

DIRECT USB & S/PDIF 24/192 DAC



Only available in the USA

OVERVIEW

Meridian's Direct is a high-quality DAC (Digital to Analogue Converter) designed to deliver superior audio quality from digital sources and computers when listened to on analogue hi-fi systems. Built in Britain to the same exacting standards as any Meridian product, Direct is particularly useful for installations where, for example, a network player is to be connected to an existing analogue hi-fi system, significantly increasing overall audio quality.

The ideal add-on for network players, video streamers and music servers, Direct brings Meridian performance to an entire class of audio products.

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

Delivers superior sound quality from computers, network players and other digital sources into an analogue hi-fi.

- Up to 24-bit, 192kHz digital to analogue conversion.
- Meridian Resolution Enhancement technologies including upsampling and apodising filters.
- 16–24 bit 44.1/48kHz inputs upsampled to 24-bit, 88.2/96kHz.
- Takes digital audio from USB, Optical and Coax S/PDIF.
- Durable, elegant anodised metal enclosure.
- Separate crystal oscillators for 44.1kHz and 48kHz-based sample rates for minimal jitter and improved performance.
- Music grade power supply capacitors.
- Direct-coupled, fixed output for connection to an audio system or powered loudspeakers.
- 4-layer PC board minimises noise and improves performance.

USER FEATURES

- Offers plug and play operation with Macintosh computers, while a driver is required for Windows (XP or later); this is the same driver used for the Explorer DAC.
- Powered solely via the USB2 B socket, either when connected to a computer for playback or via the included power supply. The USB port is also used for firmware upgrades.
- A 3.5mm hybrid socket provides input for S/PDIF digital signals, either coax (via a 3.5mm mono jack) or optical (via a Mini-TOSLINK connector).
- Push button source selection for simple operation. When S/PDIF is chosen, the optical or coax input is selected automatically.
- LEDs on the left of the front cap indicate the selected input in conjunction with a push-button that steps through the available sources. The most recently selected input is remembered across power cycles. A further set of LEDs to the right indicates the input sample rate.

TECHNOLOGIES

Direct is designed for connection to an analogue hi-fi or audio system with its own volume control, and is particularly appropriate for installation environments and networks. It is bit-precise, and delivers the lowest possible distortion and modulation noise.

ENHANCEMENT TECHNOLOGIES

Direct supports sample rates up to 24-bit, 192kHz and incorporates Meridian Resolution Enhancement technologies, including Meridian upsampling and the apodising filter, which audibly improve audio quality. The proprietary apodising filter can actually improve the sound of some digital recordings by fixing recording faults. Standard sample rate signals (16–24 bit, 44.1/48kHz) are automatically upsampled to 24-bit 88.2/96kHz, allowing filtering to be carried out far above the range of human hearing.

PRECISION REFERENCE OSCILLATORS

Direct includes separate precision reference oscillators for sample rates based on 44.1 kHz and on 48 kHz, minimising jitter.

ANTI-THUMP CIRCUITRY

The 2v RMS fixed-level analogue output includes anti-thump circuitry for trouble-free performance at switch-on.

ASYNCHRONOUS TRANSFER

In USB mode, Direct uses asynchronous transfer for the best sound quality.



FRONT AND REAR

CONSTRUCTION

Featuring an all-metal black anodised elliptical case, Direct echoes design elements immediately identifying it as a Meridian product. Each side has moulded end caps that provide connections as well as source choice and resolution.

It's modest footprint allows it to sit comfortably alongside existing or new systems. Once integrated into a system, all the inputs and outputs are discreetly housed in the rear panel.

- Incorporates the highest-quality components throughout, including audiophile grade capacitors, resistors and gold-plated phono sockets, with some features of the internal design based directly on Meridian's 800 Series.
- The DAC itself offers extremely low modulation noise and distortion.

SPECIFICATION

INPUTS	• 1 x USB2 B socket for computer playback (24-bit, $\leq 192\text{kHz}$)
	• 3.5mm socket offering S/PDIF coax (3.5mm mono connector, (24-bit, $\leq 192\text{kHz}$)
	• S/PDIF Optical (3.5mm Mini-TOSLINK, 24-bit $\leq 96\text{kHz}$)
OUTPUTS	• 1 x analogue stereo pair (gold-plated phono)
	• 2v RMS fixed
CONTROLS & INDICATORS	• 3 x Sample rate LEDs: 44.1/48, 88.2/96, 176.4/192 kHz sampling
	• 2 x Input selection LEDs. Input selected with input pushbutton: S/PDIF, USB
	• Optical/coax digital selected automatically
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT	• HEIGHT: 34mm [1.34in]
	• DEPTH: 139mm [5.47in]
	• WIDTH: 80mm [3.15in]
	• WEIGHT: 0.25kg (9oz)
POWER	• 5v <500mA DC via USB interface