

# 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.



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Register your Meridian 808 Signature Reference CD Player at:

[www.meridian-audio.com/support](http://www.meridian-audio.com/support)

and receive Exclusive Meridian News and discover more about the Meridian Collection.

# 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 400 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.

## Outputs

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player provides two Meridian SpeakerLink connectors for simple, straightforward connection to Meridian DSP Loudspeakers via Cat 5 cables.

Alternatively, balanced and unbalanced analogue outputs are provided for connecting to an external power amplifier or preamplifier.

If you are using DSP loudspeakers you can connect a headphone amplifier, such as the Meridian Prime Headphone Amplifier, to the analogue outputs for headphone listening. A headphone mode is provided to mute the loudspeakers when listening on headphones.

## Integrated preamplifier

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player includes a built-in stereo preamplifier with the ability to handle six stereo analogue inputs, two digital coaxial S/PDIF inputs, a Meridian SpeakerLink input, and two 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 provides a network socket to connect directly to a Sooloos network, allowing it to play music from and control a Sooloos Digital Media System.

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player will also decode MQA (Master Quality Authenticated) audio streams. It can extract the finest of details from music and deliver the audio for rendering either to its own analogue outputs, or to an attached DSP loudspeaker system. The front panel display will indicate MQA as

will any attached DSP loudspeaker system that can recognise the stream.

When used with analogue loudspeakers the 808 Signature Reference CD Player can provide tone adjustments as well as balance and volume controls.

When used with Meridian DSP Speakers, the 808 Signature Reference CD Player provides control of additional audio processing in the speakers, such as treble and bass tone controls and enhanced room boundary equalisation.

## **System integration**

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, driven by a 192kHz digital to analogue converter.
- 2-channel unbalanced audio output, driven by a 192kHz digital to analogue converter.
- 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.
- Two 2-channel digital coax inputs. 44.1kHz to 192kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- One 2-channel Meridian SpeakerLink input. 44.1kHz to 192kHz sampling and up to 24-bit precision.
- Two 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.
- MQA decoding and rendering.

## 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.

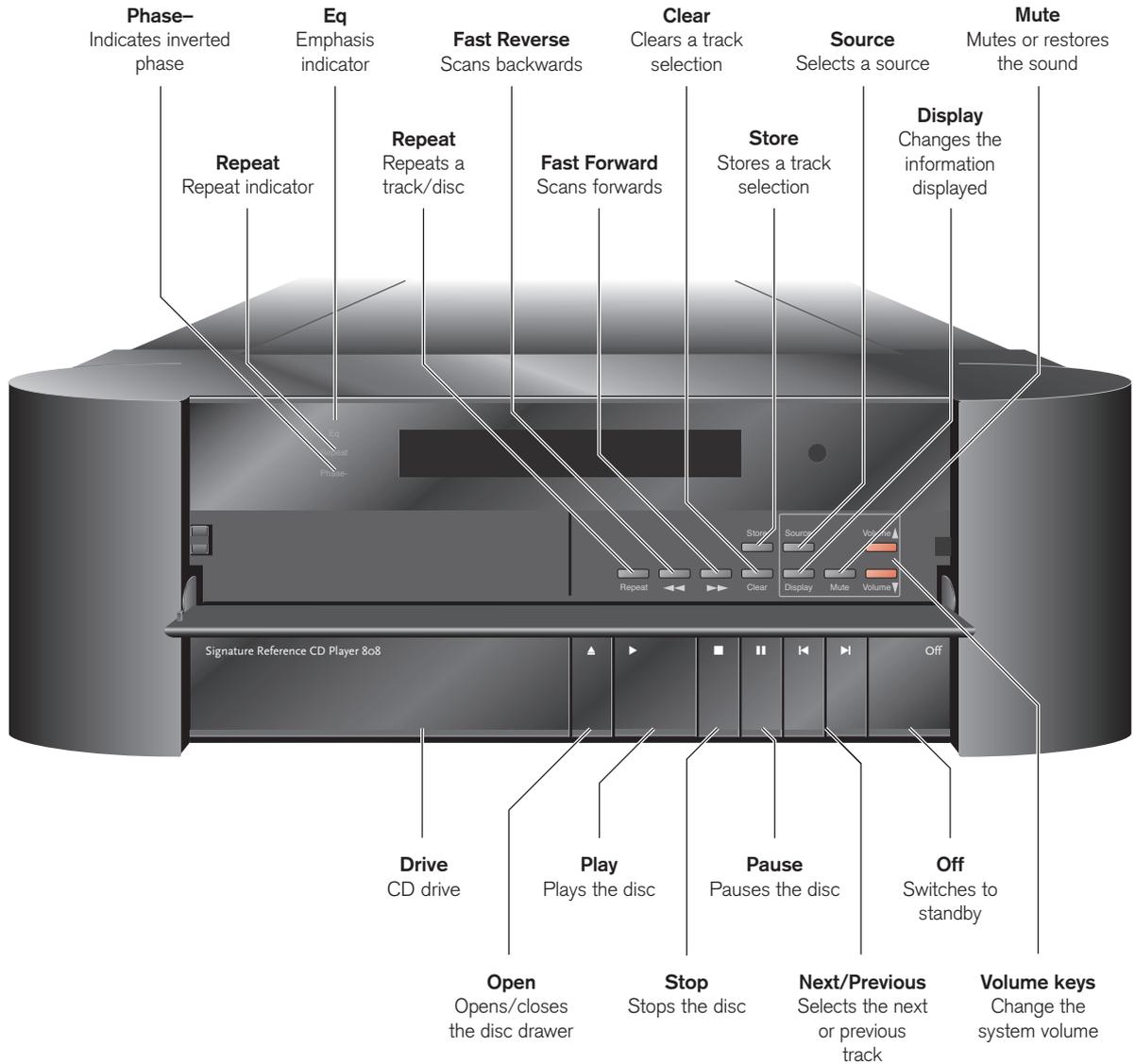
# Using the 808 Signature Reference CD Player

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.

