

AUDIO TEST

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HECO

Aleva GT 1002

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7.2015

Very Good

HECO Aleva GT1002

www.audio-test.at



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Lise-Meitner-Str. 9 · 50259 Pulheim · Germany · www.heco-audio.de

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White columns

The flagship of the Aleva GT range has gathered momentum and has delighted a wide audience for almost a year now. We have taken a close look at the GT'S in order to find out what the fascination is with Aleva.

It was not only the Federal Republic of Germany that was founded here in 1949, it was also the year in which one of the most traditional loudspeaker manufacturers was established - Heco. Heco has been convincing customers for over 65 years with high-quality loudspeakers for the living room. The company is almost always successful in finding the right balance between tradition and innovation. We had a look round at what the producer has to offer in the popular class up to €2000 and asked to test the Aleva GT range in the laboratory. We tested the top model in the range - the Heco Aleva GT 1002 in stylish white. The body comes across as very robust due to the attached side panels and looks very stylish with its piano lacquer finish. The customer has the choice between a black or white colour scheme. We would recommend the white version for dark living rooms. The enclosure has a stable design with multiple bracing and is made from individual MDF panels. As usual, Heco also fits the speakers with height-adjustable metal or rubber spikes. The Aleva GT 1002 units are not small. At 120 cm, they are real giants among floor-standing loudspeakers. The smaller models in the range are lower in height, but sometimes we also like to have something heavy and powerful. Looking at the front, we immediately notice the D'Appolito arrangement of the individual speakers. Heco has fitted two 130 mm woofers surrounding a 28 mm, newly developed tweeter dome. The ferrofluid cooling and double magnet system enable these to fully maximise their performance. As a result, the Aleva GT 1002 units are fully-fledged 3-way loudspeakers. The bass driver diameter of 250 mm also suggests optimum sound. The woofers are equipped with a hardened long-fibre diaphragm and long-throw surround and are attached to the side because of the slim design of the floor-standing speakers. This means the speakers need to be at least 30 cm away from hard walls so that they can also really score well in terms of sound. The bi-wiring terminals are located at the back of the speakers. These are fitted with metal jumpers and can easily handle any type of connection. A very special feature is the tweeter level adjustment, which can be raised by +2dB with the help of the terminal. Two small drawbacks spoil the very positive overall impression of the white columns a bit. Firstly, the aluminium die-cast baskets, which clash somewhat with the matt white piano lacquer, and the 6 small grey rubber studs at the front, which break up the otherwise very high-quality impression for this class.

But now to what really matters - the sound!

The speakers produce a wonderful result even at delicate volumes. After all, who can turn up their system to full volume at home? The two woofers really have an impact here. For vocals or the finest orchestral sound - the loudspeakers are utterly convincing. Especially with orchestral music, we have the impression that, rather than merely sitting at the concert, we actually have the baton in our hand and are right in the middle of the orchestra, where we can clearly hear each group of instruments.



When setting up, make sure you pay attention to the stereo triangle positioning and a respectable distance from the wall so as to obtain the optimum surround sound experience and also locate the different sections of the orchestra with fine resolution. The spatial representation of the Aleva GT is excellent. Even when things are complex. The speakers do not fail on loud passages, conjuring up a special acoustic treat for our ears. In the rock numbers, we felt like we were actually the drummer! We could feel it every time the sticks struck the drum skins; we believed we could even sense the movement through the air as well as the airflow itself. The wonder speakers manage, as if by magic, to convey to the listener that the music is present in the room separately from the speakers, though each group of instruments can be precisely located.

This effect occurs with vocals and speech, in particular, and we search in bewilderment for the non-existent centre speaker - proof of just how good we find the speech intelligibility of the Alevas.

If you close your eyes and simply enjoy the crystal clear sound from the two speakers, it's almost impossible to determine the source of the sound. We found that completely convincing and it will be particularly noticeable in a positive way during the pending autumnal home cinema evenings. In general, the Aleva GT 1002 units are somewhat rich in overtones and meantones. Even with high-volume playback, it is still possible to detect the smallest nuances in the sound, which supports and reinforces the precision of the soundscape. At this point, we are convinced by the built-in woofers and the mood of the overall sound. A special feature of the Heco speaker is its enormous depth. The built-in subwoofer reaches down to 23 Hz, almost the lower limit of the human hearing range. The frequency response graph shows that the level rises from 4 kHz upwards, meaning that the treble ranges are emphasised slightly. This means that the bass is very powerful for the playback of rock songs, though this can come across as a bit mushy for classical music, sometimes producing rather excessive and somewhat undefined pressure for our taste. However, it's the individual personal taste that decides here. For defined representation of the bass ranges, the Aleva GT Sub 332 A active subwoofer can also be used to reproduce the low-range tones for the GT 1002 - though this is not necessarily required - if you like the bass range, you will certainly be convinced by the overall package offered by the GT's. If you feel you would like to further perfect the sound of the GT's, you will have to try out various set-ups at home to tease everything you can from the Alevas. And this is definitely worth the effort. Despite the small points of criticism at the highest level - what Heco delivers here even convinces "old hands" in the audio sector. The flagship product is heading for the living room. Whether it's a live concert or a studio recording, the speakers resound magnificently with the fantastic surround sound produced.

In short:

If you are looking for new speakers and are in the €2,000 class, then the Aleva GT 1002's are certainly a very good option. We really liked the precise sound and the slight emphasis on the mid-range, in particular, making the speakers genuine all-rounders.

Test result: Very good

Price/performance: Very good

User-friendliness: 8.5/9

Features/finish: 7/9

Mid- and treble range reproduction: 11/12