

1 Introduction

The *Meridian* 602 Compact Disc Player is part of the 600-Series of advanced high fidelity equipment. Used in conjunction with other components in the range, it can offer the music lover much more than just very high quality digital sound.

Because the 602 is such a sophisticated device, you are advised to read through this whole manual before using it for the first time, particularly if you are using it with other 600-Series components, or *Meridian* Digital Loudspeakers. However, we have given a lot of attention to making the operation of the unit as intuitive as possible, so that those of you who are familiar with high fidelity equipment and who cannot wait to get your 602 working will be able to get immediate results.

In purchasing a *Meridian* 602 Compact Disc Player, you have acquired a refined 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 603 refers to a component in the *Meridian* 600-Series of audio equipment, unless otherwise indicated, e.g. 'the socket marked 600 COMMS'.

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, e.g. press **Next** then press **Previous**, the key names will be separated by a hyphen, i.e. **Next - Previous**. If the key name is not in bold type, it indicates that the course of action is not required at present, e.g. '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.

In some instances, a key and the status of the equipment share the same name, e.g. 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 the use of italic type.

3 About the 600-Series

The *Meridian* 600-Series of high fidelity equipment is probably the most sophisticated family of hi-fi products 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 600-Series is also fully compatible with the famous 200-Series. In addition, the system can be further enhanced by the use of one or more pairs of *Meridian* D600 or D6000 Digital Loudspeakers.

The 602 Compact Disc Player is a very advanced machine. Its circuitry has been carefully optimised to provide the highest quality of sound available from the Compact Disc medium. In particular, considerable attention has been paid to designing the error-correction circuits in order to ensure maximum fidelity to the original recorded signal and high playability.

Despite its high performance, each piece of equipment in the 600-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* 600-Series equipment will look and sound as good in the years to come as it does now.

4 Unpacking the 602

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

- *Meridian* 602 Compact Disc Player
- 209 Remote Control unit
- 1 PP3 battery for Remote Control unit
- Power cord
- Network lead, labelled 'E'
- This manual

If any of these items are missing, please contact your dealer. We suggest that you retain the packing carefully as it provides maximum protection for the unit in transit.

5 Accessories

The following accessories are available from your dealer:

- Power cord (Europe)
 - Power cord (USA & Canada)
- In case of difficulty, they can also be ordered directly from Boothroyd | Stuart whose address is on the title page of this manual.

6 Installing your 602

6.1 General precautions

Before carrying out any installation, you should first ensure that the 602 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.

As a general rule, you should not make any connections to the 602, or to any other component in your system, whilst the AC power supply is connected and switched on.

6.2 Transit collar

The 602 is fitted with a locking device to secure and protect the laser mechanism whilst the unit is in transit. Before using the 602 for the first time you must remove the collar. To do this:

- Carefully lift the 602 up. On the underside of the drawer mechanism, you will see a plastic collar held in place by a screw.
- Remove this screw and the collar, keeping the 602 upright.
- Put the 602 down. Gently open the drawer by hand and then return it to the closed position.

NOTE It is essential that you perform this operation before connecting the 602 to the AC power for the first time.

You should store the screw and collar in a safe place and always refit it, by reversing the above procedure, before transporting the 602.

6.3 Connections

The *Meridian* 602 is a CD transport and as such has no analogue outputs. It must be connected to either a digital to analogue converter such as the *Meridian* 606, or to *Meridian* Digital Loudspeakers. Connection to your converter can be made using either an optical or electrical link.

The 'E' lead supplied is for connection to 200-Series products for which reference should be made to the relevant manuals. The connections you make will depend on other components in your system.

6.4 If you are using 606 D/A converter

- Connection to a 606 can be made using either an optical or electrical link.

6.5 If you are using D600 Loudspeakers

- Connect the digital output from the rear of the 602 to the M-lead supplied with the D600s. Follow the instructions in the D600 manual, treating 602 as a 207. 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 assist you.

Wherever possible, we would advise that you use optical interconnections for the digital signal as these can result in superior audio performance and do not generate any radio-frequency interference; nor are they susceptible to such interference. Connection of optical communication links to D6000 and 603 are covered in the relevant manuals.

✓ Suitable cables are available from your *Meridian* dealer.

DO NOT, under any circumstances, connect anything other than *Meridian* leads to the socket marked 600 COMMS on the rear of the 602.

7 Siting

The 602 should not be placed on top of a power amplifier.

You should avoid sites where it would be subjected to direct sunlight or where it is near a heat source, e.g. a central heating radiator, or where the equipment could be subjected to strong magnetic radiation, e.g. very close to a television, or where connecting cables may be subject to, or cause, interference.