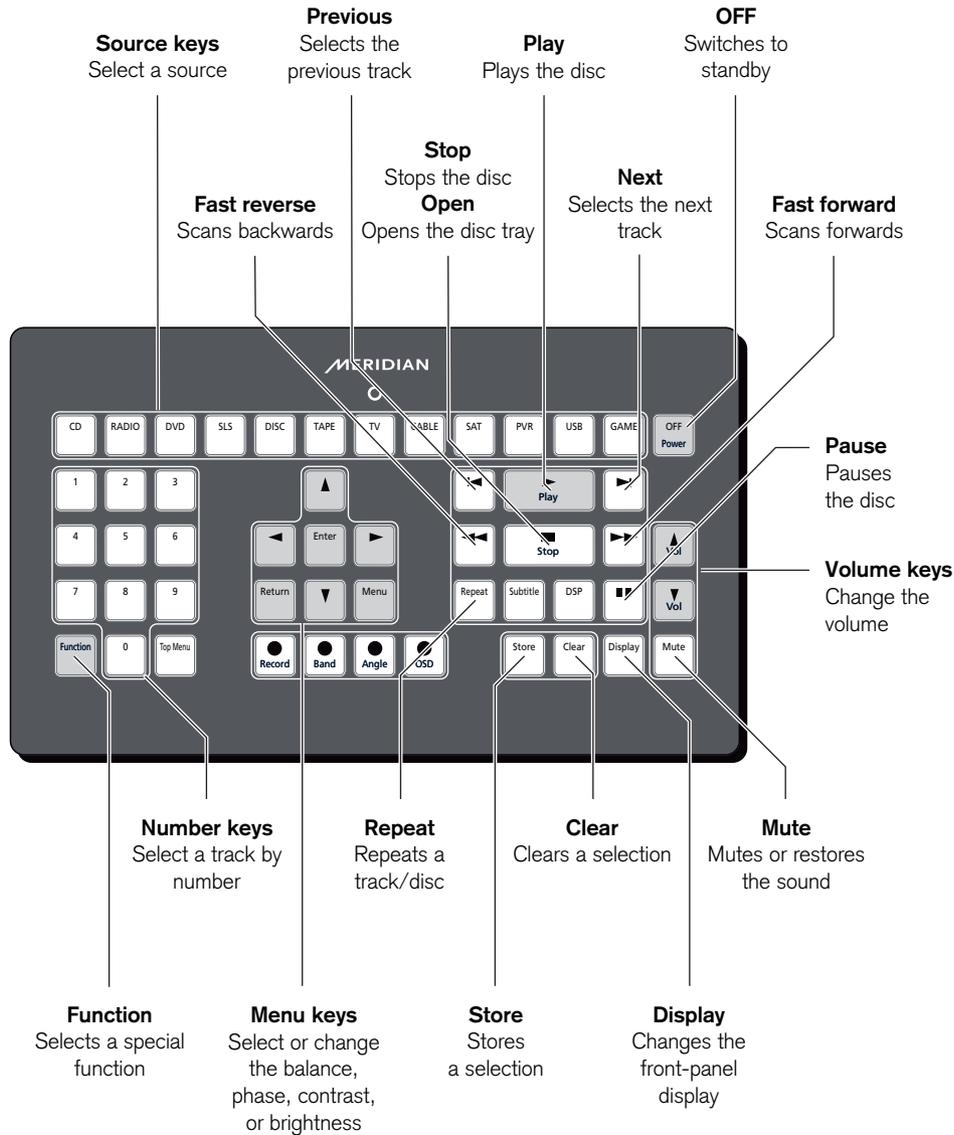
It also provides step-by-step instructions for operating the 808, using either the front panel or the MSR+.



## 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 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 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 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 **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 **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 **Function Repeat**.

## 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:



3 12:37

- 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: 

- 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: 

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:



- 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:



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 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
Source and volume	CD 65
Track and elapsed time	3 12:37
Audio format	SLS PCM 44k
Blank	

If the 808 Signature Reference CD Player has detected an authentic MQA music stream the audio format display will indicate this, and show the original sample rate as encoded in the studio.

For example:



SLS MQA 384k

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, SLS, Disc, Tape, TV, Cable, Sat, PVR, USB, and Game.

The input associated with each of the sources depends on how the 808 has been set up; however, when using standard settings the CD source corresponds to the internal drive and the SLS source corresponds to the internal Sooloos interface. For more information refer to the *Meridian Configuration Program Guide* available from our website; see *Installing the Meridian Configuration Application*, page 46.

*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 **SLS** 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 **■** (front panel or remote) to control playback.
- Press **◀** or **▶** (front panel or remote) 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.

You can choose what startup volume is set when you switch the 808 on; see *To set the startup volume*, page 42.

