

Meridian 557 Power Amplifier

Meridian have maintained a strong reputation for their power amplifier technology for over 15 years. Until now, their power amp developments have concentrated on high-transparency low-power models or on the custom amplifiers in their renowned active and digital speaker designs.



The 557 takes the Meridian 500 Series into new territory – with 200W of clean clear power – allowing the option of a complete Meridian front end for large passive speakers for the first time. The Meridian 557 like the 505 can be used with the 502, 501, 541 or 562V (with DAC option) preamps, or with the 565 DSP Surround Processor.

The Meridian 557 houses two powerful amplifiers in a dual mono construction. The amplifiers are both rated at 200W into 8 ohms. Each over-specified output stage uses 8 high-power transistors. These, combined with a massive low-noise 1.6kVA toroidal transformer, permit this amplifier to deliver currents in excess of 30A, ensuring no loss of performance even into loads that dip below 2 ohms. The massive power delivery of this amplifier makes it ideal

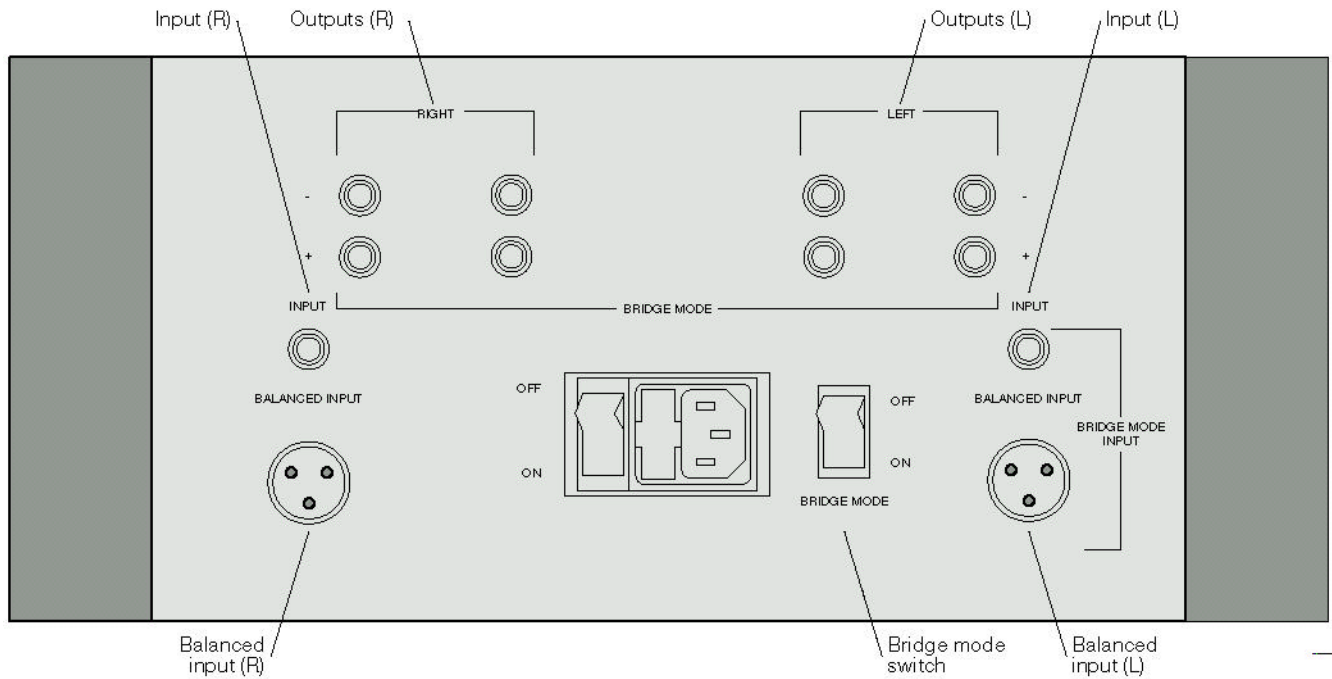
for driving difficult loudspeaker loads.

For real power freaks, the internal bridging system gives full balanced operation and power in excess of 680W into 8 ohms, 1000W into 4 ohms.

The 557 provides balanced and unbalanced inputs as well as twin outputs for bi-wiring.

The topology of 557 is very much in the Meridian tradition. A high-precision fast DC-precise input stage is combined with a fully complementary amplification and output stage. Also, the 557 uses Meridian's well tried self-adjusting bias and error-correction output topology.

As you may expect, the 557 is fully protected against dc and thermal overload. A proprietary Meridian soft-start circuit is also fitted.



Performance

200W into 8 ohms
680W into 8 ohms Bridged
1000W into 4 ohms Bridged
Distortion <0.05%
Signal to noise ratio -90dB
Rear-panel controls for: Power On/Off, Bridge/Stereo Mode
Front-panel power indicator lamp

Inputs and outputs

Balanced on XLR – Sensitivity 3.00vrms (2.21vrms bridged)
Unbalanced on phono – Sensitivity 1.44vrms (1.34vrms bridged)
Twin outputs for bi-wiring

Construction

Two-channel dual-mono construction – Stereo and Bridged
4 pairs of output devices per side
4 high quality smoothing capacitors per side
Error corrected output stage
Idealised magnetic circuit design
Dynamic bridge front end gives fully balanced input operation
Fully protected against dc and thermal overload
Soft start using proprietary Meridian circuit
Dimensions 174mm (6.85in) H, 385 (15.16) W, 306 (12.05) D – Weight 27kg (60lbs)