

Text entry for Meridian decoders

Introduction.

A feature has been added to Meridian 561,568 and 861 which allows users to input text to be displayed on the front panel and OSD during normal operation.

The RS232 interface for Meridian products can be operated from any terminal which operates at 9600 baud with 1 start bit, 1 stop bit and no parity. Text entry commands take the form of 2 ASCII characters, in some cases followed by a signed argument ('nn' below). All characters are echoed by the processor. A carriage return character will execute the command, and backspace is also implemented. When the 'display' command is executed, the product will display the text on its front panel and OSD (aswell as returning it on RS232), 12 characters for the 561 & 568, 20 characters for the 861.

Operation.

Text entry consists of four commands;

- Enter text to buffer
- Modify text in buffer
- Display text
- Clear text from buffer

1. Enter text

TExxxx, where xxxx are four ASCII characters.

2. Display text

TDnn, where nn indicates how long the display should be on for, in multiples of 0.5 seconds, up to a maximum of 6 seconds.

3. Modify text

TPnn sets the text entry point for the next string of four characters.

4. Clear text

Entering TC clears any text held in the buffer. It also resets the text entry point to the first character.

e.g.

TC↵

TEDoor↵

TE bel↵

TEl ↵

TD12↵

Displays "Door bell " for 6 seconds. This could be sent repeatedly for a shorter period (e.g. TD2), to flash the text on the OSD.