

Heed

digital audio transport

OBELISK DT



Users Manual

Thank you for choosing our product!

We have designed the Obelisk DT with music lovers in mind, creating a sophisticated CD-playing component for people in search of a truly musical player, even by the highest analogue standards. We sincerely hope that you will agree, and that your Obelisk DT will provide you with many years of impeccable, trouble-free operation.

Happy listening!

Your Heed Obelisk DT digital audio transport is designed to offer the highest level of performance by avoiding compromise, wherever possible. This detailed guide contains advice specifically concerned with using this CD/HDCD-playing audio transport, as well as more general warnings about the use of domestic audio components.

Please read it carefully.

Precautions

Instructions — All safety and operating instructions should be read and adhered to exactly as written here or as depicted on the unit. Please retain for future reference.

Water and Moisture — The unit should not be used near water — that is, near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, or swimming pool, etc.

Heat — The unit should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, stoves, etc..

Power Sources — The unit should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the unit.

Power-Cord Protection — Power-supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the unit.

Lightning — For added protection during a lightning storm, or when left unattended and unused for long periods of time, unplug the unit from the wall outlet. This will prevent damage to the product due to lightning and power-line surges.

Object and Liquid Entry — Care should be taken so that objects do not fall into and liquids are not spilled into the inside of the unit. For this reason, no objects filled with liquid, such as vases or drinking glasses should be placed on the equipment.

Damage Requiring Service — The unit should be serviced by qualified service personnel when:

- The power-supply cord or the plug has been damaged;
- Objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled into the unit; or the unit has been exposed to rain respectively;
- The unit does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a change in performance;
- The unit has been dropped, or the cabinet damaged.



The Obelisk DT does not have any user serviceable parts. It is essential that repairs and updates are only carried out by our authorised trade partners — distributors and dealers — , or at the factory by Heed Audio itself. Many components are custom made, tested or matched and appropriate replacements are often unobtainable from other sources.

Therefore, users should not attempt to service the unit beyond those means described in the operating instructions, or under any circumstances allow anyone to modify it. Unauthorised repairs or modifications will invalidate the guarantee of the unit.

Grounding or Polarization — Precautions should be taken so that the grounding or polarization is not defeated.

Radio interference — All Heed components are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a domestic installation. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If your Obelisk DT does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning off and on, you are encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

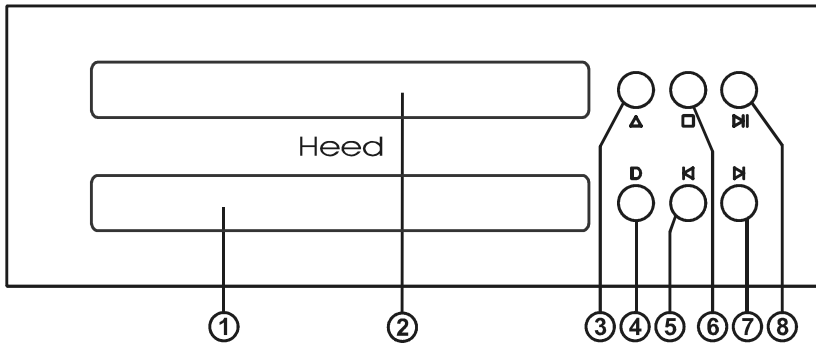
- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna;
- the separation between amplifier and receiver (radio tuner, television set, etc.);
- Connect the equipment into a power outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected;
- your Heed dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Maintenance / Cleaning — It is recommended to dust the equipment from time to time with a soft dry cloth.



**Do not use cleaning solvents or abrasives for cleaning!
Always switch off and unplug the unit from the power supply when cleaning!**

front panel



1	Display for track number and time	5	Previous track	⏮
2	CD tray	6	Stop playing	⏹
3	CD tray opening / closing	7	Next track	⏭
4	Display dimming	8	Play	⏪

The control buttons are duplicated on the remote control handset except for the dim function (4).

rear panel



9	S/PDIF coax output connector	11	Mains connector and fuse socket assy
10	Toslink output connector	12	Power on/off switch

Installation

We believe that a Heed Audio component should optimally be installed by an approved Heed dealer. Nevertheless, the procedure is straightforward enough to enable you to install your new Obelisk DT yourself by following the instructions contained herein. Should any problems be experienced which are not covered here, contact your local dealer. If you are unable to do so, or problems persist, however, do not hesitate to contact our distributor/reseller in your country (see our website <www.heedaudio.com> "worldwide distributors" for details), or contact us directly at Heed Audio ...we're here for you!

unpacking

When opening the box and unpacking the unit, you will find the following items:

- (1) Heed Obelisk DT digital audio transport
- (1) Heed OBELISK remote control handset
- (1) Heed DigiCon digital signal cable
- (1) IEC-norm mains power cord
- (1) Users Manual

placement

You can place the Obelisk DT on any stable surface. Due to its state-of-the-art topology in all key areas, such as data reading, sampling, transferring and buffering, it is much less susceptible than most players to environmental or internal influences, such as the mechanism or power supply, and therefore needs no fancy equipment rack, isolation board or spikes for decoupling.

connection to mains supply



Before performing any connections or disconnections, ensure that the on/off power switch (12) of the unit is in the 'off' position.



