MERIDIAN 208 USER MANUAL

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1 Introduction

The *Meridian 208 Compact Disc Player* 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 digital sound.**

The 208 is a sophisticated device and you are **advised to read through** the whole manual before using it **for the first time**, particularly if you are **using it with other** *Meridian* components. However, we have given a lot of attention to making **the operation of the unit** as intuitive as possible, **so those of you who are** used to high fidelity **equipment** and who cannot wait to get the 208 connected, can do so **immediately.**

In purchasing a *Meridian* **208 Compact Disc Player, you have** acquired a refined state-of-the-art **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

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

Whenever a key name is printed in **bold typeface**, it means that you should press this key. **When** you must make a series of key strokes, for example press **Next** then press **Previous**, the key names will be separated by a hyphen, like this: **Next-Previous**. Where a key name is **not** in **bold**, 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 being discussed.

In some instances, a key and the status of the equipment share the same name, for example the Standby key and the standby state. For absolute clarity, the key name will always start with a capital letter and the status will always be indicated by a lower case letter.

Text between square brackets indicates the appearance of the display panel on the front of the 208. For example, **[LP.27]** is the information displayed by the 208 when set for LP input with a volume level of 27. Where the volume level is unimportant or undefined, we shall use the indicator **[33.##]**. This means that the Tape input has been selected, but that the volume level could be anything from 1 to 64.

Because the 208 combines both preamplifier functions and CD playing functions in one unit, it may appear more complicated than other players. In practice, you will soon find its operation becomes instinctive. To simplify the familiarisation process, however, we shall discuss the preamplifier and CD functions separately.

3 About the 200-Series

The *Meridian* 200-Series of high fidelity equipment is probably the most sophisticated family of audio equipment available. It has been developed to operate at a variety of levels, from the simplest conventional single-room hi-fi 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. In addition, the system can be further enhanced by the use of one or more units of *Meridian* 0600 Digital Loudspeakers.

The 208 Compact Disc Player is very advanced, being one of the first high-resolution CD players which uses proprietary circuitry to implement a unique differential mode of two Bitstream converters for each channel. The design has been skilfully optimised to provide the highest quality of sound available from the Compact Disc medium.

The additional preamplifier facilities are unique to *Meridian* and have been given equal attention. Your 208 is directly comparable in quality with the best conventional preamps. In purchasing the 208, you have acquired a top-quality Compact Disc Player and preamplifier.

Despite its high performance, each piece of equipment in the 200-Series has been planned 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 in the construction of the components to ensure that your *Meridian* 200-Series equipment will look and sound as good in the years to come as it does now.

4 Unpacking your 208

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

- *Meridian* 208 Compact Disc Player
- power cord
- network lead, labelled 'B–Lead'
- this manual

If any of these items are missing, please contact your dealer. We suggest that you retain the packaging carefully as it provides more than protection for your 208 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:

- power cord (Europe)
- power cord (USA & Canada)
- 209 Remote Control unit
- 210 phono preamplifier

The 208 Remote Control unit offers some additional facilities over those available from the front panel of the 208. Unless you need to access indexed points, or require the last scene/track, it is not essential. However, you may find the convenience of remote operation of the Player worthwhile, particularly if you are using the 208 as part of a Meridian 200 Series installation.

6 Installing your 208

6.1 General precautions

Before carrying out any installation, you should first ensure that the 208 is marked with the correct voltage for your local AC supply. If it is not, do not proceed with these instructions, but contact your dealer instead.

As a general rule, you should not make any connections to the 208, or to any other component in your system, while the AC power supply is connected and switched on.

6.2 Transit collar

The 208 Compact Disc Player is fitted with a locking device to secure and protect the laser mechanism whilst the unit is in transit. Before using the 208 for the first time you must remove the collar. To do this:

- Carefully lift the 208 up. On the underside of the drawer mechanism, you will see a plastic collar held in place by a brass screw
- Remove this screw and the collar
- Put the 208 down, then gently open the drawer by hand and return it to the closed position.

NOTE It is **essential** that you perform this operation before connecting the 208 to the mains for the first time. You should store the screw and collar in a safe place and **always** lift it, by reversing the above procedure, before transporting the 208 Compact Disc Player.

6.3 Connections

The Meridian 208 Compact Disc Player can connect to your audio system using conventional analogue audio leads. However, if you are using the Meridian D600 Digital Loudspeakers, you should use the digital output of the 208. This will give a considerably improved performance from the system.

