user guide

Meridian 551 Integrated Amplifier

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Introduces the 551 Integrated Amplifier, and provides an overview of the other products available in the Meridian 500 Series.

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Describes how to unpack and install the integrated amplifier, and explains what you should do if your integrated amplifier requires servicing.

Introduction

In choosing the 551 Integrated Amplifier you have acquired a component that combines major advances in audio and engineering design. It combines a full function preamplifier with a high performance power amplifier.

The preamplifier provides six audio inputs, each of which can be individually adjusted for sensitivity, and identified on the four-character alpha-numeric display. A very high quality MC or MM phono stage is available as an option for the dedicated LP input.

The power amplifier uses a unique feedback topology and precision local error correction system. It is designed and constructed in dual mono format, including a massive twin wound toroidal transformer.

This guide is designed to enable you to obtain the best possible results from the unit. If you have just purchased the 551 Integrated Amplifier you should first turn to the chapter *Setting up the integrated amplifier,* page 25, which explains how to unpack and install the integrated amplifier correctly.

The Meridian 500 Series

The Meridian 500 Series is a unique system of digital, analogue, and video components designed to meet the demand for absolute quality, ease of use, and lasting value.

The flexibility of the Meridian 500 Series is such that you can assemble a system as simple or as complex as you need, perfectly suited to your musical and environmental requirements, and with the ability to add to it or change it at a later date should your requirements change. The 500 Series is also compatible with the existing Meridian 200 Series and 600 Series components.

Each Meridian 500 Series component is housed in a matching slim line case. Front panel controls provide access to the most important functions, and the full range of functions is available from the Meridian System Remote using a simple and intuitive control interface.

500 Series communications

The Meridian 500 Series includes a sophisticated communications link, to ensure that any configuration of units will work together as a fully integrated system.

The 500 Series communications system allows you to control any combination of units using a single remote, and ensures that your commands from the remote are interpreted unambiguously. The communications system also allows you to extend your hi-fi system into two or three rooms, with the ability to control the sources in one room from the controller in another room.

Professional features
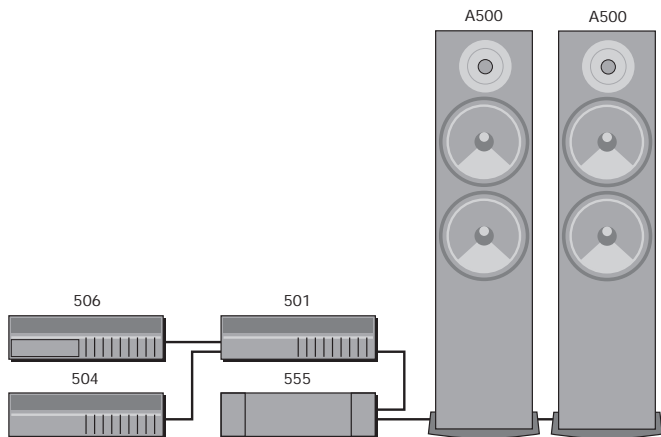
The 500 Series also includes features for professional users, including RS232 computer control and balanced connections.

The following pages give examples of four suggested configurations to illustrate the flexibility of the Meridian 500 Series.

Sample configurations

506 20-Bit CD Player

The 506 20-Bit CD Player is an integrated CD transport and converter, providing both digital and analogue outputs.

The 506 20-Bit CD Player is ideally suited for use with the Meridian 555 Stereo Power Amplifier and A500 Loudspeakers, with control over the volume and source selection provided by the 501 Control Unit. The 504 Stereo FM Tuner is an ideal addition to the system if radio reception is required.

500 Compact Disc Transport
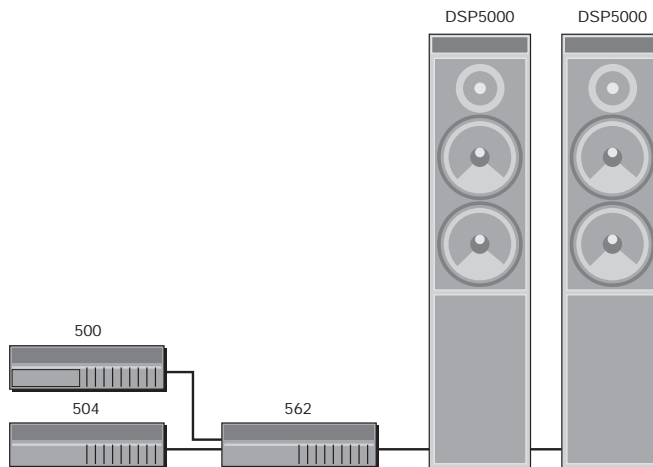
The 500 Compact Disc Transport provides a precision digital output, and can drive DSP5000 Digital Loudspeakers directly.

A 562 Digital Controller can be added to cater for conventional analogue sources, such as the 504 Stereo FM Tuner, and provide source selection between up to 12 different analogue or digital sources.

