

# 808 Signature Reference CD Player User Guide



# Important safety instructions

- Read the instructions.
- Keep these instructions.
- Follow all instructions.
- Do not use this apparatus near water.
- Clean only with a dry cloth.
- Install only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Refer all servicing to approved service personnel.

**WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.**

This apparatus has been designed with Class 1 construction and must be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection (the third grounding pin).

This apparatus uses a single-pole power switch. As a result it is not isolated from AC mains power when switched off at the rear panel. The apparatus may be isolated from mains power either by unplugging the power connector from the rear of the unit, or by unplugging the connector at the opposing end of the power cord or cable from its supply outlet. As a result, either or both of these connectors should remain accessible

## Safety warnings

- Do not expose the unit to dripping or splashing.
- Do not place any object filled with liquid, such as a vase, on the unit.
- Do not place naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, on the unit.

## To avoid overheating

- Leave at least 10cm around the equipment to ensure sufficient ventilation.

Do not position the unit:

- In direct sunlight.
- Near heat sources, such as a radiator.
- Directly on top of heat producing equipment, such as a power amplifier.

## To avoid interference

Do not position the unit:

- Near strong electrical or magnetic radiation, such as near a power amplifier.

## 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 and type-tested to comply with the limits set out in EN55013 and EN55020.



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Using the preamplifier features</b>	<b>15</b>
The 808 Signature Reference CD Player	2	Selecting a source	16
Specifications	3	Adjusting the system volume	17
		Changing the treble or bass	18
<b>Using the 808 Signature Reference CD Player</b>	<b>5</b>	Changing the balance or phase	19
Front panel keys	6	Changing the loudness or subwoofer mode	20
MSR+ keys	7	Loudspeaker setup controls	21
Switching on and off	8		
Playing a disc	9	<b>Installing the 808 Signature Reference CD Player</b>	<b>23</b>
Stopping and pausing play	10	Unpacking	24
Repeat	11	Applications	26
Scanning a disc	12		
Programming a selection	13	<b>Configuring the 808 Signature Reference CD Player</b>	<b>33</b>
Changing the front-panel display	14	Choosing a standard setting	34
		Setting up sources	35
		Setting up SpeakerLink	36
		Installing the Meridian Configuration Application	37
		<b>Index</b>	<b>39</b>

# Copyright and acknowledgements

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# Introduction

Welcome to the Meridian 808 Signature Reference CD Player.

This User Guide provides full information about using the 808 in conjunction with your other equipment, to achieve the superb results you can expect from it.



# The 808 Signature Reference CD Player

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player takes Compact Disc playback to an entirely new level, with a heritage that includes the multiple award winning 508 and 800, and two dozen optical disc players from 1984 to the present day. The 808 is specifically designed as a CD-optimised machine, able to play audio CDs, CD-Rs, and CD-R/Ws. It also plays the CD layer of an SACD disc.

At the heart of the 808 are fully-integrated electronics and a computer-style CD-ROM drive. The drive normally operates at standard CD speed, but is capable of much faster reading, using multiple high-speed re-reads to ensure accurate recovery of data from even the most difficult disc. This capability alone provides over ten times the error correction of a conventional CD player.

## Signal Processing

Once the digital data stream has been recovered from the disc, powerful on-board digital signal processing (DSP) with a capability of an impressive 150 MIPs upsamples the digital information from the 16-bit 44.1kHz signal of conventional CD to a 24-bit signal with a sample rate of 176.4kHz. This signal is fed to the high-quality DACs to drive the analogue outputs, while a digital signal at an 88.2kHz sample rate is supplied to the digital outputs. Upsampling is performed with very high-accuracy filters which minimise pre-echo arising from ADCs and DACs used in the recording and replay process so that the total chain closely represents transmission of sound through air, for ultimate transparency from all sources.

The 808 employs a triple buffering system to minimise jitter, and therefore maximise HF transparency and stereo image precision and stability. This, and the digital electronics as a whole, are driven by a new design of high-stability clocking system which further reduces jitter and ensure that the highest level of detail is recovered from a disc. All digital data is accurately re-locked.

Multiple power supplies ensure that digital and analogue circuitry are kept apart and can provide the required power when called upon to do so.

## Integrated preamplifier

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player includes a built-in stereo preamplifier with the ability to handle six stereo analogue inputs, three digital coaxial S/PDIF inputs, three Meridian SpeakerLink inputs, and five Toslink optical digital inputs, making it ideal as the heart of a superb stereo music system. A USB B-type connector is provided to allow the 808 to be connected to a computer system and used as an external sound card. It also includes a network connection for use with a Digital Media System.

## System integration

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player provides balanced and unbalanced analogue outputs for connecting to an external power amplifier or preamplifier. Alternatively, it provides SpeakerLink and coax digital outputs, allowing it to drive Meridian DSP Loudspeakers directly. The digital outputs support MHR (Meridian High Resolution) and operate at up to 2 x CD sample rate (88.2kHz), 24-bit.

Meridian Comms sockets (2 x DIN) allow communication with other Meridian components, while an RS232 interface provides full remote control capability as well as the ability to configure the unit with Meridian's innovative Windows-based graphic configuration application. Three programmable trigger outputs are provided for direct control of external devices, for example powering-up amplifiers, etc.

The Meridian 808 Signature Reference CD Player is supplied with the MSR+ learning/programmable remote control, which not only operates all Meridian products but also includes an extensive database of third-party products and the capability to learn commands from existing remotes.

# Specifications

## Drive

- Internal CD-ROM drive.

## Audio outputs

- 2-channel balanced audio output.
- 2-channel unbalanced audio output.
- 2-channel digital coax output.
- Two 2-channel Meridian SpeakerLink outputs.
- Optional MHR encryption on digital outputs at high rate

## Audio inputs

- Six 2-channel unbalanced analogue inputs. Adjustable sensitivity.
- Three 2-channel digital coax inputs. 44.1kHz to 96kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- Three 2-channel Meridian SpeakerLink inputs. 44.1kHz to 96kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- Five 2-channel digital optical inputs. 44.1kHz to 96kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- One network input (Ethernet) for connection to a Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System.
- One USB input, for connection to a computer. Up to 192kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- All inputs provide renameable legends.

## Signal processing

The 808 uses Meridian's proprietary DSP software to provide the following powerful features:

- Apodising filter.
- Upsampling.
- FIFO and error correction.
- Resolution enhancement.

## Controls

Front-panel facia controls for:

- Open/Close, Play, Stop, Pause, Previous, Next, and On/Off.

A hinged control panel provides additional controls for:

- Repeat, Fast Forward/Reverse, Source, Store, Clear, Display, Mute, and Volume +/-.

## Display

- 20-character dot-matrix display with adjustable brightness and contrast.
- Indicators for Emphasis, Repeat, and Phase.