*If the 808 is set up with variable outputs (see [Choosing a standard setting](#), page 40) 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:

A black rectangular display area with white text. On the left, it shows 'CD' and on the right, it shows '65'.

## To mute the sound

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

The display shows:

A black rectangular display area with white text showing the word 'Mute'.

## To restore the sound

- Press **Mute** again.

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

## Changing the treble, bass, or balance

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

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.

The 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.

*These controls only affect the analogue outputs when the 808 Signature Reference CD Player is set up with variable outputs.*

### To change the treble

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

For example:

- 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  $\pm 10$ db in 0.5dB 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:

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

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

### To change the balance

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

For example:

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

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

For example:

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.

# Changing the axis or phase

Larger models of the DSP loudspeakers have an axis control that allows you to compensate for the height of the listener relative to the tweeter.

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

*The axis control is only available if your 808 is set up with fixed outputs.*

## To change the axis

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

For example:

SLS Axis -1

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

The axis can be adjusted between -2 and +3, where 0 corresponds to the axis of the treble unit. Usually a listener will be below that position, so we recommend settings of -1 or -2.

## To change the phase

Either:

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

For example:

SLS Phase +

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

Or:

- Press **Function II** on the remote.

The display will show the new phase setting.

For example:

SLS Phase -

## To store the tone settings

If you are using SpeakerLink loudspeakers or your 808 Signature Reference CD Player is set up for variable output you can store your preferred treble, bass, and axis settings in the 808.

- Press **Function Store** (remote).

The display shows:

Tones Stored

## Adjusting the sensitivity of sources

This section explains how to use the input gain menu to set up the analogue sources connected to the 808.

### 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.

- Set **Input Gain Menu** to **Show**; see *Setup parameters*, page 41.
- 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:



# Headphone mode

The 808 Signature Reference CD Player provides a headphone mode, which mutes the outputs to DSP loudspeakers. This allows you to connect a headphone amplifier, such as the Meridian Prime Headphone Amplifier, to the analogue outputs for headphone listening. For more information see *To connect to a Meridian Prime Headphone Amplifier*, page 37.

*This option is only available if your 808 Reference Audio Core is set up with fixed outputs.*

*If you want to mute the analogue outputs when not in use, set Relay Mute to Silent; see *To set the relay mute mode*, page 45. The relay mute acts normally when headphone mode is selected and returns to the silent mode when it is deselected.*

## To select headphone mode

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

The display shows the current headphone mode setting:

For example:

Headphone Mode Off

- Press ▲ or ▼ (remote) or **Volume +** or **Volume -** (under the front panel) to change the headphone mode setting.

For example:

Headphone Mode On

When you select a source the loudspeakers will be muted, and the display shows **Headphone Mode** in place of the volume.

For example:

CD Headphone Mode

Use the headphone amplifier to adjust the volume of the headphones.



## Using the SpeakerLink controls

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

The controls described in this chapter are only available if your DSP loudspeakers are connected via SpeakerLink, the volume mode is **Fixed**, and **SpeakerLink** is set to **On** in the Setup menus; see *Setup parameters*, page 41.

The loudspeakers can be configured to ignore the SpeakerLink controls set via SpeakerLink, in which case these controls will have no effect.



## Primary SpeakerLink controls

The **EBA** (Enhanced Bass Alignment) 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.

The **Position** control adjusts the sound to compensate for the placement of the main loudspeakers, such as near a wall or corner.

The **EBC** (Enhanced Boundary Compensation) control adjusts the sound to compensate for the height of the ceiling.

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

Each of these controls is only available if the corresponding option **EBA Menu**, **Position Menu**, **EBC Menus**, or **Loudness Menu** is set to **Show** in the setup menus; see *Setup parameters*, page 41.

### 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**.

### To specify the main speaker position

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

For example:

SLS Position Corn.

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

### To specify Enhanced Boundary Control

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

For example:

SLS EBC Max

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

### 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

# Subwoofer setup controls

If you have one or more subwoofers connected to your 808 Signature Reference CD Player via SpeakerLink, the following controls allow you to adjust the relationship between the subwoofers and main speakers.

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

The **Sub Filter** control adjusts the subwoofer crossover frequency.

The **Sub Gain** control adjusts the subwoofer gain.

The subwoofer controls are only available if **Subwoofer Menus** is set to **Show** in the setup menus; see *Setup parameters*, page 41.

## To select Music Mode or Movie Mode

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

For example:



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

## To change the subwoofer filter

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

For example:



- 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:



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



# 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:

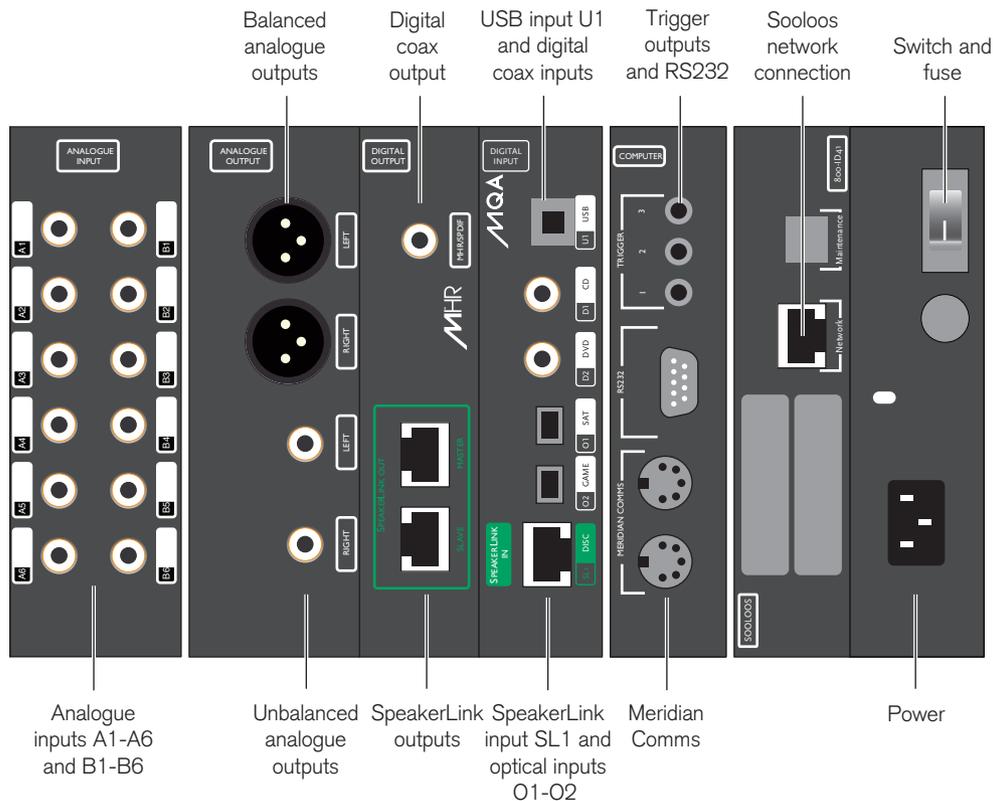
- MSR+ remote control with batteries, manual, and spare key caps.
- Meridian Comms lead.
- Power cord.
- This manual.

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 (PVR), 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)	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)	The optical output of a source such as a satellite receiver.
USB INPUT U1 (USB)	A personal computer USB socket.
NETWORK (SLS)	A Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System.

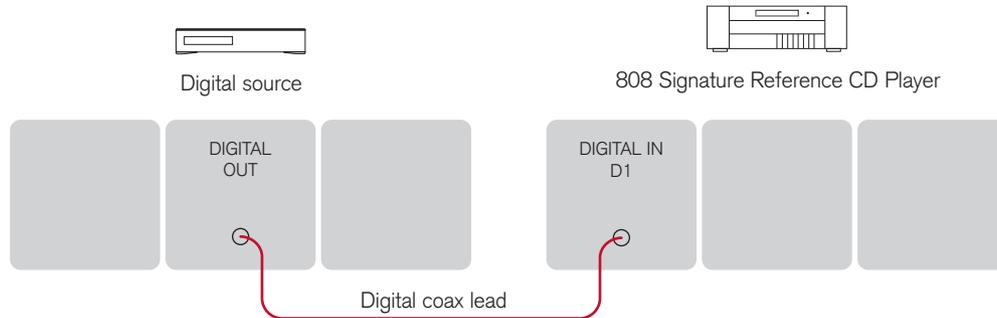
The default assignment of the source to each input is shown in brackets after the input name in the above table. CD corresponds to the internal CD player.

## 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

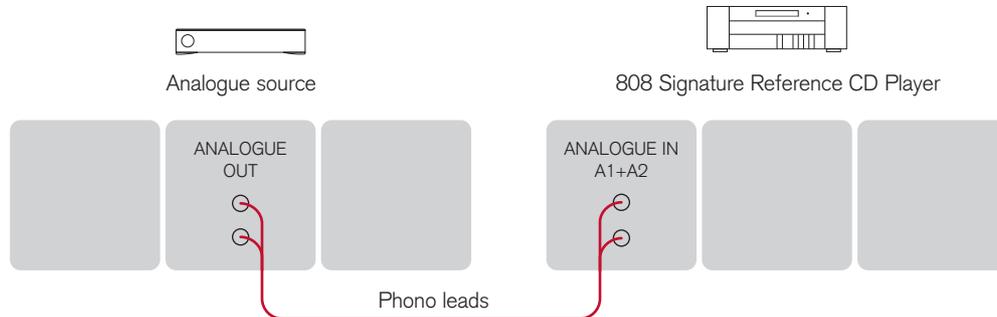
### To connect to a digital source (eg DVD player)



You can connect up to two digital coax inputs and two digital optical inputs to the 808 Signature Reference CD Player.

- Connect the digital source to an appropriate digital input socket on the 808, using either screened coax phono leads, or a Toslink lead.

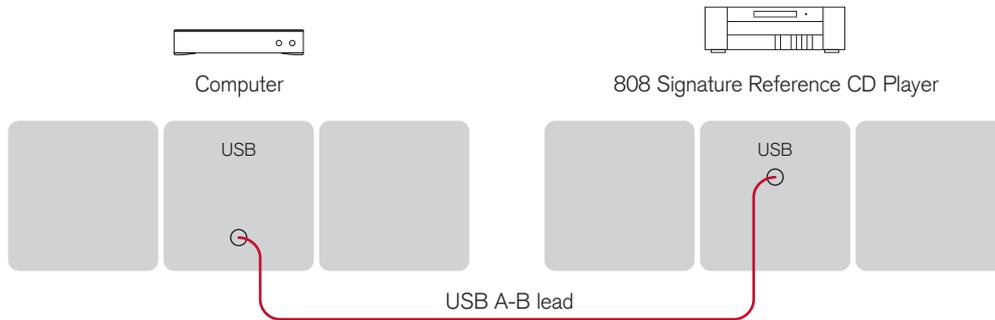
### To connect to an analogue source (eg TV tuner)



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 [www.meridian-audio.com](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.

