210 STREAMER

1. What is the 210 for?

The 210 is a digital audio source product which allows streaming services used on smartphones, tablets and other devices to be played on your audio system. It also supports UPnP for playback of content on USB storage.

2. Can the 210 be used in a system which includes no other Meridian equipment?

Yes. It can supply conventional SPDIF digital audio from its digital aux output. This can be fed into a standard digital audio input on non-Meridian products.

3. Can the 210 act as a pre-amp?

Although the 210 is described as a source product, the audio it outputs can originate from more than one place. This means it can act as a form of pre-amp in certain system configurations. If connected to a pair of Meridian DSP loudspeakers, the 210 can be used to select between differing sources of streaming - Bluetooth, UPnP and the network connection – and it will pass volume control commands from streaming apps to the Meridian loudspeakers. It does not, however, support switching between differing physical sources.

4. Does the 210 feature a Sooloos end-point?

No, the 210 does not support Sooloos streaming.

5. Can the 210 act as a Roon end-point?

Yes, the 210 is a “Roon Ready” device.

6. How many 210s can be used in single system?

There is no practicable limit as long as the network is capable of dealing with the traffic derived from multiple devices.

7. How is the 210 powered?

The unit features an internal switch-mode power-supply and is powered via a “clover-leaf” mains lead (supplied with the product).

8. Can I connect the 210 to my network using Wi-Fi?

Yes. You can connect the 210 to your network via Wi-Fi. This is set up using the Meridian Control App on an iOS or Android device. The app can be downloaded from the Apple App store or Google Play store.

9. How do I access the advanced settings on the 210?

The 210 supports some advanced features which are accessed using the Meridian Control App. This app is available for iOS devices from the Apple Store and from Google Play Store for Android. The app provides access to advanced settings which may be required when integrating the 210 in some system combinations.

10. When I connect my non-Meridian DAC to the digital output of the 210, the audio produced sounds like white noise – just a constant hissing sound. Why is this, and can it be rectified?

The 210 has the ability to output digital audio in the form of "MHR" (also known as True Link), a method for transferring digital audio which is proprietary to Meridian products. MHR offers improved sound quality compared to conventional SPDIF digital audio within a Meridian system. However, when a non-Meridian DAC is fed with MHR, it results in the constant hissing sound as described in the question. By default, the 210 is configured with MHR disabled. MHR is enabled or disabled using the Meridian Control App. This app is available for iOS devices from the Apple Store and from Google Play Store for Android.

11. How are firmware updates for the 210 carried out?

Firmware updates for the 210 are released over the Internet and are applied to product using the Meridian Control App. The app notifies the user of any available updates and includes a "check for updates" feature. Naturally, this requires the 210 to be connected to the Internet.

12. The 210 supports MQA music playback. Does this apply to MQA content delivered via its SpeakerLink input?

No. It can only decode MQA content received via its network connection (wired or wireless).

13. If I use a Bluetooth connection from my phone and then swap to playing audio from a network connection, the system plays my ringtone from the loudspeakers if I receive a phone call. Why is this and what can I do about it?

There is no way for a Bluetooth connection to distinguish between differing types of audio sent out from a phone. The notification of the incoming call is seen by the 210 as a valid audio signal and it switches to playing the sound from the phone. This can be avoided by disconnecting the phone's Bluetooth connection when audio is being played from elsewhere. Or, if you want to keep the phone connected, there are specific settings on the 210 for the Start-up volume and maximum volume of Bluetooth audio which can be used to avoid overly-loud sounds if the phone receives a call. These settings are available from the Meridian Control app (see the 210 User Guide).

14. I'd like to use Apple Airplay to send audio to my Meridian system via the 210 Streamer. Is there a way of doing this?

The 210 itself does not support Apple Airplay, but it possible to do this using one of the Apple devices which can receive Airplay and has Bluetooth connectivity. If such a device is connected to the 210 via a Bluetooth connection, simply Airplay to the Apple device and it will pass audio over the Bluetooth connection to the 210. One example of this type to set-up is to use an Apple TV playing video to a screen via its HDMI output while audio is played via a Bluetooth connection to the Meridian system.

15. Which firmware version provides the ".2" and "Special Edition" DSP loudspeakers with full compatibility with the 210?

Full compatibility for these models was introduced with the release of v3.16 in August 2019.

16. The specification of the 210 states that its digital output supports a maximum sampling rate of 96kHz. Does it always output 96kHz?

The 210 does not support upsampling, so the sampling rate of the output is dependent on the source of the audio being played. Spotify Connect and Bluetooth wireless technology are limited to a maximum of 48kHz, so their playback will not result in an output at above 48kHz. Roon supports up to 96kHz (as long as it is not configured to limit its output to 48kHz). However, like the 210, Roon does not support upsampling so, for example, a 48kHz stream will be output at 48kHz. UPnP can support up to 192kHz (as long as the playback method is suitably capable). However, as the 210 supports up to only 96kHz, the higher rates of 176.4kHz and 192kHz will result in an output of the 210 at 88.2kHz and 96kHz respectively.

17. When playing MQA files through my 210, one of the display options on my Meridian DSP loudspeakers shows "OFs" followed by what appears to be a sampling rate. What does it mean?

This is the original sampling rate of an unauthenticated MQA stream. "OFs" is derived from "Original Frequency (of) Sampling". It is displayed when the loudspeakers are playing MQA material which does not identify as authenticated. This can occur because the original file is not authenticated or it could be that something in the playback system is preventing authentication. One thing to check is that the 210 has "MHR" enabled on its output. If this is not set, MQA authentication will not take place. MHR is enabled via the configuration settings on the Meridian Control app. When authenticated MQA material is played, the loudspeaker will display "MQA" along with the original sampling rate.

18. Which network port numbers are used when using Spotify Connect with the 210?

The following ports are used: 3813, 443, 80, 8080, 3689, 554, 5297, 5298, 5353 UDP multicast.

19. While trying to charge another device from the USB socket on the 210, the 210 locks up and loses communication with the rest of my system. Why is this?

The maximum power available from the USB socket is approximately 12 Watts. Some devices require more power than this when charging. If the device being charged requires more power than the 210 can deliver, the 210 will stop working properly and the symptoms described may result.