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HIFI · SURROUND · HIGH END · MUSIK

HECO

AMBIENT 5.1A



Price/performance: outstanding

HECO®

AMBIENT 5.1A

“Those presently looking for a good-quality surround sound system that also has impressive looks could strike lucky with Heco. In addition to looking back on a long tradition in this sector, the developers from Pulheim now also use more modern production methods that would have still been inconceivable in this price segment a few years ago. For example, the satellite speaker enclosures are made of aluminium, the properties of which enable high stability and low resonance with extremely thin walls produced from this material. The greater internal volume also benefits the sound in the end. The elegant, very fine, high-quality brushed finish is pleasing to the eye and cuts a good figure in the living room. The inner workings of the satellite units are also well worth a look. An expensive neodymium magnet system has been implemented for the 20 mm fabric dome and the 75 mm subwoofer – ensuring considerably higher efficiency through its far greater field strength compared with conventional ferrite magnets. The centre speaker has 2 x 75 mm cones which are well able to perform a high stroke rate within an enclosed housing due to their design components, comprising an optimized voice coil and kraft reinforce paper. Through this and the combination with the aluminium enclosure, Heco manages to achieve a high efficiency level with the smallest dimensions. The astonishing weight of the aluminium satellites is immediately noticeable. This may, admittedly, be due to the stylish, 6 mm thick glass plate that serves as a base. However, strength stability are, after all, reassuring attributes that gives you an appetite for more. You can experiment with the setup according to the room and your own personal taste: free-standing or close to the wall – it’s all feasible. Heco has remained conventional in the bass range and added a compactly dimensioned downfire subwoofer to the set. Despite all this compactness - the underlying bass ranges have to come from somewhere. And if not from the enclosure volume, then from power input. Whether Heco delivers enough in this respect?

So we were excited to see what truths would be revealed in the listening room. My word: What was offered in this respect exceeded expectations. In music mode, the set sounded most consistent and homogeneous at a crossover frequency of 150 Hz and was impressive through its tremendously vivid, airy and, in particular, clean sound. The recording of Stevie Wonders "Live at Last" concert was amazing on account of a gripping, vigorous pace, though the woofer could have reached a bit deeper in the bass range. The result was similar for movies. In "The Incredible Hulk", the Hecos did not lose any time, producing a spectacle that created a scintillating atmosphere with awesome dynamics and outstanding effects. Dialogues were rendered with extremely good intelligibility of speech and conveyed good emotionality.”

Hats off to Heco!



Long paths: The thick surround of the cone permits tremendous deflections.



Black Eye: The resolution of the 20 mm tweeter is ultra-clean and very spirited – guaranteeing unforgettable moments.