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Edition 1/2013

HECO

Celan GT 5.1 Set



Heco has been offering a speaker series for discerning users for some years now in the shape of its Celan product range. What is now the third generation of this classic range has once again been improved and further enhanced in a large number of details. We have conducted extensive tests with a Celan 5.1 set to establish what influence this model update has for home cinema applications.

The "GT" in Heco's new Celan range stands for "Generation Three", i.e. the 3rd generation of a classic, in which a tried-and-tested basic concept has been optimised and its details further enhanced. The Celan speakers are part of Heco's upmarket series and are derived from the basic principle surrounding the ultimate high-end speaker, namely "The Statement". The hugely elaborate design and structure is clear as soon as the Celan speakers are unpacked. The GT 502s, which weigh in at around 28 kg, are certainly no lightweights. Equally impressive is the excellent quality lacquer; a perfect high gloss finish on mirror-smooth surfaces - on all sides of the speaker.

Celan GT 502 front speakers

By selecting the 502 GT model we have opted for the smallest floorstanding speakers in the Celan series, which, in our case, are provided with a high-gloss white lacquered surface. All of the Celan models are also available in a high-gloss black or elegant Espresso finish. The exceptional lacquered finish is an indication that quality has been given top priority in the Celan series. Head of Development, Sandro Fisher, has provided the 502 GT floorstanding speaker, the 302 GT shelf speaker, the 42 Center speaker and the matching SUB 322A subwoofer with high-grade chassis material. The two new woofers used in the GT 502 speaker are equipped with 170 mm cones manufactured from kraft paper, which is a particularly sturdy and ideal mixture of paper in terms of acoustics. Heco has also flow-optimised the shape of the aluminium die-cast baskets and linearised the field lines of the powerful magnetic drive. The upper of the two chassis also caters for playback of the mid-range frequencies and therefore features a slightly different cone, a lighter voice coil and a magnetic drive that has been optimised for the mid-range. This duo is complemented by a large, extremely powerful 30 mm dome tweeter. Other significant details of the Celan 502 GT include the rounded die-cast aluminium bass-reflex tubes and the generously dimensioned bi-wiring connecting terminals. The 502 GT can be operated with a "neutral" setting or with a gentle 2 dB treble boost.

Celan GT 302 rear speakers

In principle, the chassis components used in the GT 302 shelf speaker are identical to the bass-midrange and dome tweeter used in the GT 502. The additional bass driver present in the GT 502 is not incorporated, however, due to the speaker's more compact dimensions. Nevertheless, the identical basic design and structure promises an homogeneous overall sound pattern in a multi-channel setup. In terms of the quality of workmanship and configuration (lacquered finish, bi-wiring terminal, optional treble reduction, etc.) the small GT 302 is of the same high level as the other Celan GT models.

Celan Center 42

For coherent reproduction of the centre channel in surround sets, Heco offers the ideal partner for its Celan series in the shape of the Center 42. The chassis used are identical to those found in the other Celan models, however, in the Center 42, the two bass-midrange drivers are positioned to the left and right-hand side of the tweeter.

Celan SUB 322A subwoofer

The SUB 322A is what a "real" subwoofer should look like: a powerful 30 cm chassis in an adequately dimensioned, sturdy housing. The high-performance bass unit from Heco weighs in at 36 kg, yet it still looks astonishingly suitable for the living room thanks to its trapezoidal design and elegant lacquer finish. The correct degree of oomph is ensured by a 220 watt active module, which is more than adequately equipped with level and phase controllers, high-level inputs and outputs, as well as RCA inputs and outputs. At the rear of the SUB 322A are three large, rounded bass reflex tubes, which should eliminate all flow noise even when operated at high volume.

Laboratory

Two large woofers in the ample housing certainly make an impact, as our laboratory measurements reveal a clean bass response of below 60 Hz for the Celan 502 GT. Moreover, the mid/treble range generated by the Heco unit remains extremely neutral. Just as pleasing is the clean pulse fidelity generated by this speaker. The SUB 322A sets new standards in the deep bass range with a huge bass response of up to 28 Hz and a clean reflex coordination.

Sound

The Celan GT set gave an impeccable presentation in the HIFI-TEST listening room. The 5.1 combo reproduced the action thriller "Salt" in a very crisp, dynamic and precise manner. With a powerful, yet dry reproduction of the bass range and extremely deep levels, Heco's set really makes you want to crank things up even more. The Celan set manages to remain clear and precise at high levels; voices remain present amidst complex chase scenes and are positioned at the right places in a very vivid and natural way. During the abduction scene in Salt, which takes place in a huge church, the coherent and homogeneously coordinated set conveys a realistic three-dimensional impression, which transforms the home cinema, at least acoustically, into the huge interior of the church. The neutral coordination and precise attention to detail exhibited by the Celan speakers mean the set is also suitable for uncompromising, high-quality hi-fi playback.

Conclusion

Heco has once again achieved a major success with its new Celan GT series. These speakers, which have been manufactured to an extraordinarily high standard, master the entire acoustic repertoire at a very high level. With its almost infinite dynamics, fantastic degree of spatiality, balanced sound quality and unrestrained fervour and intensity the Heco Celan GT set proves to be a genuine highlight.