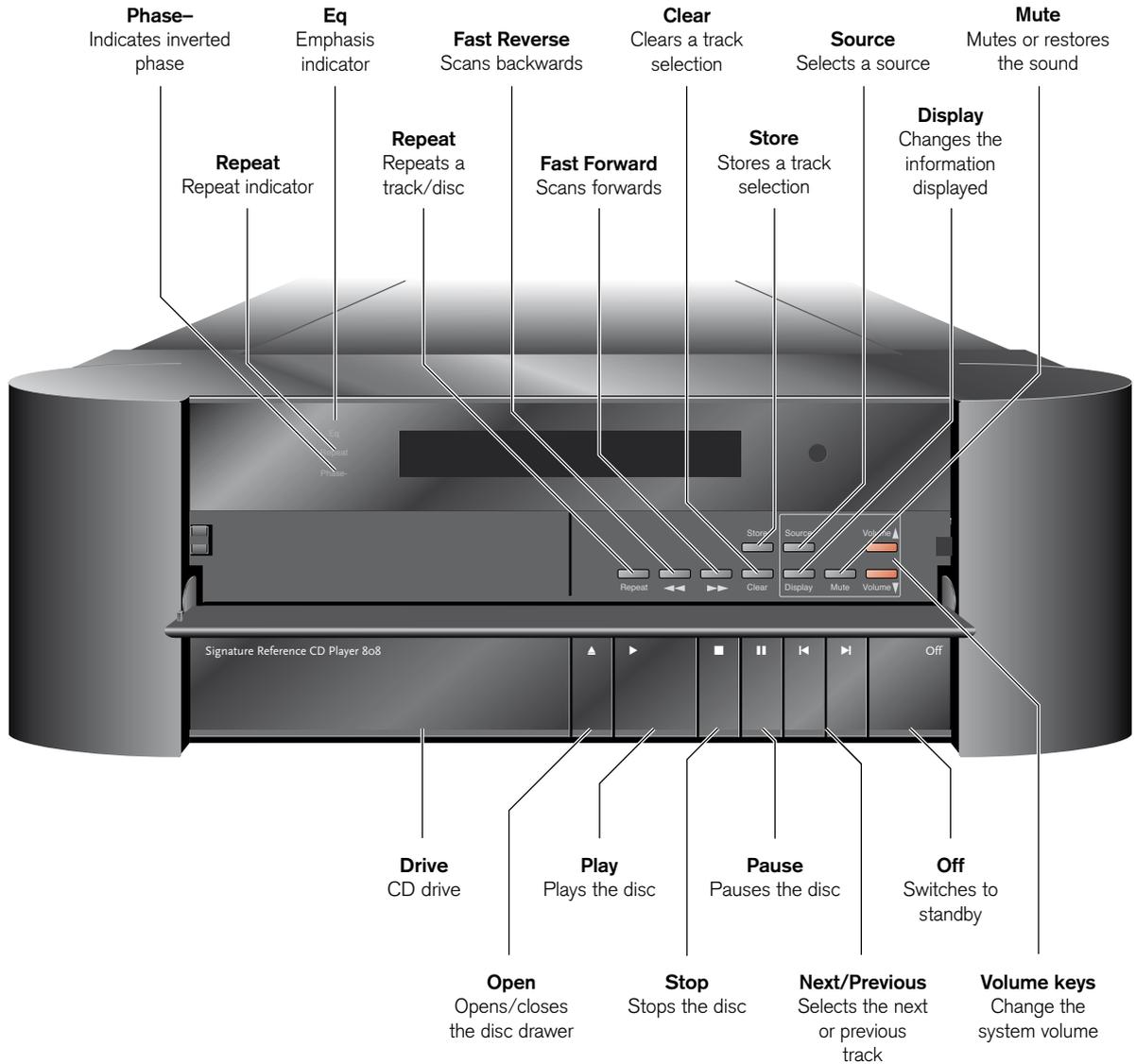
# Using the 808 Signature Reference CD Player

This chapter provides a summary of the functions of the 808 Signature Reference CD Player to identify the controls you use to operate the unit.

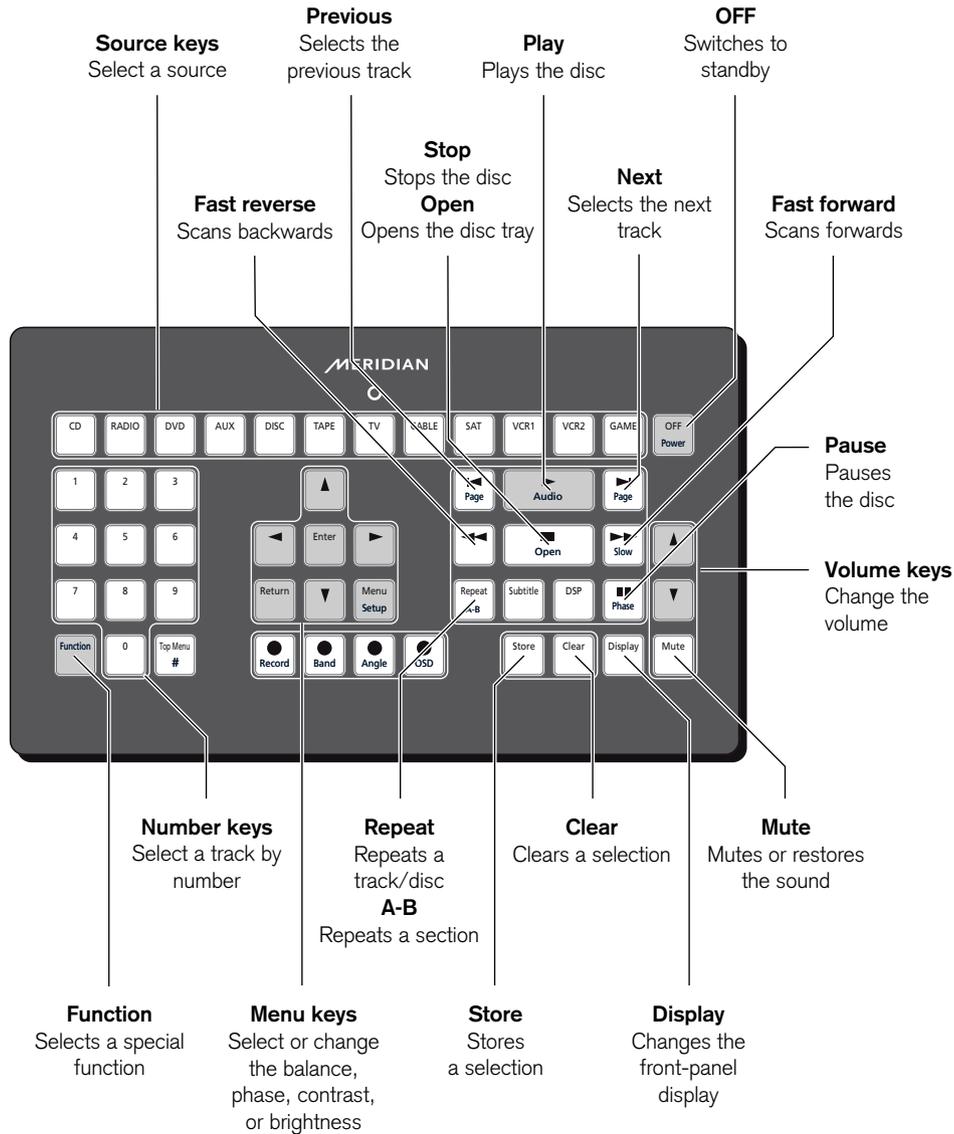
It also provides step-by-step instructions for operating the 808, using either the front panel or the MSR+.



## Front panel keys



## MSR+ keys



## Switching on and off

When not playing, the 808 should be left in the standby state. This uses a minimal amount of electricity, but ensures that the components of the 808 operate at maximum efficiency from the moment you start.

If you are not going to use the 808 for several days you should switch the unit off completely at the rear panel, and disconnect it from the AC power supply.

