



"...We are dealing here with top materials and the best technologies available in this price category."



HECO Celan GT 202



Class: UPPER CLASS
Price/performance: VERY GOOD
Sound/practice/features/
overall rating: **1.0**



HECO Celan GT 602

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Welcome to the luxury class!

Small loudspeakers are often said not to produce really big sound, but this is wrong because more compact speakers have been able to hold their own with the more voluminous representatives for quite some time now in terms of sound engineering. One of these promising models is the Heco Celan GT 202. A loudspeaker that not only has amazing features, but also attracts attention through its design and finish. We have taken a closer look at the stylish compact units. In this report, we have set ourselves the task of thoroughly examining a particularly exciting and visually attractive gem. The GT 202, a shelf-top loudspeaker from Heco.

Elegance on the outside and an awful lot of class inside

It is immediately noticeable after opening the box that the Celan GT 202's waiting to be put into action are not 'cookie cutter' products because they are not packed in simple protective film like other speakers. No, Heco covers it treasures with fine fabric cloths in accurately fitting polystyrene. Once these two items have been removed, the high-quality processing of the materials, which can almost be described as "luxurious", then really comes to the fore - a feeling as if visiting a fancy car show. The multiple braced MDF enclosure comes in a sophisticated high-gloss lacquer finish - with the colour options of Piano White, Piano Black and Piano Espresso. In addition to the elegant lines and the slim design, it is clear from touching the unit for the first time that we are dealing with a compact heavyweight. Weighing in at almost 8 kg, the speakers promise toughness and stability. Removing the fabric protection cover then completely reveals the design concept of the Celan range. The exposed front with its 30-millimetre tweeter and the 130 mm subwoofer located beneath presents itself in a visually homogeneous and well-proportioned way. The slightly curved sides help to produce a coherent form to the rear of the unit. The latter is fitted with an amazingly equipped terminal panel and, above that, with the bass reflex opening typical for Heco.

All of these components not only appear high quality; they actually are. Above all, the sophisticated aluminium surrounds, which come across as particularly modern and stylish in contrast to the piano lacquer.

The best for the price

And now let's take a look inside: Reading what the traditional manufacturer has installed here is very impressive, especially for the experts. It will mean something to real hi-fi professionals that the

subwoofers are surrounded by die-cast aluminium cages and fitted with the proven kraft paper cone. This promises a perceptible minimisation of the distortion factor and a natural, undistorted sound. Turning our attention to the treble range, a highly modern high-energy tweeter has been developed specially for the Celan GT range and is responsible for particularly clear sound resolution, as we have already been able to establish in our multi-channel test of the Celan GT series. The gold-plated screw terminals at the rear are not only pleasing to the eye; they also promise maximum quality and perfectionism. For all those who have so far not specially occupied themselves with the inner workings of loudspeakers, these exemplary components of the Celan GT 202 units can be summarised simply: We are dealing here with top materials and the best technologies available in this price category. Now we're looking forward all the more to seeing what sound we can expect with the speakers already connected (small tip: do use good-quality loudspeaker cables!) and aligned with effortless ease.

"Pure music ..."

As so often, we also start this test with somewhat quieter tones. With classic "songwriter music", i.e. just vocals and an acoustic guitar, you get the impression that you are actually in the recording studio. Every slight rasp in the voice and every creaking of the strings is really noticeable - quite apart from the entire range of the sound spectrum being reproduced in a very balanced way. Shortly afterwards, everything then gets somewhat more dynamic - with "Innuendo" by Queen, Casper's "Im Ascheregen" and the test classic "Alles neu" from Peter Fox. A repertoire, as quickly becomes evident, that makes us even more enthusiastic: The speakers handle the distinctly more powerful bass ranges just as perfectly as the denser soundscape of the various instruments. Treble, bass and mid-frequency ranges form a natural entity, though without "flattening everything out". It seems almost as if the Hecos recognise intuitively what matters most depending on the piece of music concerned. An impressive presentation.

In the third test section, we then really let it rip - and in the most varied genres with plenty of power. So Metallica's "Enter Sandman" is an absolute must, just like "Insomnia" from Faithless. However, the two shelf-top speakers from Heco also handle this endurance test in a masterful manner throughout. The dynamics, tonal precision and abundance of sound are fascinating, with the strong bass ranges providing a maximum level of power that is really even too much for a normal living room. Despite the distinctly raised volume, no facet of the sound is left out, with every detail perceptible. Important in this regard: You cannot hear any background noise. No scratching, no rattling - nothing. Just pure music and energy!

In terms of power and dynamics, the Celan GT 202's can be awarded the top score in our view. But we haven't finished yet because, for fans of large orchestras, it is not primarily a question of the intensity of the bass ranges but, rather: Can I detect the individual instruments or does everything simply merge together more or less into a "pap of sound"? To answer this question adequately, we try to find a possible weakness with Beethoven's 9th. Nothing of the kind! After just a few seconds, it's quite clear:

The soundscape is transparent throughout, with neither the strings nor the brass section or percussion missing out. Despite the huge variety of instruments, the entire stage remains rangy and detailed throughout. We mention the stage because this is particularly broad - though not to broad - and it also has an amazing depth in acoustic terms. Incidentally, this ensures, in turn, a correct representation of the instruments used. An important point because smaller speakers, in particular, do often tend towards exaggeration. But not our test units, which have so far proven to be genuine all-rounders with an ability to specialise.

Conclusion

Those who want top sound and also have an eye for form and design would certainly be well advised to take a look at the Celan GT 202 from Heco. The mix of proven technologies and state-of-the-art development ensures that these speakers simply do not display any weakness regardless of the music genre concerned. From quiet to very, very loud, the soundscape is just right and conveys an extremely realistic music experience. Just as if you were there live. Although the current purchase price of around EUR 850 for a pair of speakers may well appear a bit stiff for some music fans at first glance, this product certainly belongs to the high-end segment in terms of both sound and finish. The Celan GT 202's have their price, but it is absolutely justified in comparison with the competition. In a few words: Fans of stirring sound experiences set in perfection are guaranteed to get their money's worth!