In common with all Compact Disc players, the 602 emits some radio-frequency signals. For this reason, try to keep all mains cables and network leads away from signal cables, which includes audio, antenna and loudspeaker cables. Some time spent laying out the cables carefully will repay you with the best possible performance later.

8 Setting up the 602

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 Switching on

- turn on the power switch at the rear of the unit
- A small point on the display should now be illuminated [.] and the legends light up.

8.3 If there are no lights

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

8.4 'Wait' time

The 602 has a user adjustable 'wait' time which causes the 602 to pause for a short time when you send it to a track. It does not cause a wait between successive tracks. The wait time may be varied from 0.1 to 9.9 seconds. The value of 0.1 is the default. Larger values provide slower access, which you may find convenient, or necessary with some D/A converters.

To set up the wait time, switch on the power with the Play key pressed. The display will read e.g. [Wait 0.1] The time is altered with the Next and Previous keys. To store the time and return to normal operation, switch the power off, wait a second, then turn it back on.

8.5 Standby

The entire 600-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. However, when you are not going to use your system for an extended period of time, e.g. when you are going on holiday, we would advise you to disconnect it from the AC power supply.

8.6 Before using the Remote Control

- Fit the batteries provided.

To do this:

- Remove the four screws on the back of the 209 and lift off the cover.
- Connect the battery to the unit.
- Replace the cover and the four screws.

When renewing the batteries, you are advised to use only high-quality leak-proof batteries from a reputable manufacturer.

If you are not going to use the Remote Control for an extended period of time, you should remove the batteries from it.

9 Basic operation of 602

9.1 To load and play a disc

- press **Open**

This will turn on the 602 and open the drawer. If the 602 is part of a *Meridian* 600-Series installation, it will also bring the entire system out of *standby*. If you are not using other *Meridian* equipment, you will need to switch on the rest of your system manually.

- 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 602 will read the catalogue information (directory) stored on the disc, displaying the message [Dir.], and it will then play the disc.

9.2 To load disc at a particular track

- Press **Open**
- Insert the disc as above
- press **Previous** or **Next** until the required track number is displayed. During this operation, the display changes to show [Select], followed by the track number, e.g. [Select 21]
- press **Play** or wait for a short time for the 602 to start automatically

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

9.3 To move to a different track

- press **Previous** or **Next** until the required track number is displayed, then
- press **Play** or wait for a short time

9.4 To move to the next track

- press **Play**

9.5 To restart the current track

- press **Previous** — **Next** — **Play** or **Previous** — **Next** and wait for a short time

9.6 To pause the disc

- press **Pause**

The [Paused] message will be displayed and, if a time display is selected, it will freeze.

When you want to continue playing the disc again

- press **Pause** a second time.

9.7 To stop the music

- press **Stop**

9.8 To play a disc from standby

A disc should be already loaded.

- press **Play**

10 Using a 209 Remote Control

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 602, and the instructions in this manual will, therefore, usually advise you to press **Track**. Obviously, you must first load a disc!

10.1 Display

Pressing this key will cycle the display on the 602 through its four states:

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

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 602 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 ended, the display will show the total number of tracks and the total playing time of the disc.

10.2 To play a disc

- press **Play**

The 602 will read the catalogue information stored on the disc and then begin to play the disc. During this operation, the display will read [Dir.].

10.3 To play a particular track

either

- press **Prev** or **Next** until the correct track number is displayed
- press **Play** or wait for a short time

or

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

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

10.4 To move to a different track

either

- press **Prev** or **Next** until the required track number is displayed
- press **Play** or wait for a short time

or

- press one or more of the **Number Keys** until the required track number is displayed
- press **Play** or wait for a short time

10.5 To move to the next track

- press **Play**

10.6 To restart the current track

either

- press **Track** — **Play** or wait for a short time

or

- press the required **Number Key(s)** — **Play** or wait for a short time

or

- press **Prev** — **Next** — **Play** or wait for a short time

10.7 To pause the disc

- press **Pause**

[Paused] will be displayed on the 602.

When you want to continue playing the disc again

- press **Pause** a second time.

10.8 To stop the disc

- press **Stop**

The display will change momentarily to [Stop].

10.9 To scan through a disc

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

It may help to select one of the time displays first to show the position in the track.

10.10 To repeat a disc continuously

- press **Repeat**

The Repeat legend on the 602 will illuminate and the disc will re-start after each playing until you press Stop, or Repeat a second time.

10.11 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**

11 Advanced remote operation

Index points cannot be accessed from the front panel of the 602. However, using a 209 Remote Control unit you can access index points where these are provided on a disc.