### To switch on from standby

- Press ▲, ■, or ► (front panel), or select a source.

If the 808 is part of a Meridian system it will automatically switch on any other units in the system, such as the 861 Reference Digital Surround Controller and Meridian DSP Loudspeakers.

### To insert a disc

- Press ▲ (front panel) or **Function** ■ (remote) to open the tray.
- Place your disc in the tray, label side up.
- Press ▲ (front panel), **Function** ■ (remote), or ► to close the tray.

### To switch to standby

- Press **Off** (front panel or remote).

If you have other Meridian equipment or Meridian DSP Loudspeakers connected to the 808 these units will also switch to standby.

If a disc is currently playing, switching to standby will stop the disc, and the disc can safely be left in the unit.

Always remove any disc before moving or shipping the 808.

# Playing a disc

The compact disc player allows you to play an entire disc, or start playing from any track. While a disc is playing you can go back to the start of the track or skip to the start of the next track.

If you have programmed a selection, these functions also work with the selection of tracks you have programmed. For information about programming see *Programming a selection*, page 13.

*If you have other Meridian sources you should ensure that the 808 is the currently selected source.*

## To play the disc

- Press ► (front panel or remote).

The display will show your selection.

For example:

A black rectangular display showing the word "Play" on the left and the number "1" on the right.

The display will then show the track number and elapsed time.

For example:

A black rectangular display showing the number "1" on the left and the time "00:12" on the right.

## To restart the current track

- Press ◀ (front panel or remote).

## To move to the next track

- Press ► (front panel or remote).

## To play starting from a particular track

- Press ► or ◀ (front panel or remote) to step through the track numbers until the track you want to play is displayed, or type the number of the track (remote only).

For example:

A black rectangular display showing the word "Track" on the left and the number "4" on the right.

After a short delay the track you have selected will start to play.

## Stopping and pausing play

### To stop playback

- Press ■ (front panel or remote).

The display will show the total number of tracks on the disc.

For example:



### To pause playback

You can pause a disc while keeping it spinning, so that you can resume play instantly.

- Press ■■ (front panel or remote).

You can change tracks while the disc is paused using ◀ or ▶ (front panel or remote).

### To continue after pausing

- Press ■■ or ▶ (front panel or remote).

# Repeat

You can choose to play a track, disc, or selection repeatedly, so that when it has played it will start again from the beginning.

## To continuously repeat a disc

- Press **Repeat** (remote or under the front panel) to select between the following options:

Display	Description
Repeat track	Repeat current track.
Repeat disc	Repeat entire disc.

## To repeat between two positions

- Press **A-B (Function Repeat)** on the remote) at the start of the section you want to repeat.

The display shows:

Repeat A-

- Move to the end of the section you want to repeat.
- Press **A-B (Function Repeat)** on the remote) again.

The display shows:

Repeat A-B

The section you have specified will be played repeatedly.

## To cancel A-B repeat

- Press **A-B**.

## To cancel the repeat function

- Press **Repeat** (remote or under the front panel) again.

## Scanning a disc

The scan controls allow you to move quickly to any position on the disc at either twice or eight times normal speed.

### To scan through a disc

- Press ►► or ◀◀ (remote or under the front panel) to select twice normal speed.
- Press ►► or ◀◀ again to select eight times normal speed.

The display will show you the position on the disc.

For example:



- Press ► (front panel or remote) when you have reached the position you want to play.

Alternatively press ►► or ◀◀ again from eight times normal speed to return to normal playback.

## Programming a selection

You can programme a selection of tracks and then play only the tracks you have programmed.

You can programme a selection either by storing the tracks you want to play, or by clearing the tracks you do not want to play. If you programme a selection by storing the tracks you want to hear, you can play the tracks in any order and repeat tracks in the sequence.

You can programme a selection while the disc is playing, in which case the selection will be played after the current track finishes.

### To choose a track to programme

- Press **◀** or **▶** (front panel or remote) to step through the track numbers until the track you want is displayed, or type the number of the track you want.

### To make a selection by adding tracks

- Choose the first track you want to play, as described above.

The display will show the track number.

For example:


 A digital display showing the word "Track" on the left and the number "14" on the right.

- Press **Store** (remote or under the front panel).

The track will change from **Track** to **Store**, and all the other tracks will be marked **Clear**.

For example:


 A digital display showing the word "Store" on the left and the number "14" on the right.

You should store the first track for a selection within two seconds, or it will begin to play.

### To make a selection by omitting tracks

- Choose one of the tracks you do not want to play, as described above.

The display will show the track number.

For example:


 A digital display showing the word "Track" on the left and the number "12" on the right.

- Press **Clear** (remote or under the front panel).

The track will change from **Track** to **Clear**, and all the other tracks will be marked **Store**.

For example:


 A digital display showing the word "Clear" on the left and the number "12" on the right.

You should clear the first track for a selection within two seconds, or it will begin to play.

### To add or remove a track from a selection

- Select the track using **◀** or **▶** (front panel or remote).

Alternatively you can enter the track number using the remote.

- Press **Store** to add the track, or **Clear** to remove the track.

### To clear a programme

- Press **■** (front panel or remote) twice.

The display will show:


 A digital display showing the text "Clear Program".

A programme is automatically cleared if you open the disc drawer, or press **Off**.

## Changing the front-panel display

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player displays information and settings on the 20-character front-panel display.

You can adjust the contrast and brightness of the front-panel display for optimum viewing, and choose what information is displayed.

### To change the contrast or brightness

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote), until the display shows the current contrast or brightness.

For example:



CD Contrast 10

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote), to change the selected setting.

You can change the contrast or brightness between 0 and 15.

### To change the displayed information

- Press **Display** (remote or under the front panel).

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

Display option	Example
Track and elapsed time	3 12:37
Sampling rate, precision, and audio format	44k1 16Bit LPCM CD
Blank	

If the **Diagnostic displays** option has been selected, additional diagnostic displays are included.

# Using the preamplifier features

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player includes a preamplifier which can act as the controller for up to 11 other sources, with an optional volume control.

This chapter explains how to use these features from either the front panel or the MSR+.



## Selecting a source

The 808 responds to the following 12 source keys on the remote:

CD, Radio, DVD, Aux, Disc, Tape, TV, Cable, Sat, VCR1, VCR2, and Game.

The CD source usually corresponds to the internal drive, the Aux source usually corresponds to the internal Sooloos interface, and the VCR2 source usually corresponds to the USB input.

The input associated with each of the sources depends on how the 808 has been set up; for more information refer to the *Meridian Configuration Program Guide*.

*Your installer may have customised the labels displayed for each source to suit your other equipment.*

### To select a source

- Press **Source** (under the front panel) until the display shows the source you want, 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 Radio source:

The display shows:  Radio 65

*The 808 mutes the sound while you change source.*

### To play music from a Sooloos server

*Either:*

- Press **Source** (under the front panel) until the display shows SLS, or press the **Aux** key on the remote.

*Or:*

- Select the 808 zone from the Sooloos controller.

You can then listen to music streamed from the Sooloos server.

The volume and mute controls on the Sooloos controller will operate the 808.

### To control the Sooloos server

When the SLS source is selected you can control the Sooloos server from the 808 front panel controls.

- Press **▶**, **||**, or **■** to control playback.
- Press **◀** or **▶** to step between tracks in the server's play queue.