Assuming that you are using an analogue audio system, you will need to connect the 208 Compact Disc Player to your amplifier with the supplied twin screened-audio cables, or with a single screened-audio cable. These interconnects can have a considerable effect on the final 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.

6.4 If you have a 201 Preamplifier

- Connect the sockets marked 'Fixed out' on the rear of the 208 to the CD input on the rear of the 201.
- Connect the socket marked 200 COMMS on the rear of the 208 to the socket marked 200 COMMS on the rear of the Preamplifier using the B–Lead supplied with the 208.

6.5 If you have both a 201 and a 204

- Connect the sockets marked 'Fixed out' on the rear of the 208 to the CD 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 Preamplifier using the C–Lead supplied with the 204
- Connect the socket marked 207 on the rear of the 204 to the socket marked 200 COMMS on the rear of the 208 using the B–Lead supplied with the 208.

6.6 If you are using D600 Loudspeakers

- Connect the digital output from the rear of the 208 to the M–Lead supplied with the D600s. Follow the instructions in the D600 manual. The M–Lead is 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.

If you are also using the 208 as your analogue preamplifier, you should connect the sockets marked 'Variable out' to the appropriate sockets on the D600s.

Wherever possible, we would advise that you use optical interconnections for the digital signal as these result in superior audio performance. Additionally, optical digital cables do not generate any radio-frequency interference, nor are they susceptible to such interference.

Suitable cables for either digital signal are available from your Meridian dealer.

6.7 Using the 208 as a preamplifier

- Connect the sockets marked 'Variable out' to the input sockets on your power amplifier(s) or active loudspeakers, using suitable audio cables. Your dealer will be able to advise you on the best type of cable for your system.
- Connect the sockets marked 'Line in' to the audio output of your tuner.
- Connect the sockets marked 'Tape in' to the output sockets of your tape machine.
- Connect the sockets marked 'Tape out' to the input sockets of your tape machine.
- If you want to use a conventional turntable with your system, you must purchase an optional 215 module.

Your dealer will fit the module inside the 208 and adjust it for your pick-up cartridge. Connect the **sockets marked 'LP'** to the audio output **cable from your turntable**. A ground-screw **is provided** to connect the tone-arm **ground wire.**

- **If you do not want** to use a turntable (phono **cartridge), the 'LP' sockets** can be used to **connect an additional** piece of equipment, **such as a second** CD player, or a video recorder. **If you do use the** LP input in this way, **you should note that** it is less sensitive than **the Tape and Line inputs.** Anything connected **to this socket will,** therefore, sound slightly **quieter than normal.**

6.8 If you have no other Meridian *either*

- **Connect the sockets** marked 'Fixed-out' on the **rear of the 208** to an appropriate input on your **amplifier.** You should consult the manufac**turer's manual** to determine which input to use, **but generally it** will be labelled 'CD' or 'AUX'.

or

- **Follow the** instructions in the previous section **if you intend** to use the preamplifier facilities.

DO NOT, under any circumstances, connect anything to the socket marked '200 COMMS' on the rear of the 208.

6.9 Headphones

A standard 1/4" stereo jack headphone socket is provided on the rear panel of the 208.

Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume, using the yellow **Volume Up** or **Volume Down** keys on the front panel. The 208 will also adjust the volume using the red **Volume Up** and **Volume Down** keys on the 209. Please note that, if you are using the 208 as a preamplifier, this will also alter the volume on your loudspeakers.

7 Siting

The 208 should not be placed on top of a power amplifier, but it can be stacked on the 201 Preamplifier and the 204 Tuner, if you have these items in your system.

You should avoid sites where it would be in direct sunlight, particularly on the front panel; where it is near a heat source, for example a central heating radiator; where the equipment could be subjected to strong magnetic radiation, for example very close to a television.

In common with all CD players, the 208 emits some radio-frequency signals. For this reason, try to keep the equipment away from network-leads/ **have signal cables,** which includes audio, aerial **and loudspeaker cables.** A little time spent laying **out the cables carefully will repay you with the best possible performance later.**

8 Setting up the 208

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 Standby key and a small point on the display should now be illuminated, [. .].

8.3 If you have a problem

Check the integrity of your power connections, including any fuses in your supply. If the Standby key 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 times.

Its low power 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. However, when you are not going to use your system for an extended period of time, for example when you are going on holiday, we would advise you to disconnect it from the AC power supply.