566 20-Bit Digital to Analogue Converter

502 Analogue Controller
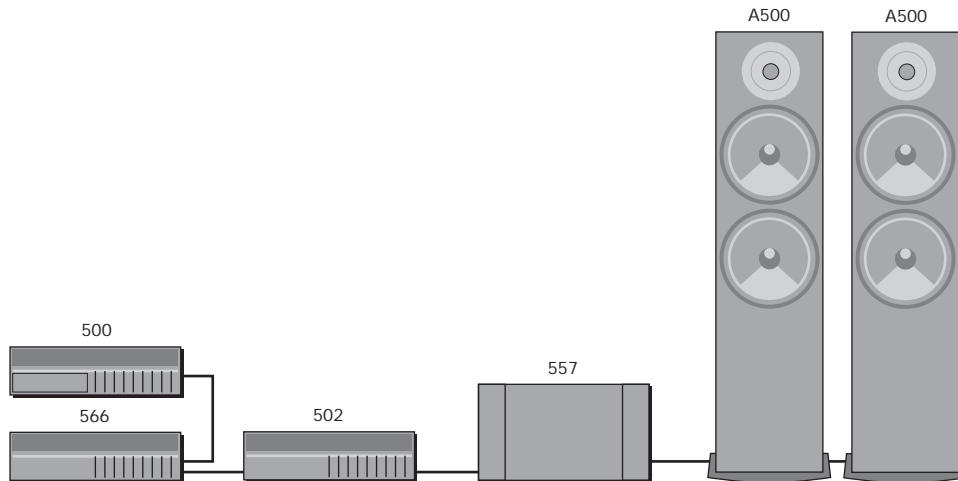
The digital output provided by the 500 Compact Disc Transport can be decoded by the 566 20-Bit Digital to Analogue Converter to provide a high-quality audio output for use with a conventional audio preamplifier. The 566 20-Bit Digital to Analogue Converter can also decode digital signals from other sources, including LaserDisc players and Digital Audio Tape.

The 502 Analogue Controller is a full function preamplifier for use with any analogue source, and includes balanced inputs to allow you to take advantage of balanced sources, including the 566 20-Bit Digital to Analogue Converter. It provides balanced outputs which are ideal for use with the 557 Stereo Power Amplifier.

562V Multimedia Controller
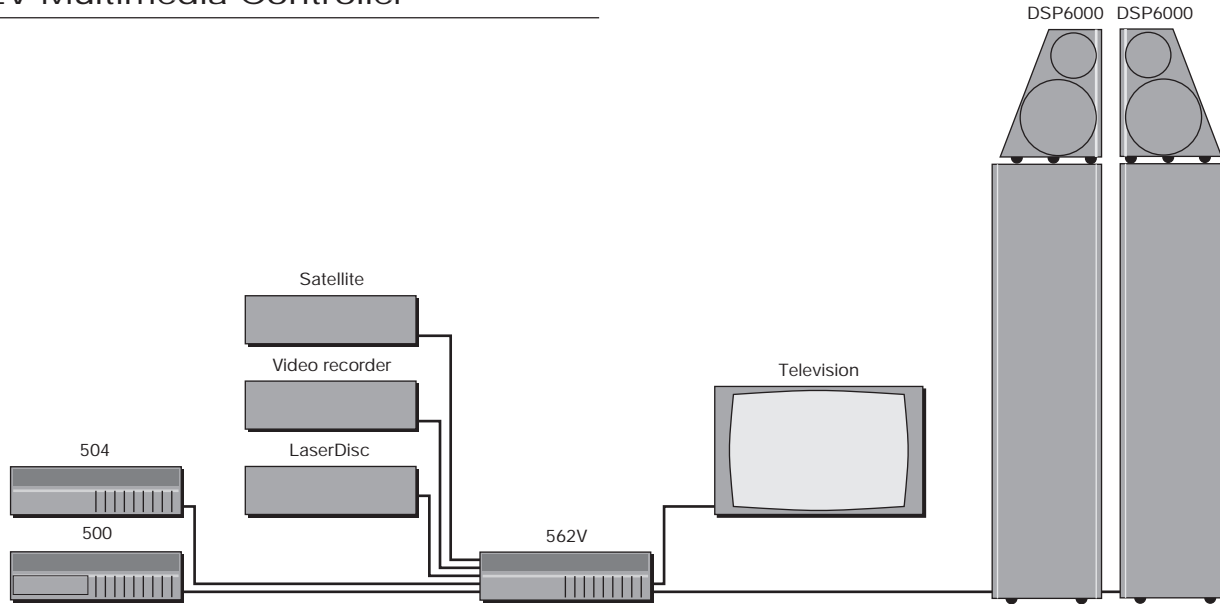
The 562V Multimedia Controller is the ideal control unit for use with the Meridian DSP6000 Digital Loudspeakers.

