



"The Ascada 2.0 stereo system stands out with superb features and sophisticated technology, resulting in excellent sound quality and diversity of application."

HECO Ascada 2.0



Sound: Very good
Configuration: Outstanding
Operation: Very good
Workmanship: Very good

Class: Upper class
Price/performance:
Very good
Overall rating: Very good



HECO

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

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With the Ascada 2.0, hi-fi specialist Heco presents a stereo wireless loudspeaker that wants to play its way into the hearts of smartphone and tablet users. AV-Magazin has tested how well the smart speaker duo works in practice.

Heco, the audio pioneer from the Rhine region, has already shown with the Ascada 300 BTX Bluetooth speaker how wireless loudspeakers with powerful sound reproduction are built. We were able to convince ourselves of this in an extensive test in which the one-piece stereo system was able to score well with exceptionally good audio quality. The latest offshoot of the Ascada range is the 2.0, costing around 600 Euro per pair. In this case, the product name says it all: 2.0 stands for stereo reproduction via two individual loudspeakers. With this, Heco wants to build a bridge between the compact one-piece and classic two-piece stereo hi-fi solutions. Everything needed for audio reproduction is provided. Apart from the obligatory loudspeaker woofers, a digital pre-amp and power amp are also integrated. To offer the customer the greatest possible variety of connections, the Ascada 2.0 system has, in addition to wireless connection via Bluetooth, digital and analog audio ports that make the Heco set a universal hi-fi center in the living room, study and hobby room. Find out in the following report what exciting possibilities this results in.

Operation

The Heco Ascada system offers three volume control possibilities: on a smartphone or tablet, via remote control or directly on the loudspeaker. The control needed for this is located on the right side of the right-hand speaker. Below this are two more control knobs for individual sound settings. Using the two potentiometers, the bass and treble levels can be adjusted independently of each other in order to adapt the stereo speakers to one's own personal listening taste. Direct control of the device is carried out on the speaker containing the stereo amplifier. In the Heco system, only the right-hand speaker contains the control and amplifier electronics. The left-hand speaker, on the other hand, is a passive design and therefore does not have any power amps or audio ports. The signal connection between the two speakers ensues via the supplied loudspeaker cable with secure contact ensured on the sturdy gold-plated screw terminals.

Application

With the top features offered, the Heco Ascada 2.0 is suitable for numerous applications. Using the Bluetooth function, the speaker set receives music wirelessly from computers, smartphones or tablets. Any device is suitable for use which has the Bluetooth short-range wireless service. No app or special program is needed to enjoy music via wireless transmission. Simply activate Bluetooth and set the speakers to pairing mode via the remote control. Then select the Ascada 2.0 as the playback medium in the smartphone or tablet system settings, and that's it. From then on, you can enjoy music with the Heco active speakers at any time at your fingertips. If the playback hardware supports the so-called aptX-Codec, reproduction is even in CD quality. Those who want to use the Ascada 2.0 as computer loudspeakers will be delighted with the integrated sound card. This enables the speaker to receive digital music signals via a USB cable. The Heco speakers then appear in the computer's operating system as an output medium and can be used to play back web videos, music or audio books. The Ascada 2.0 also performs very well in a classic stereo hi-fi setup. Thanks to the analog and digital audio inputs, CD players, digital video recorders and TV receivers can be connected to the speakers without any difficulty. Those wanting to extend the low-frequency range can connect an active subwoofer via a Cinch cable. A USB charge connector is also provided for topping up power-hungry smartphones and tablets at any time. Charging is then particularly fast thanks to the maximum available current of 2.3 amperes.

Technology

The right-hand master speaker has a built-in stereo power amplifier, which can generate a solid 35 watt RMS output per channel. The built-in loudspeaker system is a classic two-way design operating via dedicated tweeters and subwoofers. These are supplied with audio signals in both speakers by passive crossovers. The Heco engineers have set the crossover frequency between the tweeter and the subwoofer at around 2,600 Hertz.

The short-wave ranges are transmitted via a textile dome. To optimize the dispersion behavior, the dome-shaped radiation surface is embedded in an aluminum sound guide. Low frequencies are reproduced by the 12.5 centimeter cone woofer, which has a paper cone.

Sound quality

For the listening test, we first played the music wirelessly from the computer. We liked the Heco speakers straightaway with their wonderful resolution and smooth sound.



The tonal coordination was pleasing on account of being pleasantly balanced. The treble and mid ranges always sounded clearly and cleanly defined and were crystal clear. The bass reproduction is astonishingly dynamic and powerful for a compact loudspeaker, with the result that hip hop and pop music can also really come into their own on this system. Those using the Heco Ascada 2.0 close up as computer speakers will be able to completely rediscover computer games. The power and authenticity with which the two speakers transmit the sound effects is magnificent. However, the Hecos are also brilliant for classical music and jazz with a neat stereo performance. So we can say the Ascadas generate an accurately defined stage setting allowing all the instruments and voices to be precisely located in virtual space. The Heco set thus guarantees lasting musical enjoyment that will find a lot of friends thanks to its potent sound.

Clear text

Heco shows how powerful sounding wireless loudspeakers should be built. The Ascada 2.0 stereosystem is outstanding in the AV-Magazin test with superb features and sophisticated technology, resulting in excellent sound quality and diversity of application.

Our tip: listen and try out!