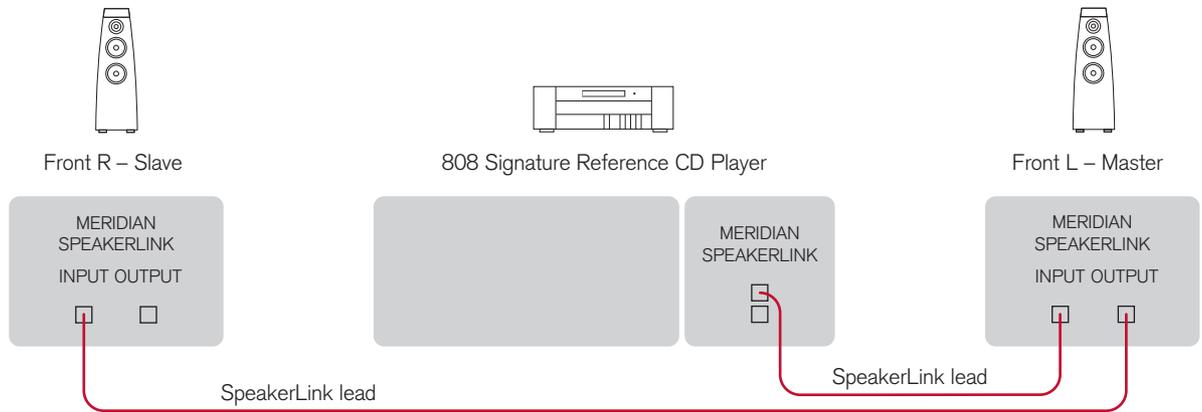
Linux computers that support USB Audio Class 2.0 drivers can also be used.

When the 808 is plugged in to the computer it will appear as a sound output device called **Meridian 800 Series Output** in the **Sound** control panel (PC) or **Sound** System Preferences panel (Macintosh).

The source will be labelled USB, 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.

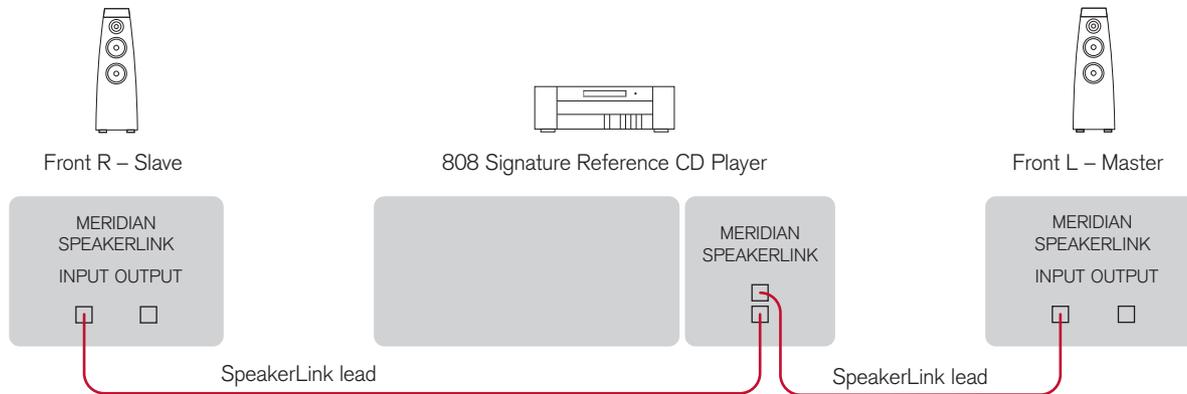
The Meridian SpeakerLink connection provides both two-channel digital audio and Meridian Comms control.

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*.

- Configure the 808 as described in *Configuring the 808 Reference Audio Core*, page 39, or by using the Meridian Configuration Application; see *Installing the Meridian Configuration Application*, page 46.

## 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.

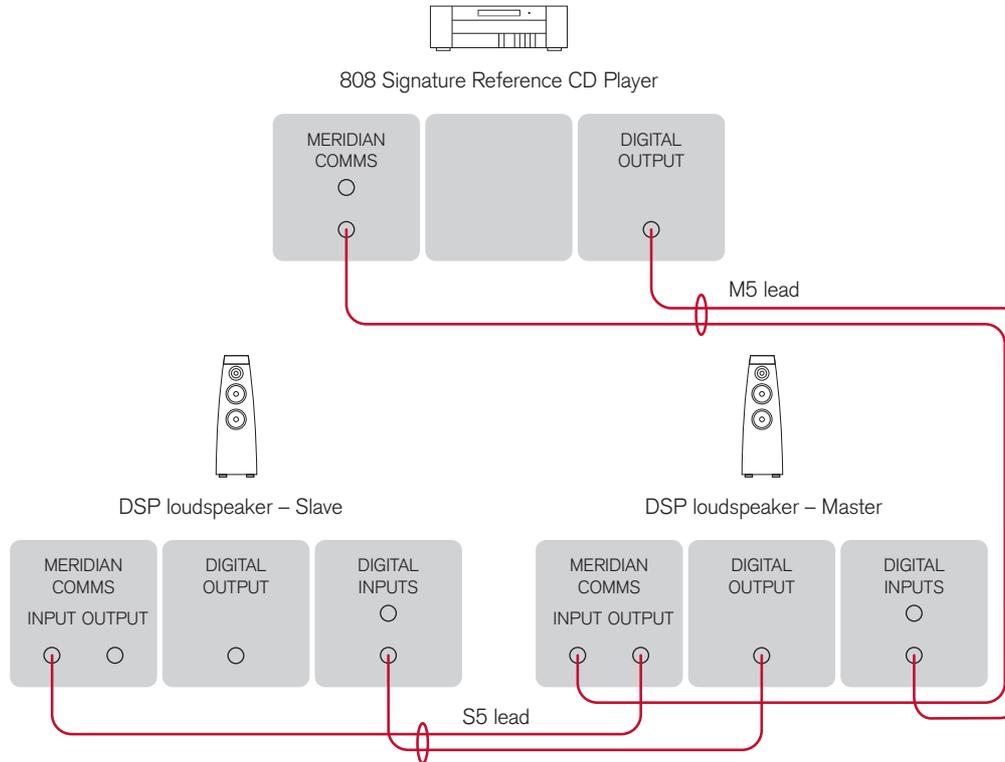
The Meridian SpeakerLink connection provides both two-channel digital audio and Meridian Comms control.

