



HECO

Ascada 300 BTX

"HIGH QUALITY BLUETOOTH SPEAKER WITH A POWERFUL AND HARMONIOUS SOUND"



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The product

The Bluetooth aptX standard is naturally supported, which means that if you've got the right source material, you can listen to music in CD quality. The workmanship exhibited by the speaker is of an extremely high quality. Our test unit is provided with a high-gloss black finish that is lush and deep.

The corners of the thick MDF cabinet are rounded, which enhances the overall impression of quality, as does the narrow aluminium strip on top of the speaker that bears the Heco logo and product name. The base of the Ascada unit not only accommodates four high quality chrome feet, but also the bass reflex port. At the rear is a small, solid aluminium connecting terminal for the mains adapter, a USB port and a 3.5 mm mini audio jack. The chassis, which are firmly screwed to the front panel, house two 20 mm fabric domes, two 92 mm midrange drivers and a 130 mm woofer. Unfortunately, the seamlessly covered fabric grille is not held in place magnetically, but is plugged into the designated holes.

The speaker is equipped with a powerful digital amplifier, which is capable of generating a whopping 80 watts RMS and a short-term peak output of 160 watts. Many entry-level stereo amplifiers aren't capable of producing any more power. Various DSP programmes (such as Vocal, Rock and Ambient) round off the package. If you select the "Linear" option, playback is direct without any DSP influence.

The Bluetooth speaker can also be controlled via the high quality remote control that is supplied. This can control the volume, the EQ (DSP) programme, the source and it can also be used for BT pairing. The user can also operate the remote control to set the Ascada 300 BTX to standby.

The speaker is not intended for battery operation and it is clearly marketed as a classy and elegant Bluetooth speaker for your home. The charging function for smartphones or tablets is an extremely practical feature. The USB terminal provides an output of up to 5V/2.1A. Bluetooth pairing proved to be extremely easy in our test - simply press and hold the button on the remote control. The blue status LED then starts to flash to indicate that the Ascada 300 BTX is ready for connection. The transmission of the Bluetooth signal appears to be very stable; in fact we didn't experience any problems at all.

Sound

How does the rather large Bluetooth speaker fare acoustically-speaking when compared to its competitors? Rather well, in fact, especially in terms of its opulent level stability, as is demonstrated in "Everybody" by Mike Candys (one of the summer hits of 2013). The heavy bass line is generated in a hard and powerful manner, while the spatial effect is impeccable. The Ascada 300 BTX sounds so rich and powerful in the "Linear" mode that we felt it unnecessary to use the DSP programmes. Even when faced with the very hard bass lines in Sam Sbarro's summer hit, "Happyness", the Ascada 300 BTX doesn't capitulate: it goes about its work with good level stability and without any dynamic loss. Vocals are reproduced exquisitely by the powerful Bluetooth speaker and they are cleanly differentiated from the instruments. Minor dynamic nuances are handled really well. The spatial effect is amazing and the sound dissolves extremely well from the chassis. The pleasant, lively, but not too sharp overall acoustic performance makes it perfect for longer listening sessions.

We travel back to the 80s with the Ascada 300 BTX and listen to "Building A Bridge To Your Heart". The speaker also gets to work here in a powerful and emphatic manner and it reproduces a rich sound that is every bit as good as a micro stereo system. Brief beats are identified accurately and incorporated extremely quickly. What's offered here is brilliant and ideal for everyday listening.

"Living On A Prayer" was a big hit in the 80s for Bon Jovi and it still makes for great listening. The digital amplifier once again lets its entire performance unfold and is anything but a party pooper. Jon Bon Jovi's vocals and the electric guitar sound really good, although the guitar could do with sounding a bit more groovy. The one-hit wonder "Living In A Box" by Living In A Box once again proves to be a ray of sunshine. Everything proceeds dynamically with a powerful bass range; the amplifier doesn't need to take a breather and the chassis also appear to handle things well. Heco's developers have obviously done a great job here.

The extended version of "Oh Patty" rounds off our trip to the 80s. The hit by Scritti Politti really reveals the true qualities of the Ascada Bluetooth speaker. The reproduction is laden with effects, exhibits an enormous level of spatial density and features a level of sovereignty

that rivals that of an exquisite mini hi-fi system. Changes to the rhythm and effects in the track are reproduced extremely well by the speaker.

Another aspect that we also like a lot is that Heco's speaker doesn't demand a high volume for everything to fully unfold. In fact, listening at low volume is really fun, because the level of spatiality and fullness of the sound pattern are utterly compelling.

Conclusion

Heco can also be used wirelessly - and how: The Ascada 300 BTX is resplendent with enormous level stability and a powerful, pleasant playback. The level of spatiality is something we also find rather compelling. Formally simple, the Bluetooth speaker exhibits exquisite workmanship. Bluetooth 4.0 with aptX is on board - signal transmission is stable and a connection is established easily. Even though there's no NFC it's not really missed. The DSP programmes make an attractive feature, but they're not really necessary.

- + Very stable
- + Powerful and pleasant sound
- + Stable Bluetooth connection
- + Very good workmanship
- + Charging function for smartphones

