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SIMPLY SOUND DESIGN

When it comes to system design, sometimes simplicity is the key to a great-sounding and great-looking system. Such was the case for this homeowner, who wanted to enjoy her extensive vinyl collection in a high-performance two-channel system, while maintaining simple design that makes a big statement.

Jason Bellanti, VP General Manager at Spire Integrated Systems, had worked with the client's family in the past. "When the homeowner came into the showroom with her interior designer, we had the Meridian DSP7200 loudspeakers on display," says Bellanti. "When the interior designer and the client saw them, she knew she wanted to include them in her room as a functional design element. Then when they listened to them, they were sold." Spire Integrated Systems had the black DSP7200 loudspeakers on display, but the client and interior designer opted for a bold, stark white finish to tie the room together.

The room was being remodeled at the time so integrating the two-channel Meridian system was, like the design, relatively straightforward. A cabinet was installed on the left side of the room to house the homeowner's vinyl collection, which is also home to the lime green Pro-Ject Debut Carbon (DC) turntable, another bold design element in the room.

The Meridian DSP7200 loudspeakers contain internal amplifiers that deliver all the power needed for robust room sound, eliminating the need for separate amplifiers in the rack. The rest of the equipment is housed in a cabinet elsewhere in the home, which includes the

Meridian HD621 HDMI Audio Processor and G65 Surround Controller. The HD621 is the link between the client's Meridian loudspeakers and sources, including those she uses to watch the TV located above the fireplace. The HD621 seamlessly integrates multiple HDMI sources into her system, including a lip-sync delay to ensure sound and the picture onscreen are in perfect unison. It also separates the HDMI signal from the sources into pure audio and video elements, maximizing the audio quality and eliminating video noise. When partnered with the HD621, the G65 can accommodate a wide range of audio and video sources, including digital music from a Sonos system, controllable from a Control4 system accessible via her iPad.

"The G65 accepts the signal from the HD621, allowing for the best audio signal to come through the audio and video sources to be played in the room," says Bellanti. The G65 also features Meridian Room Correction (MRC) technology for the best possible sound from the speakers given the room's layout, surfaces, and any acoustic anomalies. "Luckily, there are a lot of soft surfaces in the room, like thick carpet and plush furniture," says Bellanti. "After we performed room correction, the speakers, and the room sounded incredible on both music and movies."

As this two-channel system is very simple, design was very much in the details. Bellanti worked closely with the contractor and the electrician to ensure that wires were kept tidy, with power outlets directly behind the ideal speaker locations and speaker wire going down into the floor. The Spire team prepped the cabinetry for a subwoofer in case the homeowner wanted more bass after the speakers were installed. "But the beauty of the Meridian DSPs is that you really don't need a subwoofer," says Bellanti.

In fact, the Meridian system overall is so powerful, it can fill multiple rooms with sound. In this case, the listening room is next to the kitchen and the foyer. Speakers in those areas were not required because the DSP7200s fill the adjacent areas with sound. "You don't need three pairs of speakers to fill all those rooms with music. Instead, we focused all our lifestyle and budget on one high-performance room."

Now, every time Bellanti visits the homeowner, the Meridian two-channel system is on. "She wasn't sure at first how much she would use the speakers, but every time we stop in, they are

playing music. She uses them every single day.” A testament to the simple design of a highly sophisticated Meridian system executed with finesse by Spire Integrated Systems.

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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. The Meridian Audio experience is now also available in the latest models from Jaguar Land Rover, thanks to a collaborative partnership between these two leaders of British innovation and engineering. Learn more at www.meridian-audio.com.

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