It provides direct digital inputs for digital sources, such as the 500 Compact Disc Transport and LaserDisc sound, together with precision Delta Sigma Analogue to Digital Conversion, for conventional analogue sources such as the 504 Stereo FM Tuner and video sound.

It also includes video switching for CVBS and S-VHS signals, such as from a satellite receiver, LaserDisc player, or video recorder.

Specification and accessories

Specification

MM input option	Sensitivity adjustable 0.5 – 3mV for 5cm/s @ 1kHz. Overload point 47mV @ 1kHz. Cartridge load 47kΩ || 100pF.
MC input option	Sensitivity adjustable 38 – 210μV for 5cm/s @ 1kHz. Cartridge load 220Ω || 10nF.
A2 – A6 inputs	Sensitivity adjustable 27 – 150mV. Input impedance 20kΩ.
Output	65W per channel into 8Ω. 100W per channel into 4Ω.
Tape output	Output 1.5V.
Pre-amp output	Output 1.4V rms, 3V rms maximum.
Headphone output	2V maximum.
Distortion	Less than 0.05%.
Noise and hum	Less than -90dB for high-level analogue inputs. Less than -70dB for MM input. Less than -60dB for MC input.
Display	Four character display for current source, volume, mute, and copy source.
Communications	Two 5 pin 240° DIN sockets.
Finish	Black textured enamel and glass. Heatsinks black painted aluminium.
Dimensions	88mm x 321mm x 332mm (3.46" x 12.64" x 13.07").
Weight	10kg (20lbs).
Consumption	30VA quiescent, 300VA max.

Meridian Audio reserves the right to amend product specifications at any time.

Available accessories

The following accessories are available from your dealer:

❍ MM phono module.
❍ MC phono module.
❍ Meridian System Remote.
❍ Power cord Europe.
❍ Power cord Canada and USA.

The MM and MC phono modules convert the LP audio input (A1) for use with a moving magnet or moving coil pickup, respectively.

The Meridian System Remote provides access to all the facilities provided by the 551 Integrated Amplifier, including those available from the front panel controls. In addition, it allows you to control any other 500 Series units in your system.

If you have problems purchasing these items, you can order them direct from Meridian Audio Limited, who can also supply a range of cables suitable for connecting the 551 Integrated Amplifier to other equipment.
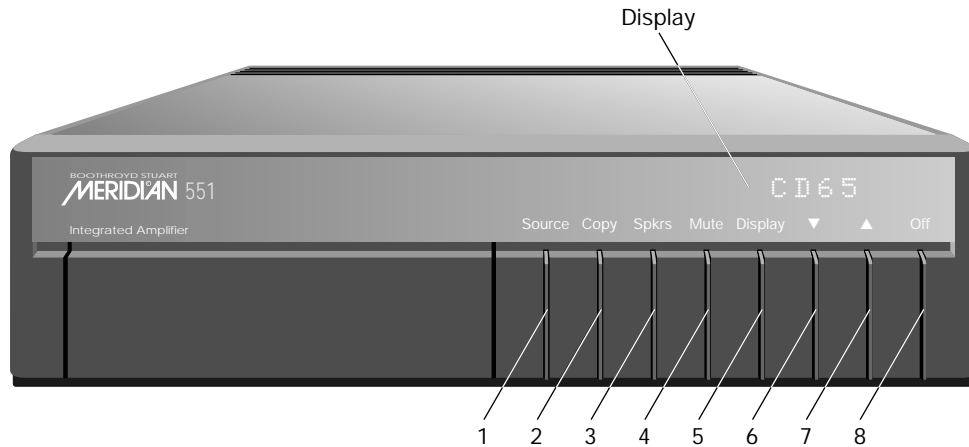
Using the integrated amplifier

This chapter provides a visual summary of the functions of the integrated amplifier in order to identify the controls which you will use to operate the unit.

It also describes how to switch on the integrated amplifier, and use it with your audio sources.

Unless otherwise specified, each function is available from the front panel or the remote.

Front panel

Display

BOOTHROYD STUART
MERIDIAN 551
Integrated Amplifier

CD65

Source Copy Spkrs Mute Display ▼ ▲ Off

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8

1 Source
Selects the source.

2 Copy
Copies a selected source to the tape output.

3 Spkrs
Mutes the power amplifier.

4 Mute
Mutes the sound.

5 Display
Blanks the display.

6 ▼ (Decrease)
Decreases the volume.

7 ▲ (Increase)
Increases the volume.

8 Off
Switches to standby.

Selecting a source

During normal use the integrated amplifier should be left in the standby state. This uses a negligible amount of electricity, but ensures that the components of the integrated amplifier operate at maximum efficiency from the moment you start.

If you are not going to use the integrated amplifier for a period of several days you should switch the unit completely off, at the back panel, and disconnect it from the AC power supply.

To switch on from standby

● Press **Source** (front panel), or select a source by pressing the appropriate source key on the remote: eg **CD**.

