

**MERIDIAN 204 USER MANUAL**

## MERIDIAN 204 USER MANUAL

Boothroyd | Stuart Ltd  
13 Clifton Road  
Huntingdon  
Cambs. PE18 7EJ  
England

Tel (0) 480 52144  
Telex 32577 (MERIDN)  
Fax (0) 480 459934

Boothroyd | Stuart Ltd. Copyright 3 July 1991 (c)  
Author, Rik Bean

## CONTENTS

- 1 **Introduction, 1**
- 2 **About this manual, 1**
- 2.1 Conventions used in the manual, 1
- 3 **About the 200-Series, 1**
- 4 **Unpacking your 204 tuner, 1**
- 5 **Accessories, 1**
- 6 **Installing your 204 Tuner, 2**
- 6.1 General precautions, 2
- 6.2 Connections, 2
- 6.3 If you have a 201 Preamp, 2
- 6.4 207 or 208 as your preamp, 2
- 6.5 201 and a *Meridian*, CD Player, 2
- 6.6 Using D600 Loudspeakers, 2
- 6.7 No other *Meridian* equipment, 2
- 6.8 Antenna connection, 2
- 7 **Siting, 2**
- 8 **Setting up the 204, 3**
- 8.1 Checking, 3
- 8.2 If all is well, 3
- 8.3 If there is a problem, 3
- 8.4 Standby, 3
- 9 **Starting up the 204, 3**
- 9.1 Incorrect display, 3
- 9.2 Turning the tuner off, 3
- 9.3 The Display key, 3
- 10 **Tuning the 204, 3**
- 10.1 Presets, 3
- 10.2 Search tuning, 3
- 10.3 Storing preset frequencies, 4
- 10.4 Setting the tuning threshold, 4
- 10.5 To vary the tuning threshold, 4
- 10.6 Step tuning, 4
- 11 **Setting the clock, 5**
- 11.1 To set the correct time, 5
- 12 **Using the 204 as a timer, 5**
- 12.1 Setting the timer, 5
- 12.2 Setting the timer condition, 5
- 12.3 Using a *Meridian* Compact Disc Player with the timer, 5
- 12.4 Controlling other equipment, 5
- 13 **Other features, 6**
- 13.1 Automatic station selection on power up, 6
- 13.2 Changing the default display, 6
- 13.3 Time display in Standby mode, 6
- 13.4 Signal strength display, 6
- 13.5 Centre-tuning indicator, 6
- 14 **Memory facilities, 6**
- 15 **Problems, 6**
- 15.1 Dealing with power disturbances, 6
- 15.2 Dealing with memory disturbances, 6
- 15.3 Resetting the 201, 6
- 15.4 Persistent problems, 7
- 16 **Using the 209 Remote control, 7**
- 16.1 Bringing the system out of standby, 7
- 16.2 Selecting a different preset, 7
- 17 **Using 204 with D600s, 7**
- 17.1 Exiting standby, 7
- 17.2 Selecting a different preset, 7
- 18 **Getting the best from your 204, 7**
- 19 **Cleaning, 7**
- 20 **Help, 8**
- 20.1 No sound, 8
- 20.2 Keys not working, 8
- 21 **Maintenance & Service, 8**
- 22 **Radio interference, 8**
- 23 **Guarantee, 8**
- 24 **A quick operating guide, 9**
- 25 **Specification, 10**

## 1 Introduction

The *Meridian* 204 Tuner is part of the 200-Series of advanced high fidelity equipment. Used with other components in the range, it can offer the music lover much more than just very high quality FM radio.

The 204 is a sophisticated device. As a result, this manual has been divided into sections covering each group of operations. You are advised to read through the whole manual before using your 204 for the first time, particularly if you are using it with other 200-Series components. However, for those of you who are familiar with high fidelity equipment and who cannot wait to get the tuner working, we have also provided a 'quick guide'.

In purchasing a *Meridian* 204 Tuner, you have acquired an advanced piece of equipment which will continue to bring you listening pleasure for many years. This manual will enable you to get the most from it.

## 2 About this manual

This manual deals with the day-to-day operation of the 204. Once you become familiar with it, you will find that you do not need to refer to these instructions very often.

In any manual of this nature, some technical terms must be used. We will explain these when we first introduce them.

### 2.1 Conventions used in the manual

A number in the range 201–220 refers to a component in the *Meridian* 200-Series range of audio equipment, unless otherwise indicated, for example 'the socket marked 201'.

Whenever a key name is printed in bold typeface, it means that you should press this key. When a series of key strokes are required, for example press **Mode/Store** then press **Timer**, the key names will be separated by a hyphen, that is **Mode/Store - Timer**. If the key name is not in bold type, it indicates that the course of action is not required at present, for example 'if you want to change the display, press Display' means you can do this, but it is not essential as part of the operation currently being discussed.