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*.

- Configure the 808 as described in *Configuring the 808 Signature Reference CD Player*, page 39, or by using the Meridian Configuration Application; see *Installing the Meridian Configuration Application*, page 46.

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

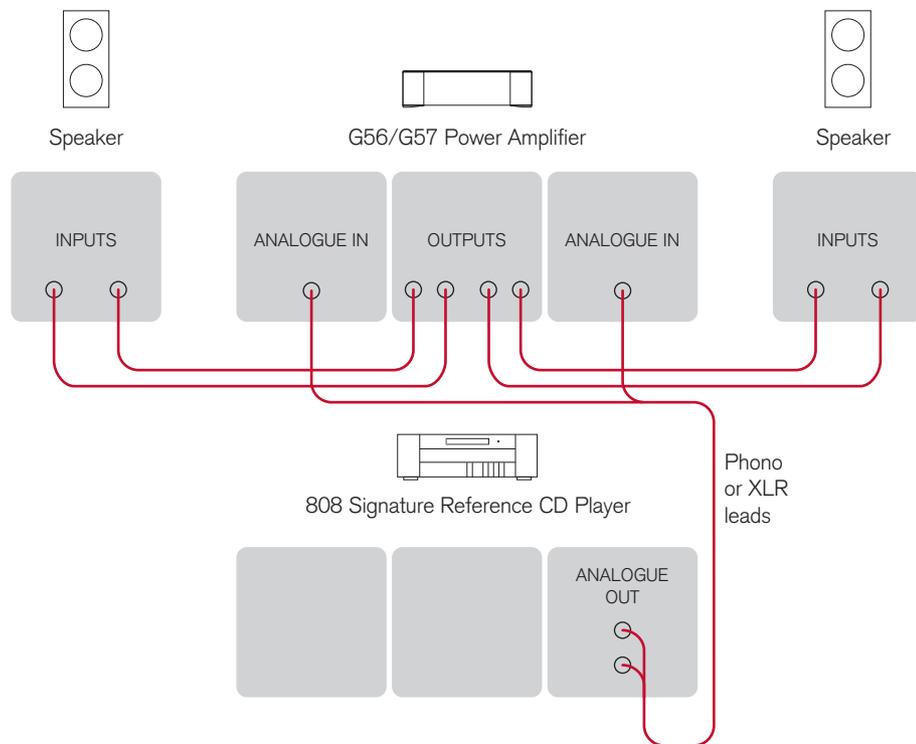


If your DSP loudspeakers do not provide Meridian SpeakerLink connections you can connect to them using the Digital and Meridian Comms connections.

- 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*.
- Configure the 808 as described in *Configuring the 808 Signature Reference CD Player*, page 39, or by using the Meridian Configuration Application; see *Installing the Meridian Configuration Application*, page 46.

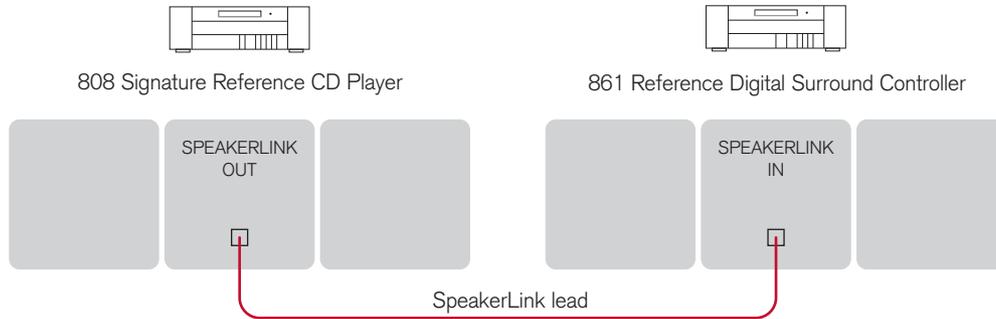
## To connect to a power amplifier



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.
- Configure the 808 as described in *Configuring the 808 Signature Reference CD Player*, page 39, or by using the Meridian Configuration Application; see *Installing the Meridian Configuration Application*, page 46.