9 Basic operation of the CD Player

Before discussing the operation of playing a Compact Disc, there are three lights and three keys on the front panel of the 208 which need to be explained.

9.1 Error

The top light is marked 'Error' it is intended to indicate the degree of error correction in use, and serves as a monitor of the condition of a CD. It may illuminate briefly as the 208 scans any part of the disc. However, if you notice it is flashing whilst playing a disc, it indicates that the disc you are playing is either dirty or has some defect. In general, if you see the error light flashing on the display, it means, you may assume that the pre-set error correction system in the 208 has re-established the data. In severe cases of disc error, you may hear crackles from your loudspeakers, or the disc may stop. In these cases you should first try cleaning the disc and if that fails return it to the supplier.

9.2 Equalisation

The second light is marked 'Eq', which stands for equalisation. The CD specification allows for discs to be recorded with or without pre-equalisation for which correction is made during playback. This light will illuminate whenever a disc has been recorded with pre-equalisation. The light will extinguish when a disc or track has no equalisation, or when the Player is moving between tracks.

9.3 Phase

The third light is marked '#'. It indicates positive phase for the CD analogue output. This is the normal, or default, state of the 208 and so the light will normally illuminate when you turn on the Player.

NOTE that you can only alter this setting if you have a 209 Remote Control unit.

Whether you can hear the effect of this inversion depends on several factors, including your audio equipment and environment, but especially on the way in which the disc has been recorded. Please experiment with the phase control, there is no right or wrong setting, it can be different for each recording. In good installations absolute phase affects the realism of percussive and ambient sounds.

9.4 Display

Pressing this key will cycle the display on the 208 through its four states:

- Track (Index) number
- Elapsed time for the current track (note that when 'counting in' to the start of a track, the display will indicate a minus sign)
- Elapsed time for the entire disc
- Remaining time for entire disc

The track number display will consist of one or two digits, for example, [11].

However, when a disc contains index points in addition to the tracks, the display will change to show the current index number, for example a display which read [11.3] would indicate that track 11, index 3 was currently being played, or had been selected. You should note that the 208 will not display the first index point, that is you will not normally see the display [11.1] but when the second index point is reached, the display will change, for example [11.2].

When a disc has no index, the display will show the total number of tracks if the track display is selected, or the elapsed playing time if any of the time displays is selected.

9.5 Open/Close

This key opens the disc drawer if it is closed, or closes it if it is open.

9.6 Standby

When you press this key, you will shut down the 208 and the display will change momentarily to [Sb.]. If a disc is playing at the time, it will stop and, if the 208 is connected to other components of a Meridian 200 Series installation, it will also cause the other components to revert to standby.

This method of shutting the 208 down is perfectly safe, and the disc will not be damaged by leaving it in the Player. However, you normally would only want to leave a disc in the Player if you wish to continue playing it the next time you use the 208.

On most occasions, therefore, you will remove the disc before shutting down the Player. To do this:

- press **Stop**, then, to open the drawer,
- press **Open/Close**
- remove the disc
- press **Open/Close** again to close the drawer
- press **Standby** to shut the 208 or 200-Series system down.

In fact, there is a much quicker way to perform this operation:

- press **Open/Close**. This will stop the disc and open the drawer
- remove the disc
- press **Standby**, this will close the drawer and shut the system down.

The 208 is controlled by a microprocessor, so using this 'shorthand' approach is perfectly safe. The Player will interpret the 'open' command as 'stop the disc then open the drawer', and it will interpret the 'standby' command as 'close the drawer then go into standby'.

9.7 To load and play a disc

- press **Open/Close**

This will turn on the 208 and open the drawer. If the 208 is part of a Meridian 200-Series installation, it will also bring the entire system out of standby. If you are not using a Meridian 200-Series equipment, you will need to switch on the rest of your system in the normal way. Consult the manufacturer's manual for instructions on how to do this.

- insert the disc in the drawer, label side up, ensuring that the disc is properly seated on the Player's hub.
- press **Play**

The drawer will close, the 208 will read the catalogue information stored on the disc, displaying the message [dir.], and it will then play the disc.