For more information please refer to the *Meridian Sooloos Network Card Guide*.

# Adjusting the system volume

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player provides a volume control which can be adjusted from the front panel or remote control. The volume changes 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 to 99dB.

When you first connect power to the 808 Signature Reference CD Player the volume is set to 65, which is similar to the mid-way position of the rotary volume control on a conventional preamplifier.

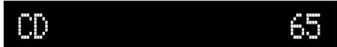
*If the 808 is set up with variable outputs (see Choosing a standard setting, page 34) the analogue output level is varied, allowing the 808 to drive an amplifier or active loudspeakers. If the 808 is set up with fixed outputs the volume control is performed by the DSP loudspeakers.*

## To change the volume

- Press **Volume ▲** or **Volume ▼** (under the front panel), or the red **▲** or **▼** keys on the remote.

As you adjust the volume setting the display shows the current volume level.

For example:



## To mute the sound

- Press **Mute** (remote, or under the front panel).

The display shows:



## To restore the sound

- Press **Mute** again.

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

## Changing the treble or bass

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player provides sophisticated treble and bass controls, to allow you to adjust the broad balance of a Meridian DSP loudspeaker system to correct for the acoustics of your listening room, or for a misbalanced recording.

*These controls are performed by the DSP loudspeakers, and are only available if your 808 is set up with fixed outputs.*

The bass control allows you to adjust the bass response in the room by  $\pm 5\text{dB}$  in  $0.5\text{dB}$  steps. Normally settings between  $+3.0$  and  $-2.0$  will give the most natural results.

The controls are more subtle than conventional tone controls, and take advantage of digital signal processing techniques to provide a more natural adjustment of the frequency response.

### To change the treble

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current treble.

For example:

CD Treble +1.0

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to change the treble.

The treble control tilts the frequency of the response over the entire frequency range to make the sound brighter or dimmer. It can be adjusted between  $\pm 10\text{dB}$  in  $0.5\text{dB}$  steps. Normally settings between  $+1.0$  and  $-2.0$  will give the most natural results.

### To change the bass

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current bass setting.

For example:

CD Bass +1.0

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to change the bass.

# Changing the balance or phase

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player balance control uses digital signal processing to compensate for an off-centre listening position by delaying and diminishing the sound in one speaker, thus effectively shifting the speaker's image back.

You can also change the absolute phase of the signal, to compensate for signals which are out of phase, giving an unnatural-sounding bass.

*If the 808 is set up with fixed outputs the balance control is performed by the DSP loudspeakers.*

## To change the balance

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current balance.

For example:

SLS Balance <0>

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to move the listening position.

The display shows the direction and position of the listening position.

For example:

SLS Balance <3>

The arrow indicates the direction, and the number indicates the position where 0 is central, 8 is in line with the corresponding main speaker, and 10 is fully to one side.

## To change the phase

Either:

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current phase.

For example:

SLS Phase+

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) or **Phase (Function II)** on the remote) to change the phase.

Or:

- Press **Phase (Function II)** on the remote).

The display will show the new phase setting.

For example:

SLS Phase-

## Changing the loudness or subwoofer mode

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player allows you to control several other settings supported by recent Meridian DSP loudspeakers.

The **Loudness** control alters the frequency response to make music sound more natural when played at a low volume setting.

The **Mode** control changes the distribution of bass between the main speakers and the subwoofer to suit different types of material.

*These controls are only available if you are connected to DSP loudspeakers that support them, using the SpeakerLink connection, and if SpeakerLink On mode is selected (see Setting up SpeakerLink, page 36).*

Additional controls may be available as further SpeakerLink features are developed.

### To change the loudness

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current loudness setting.
- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to turn the loudness control on or off.

For example:



SLS Loudness On

### To select Music Mode or Movie Mode

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current mode.

For example:



SLS Music Mode

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to select between Music Mode, recommended for classical music, and Movie Mode, recommended for movie soundtracks.

# Loudspeaker setup controls

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player provides several controls to allow you to adjust DSP loudspeakers to suit the characteristics of your room.

The **Subwoofer** control adjusts the subwoofer crossover frequency and gain.

The **Location** control adjusts the sound to compensate for the placement of the main speakers.

The **Room Ht** control adjusts the speakers according to the height of your room.

The **EBC** control adjusts the sound to compensate for highly reflective walls.

The **EBA** control improves the bass alignment in DSP loudspeakers that support it. Note that the extra processing adds a time delay, so it should be disabled for video sources.

*These controls are only available if you are connected to DSP loudspeakers that support them, using the SpeakerLink connection, and if SpeakerLink Setup mode is selected (see Setting up SpeakerLink, page 36).*

## To change the subwoofer crossover

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current subwoofer mode.

For example:

SLS Subwoofer 1

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to select between: **Off** (subwoofer off), **1** (80Hz crossover), or **2** (120Hz crossover).

## To change the subwoofer gain

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current subwoofer gain.

For example:

SLS Sub. Gain 0

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to adjust the relative subwoofer gain between **-15, 0** (the normal setting), and **+15** in 1dB steps.

## To specify the speaker location

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current location setting.

For example:

SLS Free

Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to choose between **Corner**, **Shelf**, **Wall**, or **Free** (free standing).

## To specify the room height

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current room height setting, in cm or in:

For example:

SLS Room Ht 220cm

Or:

SLS Room Ht 96in

Choose whichever units you prefer to work in.

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to specify the height of your room. You can adjust it between 150cm/58in and 400cm/158in in steps of 5cm/2in.

### To specify Enhanced Boundary Control

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current EBC setting.

For example:



SLS EBC Off

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to specify how reflective the room surfaces are. Choose between **Off** (unreflective), **Min**, **Med**, or **Max** (highly reflective).

### To specify Enhanced Bass Alignment

- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current EBA setting.

For example:



SLS EBA On

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to choose between **On** or **Off**.

# Installing the 808 Signature Reference CD Player

This chapter explains how to install the 808 Signature Reference CD player. It describes what you should find when you unpack the product, and how you should connect it to the other equipment in the system.

You should not make any connections to the product or to any other component in the system while the AC power supply is connected and switched on.



# Unpacking

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player is supplied with the following accessories:

