

Das große Testmagazin für TV- und Home-Entertainment

"...ideal symbiosis of top design and the best sound!"

HECO

Celan GT 5.1 SET



TOP CLASS

TEST ASSESSMENT: OUTSTANDING
PRICE/PERFORMANCE "EXCELLENT"
SCORE: 1.0



HECO

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

Heimkino
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Slimline

The tradition German manufacturer Heco has had a real winner in its program for years now with the Celan range by virtue of the Celan loudspeakers offering first-class sound of the highest quality and a great finish at fair prices. Heco is now offering a particularly elegant alternative in visual terms with the Celan GT Slimline models.

The Celan GT 602, Celan GT 202 and Celan GT Center 32 models introduced at the end of 2014 are especially designed for use in modern living rooms by virtue of the fact that they perfectly match current furnishing trends with their lean proportions. Although bulky loudspeaker enclosures with wide fronts do offer a number of acoustic benefits, it is normally not so easy to argue in favor of them with the female "better half". Heco's new Celan GT Slimline models present quite different advantages: Together with their elegant craftsmanship, premium high-gloss finish, high-quality chassis materials and elegant design, the Celans present a veritable feast for the eyes.

Celan GT Slimline

The roughly 1 meter high Celan GT 602 floor-standing loudspeakers and the Celan GT 202 shelf-top speakers used in our 5.1 set for the rear channels are barely 20 centimeters wide. Also new in the Celan GT range is the Center 32, which can easily be integrated into the living room with its compact dimensions, i.e. 49 cm wide and 175 mm high. All enclosures in the range are produced in an extremely stable and precise manner, have slightly rounded fronts and a tapered rear profile. The Celan GT Slimline models are available with an excellent high-gloss lacquer finish in black, white or espresso brown. The front, center and rear speakers have an identical chassis assembly comprising woofers with a 110 mm cone and particularly low-resonance, light and nevertheless stable, long-fiber "kraft paper" as well as a 25 mm dome tweeter. The large Celan GT 602 3-way floor-standing loudspeaker has two additional woofers, also with a 110 mm kraft paper cone. All of the cone drivers have stable aluminum die-cast cages, robust long-stroke rubber beads, elaborately linearized magnetic drives and efficient voice coils - guaranteeing a high level of efficiency with a huge load capacity at the same time. The Heco developers have also delved deep into their box of technical tricks with regard to the tweeter by fitting it with a extra lightweight and nevertheless rigid 25 mm polyfiber compound dome.

Together with a powerful double magnetic drive and the lightweight horn set in the solid aluminum tweeter front panel, this chassis is able to emit a very high and undistorted level from 3,000 Hz to far above 40 kHz. To ensure powerful deep bass reproduction without any flow noise, Heco relies in all the Celan GT models on particularly large, round bass reflex tubes. These are made of die-cast aluminum and screwed to the enclosure. The speaker connector terminal with solid bi-wiring terminal screws is also commendable. An additional connector terminal enables optimum treble level adjustment of +2 dB: the sound of the Hecos can be optimized in the living room depending on personal preference or acoustic factors in the listening area.

Subwoofer Phalanx 302 A

As there is currently no explicit Celan subwoofer in the slimline design, we combined the Heco Phalanx 302, which matches perfectly in both visual and acoustic terms, with the Celan set. This still relatively compact subwoofer measuring 38x44x42 centimeters complements the Celan set ideally thanks to the elegant high-gloss lacquer finish of the front and top of the enclosure. Its chassis assembly comprises a low-frequency driver with a 300 mm cone and a likewise 300 mm large passive membrane that performs the acoustic function of a bass reflex opening, though without producing any flow noise whatsoever even at high levels. For optical reasons, both the driver and the passive membrane are concealed under a black fabric cover at the sides of the enclosure. In addition to the usual controls for level, phase and crossover frequency, the Phalanx also has a bass extension control, which allows infinitely variable adjustment of the frequencies between 30 and 50 hertz across the entire sound range of the woofer. This means that the sound characteristics of the Phalanx 302 A can be set between "rich and powerful" to "lean and precise" according to the setup location (close to the wall) and personal preference.

Laboratory and practice

In the acoustics laboratory, the Celan GT Slimline models show their best side and score extra points for their very linear frequency response and exemplary impulse response. Even the tower speakers alone achieve a lower cut-off frequency of 50 hertz, while the subwoofer extends the frequency range of the 5.1 set impressively by around another 35 hertz.

In terms of sound, the Celan GT set benefits from the practically identical assembly of all the components, with multichannel movie sound being played as a unified whole. The Heco set demonstrates its extremely high sound level in a tonally very balanced and harmonious manner. Our test movie, "Django Unchained" from Quentin Tarantino, revealed the crystal clear and dynamic basic tuning setup of the Heco set: Dialogs and sound effects sound genuine and present without any understatement of particular frequencies or suppression of the finer details. The Heco Celan GT Set also forms a realistic sound stage on which the actual loudspeakers cannot be located as such but, rather, build a perfect soundscape. In the thrilling sound sequences, the powerful and precise Phalanx subwoofer expands the movie enjoyment enormously, providing the appropriately rich low-frequency boost for the big showdown of the movie, including the blowing up of the house. The Heco Celan GT Set provides a lot of home movie fun and masters the entire range of thrilling movie sounds inside and out.

Conclusion

So schön kann Heimkino sein: Das A home movie theater can be so good: The Celan GT Slimline 5.1 Set is pleasing to both the eye and the ear. With perfect craftsmanship quality and lean and elegant proportions, the Heco Set is a real highlight for every living room. The Heco developers have succeeded through the use of the most modern chassis technology in endowing the set with absolutely top-class sound quality. In terms of tone and dynamics, the smart Celan GT Slimline does not have to make any concessions whatsoever compared with substantially more voluminous sets. Heco Celan GT: ideal symbiosis of top design and the best sound!

Tested: HECO Celan GT Slim 5.1 Set (2 x GT602, 2 xGT 202, GT Center and New Phalanx 302 A)

- + exquisite craftsmanship quality
- + optional treble adjustment
- + slim design

TOP CLASS
Test verdict: OUTSTANDING
Price/performance: EXCELLENT
HIGHLIGHT