9.8 To load and play a particular track

- press **Open/Close**
- insert the disc as above
- to select the track number you require, press **Previous** or **Next** until the correct number is displayed. During this operation, the display changes to show 'S.', for select, followed by the track number, for example [S. 21]

- press **Play**

The disc **will commence playing** at the track number you **have selected and will** continue to play until **the end.**

9.9 To move to a different track

- **press Previous or Next** until the required track **number is displayed**
- **press Play**

9.10 To jump to the next track

- **press Play**

9.11 To restart the current track

- **press Previous – Next – Play**

9.12 To pause the disc

- **press Pause**

The Pause key will illuminate and, if a time display **is selected, it will freeze.**

When you want to continue playing the disc again:

- **press Pause** a second time.

9.13 To stop the disc

- **press Stop**

The display will change momentarily to [**SIOP**].

9.14 To play a disc from standby

- **press Play**

9.15 To repeat a disc continuously

- **press Repeat**

The Repeat key will illuminate and the disc will repeat **after** playing until you press Standby, Stop or Open/Close. You can also cancel this operation by pressing Repeat a second time.

10 Using a 209 Remote Control

If you have a *Meridian* 209 Remote Control unit as part of your 200-Series installation, this can control the **disc.**

In general, operation of the 209 is identical to **the descriptions** given above, but the **Track button should be** pressed before selecting a track **number for the first** time. After this first operation, **it is not necessary** to press Track repeatedly, but **doing so ensures** correct operation of the 208, **and the instructions** in this manual will, therefore, **usually advise** you to press Track. Obviously, you **must first load a disc!**

10.1 To play a disc

- **press Play**

The 208 will read the catalogue information stored **on the disc and then begin to play the disc. During the operation, the display will read** [**dir. 1**].

10.2 To play a particular track

either

- press **Prev** or **Next** until the correct track number is displayed
- press **Play**

or

- press **Track**, followed by one or more of the **Number Keys** until the correct track number is displayed
- press **Play**

The disc will commence playing at the track number you have selected and will continue to play until the end.

10.3 To move to a different track

either

- press **Prev** or **Next** until the required track number is displayed
- press **Play**

or

- press one or more of the **Number Keys** until the required track number is displayed
- press **Play**

10.4 To move to the next track

- press **Play**

10.5 To restart the current track

either

- press **Track – Play**

or

- press the required **Number Key(s) – Play**

or

- press **Prev – Next – Play**

10.6 To pause the disc

- press **Pause**

The Pause key on the 208 will illuminate.

When you want to continue playing the disc again

- press **Pause** a second time.

10.7 To stop the disc

- press **Stop**

The display will change momentarily to [**SIOP**].

10.8 To scan through a disc

- press << or >> until you reach the point you are seeking.

Remember to select one of the time displays first, in order to be able to assess the position in the track.

10.9 To repeat a disc continuously

- press **Repeat**

The Repeat key on the 208 will illuminate and the disc will re-start after each playing until you press Stop, or Repeat a second time.

11 More advanced operation

11.1 Programming

The 208 allows you to select you own program of music from any disc. You can play the tracks in any order you like, and can repeat one or more tracks several times in your personal program.

Please note that the maximum number of selections which the 208 can 'memorise' is 31. If you try to enter additional tracks, the display shows [Err.] momentarily.

During programming, the display will prefix the track number with the letter 'C'. [C. #].

The 'C' stands for cancel, once you have programmed a track, the display will change to 'P'. Any tracks marked 'C' will not play.

To enter a program:

- select the first track required by pressing **Previous** or **Next** until the correct number is displayed
- press **Store**

Repeat this operation for all the tracks you wish to include in your program, then:

- press **Play**

If you press **Stop** twice, or **Open/Close**, you will cancel any program you have entered, and the display will momentarily change to [C.P.].

You can review your program while the disc is playing by pressing **Previous** or **Next**. Tracks that will not play will display a 'C' prefix to the track number.

11.2 Pause play

The Pause key can be used to 'action' a selection from stop. To start a disc up paused at the beginning of a track:

- press **Previous** or **Next** until the required track number is displayed
- press **Pause**

Then, to hear the music with instant access:

- press **Pause**

12 Advanced remote operation

Index points cannot be accessed from the front panel of the 208. However, if you have a 209 Remote Control unit you can access index points where these are provided on a disc.