If the 551 Integrated Amplifier is part of a Meridian system, it will automatically switch on any other unit in the system, such as the CD player.

To select a source

● Press **Source** (front panel) until the display shows the source you require, or press the appropriate source key on the remote: eg **CD**.

The display shows the source, and volume setting.

For example, if you select the CD input the display will show:

    CD65

By default, the following six sources are available:

Source	Label	Input
CD	CD	A2
Radio	RD	A3
LP	LP	A1
TV	TV	A5
Tape1	T1	A4
Tape2	T2	A6

To switch to standby

● Press **Off** on the front panel or the remote.

The display will show:

    ::

If you have other Meridian 500 Series equipment connected to the integrated amplifier, these units will also switch to standby.

Adjusting the volume

The 551 Integrated Amplifier allows you to adjust the volume in precise steps of 1dB, where 9dB is equivalent to doubling the loudness.

The current volume setting is displayed in dB on the front panel display, and can be varied in the range 1 – 99dB. When you first switch on the integrated amplifier the volume is set to 65, which is similar to the midway position of the rotary volume control on a conventional preamplifier.

You can also mute the sound, or mute just the loudspeakers for headphone listening.

To change the volume

● Press ▲ or ▼ (front panel), or the red ▲ or ▼ keys on the remote.

As you adjust the volume setting the display will show the current volume level.

For example:

`CD55`

To mute the sound

● Press **Mute**.

The display will show:

`Mute`

To restore the sound

● Press **Mute** again.

Alternatively the sound will be restored if you adjust the volume.

To mute the loudspeakers

● Press **Spkrs** (front panel only).

The display will show:

`Off`

To restore the loudspeakers

● Press **Spkrs** again (front panel only).

Changing the display and balance

To change the display

● Press **Display**.

Each time you press **Display** the display will step between the following options:

Display option	*Example*
Source and volume. This is the usual display.	`RD65`
Source only (full label).	`Rad`
Blank.	

To change the balance

You can adjust the sound balance on the 551 Integrated Amplifier using the following procedure.

Note: The balance can only be adjusted with the remote.

● Press ◄ (remote) to move the sound to the left.

The display will show the number of dBs added to the left channel: `⌖ 1`

● Press ► (remote) to move the sound to the right.

The display will show the number of dBs added to the right channel: `9 ⌖`

● Press ▼ (remote) to centre the balance.

The display will show: `⌖ 0 ⌖`

Recording a source

The 551 Integrated Amplifier allows you to copy any one of the standard sources to the tape outputs, independently of the source you are listening to.

To copy a source to the tape output

● Press **Copy**.

Each time you press **Copy** the integrated amplifier will step between the following options:

Display	Option
`CSrc`	Copy Source. The current source is fed to the tape output.
`CAtt`	Copy Attenuate. The tape output is muted.
`C CD`	Copies the first source to the tape output.
`C RD`	Steps through each source in turn, etc.

For example, to record a radio broadcast press **Copy** until the display shows:

`C RD`

You can now listen to a CD, by selecting the CD source, without affecting the recording.

Customising the integrated amplifier

This chapter explains how to customise the 551 Integrated Amplifier to your preferred configuration.

The simplest way of configuring the integrated amplifier is to choose one of the standard settings, which are designed to cater for the six most common configurations of sources and inputs.

Alternatively, you can configure each source individually to suit the other equipment in your system. You can choose the label used for each source, and balance the input sensitivities so that the sound level remains the same when you switch between sources.

Finally, the 551 Integrated Amplifier provides several settings that you can alter to optimise the way in which it works with the other equipment in your system.

Choosing standard settings

The 551 Integrated Amplifier provides six alternative standard settings, called Types, which configure all aspects of the integrated amplifier into the six most commonly needed configurations.

Choosing one of the six standard settings overrides any other configuration you may have performed, and so can be used to reset the configuration of the integrated amplifier.

By default, the integrated amplifier is supplied set to Type 1.

If you have a system containing only Meridian 500 Series units then you should choose one of Types 5, 1, 4, or 3. These give progressively larger numbers of inputs, as shown in the table opposite.

If your system includes any Meridian 600 or 200 Series units you should choose Type 2 or Type 6. For more information see *To connect to Meridian 600 or 200 Series equipment*, page 30.

To select a standard setting

● Turn off the integrated amplifier, using the power switch on the back panel.

● Turn on the power again while holding down the **Off** key on the front panel.

The display will show:

> Type

It will then show:

> Ty 1

● Press ▼ or ▲ to change the type number.

For example, to select Type 3 the display shows:

> Ty 3

● Turn off the integrated amplifier using the power switch on the back panel.

● Turn on again to use the standard settings you have selected.

