

MERIDIAN'S TOP CAT

MERIDIAN'S FLAT CAT5 CABLES FOR PROPRIETARY HOOK-UP

If you know Meridian Audio's designers, you'll know that they don't like cables. It makes sense, after all, that the best cable in the world would be no cable whatsoever... So it's little wonder that Meridian champions active loudspeakers, where the cable is a length of wire as short as possible, from (internal) power amplifier to speaker drive unit.

The front cover of *HFN*'s June 2008 issue showcased Meridian's new flagship CD player, which sported an RJ45 connector for the first time. As Dave Berriman explained in our review, this socket was for connecting the source to a new breed of Meridian DSP loudspeaker via CAT5 cable. Meridian calls this its SpeakerLink. The first Meridian speaker offering this facility was the DSP7200 floorstander, introduced last autumn. Now the digital link from source/controller to digital active speaker could be balanced rather than S/PDIF, with system communication running alongside, down one elegant cable.

Bearing all this in mind, you can imagine the look on the faces of Meridian's engineers when they discovered that different flavours of CAT5 cable altered the (digital) sound! The hunt was on to source a CAT5 cable that Meridian approved of – and they've found it in the shape of a flat-profile cable that is now available to owners and installers of all new Meridian products featuring SpeakerLink. Various lengths are available from the company, with a 3m cable starting at £79, rising to £249 for a 20m length.

Meridian, meanwhile, has just launched a centre speaker to match the DSP7200s. Dubbed DSP7200HC it costs £8995.

Meridian Audio, 01480 445678

www.meridian-audio.com