Text between square brackets indicates the appearance of the display on the front of the 204, another 200-Series product or on the D600 digital audio loudspeakers. For instance, [P. 23] is the information displayed by the 204 when it is tuned to preset 23 and the preset-number display is selected.

When we refer to a default setting, we mean the one that will be selected if you do nothing to change it. For example, when you first set up your 204, the default display is frequency.

## 3 About the 200-Series

The *Meridian* 200-Series of high fidelity equipment is probably the most sophisticated family of hi-fi products currently available. It has been developed to operate at a variety of levels, from simple installations to a whole-house music-management system. The range of components in the 200-Series ensure that a *Meridian* system will satisfy the needs of any user.

The 204 Tuner features fully-synthesised tuning. Its circuitry has been carefully optimised to provide the highest quality of sound available from broadcast FM radio signals.

Despite its high performance, each piece of equipment in the 200-Series has been designed for ease of use, with microprocessor control being applied throughout the range to simplify operation. We have also paid great attention to the appearance of the units, and much care has been taken in the selection of the materials used, to ensure that your *Meridian* 200-Series equipment will look as good in years to come as it does now.

## 4 Unpacking your 204 Tuner

On opening the carton, you should have found the following parts:

- *Meridian* 204 FM Tuner
- Power cord
- Network lead (204–201) labelled 'Q-Lead'
- This manual

If any of these items are missing, please contact your dealer immediately. We suggest that you retain the packing as it is designed to offer the unit maximum protection whilst in transit. Although all 200-Series components have been designed to be robust, they should obviously be well protected when they are being transported.

## 5 Accessories

The following accessories are available from your dealer:

- *Meridian* 209 Remote control unit
- Network lead (204–206) labelled 'A-Lead'
- Network lead (204–208) labelled 'B-Lead'
- Network lead (204–207) labelled 'P-Lead'
- Power cord (Europe)
- Power cord (USA & Canada)

In case of difficulty, they can also be ordered directly from the factory, the address of which can be found on the front of this manual.

Please note that you can only use the 209 Remote control unit with your 204 Tuner if you also have either a 201 Preamplifier or a *Meridian* 206, 207 or 208 Compact Disc player in your system.

## 6 Installing your 204 Tuner

### 6.1 General precautions

Before carrying out any installation, you should first ensure that the tuner is marked with the correct voltage for your local AC supply. If this is not the case, do not proceed with these instructions, but contact your dealer instead.

As a general rule, you should not make any connections to the tuner, or to any other component in your system, whilst the AC power supply is connected and switched on.

### 6.2 Connections

You will need to connect the 204 Tuner to your amplifier with a twin-screened audio cable or a pair of single-screened audio cables. These can have a considerable effect on the quality of the sound, and we advise you to seek your dealer's advice on the best type for your system.

The connections you make will depend on other components in your system.

### 6.3 If you have a 201 Preamp

- Connect the sockets marked 'Output' on the rear of the 204 to the Radio input on the rear of the 201.
- Connect the socket marked '201' on the rear of the tuner to the socket marked '200 COMMS' on the rear of the Preamp using the Q-Lead supplied with the 204.

### 6.4 207 or 208 as your preamp

- Connect the sockets marked 'Output' on the rear of the 204 to the input sockets marked 'Line' on the rear of the Compact Disc Player.
- Connect the socket marked 'CD' on the rear of the 204 to the socket marked '200 COMMS' on the rear of the Compact Disc Player using the B-Lead (208) or P-Lead (207) supplied with the Compact Disc player.

ONLY use the Q-Lead between the tuner and the preamp, never between the tuner and the Compact Disc player.

### 6.5 201 and a Meridian CD Player

- Connect the sockets marked 'Output' on the rear of the 204 to the Radio input on the rear of the 201.
- Connect the socket marked '201' on the rear of the Tuner to the socket marked '200 COMMS' on the rear of the Preamp using the Q-Lead supplied with the 204.
- Connect the socket marked 'CD' on the rear of the 204 to the socket marked '200 COMMS' on the rear of the Compact Disc Player using the A-Lead (206), B-Lead (208) or P-Lead (207) supplied with the Compact Disc player.

ONLY use the Q-Lead between the tuner and the preamp, never between the tuner and the Compact Disc player.

### 6.6 Using D600 Loudspeakers

- Connect the sockets marked 'Output' on the tuner to either an analogue input on the D600s, the Radio input on the 201, or the Line input on a 207 or 208 Compact Disc Player.
- Connect the socket marked 'CD' on the 204 to the M-Lead supplied with the D600s. Follow the instructions in the D600 manual.