12.1 To move to an index point

either

- press **Prev** or **Next** until the required track number is displayed
- press * then **Prev** or **Next** until the required index number is displayed
- press **Play**

or

- press **Track — Number Key(s)** to select the track
- press * — **Number Key(s)** to select the index point
- press **Play**

12.2 To enter a program

either

- select the first track required by pressing **Prev** or **Next** until the correct number is displayed
- press **Store**

Repeat this operation for all the tracks you wish to include in your program, then:

- press **Play**

or

- select the first track required by pressing a **Number Key** (or keys) until the correct number is displayed. Remember that you may need to press **Track** first.
- press **Store**

Repeat this operation for all the tracks you wish to include in your program, then:

- press **Play**

If you press **Stop** twice, or **Open/Close** on the front panel of the 208, you will cancel any program you have entered. Please note that it is not possible to enter both track numbers and index points, the 208 will only allow you to create a program of selected tracks. If you do attempt to program an index point, your selection will be rejected and the display will change momentarily to [Err.].

12.3 Programming cancelled tracks

Often, you want to play most of a disc, skipping only one or two tracks. Obviously, you can program all the tracks that you do want, but the 208, used with a 209 Remote Control unit offers an easier method.

either

- select the first track not required by pressing **Prev** or **Next** until the correct number is displayed
- press **Cancel**

Repeat this operation for all the tracks you wish to exclude in your program, then:

- press **Play**

or

- select the first track not required by pressing **Track — Number Key(s)** until the correct number is displayed
- press **Cancel**

Repeat this operation for all the tracks you wish to exclude in your program, then:

- press **Play**

If you exclude tracks in this way, you will only be able to play the disc in normal, numerical, order.

12.4 Phase inversion

You can invert the absolute phase of the CD analogue outputs. Normally, the 208 will play with phase positive, and the red light on the front panel will illuminate to indicate that this is the case. To change (invert) the phase:

- press **#**

The light will go out and, after a brief pause, the phase will invert. Audio output is muted briefly during this operation. You can repeat the operation, this time the light will illuminate again. This kind of control is called a toggle as repeated presses of the # key will toggle between alternative states.

13 Preamplifier operation

The preamplifier section of the 208 allows you to select from four inputs: CD, Tape, Line (tuner) and LP (phono). If you have not installed the optional phono module you can use the LP input for an additional tape player, video recorder etc.

13.1 To listen to a tape recorder

- press **Tape** on the front panel or **Tape 3** on the 209

The **Tape** key on the 208 will illuminate and the 208 display will change to **[t3.##]**, where t3 shows the tape source is selected, and ## indicates the volume setting, between 1 and 34.
To de-select the tape input, press **Tape** or **Tape 3** again, the **Tape** key will extinguish.

13.2 To listen to a tuner connected to the Line input

- press **Line** on either the front panel or the 209

The **Line** key on the 208 will illuminate, and the display will show **[L1.##]** as described above. If your tuner is a Meridian 204, you can use the 209 to control both the volume level and the tuning. Please consult the 204 manual for full details.
To de-select the Line input, either press **Line** again, or press another source key.

13.3 To listen to an LP

- press **LP** on either the front panel or the 209.

The **LP** key on the 208 will illuminate, and the display will show **[LP.##]**. As mentioned previously, if you do not use a phono cartridge and have not fitted the optional phono preamplifier, this input can be used for an additional 'line-level' input, for example a second tape machine or CD player.
To de-select the LP input, either press **LP** again, or press another source key.

13.4 To go back to CD

- press the currently illuminated source key(s), to switch it off. (e.g. Line, Tape, LP).

13.5 To adjust the volume level

You can adjust the volume from the front panel of the 208 or from the 209 Remote Control unit.
To increase the volume:
either

- press the **Top Yellow** key on the 208

or

- press the **Top Red** key on the 209

These keys are called 'Volume Up'.
To decrease the volume:
either

- press the **Bottom Yellow** key on the 208

or

- press the **Bottom Red** key on the 209

These keys are called 'Volume Down'.
As you adjust the volume setting, the display will change to show the current source and volume level, for example **[cd.35]** would indicate that you were listening to a Compact Disc at a volume setting of 35. The volume level displayed will count up or down and ranges from [cd. 1] to [cd. 34] and [cd. 35] to [cd. 99].
Subjectively one judges a volume increase of 3dB to be equivalent to a doubling of loudness so each volume number represents about a 15% change in loudness, seven or eight steps to double loudness.
If a CD is playing, the display will then revert to your selected information, that is time or track.

13.6 To mute the sound

The mute facility cuts off the sound by setting the volume level to zero.
To mute the sound:

- press the **Mute** key on either the 208 or the 209.