Always check that the voltage and frequency of the mains supply corresponds to the specifications marked on the unit!

- ▽ Insert the power cord's IEC type plug into the power inlet connector (6) of the Obelisk DT.
- ▽ Connect the power cord's mains plug to your power outlet.

output connections

There are two output connections available to transmit digital audio data created by the Obelisk DT to a D-to-A converter: **S/PDIF coaxial (9)** and **TOSLINK optical (10)**.

Theoretically, there are no differences between the signals transmitted via optical TOSLINK or coaxial S/PDIF connectors — both carry exactly the same information. Selection of one over the other rests mainly on the availability of appropriate connectors on the chosen equipment and the preference and convenience of the user. In practice, there are pros and cons with both. TOSLINK cables do not work well (and may even suffer permanent damage) if tightly bent, and their high light-signal attenuation limits their effective range to ca. 6 metres (20 ft). On the other hand, TOSLINK cables are not susceptible to ground loops and RF interference, like coaxial cables. In terms of sonic performance, however, we are convinced that coaxial connections have the edge over optical ones. With its smartly designed output stage, the Obelisk DT can drive almost any length of coaxial cable with no data loss, to boot.

If you use Heed Obelisk amplification equipped with one of the optional DAC modules (**Heed Audio Dactil-1** or **Dactil-2**), you can connect the Obelisk DT directly to the amplifier. When the DAC module is correctly mounted in the Obelisk chassis, the Number 1 input (in case of the Obelisk PRE it can also be Number 2 as an alternative) transforms into a true co-axial input. (Either the Left or Right RCA jack may be used to receive the digital signal, but only one of them may be used as such, with the other remaining unconnected.)

Operation



Once the Obelisk DT is connected to the mains supply, as well as to your Obelisk amplifier equipped with a Dactil DAC card or, alternatively, to an external D-to-A converter of a competitor brand via the digital cable included, remove the protective films — the small fixing strip holding the tray firmly during the transport, and the large film covering the whole surface — from the front panel. You can detach them by peeling off and grabbing the films at any of the corners.

Note: This step concerns only the appearance of the amplifier, it has no electrical or mechanical influence on the functioning of the unit.

powering up the DT

When all steps of installation are correctly completed, your Obelisk is ready for action!



After switching on, the unit carries out an automatic self-diagnostics. During this procedure, the display shows: (-- ----). As long as this sign is displayed, do not push any button and do not switch off the unit!

- ▽ If there is no disc in the tray, *NO DISC* is shown on the display. It also signalizes that the unit is ready to be used.
- ▽ If the tray already contains a disc, the unit automatically reads in this after having carried out the automatic self-diagnostic process. During the read-in process the display shows: (-- ----). Following that, the display shows the number of tracks / files and their total length (minutes : seconds) recorded on the disc. The unit is ready for immediate play.

Note: In case of an MP3 or an HDCD disc the read-in time can be longer depending on the library structure of the disc and the number of tracks recorded on it. After having read in the disc, the display shows the number of tracks / files, while the rest of the display shows: 00.00. It is possible that the number of files recorded on the disc is higher than 99, or the length of the disc is longer than 99 minutes. In this case, the display's right field shows the number 99. Regardless of that, also the files beyond 99 can be played.

inserting a disc in the tray

- ▽ Push the ▲ (3) button. The display shows: *OPEN*. As soon as the tray has moved forward completely, place a disc on it.
- ▽ Close the tray by pushing the ▲ (3) button again. The *LOAD* sign appears on the display. The unit begins automatically to read in the disc and when ready displays the relevant details of the disc, such as number of tracks and total length. If a disc other than an audio CD or MP3 is inserted, or if the audio CD disc is damaged, the unit automatically opens the tray again. If this happens, replace the disc with an undamaged audio CD or MP3 disc.



The initial reading of the disc - the *LOAD* sign is shown on the display — takes 15 seconds. This time cannot be shortened and therefore there is no point pushing various buttons, such as ►|| or ◀ ▶ during this process. Wait until the *LOAD* sign changes to the track number / disc length sign on the display and then start playing the disc. The longest time is down to the generously sized 32 MB buffer which guarantees almost jitter-free data transfer and entirely shock-free operation of the unit. A small price for superior performance!

- ▽ The tray can also be closed by pushing the ►|| (8) button. If operated in this way, the disc begins to play from the first track automatically after the initial reading in.