The D600s are fully-programmable and you should consult your manual before deciding which input to use. If you have any doubts, your dealer will be able to help you.

### 6.7 No other Meridian equipment

Connect the sockets marked 'Output' on the rear of the 204 to an appropriate input on your amplifier. You should consult the manufacturer's manual to determine which input to use, but generally it will be labelled 'Tuner' or 'Line'.

DO NOT, under any circumstances, connect anything to the sockets marked '201/2' or 'CD' on the rear of the tuner.

### 6.8 Antenna connection

In all cases, a suitable VHF antenna or VHF cable signal must be connected to the socket marked 'RF input' on the rear of the tuner. You are advised to use a high-quality, low-loss co-axial cable. Cables which have a solid screen will give superior performance.

Please note that the antenna must be intended for unbalanced (i.e. coaxial) connection. Antennas intended for, or connected with ribbon cable are unsuitable. If your antenna uses a ribbon cable then ask your dealer for a balun or consider having it reconnected. Ribbon cables are not acceptably proof against RF interference.

Please refer to the section on VHF reception for more specific advice.

## 7 Siting

The 204 should not be placed on top of a power amplifier, but it can be stacked on either the 201 Preamp or a Meridian Compact Disc Player.

You should avoid sites where:

- it would be subjected to direct sunlight
- it is near a heat source, for example a central heating radiator
- it could be subjected to strong radiation, for example very close to a television
- connecting cables may be subject to interference.

Try to keep all power cables and network leads away from signal cables, which includes audio, antenna and loudspeaker cables. Some time spent carefully laying out the cables will repay you with the best performance later.

## 8 Setting up the 204

### 8.1 Checking

Before turning on the power, check once again that you have made all the connections correctly and that you have not disturbed any existing connections in the process.

### 8.2 If all is well

- turn on the power switch at the rear of the unit. The display will illuminate briefly, [----], and then extinguish to leave a small point, [ . ].

### 8.3 If there is a problem

Check the integrity of your power connections, including any fuses in your supply. If the display is still not illuminated and the rest of your system is functioning, contact your dealer for help.

### 8.4 Standby

The entire 200-Series is designed to be left connected to AC power at all times.

This *standby* state ensures that the components operate at maximum efficiency from the moment you start listening. It is perfectly safe and consumes a negligible amount of power – 204 consumes around 5W. However, when you are not going to use your system for an extended period, for example when you are going on holiday, we would advise you to disconnect it from the AC power supply.

## 9 Starting up the 204

To start up the 204, press any of the six numbered keys, that is 1...6. The display should now show the frequency stored in the preset you have selected. If you have just turned the unit on for the first time, this will be one of the factory-set defaults. These are:

- preset 2, top of the band
- preset 3, middle of the band
- all others, bottom of the band

### 9.1 Incorrect display

If the display is incorrect, switch the unit off using the power switch on the rear panel. Wait for a few seconds, then turn the power on again whilst holding down either the **Start Time** or **Stop Time** keys on the front panel for the first 2–3 seconds. This resets the memory of the 204 to its default state.

Section 15 of this manual covers resetting the 204 in more detail. If you have just taken the 204 out of its box and are setting it up for the first time, it is a good idea to switch it on in this way.

### 9.2 Turning the tuner off

If you are using the 204 as part of a system of 200-Series components or with D600s, bringing any one of the other units out of *standby* will activate all of them. Similarly, pressing **Standby** on one unit will set all units into *standby* state if they are connected by Network leads.

If you are not using your 204 with other *Meridian* equipment, you can switch it on and off using the power switch on the rear panel.

### 9.3 The Display key

Before we discuss tuning the 204 we should mention the Display key. When pressed, it cycles through the three display modes of the tuner. In order, these are frequency, time and preset number. The time and timer functions will be discussed more fully in Section 11. For now, try pressing **Display** until you are familiar with its operation. Before attempting to tune the receiver, you should select the frequency mode.

## 10 Tuning the 204

The 204 Tuner uses advanced circuit technology to achieve perfect tuning with the minimum of user-intervention. There are three ways of selecting the station you require, preset, search and step tuning.

### 10.1 Presets

It will usually be most convenient to have commonly used stations available as preset selections. You can have up to 18 of these in three banks. The first group, 1–6, are available directly from the numbered keys 1–6. To access the other two groups, you must first press the key marked 10+ or the key marked 20+, followed by the number you want. When you press a key, the display will change depending on the key you pressed. If you press a number from 1 to 6, it will show [S. #], where # is the number you pressed. The 'S' stands for select. On the other hand, if you press either 10+ or 20+, the display shows [S. 1\_] or [S. 2\_]. In this case, the tuner is indicating that you should enter a second digit to select a preset in the range 11–16 or 21–26.

