre	-3.0dB to +3.0dB	+0.0dB	The relative level of the centre-channel loudspeaker
Depth	-2.5ms to +5ms	0.0ms	The relative delay applied to the centre-channel loudspeaker
C. Elev	Off, Min, Med, Max	Off	Psychoacoustically raises the sound image to the centre of a screen
Rear	30dB to +10dB	+0dB	The relative level of the rear-channel loudspeakers
Sides	30dB to +10dB	+0dB	The relative level of the side-channel loudspeakers
R. Delay	0ms to 30ms	Varies	The relative delay applied to the rear-channel loudspeakers
S. Delay	0ms to 30ms	Varies	The relative delay applied to the side-channel loudspeakers
EBA	On, Off	On	Enables or disables Meridian's FFA technology
LipSync	0ms to 85ms	0ms	Audio delay to align video with sound
RC	As defined	Bypassed	The selected Room Correction profile, or Bypassed for no room correction

* These parameters apply to all DSP presets.



DSP8000 XE WITH NO CONTROLLER PRODUCT

Overview

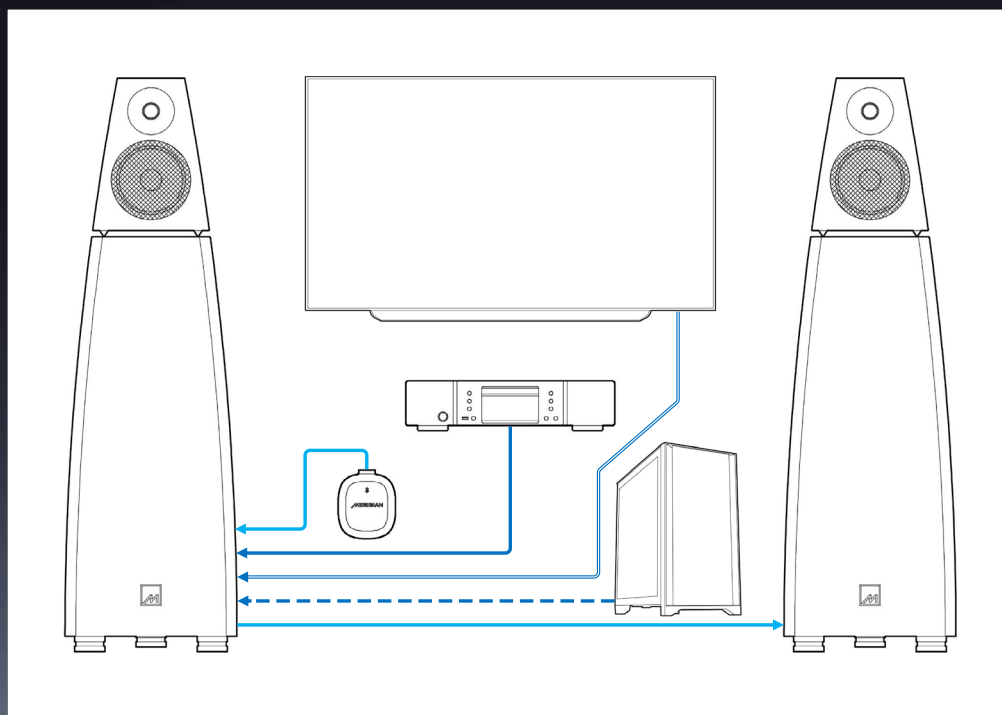
In systems which do not include a Meridian Controller product, one of the loudspeakers can act as a hub for up to four digital audio sources. The connections available for the sources are described in the **Rear panel** section on page 10. This loudspeaker is designated as the “Master” and it connects to the other loudspeaker, designated as the “Slave”, using a SpeakerLink cable of the appropriate length. Further explanation of the **Master and Slave** roles is given in the section **Master and Slave** on page 14.

The Channel Selector switch on the back-panel of each loudspeaker must be set as appropriate to play either the left or right audio channel.

For advice on where to locate the loudspeakers within the room, refer to **Positioning the loudspeakers to obtain the best sound** on page 7.

Example system

2 x DSP8000 XE, Flat-screen TV, Blu-Ray player, Media PC, Meridian B-Link.