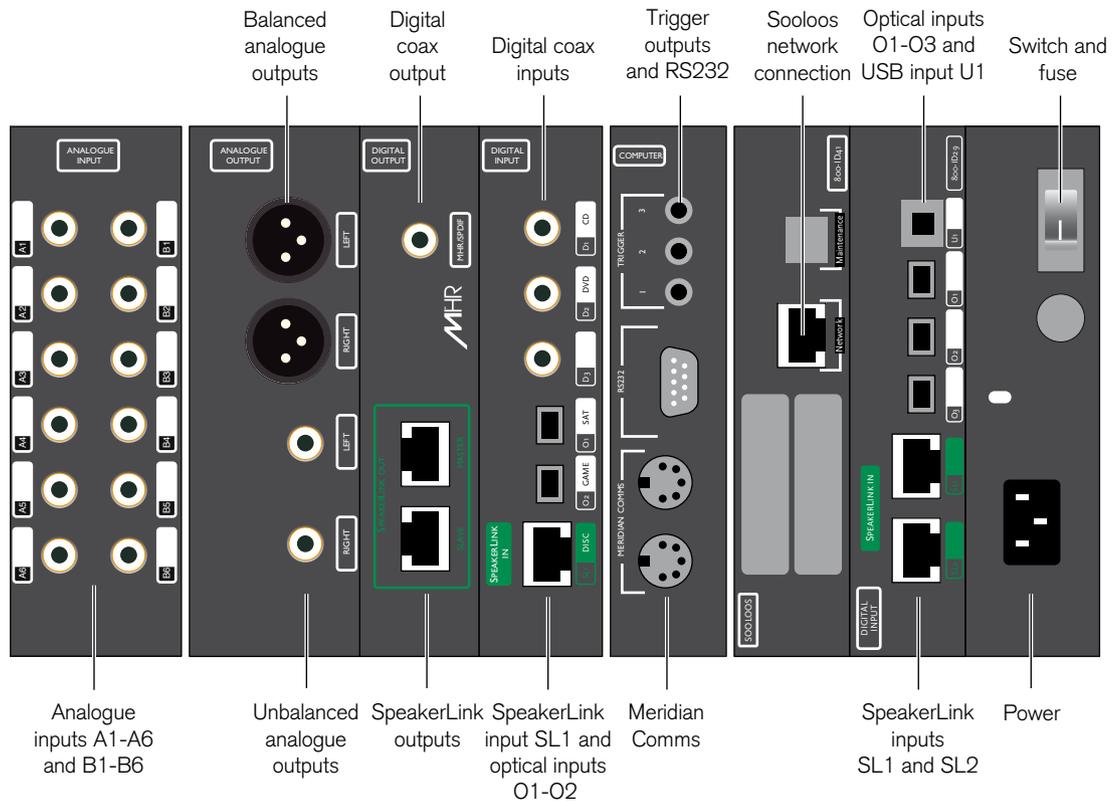
- MSR+ remote control with batteries, manual, and spare key caps.
- Meridian Comms lead.
- Power cord.
- This manual.

If any of these items are missing please contact your dealer.

**NOTE:** You should retain the packaging in case you need to transport the unit.

## Back panel

The following diagram gives details of the back panel connections:



## Audio outputs

Use this output	To connect to this
BALANCED OUT	The balanced analogue inputs of a preamplifier, or a power amplifier such as the G57, using XLR leads.
ANALOGUE OUT	The unbalanced analogue inputs of a preamplifier, or a power amplifier such as the G57, using analogue phono leads.
DIGITAL OUT	The digital input of a surround processor, such as the 861 Reference Digital Surround Controller, or DSP loudspeakers, using a 75Ω digital cable.
MERIDIAN SPEAKERLINK	DSP Loudspeakers with Meridian SpeakerLink connectors, using SpeakerLink leads. Use the upper socket for the Master speaker.

## Audio inputs

Use this input	To connect to this
ANALOGUE IN A1+A2 (Radio), A3+A4 (TV), A5+A6 (Cable), B1+B2 (Tape), B3+B4 (VCR1), B5+B6*	The analogue outputs of a source, such as a TV or tape deck.
DIGITAL INPUT D1 (DVD), D2, D3	The digital output of a source such as a DVD player.
SPEAKERLINK INPUT SL1 (Disc), SL1, SL2 (on ID29 card)	The SpeakerLink output of a Meridian source, using a Meridian SpeakerLink lead.

\* In each case the odd-numbered input is the left channel and the even-numbered is the right channel.

## Audio inputs (continued)

Use this input	To connect to this
OPTICAL INPUT O1 (Sat), O2 (Game), O1, O2, O3 (on ID29 card)	The optical output of a source such as a satellite receiver.
USB INPUT U1 (VCR2) (on ID29 card)	A personal computer USB socket.
NETWORK (Aux)	A Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System.

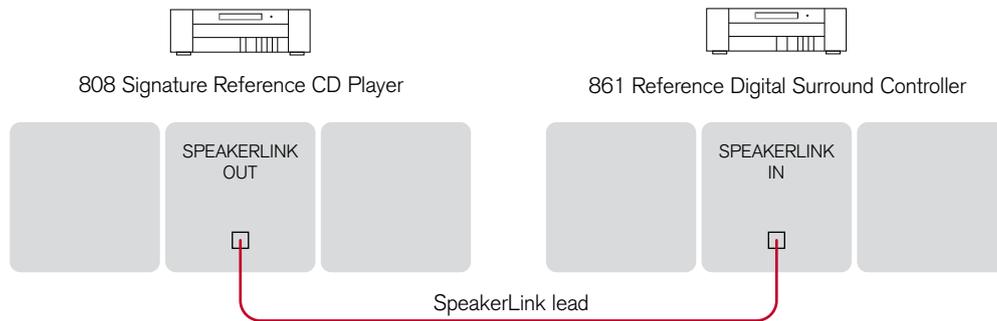
The default assignment of the source to each input is shown in brackets after the input name in the above table. CD corresponds to the internal CD player.

## Communications connections

Use this connection	To connect to this
MERIDIAN COMMS	Other Meridian equipment, or Meridian DSP loudspeakers.
RS232 connection	A computer, for configuring the 808, or a serial control system.
TRIGGER OUTPUT 1, 2, 3	Equipment to be triggered by a 12V 100mA signal.

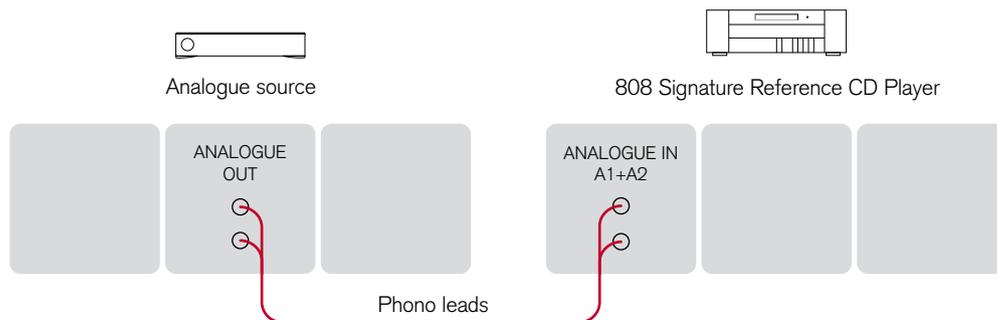
## Applications

### To connect to an 861 Reference Digital Surround Controller



- Connect the SpeakerLink output from the 808 to the SpeakerLink input on the 861, using a SpeakerLink lead.

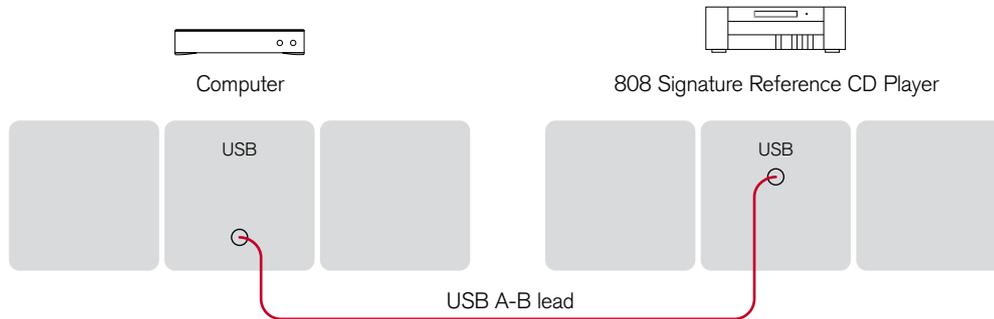
### To connect to an analogue source (eg TV tuner)



You can connect up to six analogue sources to the 808 Signature Reference CD Player

- Connect the analogue source to one of the analogue input sockets of the 808, using screened coax phono leads.

