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"With the Ascada 600 Tower active wireless loudspeaker, Heco offers a practical and elegant way to enjoy high-quality Hi-Fi sound at home."



# HECO

## Ascada 600 Tower



Heco Ascada 600 Tower  
very good

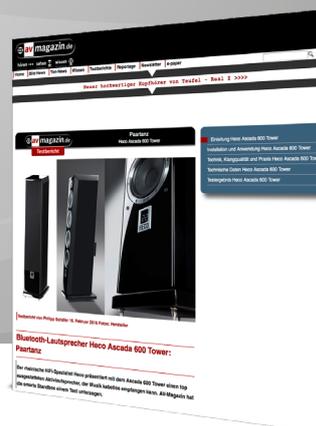
TOP CLASS

SOUND: GOOD - VERY GOOD

CONFIGURATION: OUTSTANDING

OPERATION: VERY GOOD

FINISH: VERY GOOD



# HECO

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## Duet

With the Ascada 600 Tower, the Rhineland-based hi-fi specialist Heco presents an active loudspeaker with top features that can receive music wirelessly. AV-Magazin has tested the smart floor-standing speaker.

With the Ascada range, Heco already has multi-award-winning active loudspeakers in its programme. These currently include the Ascada 300 BTX desktop loudspeaker, the Ascada 2.0 compact speaker and the Ascada 600 Tower floor-standing loudspeaker presented here. What they all have in common is a full range of features that leaves hardly anything to be desired. In addition to the obligatory loudspeaker technology, the Ascada speakers are fitted with integrated amplifiers, crossovers and the practical Bluetooth wireless technology. This enables the Heco loudspeakers to receive music wirelessly from a computer, smartphone or tablet. In addition, the Ascada speakers can be the central home entertainment interface and therefore replace an entire hi-fi system. You can read in the following report just how that works and, in particular, sounds.

## Installation and use

The Heco Ascada 600 Tower is supplied in a cardboard box as a pre-configured stereo pair with a right master loudspeaker and a left slave speaker. The user has the option of establishing the connection between the two loudspeakers via wireless mode or cable. Although the wireless radio connection between the left and the right Ascada Tower is very practical, it is also associated with a short time lag between the input signal and the audio output. Those who only want to listen to music via the Heco loudspeakers are therefore free to choose. Those who want to listen to video and film sound in addition to audio should use the XLR cable provided to connect the left-hand speaker to the right-hand unit. This then does away with the brief signal delay between the audio input and playback, which ensures lip-synch with the video image. Located at the rear of the master loudspeaker are the analogue and digital audio inputs via which the television, hard disk recorder, Blu-ray/DVD player and games consoles are connected. There is a choice of a stereo cinch input, a subwoofer output as well as one optical and one electrical digital input.

The Ascada 600 speaker also receives music wirelessly via Bluetooth. The different audio sources are switched over via a high-quality remote control. This is characterised by a flat aluminium housing and ergonomically shaped buttons. The visual feedback via activated settings is given via the display recessed into the baffle. The two USB ports are also worthy of mention. Computers can be connected via the small type B socket using the USB cable provided. The integrated electronics in the Ascada 600 then act as a sound card that can be selected as playback medium in the audio system settings of the Mac or PC. The integrated digital converter enables the Hecos to also play high-resolution FLAC files with up to 24 bits and 96 kilohertz in addition to AIF, WAV and MP3 files. Heco has even included a USB power outlet at the back of the housing for charging smartphones and tablets. This provides the typical charging voltage of 5 volts with a maximum current of 2.1 amps, which ensures that the battery is charged quickly.

## Technology

Powerful signal conversion is guaranteed by a strong power amplifier, which can generate up to 110 watts of RMS power output. This benefits the total of five chassis, which are flush mounted in the high-gloss baffle. The frequency band from the bass to the lower fundamental range at 350 hertz is handled by as many as three 125 mm diameter subwoofers with an acoustically optimised paper membrane. Located directly above the bass trio is an identical chassis as the mid-range driver. The latter converts the tone ranges between 350 and 2,600 hertz, making it largely responsible for the important voice reproduction. Incorporated into the front at the top is a 25 mm tweeter with the textile membrane surrounded by a horn. This enabled Heco to optimise the directivity as well as the efficiency of the short-wave converter. The latest Bluetooth Version 4 is responsible for wireless audio reception. Those using a compatible smartphone or tablet that supports the compression standard aptX, can even enjoy wireless transmission in CD quality.

This does not apply to iPhone or iPad users because the mobile devices from Apple unfortunately do not support the aptX standard as yet.

## Sound quality and practice

We first play a current pop sampler from the smartphone via Bluetooth. The Ascada speakers have a very wide-band sound. Despite the relatively small subwoofer, the Hecos manage to build up good pressure in our listening room. The basses sound agile and tight, enjoyable with decent punch and good control. The Ascada 600 Towers then shine in the mid-tone range with very present voice reproduction characterised by a high degree of expressiveness and wonderful brilliance. When we then connect a CD player via the digital input, the Rhineland speakers display a touch more resolution and sound somewhat finer. Katie Melua's voice sounds wonderfully delicate and velvety. The dome tweeters complement the soundscape with silky soft trebles, which do not come across as obtrusive, even at high levels. Only the discreet background noise of the Hecos can diminish the sound experience in very quiet passages of music. There are no hitches with control via the remote control, which is nice to use with short response times and a logical, intuitive key layout. Also worthy of mention are the tone controls at the rear of the right master speaker. These can be used to set the bass and treble volume of the two Heco towers. This enables the tonal sound balance of the active speakers to be adjusted to your personal listening preferences easily and quickly.

## Clear text

**With the Ascada 600 Tower active wireless loudspeaker, Heco offers a practical and elegant way to enjoy high-quality hi-fi sound at home. Thanks to Bluetooth, wireless music feeds via Smartphone or tablet are quick and easy while the versatile connectivity enables flexible integration into existing AV systems.**