Key

- SpeakerLink
- Optical
- Digital co-ax
- USB

Configuring a system with no Controller product

By default, the **SpeakerLink** input is the only active audio input on the DSP8000 XE. If source products are to be connected to the **Digital Input**, the **Optical Input** or the **USB Audio** input of the Master loudspeaker, the relevant input(s) need to be activated. Note: sources cannot be connected directly to the Slave loudspeaker, so its other inputs cannot be used. Further explanation of the **Master and Slave** roles is given in the section Master and Slave on page 13 of this guide.

MERIDIAN CONTROL APP

The **B-Link** module supplied with the loudspeakers is used in conjunction with the **Meridian Control** app to configure the sources on the Master loudspeaker. To do this, the **B-Link** must be connected to the SpeakerLink input of the Master loudspeaker using a SpeakerLink cable.

The **Meridian Control** app is available for download for iOS devices from the Apple App Store and for Android devices from the Google Play Store. In either case search for **Meridian** to find the app or scan the QR code shown below/here.



When the app is run for the first time it will automatically detect the **B-Link** and walk you through the installation process. This shows which connections should be made and allows you to specify which sources on the loudspeakers will select each of the connected audio devices.

Once configuration is complete, the B-Link can be left connected to the Master loudspeaker in order to allow audio to be streamed from a paired Bluetooth device such as a phone, table or computer.

IR remote control

The DSP8000 XE has an IR receiver eye integrated into the illuminated badge on the front of the loudspeaker. By default the IR receiver is disabled. The loudspeakers also feature a connection for an external IR receiver.

Although the loudspeakers do not have a digital display to provide visual feedback of volume level or other parameters, it may be desirable to provide IR control of the system. Settings are shared across the various control interfaces available from the system, so a change to the volume level made from an IR remote control will be displayed within the Meridian Control app, or it could be passed to a third-party control system.

Within a Meridian system, the product which receives and acts upon IR commands is designated as the “Controller”. Only the Master loudspeaker can be selected to be the Controller and hence, the Slave loudspeaker cannot use its IR receiver.

The IR receiver on the Master loudspeaker can be activated by using the Meridian Control app in conjunction with the B-Link module, which must be connected to the loudspeaker’s SpeakerLink input. Within the app, setting the loudspeaker to be Controller or Not Controller within the “Comms” section of its configuration menus activates the IR receiver. Once the setting is made, it is stored in non-volatile memory, so the app can be closed and the B-Link can be disconnected and put to one side if no longer required.

Using a system with no Controller product

The system can be controlled using the Meridian Control app, an IR remote control, or a third-party control system. Any changes to the settings made on one interface are passed to the others so, for example, turning the volume up using an IR remote control will increase the volume number shown on the Control app.

Using the Meridian Control app

The Control app communicates with the loudspeakers via the B-Link which must be connected to the SpeakerLink input of the Master loudspeaker.

Download the Meridian Control app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. If the B-Link is connected to the Master loudspeaker, and both are powered, the app will automatically detect the presence of the B-Link and will provide access to control source selection, volume, and more.

Settings available while listening to the system

The Meridian Control app gives access to these settings:

Setting	Range	Default	Notes
Treble	-10dB to +10dB	+0.0dB	Tilts the frequency response across the higher frequencies
Bass	-5dB to +5dB	+0.0dB	Lifts or cuts the low frequency response of the system
Image Focus	Left 10 to Right 10	<0>	Directs the sound image for off-centre listening positions
Phase	+ or -	+	The absolute phase of the audio played by the system
Image Focus Plus	-2 to +3	-1	Adjust the height of the sound image to suit the listening position
FFA	On/Off	On	Enables Meridian's FFA (Full Frequency Alignment) technology
Free-Q	Free/Wall/Corner/Shelf	Free	Options for Free-Q compensation for location of loudspeakers
Resonance Control	Off/Min/Med/Max	Off	Room-dependent compensation for certain Meridian loudspeakers.
Sub Mode	Music/Movie	Music	Changes response of any connected Meridian subwoofers
Sub Filter	Off/Sub 1/Sub 2/Wide	Off	Selects the low-pass filter for any connected Meridian subwoofers
Sub Gain	+/- 15dB	+0.0dB	Controls the relative level of any connected Meridian subwoofers
Perfect Balance	On/Off	On	Perfect Balance maintains spectral balance at all volume levels.
Display Brightness	1 to 16	8	Adjusts brightness of the DSP8000 XE front-panel badges

Using IR remote control

The loudspeakers can be controlled using a Meridian system remote, such as the MSR2 remote control. Instructions for activating the IR receiver are given in the above section **IR remote control**. The loudspeakers do not feature a display (other than their illuminated badge) to show the status of settings such as volume level and which source is selected. This lack of visual feedback means that care should be taken not to inadvertently set the volume level too high!