Obviously, it will make sense to have the six most-used stations in the first group of presets.

When the 204 leaves the factory, or after being reset, all 18 presets are retuned to the factory defaults. The actual frequencies required must be set up on site, and to do this, you will need to employ one of the other two methods available.

### 10.2 Search tuning

In its default state, the 204 will employ search tuning.

- Press the Top Green key, and the frequency display will start to increase as the tuner looks for a signal.

As it does this, you will notice the yellow light on the front panel, marked '50KHz', flickers. The 204 tuner steps through the VHF band in 50KHz intervals, but the display can only show 100KHz increments. The yellow light indicates that the actual frequency is 50KHz above the indicated frequency. The allocation of VHF frequencies is such that the yellow light will not normally be illuminated when a station is correctly tuned.

You can instruct the tuner to search in the other direction by pressing the Bottom Green key.

When the 204 finds a station of adequate strength, it will stop searching and display the frequency. If the station is broadcasting in stereo, the red light on the front panel, marked 'Stereo', will also illuminate.

### 10.3 Storing preset frequencies

Once you have tuned a station you want to store as a preset:

- decide which number you wish to allocate to it
- press **Mode/Store—Number**.

If the station is to be stored in one of the alternative banks of presets:

- press **Mode/Store - +10 - Number, or**
- press **Mode/Store - +20 - Number**

In other words, to store a preset frequency, press **Mode/Store** followed by the number, or shifted number, you require and to recall it, just press the number, or shifted number.

If the station you wish to store is very noisy, or has a weak signal, you may prefer to listen to it in mono. You can do this automatically by pressing **Mono** before you press **Mode/Store - Number**. This facility applies to all 18 presets.

It is worth noting that you do not have to tune your preset selections in numerical order and that the tuning process will commence from the current frequency, or, in the first instance, from the bottom of the VHF band. Therefore if, for example, you wanted to allocate preset 1 to 99.0MHz and preset 2 to 88.5MHz, you would start the tuning process as described above, and when the 204 locked onto the 88.5MHz signal, you would press **Mode/Store - 2**. Then you would press the Top Green key again, and when the 99.0MHz signal had been tuned, press **Mode/Store - 1** to store the frequency in the tuner's memory. You can also speed up the process by tuning presets 1, 2 and 3 last. This leaves them available to move to the bottom, top or middle of the band, before using the Green Keys to locate your desired station.

### 10.4 Setting the tuning threshold

We mentioned above that the tuner would only stop when it found a station of adequate strength. This signal strength is preset at the factory, but it can be varied to suit local conditions.

### 10.5 To vary the tuning threshold

- press **Mode/Store - Bottom Green**.

The display will now show [S.S. 1], which stands for Stop Signal-strength 1. The strength can be set to any figure from 0–7. A setting of 0 will allow the weakest of signals to be tuned. This may be helpful if you are trying to receive distant stations or live in a poor reception area. If you only want to receive strong signals, increase the setting until only those signals are recognised by the 204.

To increase the threshold, and tune only strong signals:

- press **Top Green**

To decrease it and allow weaker signals to be tuned:

- press **Bottom Green**.

As you do this, the number displayed will change. When the required threshold level has been selected:

- press **Mode/Store** once more to store the new threshold in memory.

You will need to experiment to find the best setting for your needs, but you can do no harm by changing the threshold level, so feel free to explore the possibilities.

### 10.6 Step tuning

The third method of tuning the 204 is to employ step tuning. This is broadly similar to search tuning except that you must press one of the green keys for each 50KHz step that you wish to make. Each time you press a green key, the frequency display will increase or decrease by 50KHz. In practice, this means that the digital display will change on every other press, alternate presses switching the yellow light on and off.

In the step mode the tuner can scan if you hold the green tuning key down. After pressing for a few seconds the rate of scan will increase, scanning will stop when you release the key. Unlike search mode, the tuner wraps at the ends of the band in step mode from top to bottom and vice-versa.

This method is less convenient than search tuning, which is why search tuning is selected by the tuner as its default state. To change to step tuning:

- press **Mode/Store** followed by the **Top Green** key

The display will now read [Srch], pressing the Top Green key again will change this to [Step]. To complete the switch:

- press **Mode/Store** again.

To change back to search mode tuning, repeat the process, this time the second press of the Top Green key will change the display from [Step] to [Srch].