The Mute key on the 208 will illuminate, the display will change to **[Ld.##]** and the volume will be set to zero.
To restore the sound:

- press the **Mute** key on either the 208 or the 209 a second time.

The Mute key on the 208 will extinguish and your previously selected volume level and display will be restored.

13.7 To make a tape recording

Whenever you select one of the inputs CD, Line or LP from the front panel of the 208 or from the 209 Remote Control, that source is also fed to the Tape Out sockets.
The Tape input is a full tape-monitor, so it is never fed to the Tape Out sockets.
When you select **Tape** as your input the Tape Out sockets will continue to receive the signal from the previously selected source, for example CD. This allows you to monitor a recording, by pressing **Tape** to listen to the output from the tape machine, and pressing **Tape** a second time to listen to the original sound.

14 CD operation summary

On the 208 front panel:

Open /Close Open or close the disc drawer.
If the Player is in standby, this key will also bring the Player, and any connected *Meridian* 200-Series system, out of standby.

Play Play a disc, a selected track, or move to the next track.

Stop Stop the disc. If pressed a second time, clear any stored program from memory, the display will change to [E.P.].

Pause Temporarily stop the disc, or, if the disc is already paused, continue playing it.

Store Store the currently displayed track number in memory as a track to be played.

Next Select the next track number. If this key is held down, it will rapidly cycle forward through the available tracks.

Standby Place the 208 and any *Meridian* 200-Series system to which it is connected into standby.

Display Cycle the display through:
track number
track elapsed time
disc elapsed time
disc remaining time

Repeat Continuously repeat the currently playing disc until Stop, Open or Standby is pressed. Pressing Repeat a second time will also cancel the operation.

Previous Select the previous track number. If this key is held down it will rapidly cycle back through the available tracks.

On the 208 Remote Control unit:

Play Play a disc, a selected track, or move to the next track.

Stop Stop the disc. If pressed a second time, clear any stored program from memory.

Pause Temporarily stop the disc, or, if the disc is already paused, continue playing it.

Next Select the next track number. If this key is held down, it will rapidly cycle forward through the available tracks and, at the end of the disc, cycle back to the first track.

Store Store the currently displayed track number in memory as a track to be played.

>> Fast scan the disc forwards.

Repeat Continuously repeat the currently playing disc until Stop/CM is pressed.

Display Cycle the display through:
track number
track elapsed time
disc elapsed time
disc remaining time

a Invert the absolute phase of the CD analogue output.

Prev Select the previous track number. If this key is held down it will rapidly cycle back through the available tracks and, at the start of the disc, cycle back to the last track.

Cancel Store the currently displayed track number in memory as a track to be skipped.

<< Fast scan the disc backwards.

Number keys Select track numbers
Please note that if you select a track number higher than the maximum available on the current disc, the 208 will either ignore your selection if the disc is already playing, or display an error message if you are trying to start playing a disc at that track number.

+ When followed by a **Number Key**, or by **Next** or **Prev** allow the selection of index points on a disc.

Track When followed by **Play**, replay the current track from the beginning. When followed by a **Number Key(s)** – **Play**, move to the selected track.

15 Preamplifier summary

On the 208 front panel:

Line Select or release the Line (tuner) input.

Tape Select or release the Tape input.

LP Select or release the LP (phono) input.

Mute Select or release the mute state.

Volume Up Increase the volume.

Volume Down Decrease the volume.

On the 208 Remote Control unit:

Line Select or release the Line (tuner) input.

Tape 3 Select or release the Tape input.

LP Select or release the LP (phono) input.

Mute Select or release the mute state.

Volume Up Increase the volume.

Volume Down Decrease the volume.

16 Maintenance & Service

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

In the unlikely event that your 208 Compact Disc Player fails to function correctly, it should be returned, in its original packing, to your *Meridian* dealer.

In case of difficulty, please write to:

- 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 208 whilst in transit to the factory or an agent and customers are, therefore, advised to insure the unit.

17 Guarantee

The Meridian 208 Compact Disc Player is guaranteed against defects in material and workmanship for 12 months from the date of purchase.

The guarantee is void if the 208 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 Meridian Lead to the Digital Output Socket (DIGITAL) may cause damage to the 208 which will not be covered by this guarantee. Attempted servicing by unauthorised people may invalidate this guarantee.

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

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 within their territory. They are free 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.