DSP8000 XE WITH 271 DIGITAL THEATRE CONTROLLER

Overview

The 271 allows Meridian loudspeakers to be used with third-party surround processors. It accepts multichannel audio signals of up to 16 channels in either digital or analogue form, enabling it to be used with any non-Meridian processor on the market. The inputs are fed through the 271 to a full set of 16 SpeakerLink outputs for use with Meridian loudspeakers, and 16 analogue (RCA phono) outputs for use with conventional analogue loudspeakers. In addition, two sets of four additional outputs (four SpeakerLink and four analogue) can be independently configured to duplicate any of the 16 input channels.

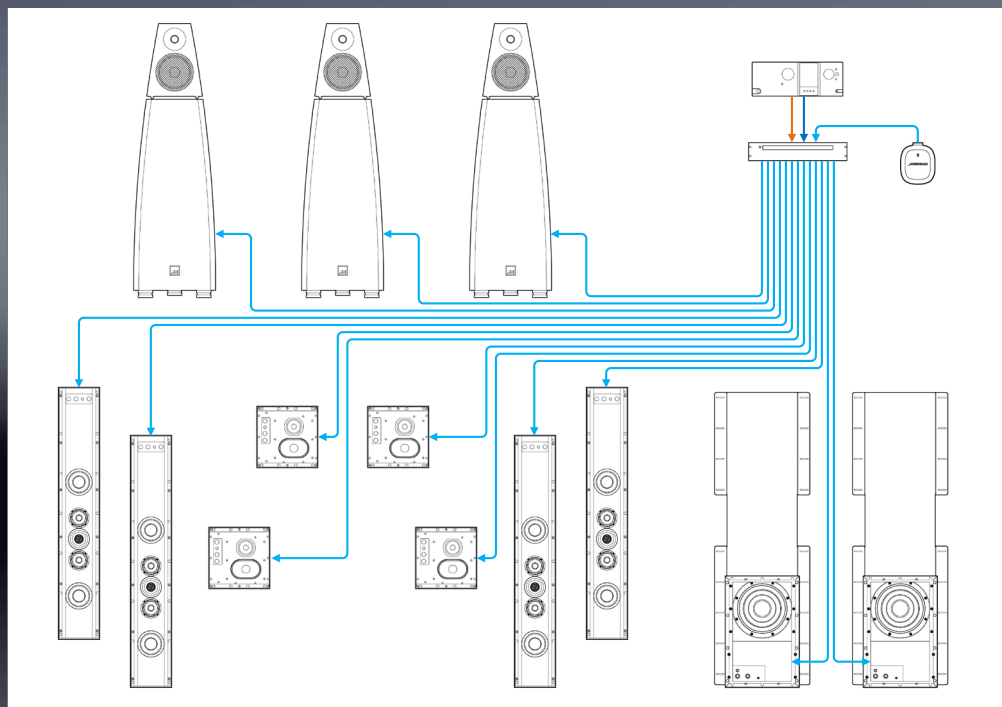
The surround processor acts as a hub for the source products in the system, although the 271 features one SpeakerLink input which can be used with a Meridian source product. The Meridian B-Link (supplied with DSP8000 XE) can be connected to this input to provide a means of streaming audio from a Bluetooth device such as a smartphone, tablet or PC.

The Channel Selector switch on the back-panel of each loudspeaker must be be set appropriately to play either the left or right audio channel.

For advice on where to locate the loudspeakers within the room, refer to **Positioning the loudspeakers to obtain the best sound** on page 7.

Example system

271 Digital Theatre Controller, non-Meridian Surround-Sound Processor, 3 x DSP8000 XE as left, centre, right front channels, 4 x DSP750 as surround channels, 4 x DSP320 as height channels, 2 x DSW600 Subwoofer, Meridian B-Link.



Key

- SpeakerLink
- Analogue or digital multichannel audio

Configuring a system based on 271

The 271 is configured using the Meridian Control app or from the 271's configuration web-page.