Standard settings

The following table shows the options configured by the six standard Type settings on the 551 Integrated Amplifier:

| Type | | | | | | | | |
5	1	4	3	Source	Label	Input	Gain	Comms
●	●	●	●	CD	CD	A2	0dB	1
●	●	●	●	Radio	RD	A3	2dB	2
●	●	●	●	LP	LP	A1	2dB	–
	●	●	●	TV	TV	A5	8dB	–
●	●	●	●	Tape1	T1	A4	2dB	–
	●	●	●	Tape2	T2	A6	2dB	–
			●	CDR	CR	A2	0dB	–
			●	Cable	Cb	A5	8dB	–
	●	●		Text	TX	=	n/a	–
	●	●		VCR1	V1	A6	8dB	–
			●	VCR2	V2	A4	8dB	–
			●	LD	LD	A1	0dB	–

= Last valid input, displayed as LV.

Types 2 and 6 have the same source configuration as Type 1.

Configuring the sources

When the integrated amplifier is set to one of the standard settings the twelve source selection keys on the remote select the standard labels and inputs, as shown in the table on page 17.

If the configuration you want is not catered for by one of the standard settings, you can configure each source individually.

The 551 Integrated Amplifier provides 12 sources corresponding to the 12 source selection keys on the remote:

CD, **Radio**, **LP**, **TV**, **Tape1**, **Tape2**, **CDR**, **Cable**, **Text**, **VCR1**, **VCR2**, and **LD**.

For each source you can configure:

❍ The label used for it on the front panel display, from 45 alternative labels.
❍ The audio input it selects.
❍ The comms type and address, to identify other Meridian 500 Series equipment.

The procedure for doing this is as follows.

To configure a source

● Turn off the integrated amplifier, using the power switch on the back panel.

● Turn on the power again while holding down the **Display** key on the front panel.

The display will show:

Conf

● Press **Source** until the left-hand pair of characters identifies the source you want to configure.

For example, to configure the CD source the display initially shows:

CDCD

● Press **Copy** (front panel), or ▶ and ◀ (remote), to step between options.

The right-hand pair of characters shows the current value of the option.

The options are summarised in the table shown opposite.

To change an option

● Press ▲ or ▼ to step between the alternative values for the
option.

When you have finished programming sources:

● Switch off at the back panel, and then switch on again to
restore normal operation.

Option	Initial value	Alternative values	Explanation
Label	CD CD	CD, RD, LP, etc.	See page 20.
Audio input	CD A2	A1 – A6, or LV.	Choose A1 to A6 to specify the input, or LV to use the last valid input.
Comms type	CD 1C	1C – 8C, or NC.	Choose 1C for a Meridian CD player, 2C for a Meridian FM Tuner, or NC otherwise.
Address	CD 1A	1A – 8A.	Allows you to have up to eight of each source type.

Examples of configuring the sources

The following examples illustrate how you can configure the source options to your own requirements.

To change a source label

● Display the source you want to configure, together with its current label, as described in the previous sections.

For example, to configure the Radio source label choose:

`RDRD`

● Press ▲ or ▼ to step between the alternative labels.

For example, to use the label FM for the Radio source set it to:

`RDFM`

Over 50 alternative labels are provided to allow you to choose the most appropriate ones for your sources. Selecting None turns off the source.

To change the audio input for a source

● Display the source you want to configure, together with the current audio input, as described in the previous sections.

For example, to configure the CD audio input choose:

`CDA2`

● Press ▼ or ▲ to choose the audio input.

For example, if you want to use input A3 for the CD set it to:

`CDA3`

To set up a system with two CD players

● Configure the source you are going to use for the first CD player.

For example: Source CD, Label C1, Audio input A2, Comms type 1C, Address 1A.

● Configure the source you are going to use for a second CD player, with a different address.

For example: Source CDR, Label C2. Audio input A3, Comms type 1C, Address 2A.

The remote will now automatically control whichever of the CD players you have selected with the **CD** or **CDR** source keys.

Programming levels

The 551 Integrated Amplifier allows you to program the level of each source independently, to suit your other equipment, so that when you switch between sources the volume stays the same.

When you are programming levels the integrated amplifier operates as a preamplifier with a fixed volume setting equivalent to 65. This level is chosen to be comfortably loud on average sources. You can switch between sources and adjust the relevant input levels to achieve the setting you want.

You can increase the sensitivity of any source by up to 15 steps of 1dB. The loudest source, usually CD, should therefore be chosen as the reference.

To balance input levels

● Turn off the integrated amplifier, using the power switch on the back panel.

● Turn on the power again while holding down the **Mute** key on the front panel.

The display will show:

Gain

● Release the **Mute** key.

The display will show the
normal standby condition:

● Select the source that sounds loudest and make it your reference.

● Switch to another source in the usual way.

● Use the ▲ and ▼ keys to change the sensitivity.

For example, the display will show:

```
12dB
```

● Switch between the source you are changing and the reference source until they sound equally loud.

● Repeat the procedure for your other sources.

● When you have finished programming levels, switch the power off and on again to restore the integrated amplifier to normal operation.