11.1 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 wait for a short time

or

- press **Track** — **Number Key(s)** to select the track
- press * — **Number Key(s)** to select the index point
- press **Play** or wait for a short time

11.2 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** on the front panel of the 602, you will cancel any program you have entered. Please note that it is not possible to enter both track numbers and index points, the 602 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 **[Error]**.

11.3 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 602, 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 wanted tracks in numerical order.

12 Cleaning

The main body of the 602 is anodised aluminium. To clean the case, use a cloth barely moistened with 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 602 is completely dry.

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

Do not use abrasive cleaners on any part of the 602.

The electrical digital output on the rear of the 602 is gold-plated and needs no cleaning if gold-plated phono plugs are used. Otherwise, we recommend that you remove and replace the plug at least once a year. A proprietary contact cleaner can be used to some advantage.

13 Operation summary

On the 602 front panel

- Open** Open or close the disc drawer.
If the player is in *standby* state, this key will also bring the player, and any connected *Meridian* 600-Series products, out of *standby*.
- Play** Play a disc, a selected track, or move to the next track.
- Stop** Stop the disc currently being played. If pressed a second time, clear any stored program from memory, the display will show **[C.P.]**.
- Pause** Temporarily stop the disc being played, 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 through the available tracks.
- Prev** Select the previous track number. If this key is held down it will rapidly cycle through the available tracks.

On the 209 Remote Control unit:

- Standby** Puts the 602 into the *standby* state
- 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 is pressed.
- Display** Cycle the display through:
track number
disc elapsed time and track number
track elapsed time and track number
disc remaining time and track number
- 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 602 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.

14 The Compact Disc medium...

The introduction of the Compact Disc was a major revolution 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 so, 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 Compact Disc 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 conventional disc, a loud sound meant that the stylus had to move further and faster from 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'. Magnetic tape suffered in a similar way.

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 Compact Disc closely approaches that experienced in real life and only very occasionally does a recording have to be compressed in any way. Unlike tape and LP, a Compact Disc 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 Compact Disc 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 discs! The laser which 'reads' the digital signal encoded on the discs surface causes no 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 programs to suit your preferences, rather than 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 installations.

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 PRO-MCD, 206, 207, 208 followed and is still widely used in recording studios today. The 208 is considered to be one of the finest CD players available in the world at any price. The 602 is part of the continuing evolution and incorporates all of *Meridian's* experience coupled with the very latest technological innovations.

Meridian have also developed the world's first Digital Loudspeakers, which carry the audio revolution to its natural conclusion. These speakers, used with a *Meridian* CD player, deliver the finest possible sound.

15 Help!

15.1 Standby point not lit

Check the following:

- there is AC power connected to the socket on the rear of the 602
- the power switch on the rear panel of the 602 is turned on

If the 602 will still not illuminate, check any fuses in your power supply and the fuse in the inlet of the 602. If these are all intact, contact your dealer.

15.2 Drawer will not open

Check that:

- the Standby point 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 602, contact your dealer.

15.3 Will not play a disc

Check that:

- the disc is correctly seated on the hub of the 602 and is label-side up
- your preamplifier has been turned on and the volume raised sufficiently
- the correct connections have been made to and from your D/A converter or digital loudspeakers
- the correct input has been selected on your preamplifier
- [Paused] message is not displayed

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.

15.4 Radio interference

NOTE 602 is a digital audio and computing device which has been designed to very high standards of electromagnetic compatibility.

FCC WARNING: This equipment generates 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 aerial (or antenna) or route the antenna cable of the receiver as far as possible from the 602 and its cabling.
- Ensure that the receiver uses well-screened antenna cable.
- Relocate the receiver with respect to the 602.
- Connect the receiver and this product to different AC outlets.
- If the problem persists contact your dealer.

EEC This product has been designed to comply with the limits set out in EN55013 and EN55020C.

REMEMBER to switch all units off before changing any connections.

16 Maintenance & Service

The *Meridian* 600-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 602 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 602 whilst in transit to the factory or an agent and customers are, therefore, advised to insure the unit.

17 Guarantee

The *Meridian* 602 is guaranteed against defects in material and workmanship for 12 months from the date of purchase.

The guarantee is void if the 602 has been subjected to misuse, accident or negligence, or has been in any way tampered with or modified without the written authorisation of Boothroyd Stuart Ltd.

Note that connecting anything other than the correct Network-Lead to the socket marked 600 COMMS may cause damage to the 602 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.

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.

18 Specification

Display	Track/Index, Track time elapsed, Disc time elapsed, Disc time remaining
Finish	Black anodised aluminium and glass
Dimensions	325 mm x 100 mm x 320mm (12.9" x 3.9" x 12.6")
Weight	6.4 kg (14 lbs)