



Media Core 600

Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System



Meridian Media Core 600 is a powerful 6-zone Meridian Sooloos system, with integrated System Core, storage and playback that can form the heart of the most powerful and intuitive digital media system available – powerful enough, using multiple units, to support and manage as many audio zones as your project requires.

It can be controlled from any of the network-based control systems available, including the iPad or iPhone App, computers running the Control PC or Control Mac application, and Meridian Sooloos controllers such as the Control 15, and features DHCP-enabled network connection for easy discovery by other units in the system.

Within Media Core 600 is a pair of hard drive bays, each fitted with 2TB drives configured as a RAID 1 array with automatic mirrored backup. These allow the unit to store approximately 5,000 CD albums in FLAC format, offering pristine lossless quality for graphical and touch-screen access via the award-winning Sooloos interface. Via Meridian's Technical Support department, the drives can be configured as a RAID 0 array for a total of 4 TB primary storage, with backup being handled externally. In addition to its extensive on-board storage,

Media Core 600 supports Internet Radio streaming as well as the Rhapsody® subscription service where available.

Media Core 600 provides six built-in, individually configurable audio zones, each of which is available digitally via Meridian SpeakerLink and S/PDIF, and also via analogue outputs. The analogue outputs are driven by very high quality digital to analogue conversion and can deliver variable or 2 Volt peak-to-peak fixed levels. The digital outputs can deliver standard or high sample rates as desired, upsampling using Meridian's famous Apodising filter for maximum audio quality, and/or downsampling when required.

Featuring a brand-new case design – echoing that of Meridian's popular G Series components with a bead-blasted finish in silver and black metal – and a highly efficient cooling system, the Media Core 600 is ideal for rack mounting as well as stand-alone operation. Its twin hard drive bays are front-loading, allowing drive servicing or replacement without requiring access to the rear of the rack.

Additional Media Core 600 units can be linked together to form an extremely large-scale integrated system consisting of several tens of zones (the number being

Product highlights

Powerful multi-zone Meridian Sooloos Digital Media System: just add your choice of controller – iPad, iPhone, computer or other Sooloos controller.

Six built-in audio zones with SpeakerLink, S/PDIF and analogue outputs.

Dual RAID-based hard drives offer enormous storage for many thousands of CD albums in pristine lossless quality.

Integrated audio renderers feature full suite of Meridian's audio-enhancing DSP technologies, delivering pristine digital and analogue quality to all zones.

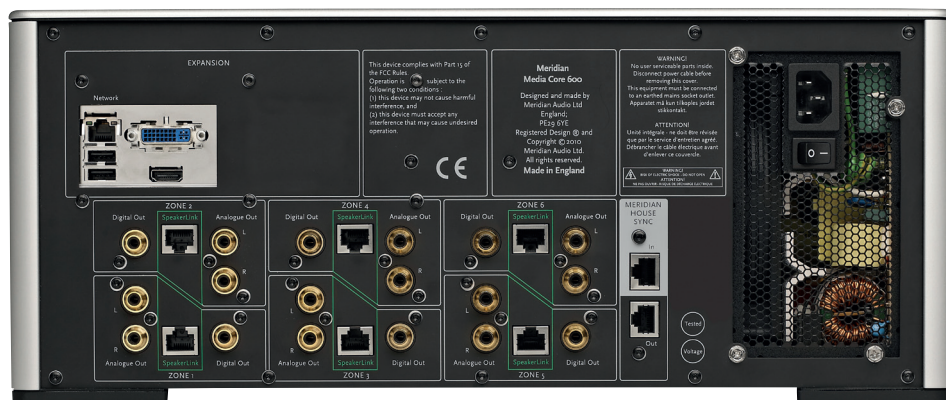
Full integration with Meridian and Meridian Sooloos audio systems.

Additional units may be interconnected and synchronised via Meridian House Sync.

Can also be networked to any other Meridian Sooloos product, adding extra storage or zones.