If you know the output level of your sources you can probably set the gains by calculation. The following table shows the correspondence between the gain and sensitivity on the standard audio inputs and on the LP inputs:

Gain	A2 – A6	LP MM	LP MC
0dB	150mV	3mV	210µV
3dB	110mV	2.2mV	150µV
6dB	75mV	1.5mV	110µV
9dB	54mV	1.1mV	75µV
12dB	38mV	750µV	54µV
15dB	27mV	550µV	38µV

Specifying information about your system

In addition to configuring the sources, and programming their levels, you can configure many other aspects of the operation of the 551 Integrated Amplifier to suit the way your system is set up, and the way in which you want to use it.

Note that these settings are configured automatically to appropriate values when you choose one of the standard Type settings, and you should not normally need to alter them; see *Choosing standard settings*, page 16.

To configure the integrated amplifier

● Turn off the integrated amplifier, using the power switch on the back panel.

● Turn on the power again while holding down the **Display** key on the front panel.

The display will show:

```
Conf
```

It will then show the first configuration option:

```
500
```

● Press **Copy** to move between the options.

● Press ▲ or ▼ to change the value of the current option.

The following table shows the options you can configure:

Option	Initial Value
Communications mode (500 or 200)	500
Controller mode (Auto, Con, or NCon)	Auto
System address (1–8)	SA=1
Product address (1–8)	PA=1
Volume control (Vout or Fout)	Vout
Volume mode (VolM or VolS)	VolM
Menu mode (N, 1, or 2)	✦✦N
200 Series CD player (N or Y)	CD?N

Setting up the integrated amplifier

This chapter explains how to install the 551 Integrated Amplifier. It describes what you should find when you unpack the integrated amplifier, how you should connect it to your other audio equipment, and the siting constraints.

You should not make any connections to the integrated amplifier or to any other component in your system whilst the AC power supply is connected and switched on.

Unpacking

The 551 Integrated Amplifier comes in a box containing the following components:

❍ 551 Integrated Amplifier.
❍ 1 power cord.
❍ 1 500 Series communications lead.
❍ This manual.

You are advised to retain the packing in case you need to transport the unit.

To position the integrated amplifier

During normal operation the heatsinks, ie the fins at each end of the case, may become quite hot. The integrated amplifier should therefore be positioned to allow a free flow of air around the fins. Do not place the integrated amplifier:

❍ In direct sunlight.
❍ Near heat sources, eg a radiator.
❍ Stacked with any other audio products, as the heat it generates may damage the other products.

Before connecting power

Before installation you should ensure that your integrated amplifier is set to the correct voltage for your local AC supply. If it is not, do not try to install the unit, and contact your dealer.

Do not make connections, or insert or remove plugs, while the unit is connected to the supply and switched on, as the transients generated could damage the loudspeakers.
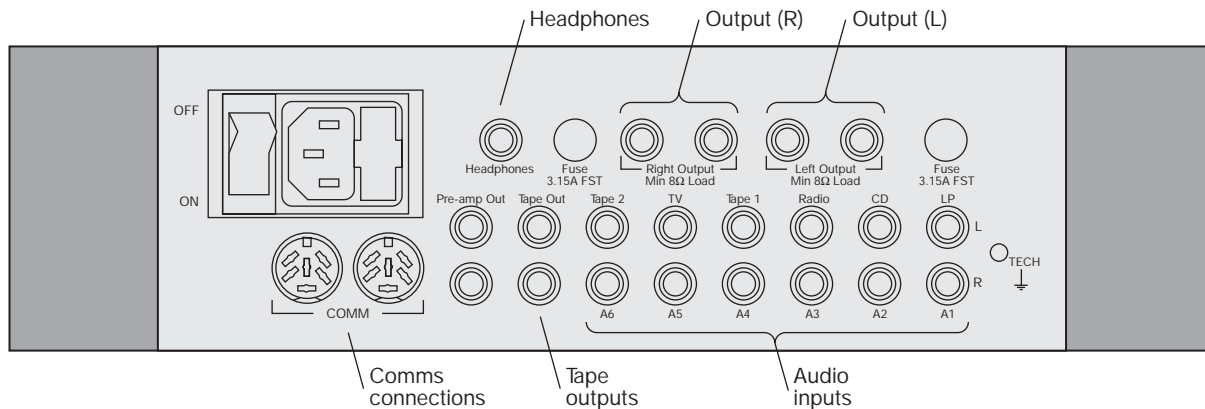
Radio interference

FCC Warning: This equipment generates and can radiate radio frequency energy and if not installed and used correctly in accordance with our instructions may cause interference to radio communications or radio and television reception. It has been type-tested and complies with the limits set out in Subpart J, Part 15 of FCC rules for a Class B computing device. These limits are intended to provide reasonable protection against such interference in home installations.

EEC: This product has been designed to comply with the limits set out in EN55013 and EN55020C.