In other respects, tuning by the step method is identical to tuning by the search method, and any presets you wish to store can be memorised by the same process.

we mentioned earlier that the display could show a variety of information, including the time. Obviously, when first switched on, this particular display will be meaningless.

### 11.1 To set the correct time

- press **Mode/Store - Start Time**

The Hours button will illuminate.

- press either **Green Key** to set the hours display to the required figure (the 204 uses a 24 hour clock)
- then press **Mins** and set the minutes in the same way
- To complete the operation, press **Mode/Store** once more. Note that the final press of **Mode/Store** starts the clock, so for maximum accuracy, press this exactly on the minute.

## 12 Using the 204 as a timer

Your 204 can be used to switch the entire system on (or to a determined condition) and off at pre-determined times. For this facility to work, you must have a *Meridian* system consisting of a preamplifier, and power amplifiers or active loudspeakers. The preamplifier can be a 201, or the preamplifier facilities in a 207 or 208 Compact Disc Player.

### 12.1 Setting the timer

First, set the time at which you want the system to turn on. To do this:

- press **Start Time**
- the Hours key will light. Use the Green Keys to select the hour required, remembering that a 24 hour clock is used
- press the **Mins** key, which will illuminate, and select the required time using the Green Keys
- Complete the setting operation by pressing **Start Time** again
- now press **Stop Time**
- the Hours key will light. Use the Green Keys to select the hour required, remembering that a 24 hour clock is used
- press the **Mins** key, which will illuminate, and select the required time using the Green Keys
- Complete the setting operation by pressing **Stop Time** again

### 12.2 Setting the timer condition

Now put the system in the state in which you want it to start up:

- select the preset required
- set the volume and input on the preamplifier
- press **Mode/Store - Timer** on the 204 to store the *timer condition* in the complete system.
- press **Timer** on the 204 to arm the timer.
- press **Standby** on one of the other components in the system, or use the system as you like in the mean-time.

The system will go to the *timer condition* you have specified when the start time is reached. To show that the timer is armed, a green light will illuminate behind the Timer key on the front panel of the 204. You can operate the system normally at any time up to the start time. When stop time is reached the system will go into *standby*.

### 12.3 Using a Meridian Compact Disc Player with the timer

In a system which includes a 204 Tuner and a *Meridian* Compact Disc player, you can also cause a CD to play at the start time. The procedure for this is broadly similar.

First select the start and stop times as described, then insert the chosen disc in the Compact Disc player:

- press **Play**, and set the system so you can hear the disc playing at the required volume level
- press **Mode/Store - Timer** on the 204 to store the *timer condition* in the complete system.
- press **Timer** on the 204 to arm the timer.
- press **Standby** on the Compact Disc Player, or use the system as you like in the mean-time.

Note that you do not have to select a tuner frequency if you are going to use Compact Disc as your alarm source.

The system will go to the *timer condition* you have specified when the start time is reached. To show that the timer is armed, a green light will illuminate behind the Timer key on the front panel of the 204. You can operate the system normally at any time up to the start time. When stop time is reached the system will go into *standby*.

### 12.4 Timer output

The timer function of the 204 also has an external output. This is a 5v output that goes to 0v when the timer function is activated and back to 5v at the end of the timer period. Use of this output is at the discretion of the user.

DO NOT connect anything to the socket marked 'Timer Out' on the rear panel of the 204 without seeking advice. If you do, you may damage your tuner.

## 13 Other features

### 13.1 Automatic station selection on power up

It is often useful to be able to switch on the system and have the tuner select a pre-determined frequency. This avoids the need to make two selections, that is Radio (or Line if using a 207 or 208) followed by a preset number. To do this, select the required station, then:

- press **Mode/Store - Number**

tuner will now automatically select this channel whenever it is brought out of *standby*, unless, of course, you override the choice by pressing a different preset.

### 13.2 Changing the default display

As you already know, the normal display on the 204 can show three different types of information. When you first install the tuner, the default is frequency.

To select a different default display, press **Display** repeatedly until the required information is displayed. The 204 will remember this information until you change it again.

### 13.3 Time display in Standby mode

When the tuner is in its *standby* state, the display is normally a single dot, [ . ]. If you prefer, you can arrange to have the current time displayed, simply press **Display** when the 204 is in *standby*. Pressing **Display** repeatedly will toggle this facility, and the 204 will remember the last setting entered. Whenever the time display is selected a green light, marked 'Time Display', will illuminate on the front panel of the tuner.

### 13.4 Signal strength display

The 204 display can also show the signal strength of the current station to help you set the tuner. To select this facility, press **Mode/Store - Display**. The display will now change to [St. #], where # is a number from 1–7. This number will vary from station to station and indicates the strength of the signal from very weak (1) to very strong (7). You can re-tune the 204 in any of the normal ways, whilst maintaining the signal strength display.