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Media Core 600 rear panel

limited primarily by available network bandwidth). Where multiple Media Core 600 units are installed in the same system, standard RJ45 Ethernet cables can be used to daisy-chain them and synchronise them using the “Meridian House Sync” ports. This ensures that whenever zones are linked to play identical content, their clocks are perfectly synchronised, giving zero playback timing drift between linked zones.

Clocking throughout the system is optimised to provide minimal clock jitter, whether the Media Core 600 is operating on its own or in conjunction with other units. The Media Core 600 can thus provide powerful and extensive access to digital media throughout even a very large home.

Once connected to a Meridian system via SpeakerLink, the Media Core 600 immediately assumes the role of a Source for Meridian communication protocols. This allows full integration with the Meridian system for control as well as audio, for example permitting centralised adjustment of system volume. The Media Core 600 also acts as a Core component in a Meridian Sooloos system. It automatically locates and integrates itself with other Meridian Sooloos components.

Media Core 600 can operate as part of a stand-alone system, with connection to multiple analogue and/or digital audio

systems, and to an Ethernet network (Internet connection is required for functions such as Internet Radio and Rhapsody). In such configurations, the system setup is extremely simple and amounts to little more than “plug and play”. In this case, the Meridian Sooloos Control PC and Control Mac applications can be used to import music from CD and audio files of a wide range of types, as well as controlling the system.

The Media Core 600 can also be controlled using one of the several other touch-screen and computer-based control solutions available for Meridian Sooloos products, such as the iPad or iPhone application. The unit additionally offers a basic web browser interface that provides some of the control functionality of the Control Mac/Control PC applications.

When the Media Core 600 is a part of a more complex system, some settings may require adjustment. If a Sooloos touch-panel controller such as the Control 15 is available, these parameters may be adjusted using the Device Manager. If not (for example if the system consists of multiple Media Core 600 units), then a Meridian Sooloos Configuration Application may be downloaded for Windows XP or later computer systems.

The front panel includes a power button indicator and a row of six status LEDs that indicate system status (see sidepanel).

Outline Technical Specification

Audio Connections (x6 zones)

- 1x Meridian SpeakerLink (RJ45)
- 1x S/PDIF coaxial digital output, RCA type
- 1 pair Analogue stereo (RCA type) 2v P-P or variable level.

Meridian House Sync

- Meridian House Sync In and Out (RJ45) for daisy-chain synchronisation of multiple units

Expansion Panel

- 1x Ethernet (RJ45) network connection
- 2x USB expansion connectors
- Other sockets in the rear panel expansion section are not used

Drives

- Supplied with 2x 2TB drives configured as a RAID 1 system

Controls

- Rear panel power switch
- Front panel back-lit on/off button

Audio Processing

- Ultra-stable clock for lowest possible jitter
- “Apodising” upsampling filter for ultimate digital performance
- Individual zones may be configured to output high or standard sample rates

Indicators

- Power button LED illuminates blue during startup and shutdown; white when operating.
- Six front-panel LEDs indicating as follows:
1 ERROR On=boot failure, flashing=drive mount failure.
2TEMP On=product overheating
3CPU On=CPU is running at greater than 80% usage.
4RAID1 On=raid marked drive as failed.
5RAID2 On=raid marked drive as failed.
6ETHERNET On=Ethernet cable is *not* detected
- If RAID1 and RAID2 LEDs are toggling, one of the drives is being restored to – ie a single new drive has been inserted with an existing working drive.
- If ERROR is On and LEDs 2-6 are toggling, the drives are being initialized with a new filesystem. i.e. two new drives have been inserted.

Power

- Mains operation, universal voltage power supply

Weight

- 12.5 kg (27.5 lbs)

Dimensions

- 440 x 185 x 350mm (18 x 7.3 x 13.8in) not including rear connectors or racking ears (WHD)

Finish

- Bead-blasted, anodised, natural silver aluminium.

*All specifications are subject to change without notice. E & OE. Weights & dimensions should be verified against the engineering drawing. Metric units are specified.
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