Always operate the tray with the ▲ (3) or ►|| (8) buttons! Do not place anything other than an audio CD or MP3 disc on it when it is open — it cannot hold anything which is substantially heavier than a disc. Avoid bending it in any way and do not push it in by hand because that can cause severe damages to the unit!

playing the disc

- ▽ As soon as the **L OR d** sign disappears and disc details are shown on the display, the unit is ready for play. Push the **▶||** (8) button, and play starts with the first track.
- ▽ In “play” mode you can go to the track you want to play by using the **⏮** (5) and **⏭** (7) buttons, skipping forward **⏭** and backward **⏮** (5). The display moves to higher or lower track numbers accordingly. If you push the **▶||** (8) button after stopping at the track you wish to listen to, play starts at the chosen track. If you change your mind and do not want to play that track, just push the **⏏** (6) button, and the unit is restored to its default state.
- ▽ You can pause play by pushing the **▶||** (8) button, and continue playing by pushing it again. In “pause” mode the display shows the currently played track number and **P**.



If you do not want carry on listening to the disc, stop playing with the **⏏ (6) button instead of keeping the unit in “pause” mode. Never leave the unit in this mode for long!**

- ▽ You stop playing the disc by pushing the **⏏** (6) button. After that the display shows the disc details.

playing previous / next track

- ▽ If you push the **⏭** (7) button while playing, the display shows the current track and changes to the next one almost immediately and continues playing it from the beginning.
- ▽ If you push the **⏮** (5) button while playing, the display shows the current track and starts playing it again from the beginning. If the playing of the current track lasts less than 2 seconds, you can skip back one track by pushing the **⏮** (5) button again. In other words, you need to push the **⏮** (5) button twice to skip back one track.

using the display

The display has two visual states: Constant (lit permanently) and Automatic (dimmed permanently unless operated). You can switch between these states by pushing the **D** (4) button. By default, after switching on, the display lights up and remains (Constant).

- ▽ In any of its functional states, also when playing, you can switch to the Automatic state. By pushing the **D** (4) button the display is switched off immediately and only a little pin-point blue LED shows that the unit is switched on.
- ▽ While in Automatic state, the display lights up immediately when any of the operational buttons are pushed, although this does not restore functionality. To restore functionality, you need to push the button again or, alternatively, to hold down the button longer than for half a second. By doing the latter, not only does the display light up, but also the relevant function is performed. In Automatic state, the displays dims after 7 seconds, no matter whether the unit remains idle or starts to play.



When using the “pause” function, during the initial reading in of the disc, and while skipping between tracks and starting to play a track, the display remains switched on.

- ▽ The Automatic state — when the display is dimmed — can be switched back to Constant (continuous lighting) by pushing the **D** (4) button. The display remains switched on permanently afterwards.

Note: Although you can use your Obelisk DT within seconds of switching it on, as with all audio equipment the best sound quality will be reached after a period of warm-up time, preferably 10-15 minutes. We recommend keeping the unit switched on continually for optimum performance. However, your Obelisk DT should be switched off if left unattended for extended periods, or in the event of thunderstorm. As mentioned previously, it is also necessary to switch the unit off when connecting or disconnecting cables.

Troubleshooting

Basic problem-solving with the Obelisk DT is similar to troubleshooting other hi-fi components. Always check the most obvious possible causes first, such as the following:

Problem	Probable cause	Remedy
Display does not light.	Display is in Automatic (dim) mode.	Push any button on the unit or on the RC handset. If the unit is switched on and pushing the buttons does not activate the display, switch off the unit and switch it on again after a minute. If the problem persists, contact your Heed dealer and seek advice.
Display shows characters not illustrated in the "Operation" chapter.		Switch off the unit and switch it on again after a minute. If the problem persists, contact your Heed dealer and seek advice.
Unit does not read in the disc.	Disc is either damaged or has a format not supported by the Obelisk DT.	Remove the disc and replace it with an undamaged audio CD or MP3 disc.
Unit does not play the disc.	Non-supported disc format.	Remove the disc and replace it with an audio CD or MP3 disc. Switch off the unit and switch it on again after a minute. If the problem persists, contact your Heed dealer and seek advice.

SPECIFICATIONS

Supported disc types:	CD-DA, CD-R, CD-RW
Supported formats:	CD digital audio, HDCD, MP3
Output format:	digital, 2-channel, 44.1 kHz, 16-bit S/PDIF signal
Output connections:	S/PDIF coaxial (75 Ohm RCA), TosLINK optical
Weight:	3.9 kg
Consumption:	max. 15 W

WARRANTY

If within three years of the purchase date your Heed OBELISK DT proves to be defective for any reason other than accident, misuse, neglect, unauthorised modification or fair wear and tear, Heed Audio Ltd. will, at its discretion, replace the faulty parts without charge for labour. This factory warranty is valid only for units sold into countries with no appointed Heed distributor. **Service enquiries in countries with appointed distributor should be addressed first to the supplying dealer and / or Heed distributor. Warranties granted in these countries are entirely at the discretion of distributor.**

DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT



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