Do not leave the signal-strength display for normal listening, the measuring process introduces a low-level audio noise which is audible.

### 13.5 Centre-tuning indicator

Pressing **Mode/Store - Mono** switches the display to a centre-tuning indicator for diagnostic purposes. When a station is correctly tuned, the display will show [C. 0].

Do not leave the centre-tune display for normal listening, the measuring process introduces a low-level audio noise which is audible.

## 14 Memory facilities

As we have said, the 204 Tuner contains a battery-powered memory, which retains information when the system is turned off, even if the power supply is disconnected.

Not only does the 204 remember its own settings, but it will also remember those of a 201 Mkl Preamplifier as long as the two units are connected by a Q-Lead. To use this facility, press **Mode - Standby** on the 201 after the connections have been made to the 204. If you have a 201 MkII, please refer to its manual for details of how to store its own settings.

## 15 Problems

The *Meridian* 200-Series hi-fi components are extremely reliable under normal conditions. However, because they are controlled by microprocessors, they can occasionally be susceptible to AC-borne disturbance and static discharges. This is true for any similar appliance, for example video recorders or microwave ovens.

### 15.1 Dealing with power disturbances

If you encounter problems with your system, for example the keys do not work as expected or the display becomes corrupted, try returning the system to *standby* for a few seconds. If the problems persist, then switch off the AC-power for a short while. This action will cure most problems.

### 15.2 Dealing with memory disturbances

It is possible for the battery-powered memory in the 204 to have become corrupted. If this has happened, the system will remember the fault condition. To overcome such a problem:

- switch off the AC-power
- wait a few seconds
- then turn it on again whilst pressing **Start Time** or **Stop Time** on the front of the 204

This restores the system to the default state. You will have to re-tune the 204, reset its clock ect., and reset the 201 default conditions if you have a 201 Mkl. You can avoid the need to reset the 201 by keeping it switched on whilst resetting the 204.

### 15.3 Resetting the 201

If you have a 201 Mkl, and suspect that it is just the 201 default conditions that have become corrupted, you can carry out a partial reset. To do this, switch off as before, but press **Mono** when restoring power. If you have a 201 MkII, please refer to its manual.

## 15.4 Persistent problems

Such problems are extremely rare, and you are unlikely to experience them. They do not indicate any fault in the 200-Series components, and if the above reset procedures restore normal working, you need take no further action. In the event that the problem persists, please contact your dealer, service agent or the factory for further advice.

## 16 Using the 209 Remote control

Please note that the 209 can only control the 204 if the system also contains either a 201 Preamplifier or a *Meridian* Compact Disc player and if the necessary network leads are connected. You cannot alter the display mode, set the time, or set the presets on the 204 remotely.

### 16.1 Bringing the system out of standby

If your installation is correctly set up, bringing any one unit out of *standby* will activate the entire system. The normal way to switch on the system, therefore, will be to press the required source selector on the 209. If you are using a 201 Preamplifier and wish to listen to the 204, then press **Radio**. If you are using only a 207 or 208 Compact Disc player, then press **Line**. If you have already selected a default preset as described above and want to listen to it, you need do no more.

### 16.2 Selecting a different preset

If you want to listen to a different preset, press **Preset** on the 209, followed by the number required. The display will change depending on the key you pressed. If you press a number from 3 to 6, it will show [S. #], where # is the number you pressed. The 'S' stands for select. On the other hand, if you press either 1 or 2, the display shows [S. 1\_] or [S. 2\_]. In this case, the tuner is indicating that you can enter a second digit to select a preset in the range 11-16 or 21-26.

The Tuner will wait a short while, to allow you to enter two digits, for example 1 - 6, before switching to the preset number entered. If you want to select a preset in the range 1-6 and do not want to wait, then press 0, followed by the number you require. Once you have pressed **Preset**, the system will assume all future numbers refer to the 204 presets until you press **Track**.

## 17 Using 204 with D600s

Please note that you cannot alter the display mode, set the time, or set the presets on the 204 remotely.

## 17.1 Exiting standby

If your installation is correctly set up, bringing any one unit out of *standby* will activate the entire system. The normal way to switch on the system therefore, will be to press the required source selector on the 609, that is **Radio**. If you have already selected a default preset as described above and want to listen to it, you need do no more.

## 17.2 Selecting a different preset

If you want to listen to a different preset, press one of the Number Keys on the 609. The D600 display will change depending on the key you pressed. If you press a number from 3 to 6, it will show [S. #], where # is the number you pressed. The 'S' stands for select. On the other hand, if you press either 1 or 2, the display shows [S. 1\_] or [S. 2\_]. In this case, the D600 is indicating that you can enter a second digit to select a preset in the range 11-16 or 21-26.