18 Cleaning

The main body of the 208 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 re-connect the power until you are certain that the 208 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 CD Player.

The audio sockets on the rear of the 208 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.

The electrical digital output should be treated in a similar way.

19 Help!

19.1 Standby key not lit

Check the following:

- there is AC power connected to the socket on the rear of the 208
- the power switch on the rear panel of the 208 is turned on

If the 208 will still not illuminate, check any fuses in your power supply and the fuse on the rear panel of the 208. If these are all intact, contact your dealer.

19.2 Drawer will not open

Check that:

- the Standby key is illuminated
- the transit collar has been removed

With the power switched off, try gently opening the drawer by hand. DO NOT USE FORCE. If the drawer will not open, or if it still does not work correctly after restoring power to the 208, contact your dealer.

19.3 Will not play a disc

Check that:

- the disc is correctly seated on the hub of the 208 and is label side up
- your amplifier has been turned on and the volume adjusted sufficiently
- the correct audio, or digital in the case of the Meridian D600s, connections have been made
- the correct input has been selected on your preamplifier
- the Pause key is not illuminated

If none of the above are at fault, try another disc. If this will not play either, contact your dealer, otherwise examine the offending disc carefully for signs of damage or dirt.

19.4 No sound

Check that:

- the 208 is not set for Tape. If it is, the Tape key will be illuminated and the display will show [SLP#]. Press **Tape** to restore the sound.
- the 208 is not muted. If it is, the Mute key will be illuminated and the display will show [MUtE]. Press **Mute** to restore the sound.
- the tuner or tape player you are trying to listen to is connected to the correct input on the 208 and is switched on.
- the amplifier you are using is connected to the correct output on the 208 and is switched on.
- the volume setting on the 208 is sufficiently high.

19.5 Radio interference

NOTE the 208 is a digital audio and computing device 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 the 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 aerial or route the antenna cable of the receiver as far as possible from the 208 and its cabling.
- Ensure that the receiver uses well-screened antenna cable.
- Reorient the receiver with respect to the 208.
- Connect the receiver and the 208 to different AC outlets.
- If the problem persists, contact your dealer.

VDE: This product has been designed to comply with VDE 0871/6.78 as a Class B device.

EEC: This product has been designed to comply with the limits set out by the CISPR 14 committee of the IEC.

REMEMBER to switch off all units before changing any connections.

20 The Compact Disc medium...

The introduction of the Compact Disc was a major innovation in the reproduction of music. Until then, all musical reproduction had used analogue methods.

The problem was, that at each analogue stage in the process of capturing and reproducing the sound, distortion was introduced and information was taken away, so that, by the time the final sounds reached your ears, they were some way removed from the original. Not only that, but the storage media that were available like vinyl or magnetic tape, were prone to physical wear and tear. Every time you played a disc or tape, the fidelity of the reproduced sound to the original was further lessened.

Compact Disc tackled the problem in a completely different way. Instead of the older technique, music is recorded using digital technology. Each second of music is divided into 44,100 slices, and each sound-slice is sampled and evaluated to produce a number, which represents the actual sound occurring in that split-second. The advantage of this is that the resultant stream of numbers can be reproduced with absolute fidelity through any number of copying processes, which makes each CD manufactured a faithful reproduction of the original master tape. For the first time, the fidelity in 'high fidelity' could be achieved!

The Compact Disc medium confers several additional benefits on users.

In analogue recordings the dynamic range of the sound, the difference between the loudest and the quietest passages, could never approach that experienced in real life. This was a limitation of the media used. With a connection-to-drive-to-amplifier-to-speaker-to-ear-to-brain-to-drum-to-liver and further side-to-side, and there is a finite limit on the ability of any mechanical device to respond in this way. Louder sounds also meant more rapid wear whenever the disc was played. At the other end of the scale, very quiet sounds tended to become 'lost' in the noise inherent in vinyl. Consequently, most recordings were electronically 'compressed' to make their quiet passages louder and their loud passages quieter, which is why they could never sound like 'the real thing' - the original live performance.

In addition, both analogue media were heavily dependent on the mechanical quality of their transport mechanisms, the turntable or tape deck. Speed stability was always a problem and often introduced audible variations in pitch, generally referred to as wow and flutter.

By contrast, the Compact Disc medium could be considered very near to perfection. The dynamic range achieved on CD closely approaches that experienced in real life and additional processing of the signal is found to be compressed in any way. Unlike tape and LP, a CD is essentially a quiet medium. For the first time, you will be able to hear the silences in your recordings!