## To connect to a computer via USB



You can connect the 808 Signature Reference CD Player to a PC or Macintosh USB socket to allow you to use the 808 as a digital audio output device.

On a PC, Windows XP/SP2 or later is required. Note that you must install the drivers (available from your Meridian dealer or <http://www.meridian-audio.com>) before you connect the product to a Windows PC.

On a Macintosh, OS X 10.4 or later is recommended. Appropriate drivers will be installed automatically when you connect for the first time.

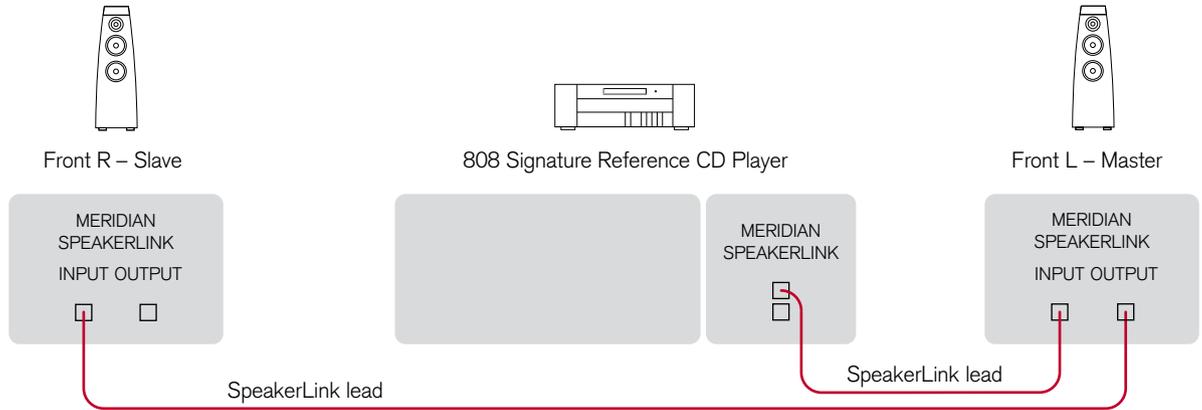
Linux computers that support USB Audio Class 2.0 drivers can also be used.

When the 808 is plugged in to the computer it will appear as a sound output device called **Meridian ID29 Output** in the **Sound** control panel (PC) or **Sound** System Preferences panel (Macintosh).

The source will be labelled VCR2, unless it has been given a custom label.

**Note:** The computer volume control will continue to work as expected, but for highest quality you should set it to maximum and use the Meridian volume control in the 808 instead.

## To connect to DSP loudspeakers using SpeakerLink (daisy chain)



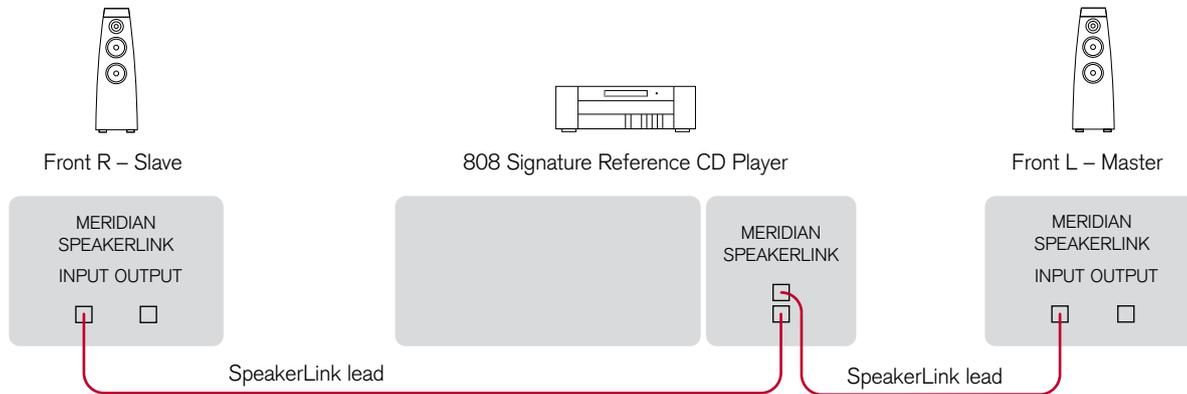
The 808 can be connected directly to Meridian DSP loudspeakers to create a complete compact stereo system, with volume and other preamplifier controls provided by the loudspeakers via the MSR+ or the front panel.

The Meridian SpeakerLink connection provides both two-channel digital audio and Meridian Comms control.

This is an alternative to the “home run” wiring configuration shown in the next section.

- Connect the upper SpeakerLink output from the 808 to the SpeakerLink input on the DSP loudspeaker chosen as the Master, using a SpeakerLink lead.
- Connect the SpeakerLink output from the Master DSP loudspeaker to the SpeakerLink input on the other (Slave) DSP loudspeaker, using a second SpeakerLink lead.
- Configure the loudspeakers as described in the *Meridian DSP Loudspeaker User Guide*.

## To connect to DSP loudspeakers using SpeakerLink (home run)



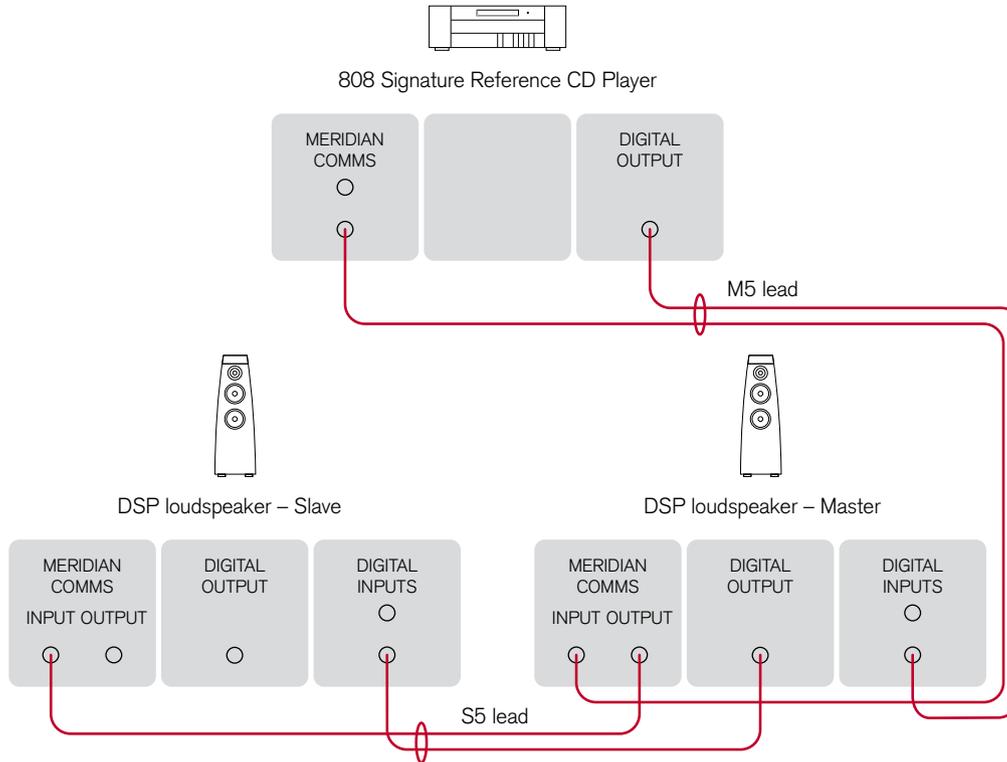
The 808 can be connected directly to Meridian DSP loudspeakers to create a complete compact stereo system, with volume and other preamplifier controls provided by the loudspeakers via the MSR+ or the front panel.

