

MERIDIAN IS IN THE HI-RES ZONE WITH NEW 218 CONTROLLER

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Meridian Audio is delighted to announce the launch of its brand new zone controller, the 218. This expansion of the 200 series uses Meridian High Resolution up-sampling technology to improve audio output from a range of AV technology in media room and whole home applications, at a very competitive price.

“We are really excited about the market opportunities for our new 218 zone controller,” says Rayner Sheridan, Director of Marketing at Meridian Audio. “It can provide a fantastic option for dealers who want their customers to enjoy the very best audio quality, whether that’s from a TV, an AV matrix or a music streaming system. Dealers can even use multiple units to create whole-home Hi-Res Audio solutions for their clients, and the very competitive price point of the 218 ensures that this won’t be a burden on their budget.”

The 218 has a comprehensive range of audio input and output options, including Meridian Speakerlink, optical, and analogue inputs, and digital and analogue outputs, so it can be used in a huge array of applications. A small, compact unit, the 218 takes up only 1U on a rack and needs no dedicated cooling or ventilation, making it very easy to install. The 218 has a number of installation options, including bracket and rack mounted versions meaning it can be installed in-room or in-rack, and has a built-in universal voltage power supply. The 218, which also comes equipped with lip sync technology, also features IP control so that it can be easily configured through a webpage, and Crestron and Control4 integration modules to ensure that the 218 fits seamlessly into an existing home automation system. An iPad app enables intuitive, straightforward control of functionality such as volume and switching of sources.

The discreet profile and lightweight size of Meridian’s 218 enable it to be bolted to the back of a TV with a VESA mount where it can be connected to the TV’s optical output and then run to a pair of digital active loudspeakers, such as a pair of Meridian DSP3200s, or a power amp and used to drive a set of passive loudspeakers. The 218 zone controller is a simple and cost effective solution for a dealer to provide a homeowner with a vastly improved, Hi-Res Audio experience when watching their TV.

The 218 is the perfect solution for dealers whose clients want to take advantage of the growing market trend towards Hi-Res Audio music streaming. Following TIDAL’s announcement of a partnership agreement with

MQA, offering more than 3,000 albums (and counting) in this revolutionary Hi-Res Audio format, Meridian's 218 zone controller includes an MQA decoder to enable it to serve as the backbone of an affordable, comprehensive Hi-Res Audio solution.

The 218 can also be used as a Digital Audio Converter (DAC) to take any music that a homeowner is listening to, through any audio system, and convert it to Hi-Res Audio. For example with the 218, users can combine the convenience - of streaming services and a product like Sonos with Meridian's Hi-Res Audio technology. The 218 can convert Sonos' 44 kHz and 16 bit output to the incredible 192 kHz and 24 bit resolution necessary for Hi-Res Audio, which is a huge jump in audio performance enabling users to enjoy their favourite music in a way they may never have heard it before.

Meridian's 218 zone controller is also the ideal companion to an AV matrix. When connected to digital or analogue sources from any AV matrix, the 218 uses Meridian's High Resolution up-sampling technology to maximise the resolution of the music and provide the very best audio quality to a set of loudspeakers or the power amps driving a set of passive loudspeakers. The 218 requires no additional control programming, so it can be connected to the matrix and begin operating immediately.

With a wide range of audio inputs and outputs, flexible installation options and Meridian's High Resolution up-sampling technology, the 218 zone controller represents a valuable opportunity for dealers to offer their clients the Hi-Res Audio experience at an affordable, competitive price point.

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ABOUT MERIDIAN AUDIO

Since 1977, Meridian Audio has been crafting innovative, elegant, high performance audio solutions. From its compact DSP loudspeakers with integrated amplification, to its user-friendly music management platform Sooloos, Meridian delivers easy to install, high resolution audio systems for home cinemas and whole home solutions. Meridian Audio are also official distributors of Display Technologies, Barco Residential and Cinema Acoustic Treatment System Products. Together we are able to offer the ultimate home cinema experience. The Meridian Audio experience is now available in the latest models from Jaguar Land Rover, thanks to a collaborative partnership between these two leaders of British innovation and engineering.

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