The D600 will wait a short while, to allow you to enter two digits, for example 1 - 6, before passing the preset number to the 204.

Alternatively, press **Next** to select the next highest preset or **Previous** to select the next lowest. These keys will step through all 18 presets, wrapping around at each end of the range. (i.e. **Next** will step from 26 to 1 and **Previous** from 1 to 26).

## 18 Getting the best from your 204

The *Meridian* 204 Tuner is a very sophisticated unit, which will deliver superb quality sound. However unless the signal delivered to the antenna socket of the 204 is of sufficient strength and quality, you will not enjoy the maximum benefits of your new tuner. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of a good VHF antenna and downlead.

However, as reception conditions vary so much, it is impossible to give more than broad advice, and we recommend, therefore, that you consult your dealer or antenna supplier. He will be familiar with local conditions and will be able to advise you on the right equipment for your installation. Please refer to the notes in section 6.8.

In the United Kingdom, advice can also be obtained from BBC Engineering Information, Broadcasting House, London, W1A 1AA, telephone 01-927 5040.

## 19 Cleaning

The main body of the 204 is epoxy-enamelled aluminium. To clean the case, use a cloth barely moistened with a solution of mild detergent and water. Disconnect the power cord before cleaning the unit. Ensure that no water is allowed to get inside the case and do not reconnect the power until you are certain that the 204 is completely dry.

The display panel is glass, the key pad is plastic. Use a barely damp chamois leather on these areas.

Do not use abrasive cleaners on any part of the Tuner.

The audio sockets on the rear of the 204 are gold-plated and need no cleaning if gold-plated phono plugs are used. Otherwise, we recommend that you remove and replace the plugs at least once a year. A proprietary contact cleaner can be used to some advantage.

## 20 Help

The wide range of facilities available from the Meridian 200-Series can occasionally mean that even the most experienced user can run into trouble. This section is designed to help you when things do not appear to be working normally.

### 20.1 No sound

If no sound can be heard from your loudspeakers, the most likely causes are:

- No power is reaching the 204 or the entire system
- The audio cable between the 204 and your preamplifier has become disconnected
- The preamplifier is not turned on; if other Meridian 200-Series components are in the system, they are not connected to the 204 with the network leads supplied
- The preamplifier is not set for radio input or is in *tape-monitoring* mode
- The volume control is set to its minimum or is in *mute* condition
- The *threshold level* on the 204 has been set too high, preventing any stations being received, see section 10.5.

### 20.2 Keys not working

If the keys on the 204 are not working correctly, for example they produce unexpected results, the microprocessor needs to be reset. Refer to section 15 for full details. This type of problem can also affect other Meridian 200-Series units connected to the 204 by network leads.

## 21 Maintenance & Service

The Meridian 200-Series of hi-fi components have been carefully designed to give years of untroubled service. There are no user-serviceable parts inside the case, nor do the units require any form of maintenance.

In the unlikely event that your 204 Tuner fails to function correctly, and you are unable to restore normal operation by resetting the unit as described in section 15, it should be returned, in its original packing, to your Meridian dealer. In case of difficulty, please write:

- In the UK, Boothroyd Stuart Ltd.  
13 Clifton Road, Huntingdon,  
Cambridgeshire, PE18 7EJ.
- In the USA, Meridian America Inc.  
14120-K Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly, VA 22021  
Tel (703) 818 3028, Fax (703) 830 7825
- Outside the UK, contact the importing agent for the territory. A list of Meridian agents abroad is available from the above addresses.

No responsibility can be accepted for the Tuner whilst in transit to the factory or an agent and customers are, therefore, advised to insure the unit.

## 22 Radio interference

**NOTE** the 204 is a radio tuner containing a micro-processor which has been designed to very high standards of Electromagnetic compatibility.

**FCC WARNING:** This equipment generates, uses 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.

If this equipment does cause or suffer from interference to/from radio or television reception, then the following measures should be tried:

- Reorient the receiving antenna or route the antenna cable of the receiver as far as possible from the 204 and its cabling.
- Ensure that the receiver uses well-screened antenna cable.
- Relocate the receiver with respect to the 204.
- Connect the receiver and the 204 to different AC outlets.
- If the problem persists, contact your dealer.

**EEC** This product has been designed to comply with EN55013 and EN55020.

**REMEMBER** to switch off all units before changing any connections.

## 23 Guarantee

The 204 Tuner is guaranteed against defects in material and workmanship for 12 months from the date of purchase.