Meridian Control app

The Control app communicates with the 271 via the Network connection on the product. Hence, the device running the app must be connected to the same network as the 271. It is recommended that an unmanaged network switch is inserted between the 271 and the network router.

Download the Meridian Control app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Once open, the app will automatically detect any network-connected Meridian products and display them in a list showing their current status. Without selecting the 271 (or any other product), tap on the menu icon in the top left-hand corner and the options available within the app will be shown. This is where the app can be switched between Control and Configuration of products. Tap on "Configuration" and the app will display a list of the products which are available to be configured. Tap on the 271 to reveal its configuration settings. Tap on "SOURCES" to access the Audio Input options. Changes made within the app need to be transferred to the product by tapping on "Store Settings" at the bottom of the page. Exit the 271 Configuration page by tapping on the "Back" button. Tap on the Menu icon to return to the main options within the app.

271 Configuration Web Page

The 271 features a built-in web page which allows the product to be configured. To access the page, browse to the IP address of the 271.

IR remote control

The DSP8000 XE has an IR receiver eye integrated into the illuminated badge on the front of the loudspeaker. By default the IR receiver is disabled. The 271 and the loudspeakers also feature a connection for an external IR receiver.

Although neither the 271 nor the loudspeakers themselves have a digital display to provide visual feedback of volume level or other parameters, it may be desirable to provide IR control of the system. Settings are shared across the various control interfaces available from the system, so a change to the volume level made from an IR remote control will be displayed within the Meridian Control app, or it could be passed to a third-party control system.

Within a Meridian system, the product which receives and acts upon IR commands is designated as the "Controller". In this case, either the 271 or the Master loudspeaker (but not both), can be selected to be the Controller. Naturally, if the 271 is to be the Controller, it must have an external IR receiver eye connected to its "IR in" socket.

Please note: Having only one Controller in a Meridian system is essential to avoid conflicts in command and control. Having more than one Controller, even inadvertently, can cause the system to behave erratically and inconsistently.

To ensure there is only one Controller, two settings are required in all cases. Whichever product is to use its IR eye should be set to "Controller", while the other product should be set to "Not Controller". Both settings are available from the Meridian Control app. The app can be used directly with the 271 to set it to be Controller or Not Controller within the "Comms" section of its configuration menus. To use the app to set the Master loudspeaker to Controller or Not Controller, the B-Link module must be connected to the loudspeaker's SpeakerLink input. The app can be used to set the loudspeaker to be Controller or Not Controller within the "Comms" section of its configuration menus. Once the settings are made, they are stored in non-volatile memory, so the app can be closed and, in the case of the Master loudspeaker, the B-Link can be disconnected and put to one side if no longer required.

Using a system with no Controller product

The system can be controlled using the Meridian Control app or a third-party control system. Control via IR remote control is also available, but is limited by the lack of a digital display on the 271 and the loudspeakers – see details above in the section IR remote control. Any changes to the settings made on one interface are passed to the others so, for example, turning the volume up using an **IR remote control** will increase the volume number shown on the Control app.

Using the Meridian Control app

The Control app communicates with the loudspeakers via the B-Link which must be connected to the SpeakerLink input of the Master loudspeaker.

Download the Meridian Control app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. If the B-Link is connected to the Master loudspeaker, and both are powered, the app will automatically detect the presence of the B-Link and will provide access to control source selection, volume, and more.

Settings available while listening to the system

The Meridian Control app gives access to these settings:

Setting	Range	Default	Notes
Treble	-10dB to +10dB	+0.0dB	Tilts the frequency response across the higher frequencies
Bass	-5dB to +5dB	+0.0dB	Lifts or cuts the low frequency response of the system
Image Focus	Left 10 to Right 10	<0>	The horizontal component of Meridian's Image Focus Plus technology
Phase	+ or -	+	The absolute phase of the audio played by the system
Image Focus Plus	-2 to +3	-1	The vertical component of Meridian's Image Focus Plus technology
FFA	On/Off	On	Enables Meridian's FFA (Full Frequency Alignment) technology
Free-Q	Free/Wall/Corner/Shelf	Free	Options for Free-Q compensation for location of loudspeakers
Resonance Control	Off/Min/Med/Max	Off	Room-dependent compensation for certain Meridian loudspeakers.
Image Elevation	Off/Min/Med/Max	Off	Psychoacoustically raises the sound image to the centre of a screen.
Sub Mode	Music/Movie	Music	Changes response of any connected Meridian subwoofers
Sub Filter	Off/Sub 1/Sub 2/Wide	Off	Selects the low-pass filter for any connected Meridian subwoofers
Sub Gain	+/- 15dB	+0.0dB	Controls the relative level of any connected Meridian subwoofers
Perfect Balance	On/Off	On	Perfect Balance maintains spectral balance at all volume levels.
LipSync	0ms to 85ms	0ms	Audio delay to align video with sound