Connecting the integrated amplifier

Back panel

Labels on diagram: Headphones, Output (R), Output (L), OFF, ON, Headphones, Fuse 3.15A FST, Right Output Min 8Ω Load, Left Output Min 8Ω Load, Fuse 3.15A FST, Pre-amp Out, Tape Out, Tape 2, TV, Tape 1, Radio, CD, LP, L, TECH, R, COMM, A6, A5, A4, A3, A2, A1, Comms connections, Tape outputs, Audio inputs

Audio connections

The audio connections should be made using high-quality screened cable, taking care to connect the left and right channels correctly.

The following table gives details of the six audio inputs:

Use this input	To connect to this
A1	A turntable pickup with optional MM/MC module.
A2 to A6	Other audio sources.

The following table gives details of the audio outputs:

Use this output	To connect to this
Right/Left Output	Loudspeakers of 4Ω to 15Ω, using either banana plug or bare wire connections.
Pre-amp Out	An additional power amplifier or active loudspeakers.
Tape Out	Tape recorder output.

To connect to a tape recorder

● Connect the analogue output from the tape recorder to the Tape 1 input on the integrated amplifier (or another input if you prefer).

● Connect the Tape Out from the integrated amplifier to the analogue input on the tape recorder.

To connect to other Meridian 500 Series equipment

● Connect one of the COMMS sockets on the back panel of the integrated amplifier to one of the COMMS socket on another 500 Series unit, using the 500 comms lead.

The sequence in which you connect the units is not important.

```
┌─────────────────────┐   ┌─────────────────────┐
│ COMMS               │   │ COMMS               │
│   ◉◉                │   │   ◉◉                │
└─────────────────────┘   └─────────────────────┘
◄────────┘   └────────────────┘   └──────────►
```
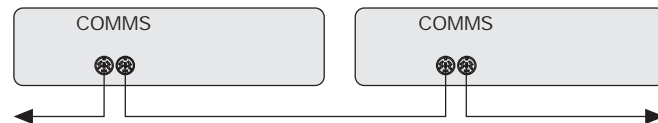
Then configure the units with the following automatic setup procedure:

● Switch all the units to standby.

● Press **Clear** on the remote.

Each unit will display:

Auto

One unit will then be designated as the controller, and display:

Con

Setting up the integrated amplifier

This is the unit that will respond to the remote.

All the other units will be configured
as non-controllers, and display:

NCon

Your system is now set up and ready for use.

● If, for any reason, the automatic setup does not give the
configuration you want, restore the default operation by
selecting Type 1 as described in *To connect to Meridian 600
or 200 Series equipment*, page 30.

● If you want to change the automatic setup configuration refer
to the *Meridian 500 Series User Guide.*

Note: Do not, under any circumstances, connect any equipment
other than Meridian 500, 600, or 200 Series to the socket
marked COMMS on the back of the integrated amplifier.

To connect to A500 Loudspeakers

A500 Loudspeaker   A500 Loudspeaker

551 Integrated Amplifier
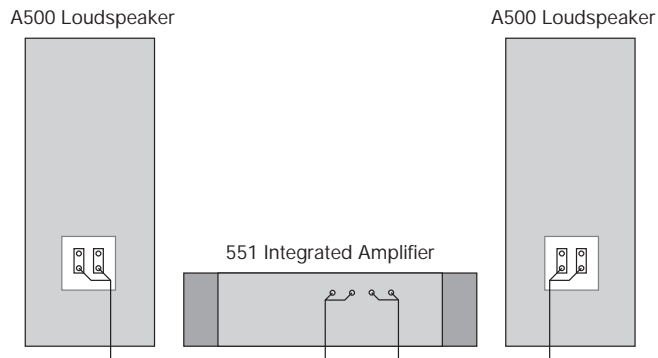
● Use the links provided to bridge the BASS/MID and TWEETER
terminals on the back of each loudspeaker.

● Connect one of each pair of the red and black terminals on
the back panel of the 551 Integrated Amplifier to the red and
black terminals on the A500 Loudspeakers.

To connect to Meridian 600 or 200 Series equipment

If your system includes any Meridian 600 or 200 Series units, with 600 COMMS or 200 COMMS sockets, you should set all the 500 Series units to 200 COMMS operation using the following procedure:

● Turn off the integrated amplifier, using the power switch on the back panel.

● Turn on the power again while holding down the **Off** key on the front panel.

The display will show
the current Type setting:

Ty 1

● Press ▲ or ▼ on the front panel to change the Type setting.

If your system includes a Meridian CD player select Type 2; otherwise select Type 6.

For example, if you select
Type 2 the display will show:

Ty 2

● Switch the power off and on again to restore the integrated amplifier to normal operation.

● To return to 500 COMMS operation repeat the above procedure, and select Type 1, 3, 4, or 5. For more information see *Choosing standard settings*, page 16.

Troubleshooting

This section describes problems you may encounter when using the integrated amplifier, and includes suggested solutions.