The guarantee is void if the Tuner has been subjected to misuse, accident or negligence, or has been in any way modified without the written authorisation of Boothroyd Stuart Ltd. Note that connecting anything other than the correct network leads to the sockets marked '201' and

'CD' may cause damage to the 204 which will not be covered by this guarantee. Similarly, connecting incompatible equipment to the socket marked 'Timer Out' may cause damage to the 204 which will not be covered by this guarantee. Attempted servicing by unauthorised people may also invalidate this guarantee.

Labour and carriage charges are not covered unless by local agreement.

When seeking service under guarantee, proof of the date of purchase will be required.

Outside the UK, local warranty liability is restricted to equipment purchased within the territory. Our agents abroad are only under contractual obligation to service under guarantee equipment sold through them. They are entitled to make a non-refundable charge for any service carried out on other equipment.

This guarantee does not limit your statutory rights within the United Kingdom.

## 24 A quick operating guide

This section is a quick reminder of the operation of the tuner and should not be seen as a substitute for the rest of the manual.

**1 2 3** These keys select the six main preset stations and bring the 204 out of *standby*.

**10+ 20+** These are used as shift keys, before pressing the number keys 1 to 6. When used, they allow access to the secondary presets 11–16 and 21–26.

**Green** These keys are primarily used to tune the 204, the top key increases the frequency, the bottom key decreases it.

A secondary function is to set the displayed and timer times, the type of tuning and the tuning threshold.

**Mono** Selects mono reception. Pressing it repeatedly will toggle between stereo and mono, in the *mono* state the key will illuminate and the red light on the front panel will extinguish.

A centre-tuning display can also be selected by pressing **Mode/Store - Mono**.

**Display** If the tuner is in *standby*, pressing this key will toggle between a blank display and a time display. If the tuner is on, the key cycles through the three possible displays; frequency, time and preset number.

The strength of received signals can also be displayed by pressing **Mode/Store - Display**. Note that whilst this display is selected, the **Mode/Store** key will illuminate and the tuner will not respond to pressing the **Standby** key on any other component of the system, that is you cannot turn the tuner off. To revert to the normal display, press **Mode/Store** again.

**Mode/Store** This key is always used in conjunction with others and has several functions:

To store presets. First select the required frequency using the Green Keys, then press **Mode/Store** followed by a number. For example to store the frequency in preset 1, press **Mode/Store - 1** and to store it in preset 12, press **Mode/Store - 10+ - 2**.

To change from Search to Step tuning, or vice versa, press **Mode/Store - Top Green**. The display will now show the current state. Pressing the **Top Green** key will toggle the state, press **Mode/Store** again to select the required method.

To adjust the tuning threshold, press **Mode/Store - Bottom Green**. Now adjust the level using the Green Keys, then store the value with **Mode/Store**.

To store the timer preset, select it using either manual tuning or a preset, then press **Mode/Store - Timer**.

To identify the version number of the tuner's operating software, press **Mode/Store - Stop Time** when the tuner is in *standby*.

**Start Time** To set the start time, press **Start Time**. A time will be displayed. The Hours key will illuminate. Use the **Green Keys** to select the correct figure, then press **Mins** and adjust as required. Complete the operation by pressing **Start Time** again.

To set the displayed time is identical except that, before pressing **Start Time** you must first press **Mode/Store**.

**Stop Time** To set the stop time, press **Stop Time**. A time will be displayed. The Hours will illuminate. Use the **Green Keys** to select the correct figure, then press **Mins** and adjust as required. Complete the operation by pressing **Stop Time** again.

**Timer** To prime the timer, press **Timer** and the green light behind the key will illuminate. To cancel the alarm, press **Timer** again, the green light will extinguish.

## 25 Specification

Frequency range	88 – 108MHz
Sensitivity	30dB quieting Mono 1.5 $\mu$ V 50dB quieting Mono 4.0 $\mu$ V Stereo 23 $\mu$ V
Ultimate quieting	>75dB
Distortion	Mono <0.2%
(input signal 1KHz)	Stereo <0.4%
Selectivity	56dB
Capture ratio	1.5dB
IF rejection	100dB
AM suppression	>55dB
Crosstalk at 1KHz	40dB typ, depends on signal strength
Frequency response	20Hz – 15KHz $\pm$ 1dB
Output level	0dB 775mV
Output impedance	47ohm
RF input	75ohm unbalanced
De-emphasis	50 $\mu$ Sec or 75 $\mu$ Sec
Power input	100 – 125V or 200 – 250V 50 – 60Hz, 6VA
Dimensions	159 mm x 310 mm x 100mm (W x L x H)
Weight	3 kg