The Meridian SpeakerLink connection provides both two-channel digital audio and Meridian Comms control.

This is an alternative to the “daisy chain” wiring configuration shown in the previous section.

- Connect the upper SpeakerLink output from the 808 to the SpeakerLink input on the DSP loudspeaker chosen as the Master, using a SpeakerLink lead.
- Connect the lower SpeakerLink output from the 808 to the SpeakerLink input on the other (Slave) DSP loudspeaker, using a second SpeakerLink lead.
- Configure the loudspeakers as described in the *Meridian DSP Loudspeaker User Guide*.

## To connect to DSP loudspeakers using the digital and Comms connections



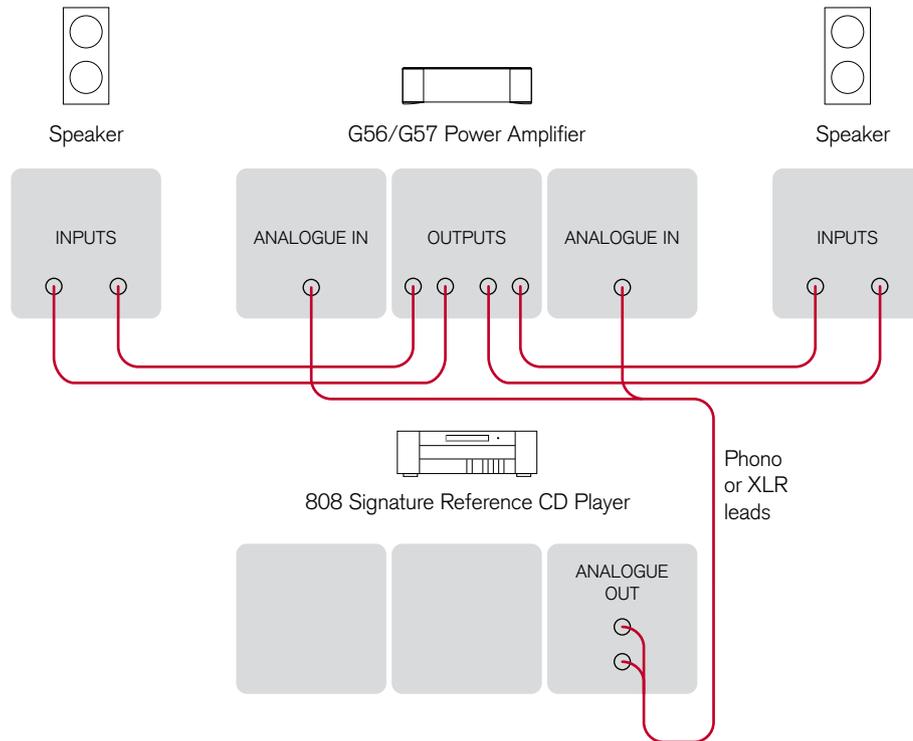
If your DSP loudspeakers do not provide Meridian SpeakerLink connections you can connect to them using the Digital and Meridian Comms connections.

- Connect the DIGITAL OUTPUT and a COMMS socket from the 808 to DIGITAL INPUT 1 and the COMMS input on the DSP loudspeaker chosen as the Master, using an M5 lead.
- Connect the DIGITAL and COMMS outputs from the Master DSP loudspeaker to DIGITAL INPUT 1

and the COMMS input on the other (Slave) DSP loudspeaker, using an S5 lead.

- Configure the loudspeakers as described in the *Meridian DSP Loudspeaker User Guide*.

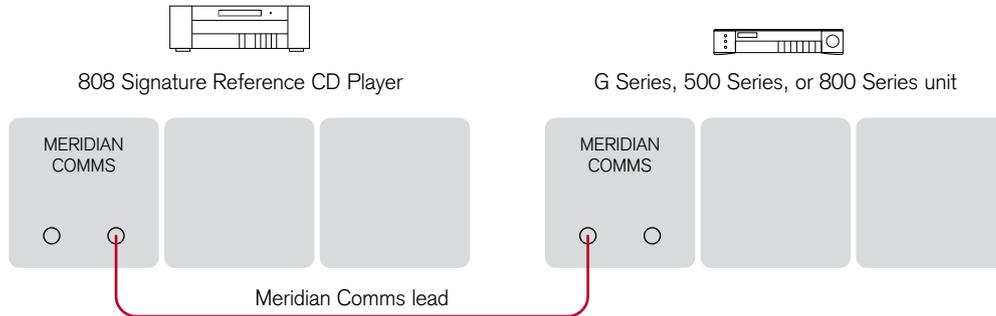
## To connect to a power amplifier



The 808 includes an integrated preamplifier, allowing you to connect it directly to a pair of analogue active loudspeakers, or to analogue passive loudspeakers via a power amplifier.

- Connect the ANALOGUE OUTPUT connections from the 808 to the inputs of the analogue active loudspeakers or power amplifier.

## To connect to other Meridian G Series or 800 Series equipment



In a system of Meridian products, one of the products acts as the controller for the system, receiving infra-red commands from the MSR+ and then, if appropriate, relaying them to the other products via the Comms link.

The following automatic setup procedure should be used to set up the Comms correctly between several products:

- Connect one of the DIN COMMS sockets on the back panel of the 808 to one of the COMMS sockets on another G Series, 500 Series, or 800 Series unit, using the Comms leads provided with the products.

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

- Switch all the units to standby.
- Press **Clear** (remote).

Each unit will display: **Auto**

One unit will then be designated as the controller.

The display shows: **Controller**

All the other units will be configured as non-controllers.

The displays show:

**Not Con.**

If for any reason the automatic setup does not work, make sure you are operating the remote from a position where all the units can receive the infra-red, and try again.

If this fails:

- Restore the default operation by selecting one of the standard types; see *Choosing a standard setting*, page 34.

*Do not, under any circumstances, connect any equipment other than Meridian G Series or 800 Series to any socket marked COMMS on the back of the product.*

# Configuring the 808 Signature Reference CD Player

This chapter explains how to set up the 808 Signature Reference CD Player for most standard configurations of your other equipment, using just the front-panel controls and MSR+.

For complete control over all aspects of the unit's configuration it is recommended that you set up the unit using the Meridian Configuration Program; for more information see *Installing the Meridian Configuration Application*, page 37.



## Choosing a standard setting

The 808 provides two standard settings, called Types, which configure all aspects of the 808 into standard configurations.

These standard Types are shown in the following table:

Type	Description
1	Fixed output, for use with Meridian DSP loudspeakers.
2	Variable output, for use with power amplifiers and analogue loudspeakers.

In addition, your installer may have provided one or more named User Types, with settings appropriate to the configuration of equipment when your 808 was installed.

You can reset the configuration of the 808 to any of these Types to restore it to the state it was in when it was installed. **Note:** Selecting a Type will clear any configuration changes you have made.

