

STEREO-TEST

"Heco presents a far from commonplace sound transducer that wants to be different – and is! STEREO thinks it's great!"



HECO

Direkt

STEREO - TEST	01/17
SOUND-LEVEL	77%
PRICE/PERFORMANCE	
★★★★☆	
EXCELLENT	



HECO

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Stylish and flat

Heco presents a far from commonplace sound transducer that wants to be different – and is! STEREO thinks it's great!!

When you look at the "Direkt" model of the traditional Heco for the first time, you can immediately say goodbye to normal pigeonhole definitions. This sound transducer would appear not to fit in the category of a compact or floor-standing speaker. The goal of the development for the designers was a high-efficiency two-way loudspeaker intended to harmonise with small tubes or transistor amplifiers. The design and dimensions are at least unorthodox and the whole thing is anything but discreet with a respectable weight of almost 27 kg, a height of just under 1 metre with the three-legged metal base, and a width of as much as 44 cm. On the other hand, the loudspeaker is, at 23 cm, relatively flat - though not including the base supporting the rear-sloping enclosure. In more recent times, most loudspeakers look different, that's for sure. The unit here is certainly not something that lust looks good but is useless, nor is it an audiophile monitor in which the small bass-midrange driver 'flops' when putting on AC/DC. Pure intention

Irrespective of the sturdy MDF, the effect of the enclosure is as if the speaker was floating. In addition, the inclination contributes to a time correction through the bass driver being positioned further forward and the tweeter further to the rear in relation to the listener. Very clever.

Elaborate assembly

The loudspeaker drivers used are not "off-the-shelf" products; they have been tailor-made specially for use in the Heco Direkt and are, in part, the result of a completely new development process. While the 28 mm silk dome has been designed with an exceptionally powerful drive together with a double magnet and Wave Guide horn geometry for extremely clean and highly efficient reproduction with astonishing dynamics, the unusually large, almost 28 cm, cone low-midrange driver delivers a rich foundation. It can rely on a high-performance voice coil in the structure, as well as a low-loss surround and a high-quality aluminium die-cast basket.

In addition to high efficiency, i.e. good "feed conversion", great importance has also been attached to good-natured roll-off behaviour in order to not to have to make the phase-optimised, high-quality cross-overs more elaborate than necessary or desirable through excessively steep edges or even absorption circuits. The distribution of tasks between the two chassis occurs at 2,350 hertz. The entire design and concept was carried out with the help of scientific tools, such as the Klippel measuring system. Even the balancing of the magnet systems is the result of meticulous research, which will pay off by ensuring the lowest possible distortions.

An absolute speciality at Heco is the 'kraft' paper used as membrane material. This is an extremely high tensile strength paper that is produced in the traditional drawing process and comprises the congenial combination of long, interlocking cellulose and absorbing wool threads. The bass range is supported by a kind of twin-plug structure with two downward-firing reflex tunnels. The appearance of the Heco could be subsumed under the heading of "effortless". What this loudspeaker conjures up in terms of sound is great and is characterised by a casualness that, nevertheless, lacks nothing at any point with regard to precision, 3D or details.

What it displays, rather, is an unabatedly clear temperament committed to the truth, which it exudes to produce a mature and gratifyingly neutral sound even at low levels. The musical flow and superb timing are striking because there is absolutely nothing out of line. Orchestral software like Mozart's Requiem testifies to the holistic overview, while Tutti as well as Metallica show off the grandiose dynamics. The Heco engineers have mastered the important transition to the higher mid-ranges in an excellent way.

In 1991/92, Tori Amos is sitting in front of her grand piano in Montreux in person; the dimensionality is spot on and her voice is emotionally overwhelming. The clean, crisp bass generated by the unusually large subwoofer is deep and defined, which never makes it appear overpowering and allows use in a normal living room without any difficulty. It is precisely its efficiency, i.e. operating with "just a few watts", that makes the Heco Direkt an experience, both in its price class and, in some cases, beyond. Those using it with a small amplifier will be happy. And those with just a bit more power up their sleeve will be even happier, in my opinion anyway.



Because the Heco can cope with endless power and delivers uncompromising levels accordingly. Impressive.

Comment from the laboratory

The frequency response is very balanced on the axis and reaches down deep to below 30 hertz. The efficiency level is remarkable good, at around 10 dB (!) above the average. The impedance curve is clearly linearised, making it suitable for tube or Class D amplifiers. The speakers should be angled towards the listening position because of the abaxial high-frequency attenuation. The step response displays good timing.