If these suggestions fail to cure the problem, please contact your Meridian dealer for further assistance.

No lights are displayed when switching on

❍ Check that your AC power supply is connected correctly.

❍ Check that the **ON OFF** switch on the back panel is in the ON position.

❍ Check that the fuse on the integrated amplifier back panel and the fuse in the unit's power plug have not blown; see *To change the mains fuse*, page 33.

The sound has cut out

The 551 Integrated Amplifier includes output fuses, which protect the output if the connections are accidentally shorted.

❍ Check the output fuses.

❍ If necessary, replace the fuse with one of the same rating.

The sound has cut out and the display shows DC

This indicates that the power amplifier has turned off due to a DC offset on the output.

❍ Unplug the source.

If this restores normal operation check the source. Otherwise there may be a fault with the integrated amplifier, and you should consult your dealer.

The sound has cut out and the display shows Hot

This indicates that the power amplifier has turned off due to overheating.

❍ Allow the integrated amplifier to cool down.

If the problem continues to occur there may be a fault with the integrated amplifier, and you should consult your dealer.

Communication is not working between the 551 Integrated Amplifier and other Meridian products

❍ Check that all products are interconnected using the correct comms leads.

❍ If the installation includes 200 Series or 600 Series units, check that all 500 Series units are set to 200 mode.

There is hum on the LP input

The LP input is the most sensitive input on the integrated amplifier.

❍ Check that the tone arm is connected to the technical ground of the integrated amplifier.

❍ Check that the tone arm is connected to the power ground in the turntable.

❍ If you are using a magnetic pickup, check that there is not another piece of equipment too near to the turntable or the left-hand side of the integrated amplifier. If so, re-position the equipment to cure the problem.

There is hum on other inputs

❍ Check your other equipment.

❍ If you are unable to cure the problem consult your dealer.

There is interference on the radio and/or television when the integrated amplifier is switched on

Before following the steps below, ensure all units are switched off.

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 551 Integrated Amplifier and its cabling.

❍ Ensure that the receiver uses well-screened antenna cable.

❍ Relocate the receiver with respect to the integrated amplifier.

❍ Connect the receiver and this product to different AC outlets.

Maintenance

Cleaning

When cleaning the integrated amplifier bear in mind that the front of the integrated amplifier is plastic, and the display panel and lid are glass.

Disconnect the power cord before cleaning the unit.

Note: Do not use abrasive cleaners on any part of the integrated amplifier.

To clean the case, display panel, and keypad

● Use a slightly damp cloth.

Ensure that no water is allowed to get inside the case, and do not reconnect the power until you are certain that the integrated amplifier is completely dry.

To clean the audio connections

The audio sockets on the back of the integrated amplifier are gold-plated and need no cleaning if gold-plated phono plugs are used. Otherwise, it is recommended that you unplug and reconnect the plugs at least once a year. A proprietary contact cleaner can be used to some advantage.

To change the mains fuse
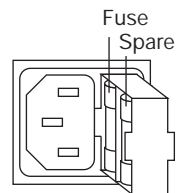
Fuse
Spare

● Remove the mains connector, and pull out the drawer next to the power input to access the fuses.

Before replacing a blown fuse, if possible ascertain the cause of the failure.

The fuse drawer includes a spare fuse. This should be replaced by one of the same rating.

Service and guarantee

Service

The Meridian 500 Series of hi-fi components have been carefully designed to give years of untroubled service. There are no user-serviceable parts inside the case, nor do the units require any form of maintenance.

In the unlikely event that your integrated amplifier fails to function correctly, it should be returned, in its original packaging, to your Meridian dealer.

In case of difficulty within the UK or USA please contact the appropriate sales and service address shown on page ii.

In case of difficulty outside the UK or USA, contact the importing agent for the territory. A list of Meridian agents abroad is available from Meridian Audio.

No responsibility can be accepted for the integrated amplifier whilst in transit to the factory or an agent, and customers are therefore advised to insure the unit.

When seeking service under guarantee, proof of the date of purchase will be required.

Guarantee

The 551 Integrated Amplifier is guaranteed against defects in material and workmanship for 2 years from the date of purchase.

The guarantee is void if the 551 Integrated Amplifier has been subject to misuse, accident, or negligence, or has been tampered with or modified in any way without the written authorisation of Meridian Audio Limited. Note that connecting anything other than the correct network lead to the COMMS sockets may cause damage to the 551 Integrated Amplifier which will not be covered by this guarantee. Attempted servicing by unauthorised people may also invalidate this guarantee. Labour and carriage charges are not covered unless by local agreement.

Outside the UK, local warranty liability is restricted to equipment purchased within the territory. Our agents abroad are only under contractual obligation to service under guarantee equipment sold through them. They are entitled to make a non-refundable charge for any service carried out on other equipment.

This guarantee does not limit your statutory rights within the United Kingdom.

Setting up the integrated amplifier

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