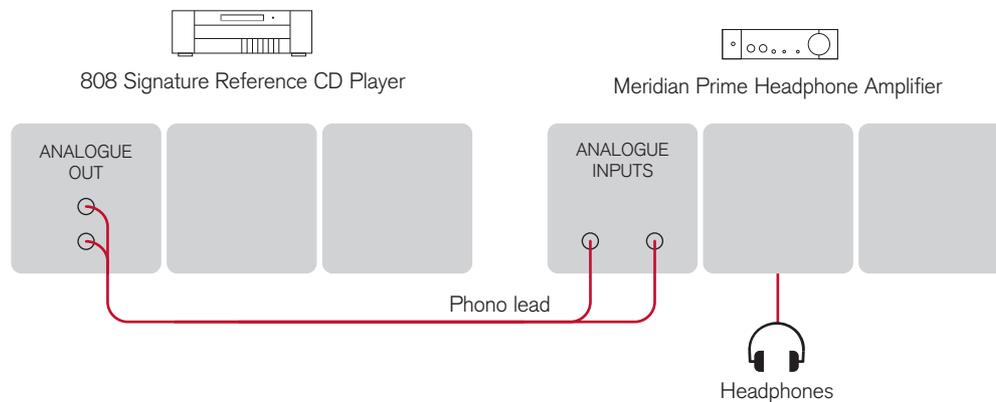
## To connect to an 861 Reference Digital Surround Controller



You can use the 808's SpeakerLink outputs to connect to other Meridian products, such as the 861 Reference Surround Controller.

- Connect the SpeakerLink output from the 808 to the SpeakerLink input on the 861, using a SpeakerLink lead.
- Configure the 808 as described in *Configuring the 808 Signature Reference CD Player*, page 39, or by using the Meridian Configuration Application; see *Installing the Meridian Configuration Application*, page 46.
- Configure the 861 using the Meridian Configuration Application so that all sources connected to the 808 are received by the 861 on the SpeakerLink connection.

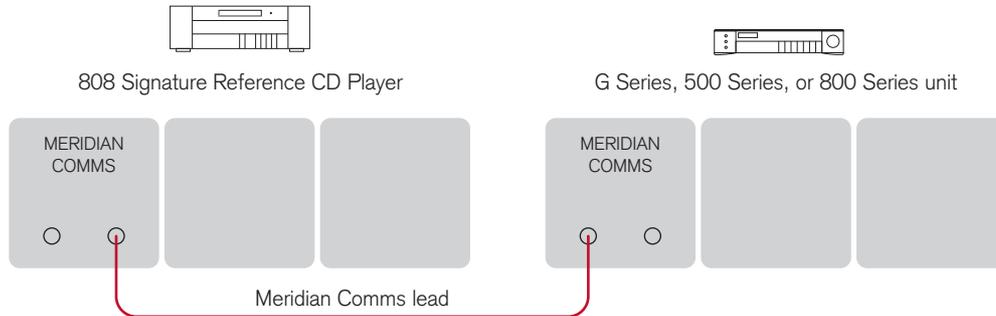
## To connect to a Meridian Prime Headphone Amplifier



If your system uses DSP loudspeakers, you can use the analogue outputs from the 808 Signature Reference CD Player to connect to a headphone amplifier, such as the Meridian Prime Headphone Amplifier.

- Connect the Unbalanced Analogue output from the 808 to the Analogue Input on the Meridian prime Headphone Amplifier, using phono leads.
- Select **Headphone Mode** to mute the sound through the loudspeakers; see *Headphone Mode*, page 21.
- Use the volume control on the Meridian Prime Headphone Amplifier to adjust the level for the headphones.

## 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 40.

*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 46.



## 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	Label	Description
1	<b>Fixed</b>	Fixed output, for use with Meridian DSP loudspeakers.
2	<b>Variable</b>	Variable output, for use with power amplifiers and analogue speakers.

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: `Type in... 3`

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

The display shows: `Type- please wait.`

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

For example:

`Type 1 Fixed`

- Press **▲** or **▼** on the front panel (or **Volume +** or **Volume -** under the front panel) to change the Type number.

The display shows:

`Typing, please wait.`

*Either:*

- Press **◀◀** (under the front panel) to skip directly to front panel setup mode; see *Setup parameters*, page 41.

*Or:*

- 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.

# Setup parameters

## To enter front panel setup mode

- Put the 808 into standby by pressing **Off** (front panel or remote).
- Press and hold down ◀◀ (under the front panel).

The display shows:

Setup in... 3

- Keep holding down ◀◀ for a further three seconds.

When the countdown finishes the display will show the first of the setup menus.

For example:

IR Auto

## To use the setup menus

- Press ◀◀ or ▶▶ (under the front panel) until the display shows the parameter you want to change.

For example:

Output Fixed

- Press **Volume +** or **Volume -** (under the front panel) to change the parameter.