Using IR remote control

The loudspeakers can be controlled using a Meridian system remote, such as the MSR2 remote control. Instructions for activating the IR receiver are given in the above section **IR remote control**. The loudspeakers do not feature a display (other than their illuminated badge) to show the status of settings such as volume level and which source is selected. This lack of visual feedback means that care should be taken not to inadvertently set the volume level too high!

DSP8000 XE WITH IA21 ANALOGUE INPUT MODULES

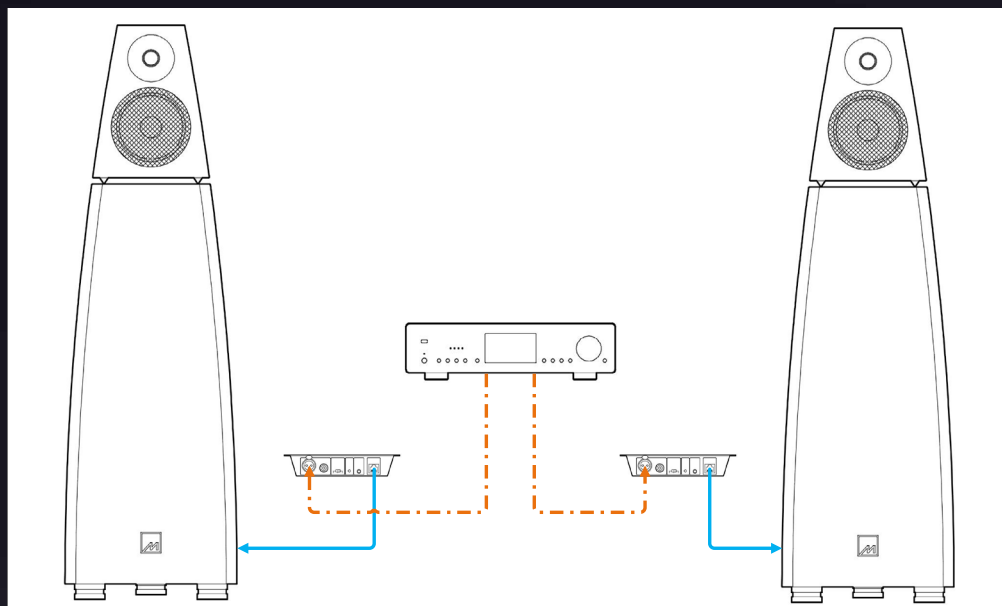
Overview

With the IA21s fitted, DSP8000 XE loudspeakers have the functionality of analogue active loudspeakers. This means that the loudspeakers can be fed solely with line-level analogue audio signals. As the volume control within the loudspeaker is completely disabled, the equipment feeding the loudspeakers must feature a volume control. Refer to the section **IA21 Analogue Input Module** on page 7 for further information regarding the module.

For advice on where to locate the loudspeakers within the room, refer to **Positioning the loudspeakers to obtain the best sound** on page xx.

Example system

2 x DSP8000 XE (each fitted with IA21 module), non-Meridian two-channel pre-amplifier.



Key

- SpeakerLink
- - - Balanced analogue audio

Configuring the DSP8000 XE when fitted with IA21

Fitting the IA21 removes all configuration options from within the loudspeaker itself. The only configuration available is the choice of setting for the input sensitivity switch, the option of using an external trigger and the option to override the automatic audio sensing circuitry by adding a plug-in jumper to the board inside the IA21. Refer to the section **IA21 Analogue Input Module** on page 7 for further details.

Using the DSP8000 XE when fitted with IA21

No controls are available to the user when the loudspeakers are used with IA21. The volume control, source selection and any other settings are supported by the equipment feeding the loudspeakers.



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