In contrast to tape and LP, the CD will sound as perfect on its 1000th playing as it did on its first. This is because the playing surface is only ever touched by a beam of light — unless of course you are clumsy when you handle your disc! The laser which 'reads' the digital signal encoded on the surface of the disc does not wear whether the music is pianissimo or fortissimo.

The Compact Disc also frees music from the yoke of mechanical imperfections. Frequency stability is ensured by a high-frequency quartz oscillator, the same kind of device that operates watches and clocks.

Yet another benefit accrues from the digital nature of the Compact Disc which allows a disc to be accessed in a random fashion, unlike older media, and this means you can re-arrange the musical sequence, or, if the recordings are made by those of the record companies, and can skip any tracks you don't like on a disc.

There is another benefit of the digital medium. When a sound is recorded digitally, it becomes possible to check its accuracy whenever it is replayed, and even to correct any errors that do creep in.

Thus, the familiar 'snap, crackle and pop' of analogue recordings becomes a thing of the past in the digital domain.

You may be thinking by now that with such a wonderful medium as the Compact Disc, all CD players must be equally good. It is true that, using an average audio system, any CD player will sound better than an equivalent analogue system. However, there are still significant differences between players that will be revealed by top-grade audio equipment.

Meridian were the first company in the field to work successfully on an enthusiast's CD player, and achieved world recognition for the classic MCD player. A professional version of the MCD, the PROMCD followed and is still widely used in recording studios today. The 207 and 208 followed, and are considered to be among the finest CD players available in the world at any price. The 208 is just as at home in a recording studio as in the living room, as all of Meridian's experience coupled with the very latest technological innovations including differential 20bitwam conversion and third-generation decoding and servo techniques. The 208 also features a new single-microprocessor for control. These changes, pioneered by Meridian further improve sound quality and offer much faster operation.

Meridian have also developed the D600, the world's first digital audio loudspeakers, which carry the audio revolution towards its natural conclusion. These speakers, used with a Meridian CD player, deliver the finest possible sound.

21 Specification

COMPACT DISC:

Frequency response	20Hz – 20KHz ± 0.2dB
Distortion	<0.004%
Noise	100dB
Conversion	20bitwam PDM, differential time-aligned mode, 256 times over-sampling, 2 bits, Passive filtering.
Precision	16 bits

INPUTS:

Line	500mV, 10kohms
Tape	500mV, 10kohms
Phono	MM, 1.5mV, 47k ohms MC, 60µV, 220 ohms
Phono	(bypass) 1V, 2k ohms

OUTPUTS:

Fixed	2V, 12 ohms
Variable	775mV, 2V maximum, 12 ohms
Tape	300mV, 470 ohms
Headphones	2V max, 12 ohms
Display	Track/Index, Track time elapsed, Disc time elapsed, Disc time remaining

Finish	Black textured enamel and glass
Dimensions	3.25cm x 100mm x 320mm (12.5" x 3.9" x 12.6")
Weight	6.4kg (14 lbs)

Appendix 208 display options

A1 Source displays

Source-type selection is indicated, together with the volume level. (The # character indicates a single digit in the range 0–9):

- [cd.##] Compact Disc
- [LI.##] tuner or other line-level input
- [LP.##] Turntable (phono)
- [tS.##] Tape

A2 Compact Disc displays

Track display

- [#] track #
- [#] track ##
- [#.#] track # index #
- [#.#.#] track # # index # #
- [----] no disc loaded in Player
- [----#] a disc with # # tracks is loaded but the Player is stopped

Time display

- [#.#] disc or track elapsed time
- [#.#.#]
- [----] a disc is stopped with the time display selected
- [----] a disc is stopped with the track time display selected

A3 Selection display

- [S. #] is a selection display, showing a two-digit track number

To action your selection, press Play.

A8 Miscellaneous displays

- [StOP] end of disc
- [dis.] Player is loading a disc
- [Err.] You have tried to select a track or index which does not exist
- [CP.] You have cancelled any stored programme selection
- [vo. #.#] Sets volume level 0) selected
- [StB.] Going into standby
- [.] In standby

A10 Version number

The on-board computer is controlled by a specially-written program. The version number in use by your 208 can be revealed by pressing Display when it is in standby. The display panel will show [#.#], where # # is the version number.

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