The following table gives a list of all the Setup parameters:

Parameter	Range	Default	Notes
IR	Auto, Controller, Not Controller	Auto	See <i>To connect to other G Series or 800 Series equipment</i> , page 38.
Startup Volume	LV or 25 to 87	Last Valid	See <i>To set the startup volume</i> , page 42.
Output	Fixed, Variable		See <i>To set the output mode</i> , page 43.
SpeakerLink	Off, On	On	See <i>To set the SpeakerLink mode</i> , page 43.
EBA Menu *	Show, Hide	Show	Enables the EBA menu; see <i>Primary SpeakerLink controls</i> , page 24.
Position Menu *	Show, Hide	Hide	Enables the position menu; see <i>Primary SpeakerLink controls</i> , page 24.
EBC Menus *	Show, Hide	Hide	Enables the EBC menus; see <i>Primary SpeakerLink controls</i> , page 24.
Measurement *	Inches, Metric	Inches	See <i>To set the measurement units</i> , page 44.
Room Height *	58-158 inches, 150-400cm	58inches (150cm)	See <i>To specify the room height</i> , page 44.
Subwoofer Menu *	Show, Hide	Hide	Enables the subwoofer menus; see <i>Subwoofer setup controls</i> , page 25.
Loudness Menu *	Show, Hide	Hide	Enables the <b>Loudness</b> menu; see <i>Primary SpeakerLink controls</i> , page 24.
Relay Mute	Normal, Silent	Normal	See <i>To set the relay mute mode</i> , page 45.
Input Gain Menu	Show, Hide	Hide	Enables the input gain menu; see <i>Adjusting the sensitivity of sources</i> , page 20.
Diagnostics	Show, Hide	Hide	To help diagnose technical issues.

\* These options are only available if **Output** is **Fixed** and **SpeakerLink** is **On**.

## Setting the startup volume

When you switch the 808 from standby you can choose to set the volume to a fixed value, or to the last value it was set to.

### To set the startup volume

- Press ◀◀ or ▶▶ (under the front panel) until the display shows the startup volume setting.

For example:

A digital display with a black background and white text. The text reads "Startup Volume" followed by a space and the number "25".

- Press **Volume +** or **Volume -** (under the front panel) to change the parameter.

You can set it to any value between 25 and 87, or LV (Last Valid) which restores the volume to the last value it was set to.

For example:

A digital display with a black background and white text. The text reads "Startup Volume" followed by a space and the letters "LV".

# Setting the output mode and SpeakerLink setting

The output mode determines whether the 808 provides the volume control for the analogue outputs.

The SpeakerLink setting is only available if **Output Mode** is set to **Fixed**, and determines whether the loudspeaker settings are sent to DSP loudspeakers connected via the SpeakerLink connection.

If **SpeakerLink** is set to **On**, the volume, bass, treble, axis, and balance are sent to the speaker via SpeakerLink; otherwise they are sent via the Comms connection.

In addition, if **SpeakerLink** is set to **On** additional EBA, position, EBC, subwoofer, and loudness controls are available, and will control those features in DSP loudspeakers that support them.

The following table shows which settings you should choose for different applications:

808 application	Output	SpeakerLink
Connected to recent DSP loudspeakers via SpeakerLink.	Fixed	On
Connected to digital loudspeakers that do not support SpeakerLink, or a Digital Surround Processor.	Fixed	Off
Connected to an analogue preamplifier or integrated amplifier.	Fixed	Off
Connected directly to a power amplifier.	Variable	Off

## To set the output mode

- Press ◀◀ or ▶▶ (under the front panel) until the display shows the current output setting.

For example:

Output Fixed

- Press **Volume +** or **Volume -** (under the front panel) to change the setting.

For example:

Output Variable

## To set the SpeakerLink mode

- Press ◀◀ or ▶▶ (under the front panel) until the display shows the current SpeakerLink setting.

For example:

SpeakerLink On

- Press **Volume +** or **Volume -** (under the front panel) to change the setting.

For example:

SpeakerLink Off

## Configuring the EBC settings

The EBC control uses information about the room dimensions to compensate for reflections from the walls and ceiling. These menus are only available when **EBC Menus** is set to **Show**.

### To set the measurement units

- Press ◀◀ or ▶▶ (under the front panel) until the display shows the current measurement setting.

For example:

A rectangular LCD display showing the text "Measurement Metric" in a monospaced font.

- Press **Volume +** or **Volume -** (under the front panel) to change the setting.

For example:

A rectangular LCD display showing the text "Measurement Inches" in a monospaced font.

### To specify the room height

- Press ◀◀ or ▶▶ (under the front panel) until the display shows the current room height setting.

For example:

A rectangular LCD display showing the text "Room Height 150cm" in a monospaced font.

- Press **Volume +** or **Volume -** (under the front panel) to change the setting.

For example:

A rectangular LCD display showing the text "Room Height 200cm" in a monospaced font.

The room height setting can be varied between 150 cm (58in) and 400cm (158in) in steps of 5cm (2in). If your room height is outside this range set the nearest available value.

## Muting the analogue relay

The 808 Reference Audio Core includes relay control of the analogue outputs, to ensure a totally silent output. The relay is activated when you mute the sound, and to avoid clicks in the loudspeakers when changing source.

If **Output Mode** is set to **Fixed** and you are using DSP loudspeakers you can choose to disable the muting relay, which permanently mutes the analogue outputs.

### To set the relay mute mode

- Press ◀◀ or ▶▶ (under the front panel) until the display shows the current relay mute setting.

For example: 

- Press **Volume +** or **Volume -** (under the front panel) to change the setting.

For example: 

# 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, Windows 7, or Windows 8.
- 10Mbytes of free disk space.
- A 9-pin serial port or suitable serial adaptor (such as USB-Serial, PC Card, etc).
- An RS232 null-modem cable.
- 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 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:

[www.meridian-audio.com/download/setup.exe](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 our website:

[www.meridian-audio.com](http://www.meridian-audio.com)

Follow the links to the 808 support section where you will find this and other useful documentation.

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