

PRESS RELEASE

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Meridian introduces new analog In-Wall

M420 active analogue in-wall speaker joins DSP versions at CEDIA

CEDIA Expo 2005, Indianapolis, IN, September 9, 2005—Meridian Audio, leading manufacturer of high-quality audio/video home entertainment systems, based in Huntingdon, near Cambridge, has introduced a new active analog in-wall loudspeaker design, the M420, based on Meridian's popular DSP420 digital in-wall loudspeaker released in 2003. It includes the same dual 127mm long-throw bass drivers as the DSP420 and a soft-domed 25mm tweeter.

The M420 is a truly active in-wall speaker with separate internal amplification for high and low frequency bands. Rated at 65 and 85 Watts respectively and using carefully selected bipolar output devices, the idealized low feedback designs are based on those used in other Meridian loudspeakers to deliver exceptionally fast bass response and high resolution. These amplifiers are coupled directly to the drive units for the most efficient delivery of power and the best possible control over driver excursion. Both analog and digital variants exhibit extremely low levels of noise and distortion, aided by careful star earthing, while the power supply includes a substantial toroidal transformer and audiophile-grade capacitors.

The M420 front baffle and acoustic back box are made from aluminum. This offers very low resonance at low frequencies and is further damped by the incorporation of stiffening into the back-box. Additional high frequency damping means that the whole system suffers exceptionally low cabinet coloration and delivers excellent mid-range transparency. All damping materials have been fully tested and in all cases comfortably meet or exceed building regulations for in-wall designs. The bass drive units are two parallel 5-inch woofers with cast alloy chassis, carbon fiber cones and very large shielded magnets that provide excellent drive and control. The silk-domed tweeter has a Neodymium magnet and a protective grille, while an acoustically transparent grille protects the front baffle and drive units from harm when installed. Its powder finish means the grille can be easily painted, helping the unit to blend in with its surroundings.

In addition a new rough-in back-box has been introduced, designed for either the analogue or digital in-wall. Suitable for wall or ceiling mounting, the back-box includes fire-retardant enclosures for power input and an analogue or digital input card (both are supplied). Power is wired into the box via a terminal block, while an IEC connector supplies power to the speaker unit. The back-box operates independently of the mains voltage. Digital inputs and Meridian Comms, in the case of the DSP420, can be wired into terminal blocks or attached via BNC connectors for fast, simple installation, while a DSUB cable connects the loudspeaker unit to the back-box inputs. The M420's analogue input is via XLR connector, with an XLR tail feeding the loudspeaker. The M420 includes Meridian's 'Superbal' input circuit, making unbalanced operation a simple alternative.

The M420 is now shipping, with a suggested retail price of \$2,185 per unit.

Meridian Audio Limited is based in Huntingdon, near Cambridge, UK, and was founded in 1977 by Allen Boothroyd and Robert Stuart. With a 25-year history of innovation and development of the highest quality consumer audio systems, the award-winning company is widely recognized as a world leader in digital and analog audio reproduction. Meridian developed the world's first audiophile CD player, the world's first consumer digital surround controller, developed the MLP lossless packing systems mandated for use in DVD-Audio and now in emerging high-definition disk formats, and is the only UK audio hardware manufacturer to be a member of the DVD Forum. The company's optical disk players, DSP-based loudspeakers and Digital Theater systems are unique in the industry, maintaining a super-quality digital audio signal throughout the path from the source to the amplifier, and using digital signal processing to generate advanced crossover characteristics that would be impossible with conventional passive analogue systems. Meridian has recently become the exclusive manufacturer and distributor of Faroudja High-Definition video processors and projectors.

For high-resolution images and data sheets, please visit the Meridian Media Center server: <http://media.meridian-audio.com/> or contact Nicoll Public Relations, 781-762-9300 or sue@nicollpr.com