### To select a standard setting

**Warning: this procedure will reset any configuration changes you have made.**

- Switch off any power amplifiers that are connected to the 808 and put any digital speakers into standby.
- Put the 808 into standby by pressing **Off** (front panel or remote).
- Press and hold down **Volume ▲** (under the front panel).

The display shows:



- Keep holding down **Volume ▲** for a further three seconds.

The display shows:



Then after a short delay the display shows the current Type.

For example:



- Press **▲** or **▼** on the front panel to change the Type number.

The display shows:



- Wait for one second, and then put the 808 into standby by pressing **Off** (front panel or remote).
- Switch on again to use the standard settings you have selected.

# Setting up sources

This section explains how to use Gain mode to set up the analogue sources connected to the 808.

## To turn on Gain mode

- Put the 808 into standby by pressing **Off** (front panel or remote).
- Press and hold the **Volume ▼** key (under the front panel) for at least five seconds.

The display shows: 

The 808 will then return to standby with Gain mode turned on.

Gain mode adds an extra **Sensitivity** option to the menus.

## To turn off Gain mode

- Repeat the above procedure.

The display shows: 

## To adjust the sensitivity of a source

To obtain the best signal-to-noise ratio for your analogue sources you can adjust the sensitivity of each input to give the highest level that does not produce clipping.

- Turn on Gain mode, as described above.
- Select the source you want to adjust, with loud source material playing.
- Press ◀ or ▶ (remote) until the display shows the current sensitivity.

For example: 

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) to change the sensitivity.

You can select between sensitivities of 0.5V (most sensitive), 1.0V, 2.0V, or 2.5V (least sensitive).

If the sensitivity is set too high the input will clip the loudest passages. The display shows:

For example: 

In this case reduce the sensitivity.

If you have selected a digital source you cannot adjust the sensitivity. The display shows:

For example: 

## Setting up SpeakerLink

The digital and SpeakerLink outputs provide control information to DSP loudspeakers, together with the digital audio.

If you are connecting the digital or SpeakerLink output to a digital input that does not support SpeakerLink you should turn SpeakerLink off.

You can also enable a SpeakerLink Setup mode which provides additional menus for configuring DSP loudspeakers. For more information see *Loudspeaker setup controls*, page 21

### To set up SpeakerLink

- Put the 808 into standby by pressing **Off** (front panel or remote).
- Press ◀◀ under the front panel to show the current setting.

For example:



SpeakerLink Off

- Press ◀◀ again to step between the options: **Off**, **On** (Meridian SpeakerLink speakers), or **Setup** (Meridian SpeakerLink speakers plus setup controls).

# Installing the Meridian Configuration Application

The Meridian Configuration Application is not included with this product.

The application should be installed from the Internet.

## Requirements

To use the Meridian Configuration Application you need:

- A computer running Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT 4, ME, XP, Vista, or Windows 7.
- 10Mbytes of free disk space.
- A 9-pin serial port or suitable serial adaptor (such as USB-Serial, PC Card, etc).
- A mouse or similar pointing device – the application cannot be operated solely from the keyboard.

The Meridian Configuration Application communicates with the products you are setting up via a serial cable.

You can either connect the product to a 9-pin serial port on the computer.

Alternatively, a USB-to-serial converter, available from most computer retailers, can be used to connect between the product and a USB port on the computer.

## Installation

To install the application you will need a computer that is connected to the Internet.

- Type the following URL into the address bar of a Web browser:

<http://www.meridian-audio.com/download/setup.exe>

If you are asked whether to Run or Save the application:

- Click **Run**.

Otherwise:

- Run the setup.exe application once it has downloaded.

The **Setup** application's **Welcome** page will be displayed.

- Follow the instructions.

On the **Preferences** page:

- Leave **Install for all users** selected, unless you want to restrict use of the application to yourself on a multi-user machine.

## User guide

You can download an electronic copy of the *Meridian Configuration Program Guide* in Acrobat format from the following URL:

<http://www.meridian-audio.com/media/107004/meridian-config-guide.pdf>



# Index

## A

---

accessories 24  
 analogue inputs 25  
 analogue outputs 25  
 analogue source, connecting 26  
 auxiliary output 24

## B

---

back panel connections 24  
 balance, changing 19  
 balanced outputs 24, 25  
 bass, changing 18  
 brightness, front-panel display 14

## C

---

clip indicator 35  
 Comms, connecting 25, 30, 32  
 communications connections 25  
 computer, connecting to 27  
 configuring 33  
 connecting  
   to a computer 27  
   to an 861 Reference Digital Surround Controller 26  
   to an analogue source 26  
   to a power amplifier 31  
   to DSP loudspeakers 28, 29, 30  
   to Meridian equipment 32  
 continuing play 10  
 contrast, front-panel display 14

## D

---

digital inputs 25  
 digital output 25  
 display, front panel 14  
 DSP loudspeakers, connecting to  
   28, 29, 30

## E

---

Enhanced Bass Alignment, specifying  
   22  
 Enhanced Boundary Control,  
   specifying 22

## F

---

front panel keys 6

## G

---

Gain mode 35

## I

---

inputs 25  
   analogue 25  
   digital 25  
   network 25  
   optical 25  
   SpeakerLink 25  
   USB 25

## L

---

loudness, changing 20  
 loudspeaker setup controls 21  
   Enhanced Bass Alignment 22  
   Enhanced Boundary Control 22

loudspeaker setup controls  
   *(continued)*  
   room height 21  
   speaker location 21  
   subwoofer crossover 21  
   subwoofer gain 21

## M

---

Meridian Configuration Application  
   37  
 Meridian Digital Surround Controller,  
   connecting to 26  
 Meridian DSP loudspeakers,  
   connecting to 28, 29, 30  
 Meridian System Remote keys 7  
 Movie Mode, selecting 20  
 Music Mode, selecting 20  
 muting the sound 17

## N

---

network input 25

## O

---

optical inputs 25  
 outputs 25  
   analogue 25  
   balanced 25  
   digital 25  
   SpeakerLink 25

## P

---

pausing play 10  
   continuing after pausing 10

- phase, changing 19
- playing a disc 9
  - from a particular track 9
  - repeatedly 11
- power amplifier, connecting to 31
- programming a selection 13
  - clearing 13

## R

---

- repeating play 11
  - cancelling 11
- restarting the current track 9
- room height, specifying 21
- RS232 connection 25

## S

---

- safety warnings ii
- scanning a disc 12
- selections
  - adding a track 13
  - clearing 13
  - programming 13
  - specifying tracks not to play 13
- Sooloos, using 16
- Sooloos input 25
- sound, muting 17
- sources 16
  - adjusting sensitivity 35
  - selecting 16
- SpeakerLink
  - connecting with 28, 29
  - setting up 36
- SpeakerLink inputs 25

- SpeakerLink outputs 25
- speaker location, specifying 21
- specification 3
- standard settings, selecting 34
- standby
  - switching on from 8
  - switching to 8
- stopping play 10
- subwoofer crossover, changing 21
- subwoofer gain, specifying 21
- subwoofer mode, specifying 20
- switching on and off 8

## T

---

- tracks
  - playing from a particular track 9
  - restarting the current track 9
- treble, changing 18
- trigger outputs 25
- Types 34

## U

---

- unpacking 24
- USB, connecting 27
- USB socket 25

## V

---

- volume, adjusting 17