



07/2012



- + Stable levels
- + Very good depth
- + Excellent workmanship
- + Low power consumption in standby mode

**HECO**  
Phalanx Micro 200A

# HECO Phalanx Micro 200A



Heco's compact active subwoofer with double-bass radiator, designated the Phalanx Micro 200A, measures just 238 x 245 x 270 mm. You will need to part with 549 Euros if you want to be able to call this powerful, compact subwoofer your own. The class D amplifier offers over 300 watts of RMS power and is accommodated along with the active woofer and two long-stroke radiators in a sturdy MDF cabinet with a black high-gloss finish. The frequency range of this small but powerful unit ranges from 22 to 200 Hz. The 8.2 kg compact woofer is currently available to purchase.

## Workmanship

Heco's compact subwoofer exhibits excellent workmanship. The black piano lacquer finish is so deep that if it was peeled you would hardly notice it. Both the 200 mm chassis and the rear aluminium panel, on which the electronics are mounted, are fitted perfectly. The edges of the cabinet are rounded on all sides, while the LS grille mount is seated securely. The grille itself is secured with plastic knobs, yet it sits precisely and firmly in place. The base of the subwoofer is equipped with rubber feet to provide adequate damping and floor clearance. The rear connections are integrated firmly in place and don't budge, even when exerting a significant degree of pressure. The rotary controls for volume, phase and crossover frequency have all been manufactured from aluminium. The Phalanx Micro 200A has both a dedicated power switch as well as an auto function. The LFE requires less than 0.5 watts in standby mode and is very efficient. The small dimensions of the cabinet mean Heco has to be economical with the available space. The electronics are positioned closely together and wired extremely neatly. The relatively high level of heat that develops in such a small housing necessitates the use of aluminium cones, as these dissipate heat quickly.

## Sound

We demand a lot from the Phalanx Micro 200A from the very first test sequence. It has to prove itself during the intro and the first track of the Blu-ray "Within Temptation & The Metropolitan Orchestra - The Black Symphony". Heco's sub performs considerably well and generates an enormously deep and powerful rendition from the offset. It offers an amazing foundation for its size and you can really feel the subliminal rumbling in the pit of your stomach. Larger components may generate a little more volume here, but it's an excellent performance by the small powerhouse nonetheless. It is particularly compelling when the double bass comes into play, as it integrates harmoniously into the front surround soundstage and emerges exactly when required. It doesn't try to cover up its compact dimensions and 'thicken' the sound, but remains dry and precise. When the band takes to the stage after a few minutes the compact woofer seems to be even more at ease. It reproduces the percussion segments in a hard and dry manner, while the various bass lines appear structured and differentiated. These are propelled competently and accurately into the listening room, even when the sub is operated at a very high level. Even when faced with sophisticated double bass lines the Phalanx Micro 200A responds quickly and reveals its strength and a voluminous reproduction that is well above average for the size of the unit.

The excellent performance of the compact subwoofer is also demonstrated in Brian Ferry's "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue". The LFE supports the front speakers precisely and accurately and doesn't thicken the sound too heavily. A factor we find particularly impressive is the foundation that the small cube generates in our listening room. The stage appears dense, full and authentic. The individual layers in the bass range may not seem quite as cleanly tiered and differentiated here, however, the overall presentation still appears believable without sounding spongy.

DJ Tiësto's Elements of Life Tour from Copenhagen once again asks a lot of Heco's subwoofer.

Apart from power and depth, precision and dry hardness are also required by the fast electronic music. When playing 'Traffic' the sub responds quickly and offers a firm degree of hardness for the bass-heavy segments. The overall presentation appears dry and clean, while there is hardly any flow noise at all, even though we push the small Phalanx sub to its limits. Granted, some of its larger competitors will produce a deeper and more powerful bass range, however, in terms of its size it offers so much. In "Back in Your Head" the subwoofer needs to produce an underlying foundation in addition to the heavy bass line, which it achieves extremely well from the very outset.

In "The Dark Knight" we want to see what the Phalanx Micro 200A is capable of in terms of a home cinema setup and throw ourselves into the first chapter, which is the bank robbery scene. The first bang fills the room with a solid and voluminous rumble. When one of the clowns shoots out the high-rise window the shattering glass is not flawless and lacks somewhat in terms of structure. The deep pulsation that accompanies the entire scene, however, is very good. Heco's subwoofer surprised us time and time again; in this case it was with its level of depth. Despite its small stature it is capable of reaching tremendous depths and delivering these frequencies impressively to the listener. It demonstrates its full force once again with the last shot from William Fichtner's shotgun.

Heco's sub also provides a very solid presentation during Avatar. Its depth and volume are confirmed in the eighth chapter when Jake Sully touches a plant that simultaneously contracts. The compact active subwoofer also delivers an excellent performance during the subsequent stampede. Even more volume and accuracy could be produced here, but you will need to delve quite deeply into your pockets to achieve such results. What is clear is that the sub's performance is enormously powerful in relation to its size and deserves its positive rating. If Heco's Phalanx Micro 200A is placed out of sight and can only be heard, most users would expect to find a much larger unit as the source of the sound; they would undoubtedly be very surprised by the power produced by the small compact subwoofer.

## Conclusion

Powerful, precise and deep - The performance delivered by Heco's Phalanx Micro 200A subwoofer is compelling in our test. We are amazed at how much power the small unit packs. In terms of music it is well organised and it offers a powerful sound whilst not forcing too much into the foreground. If you require a lightning quick response for film reproduction, then look no further than the Phalanx Micro 200A as it does this accurately with very good depth and decent balance. Heco's compact subwoofer is even capable of reproducing a voluminous soundstage with a solid level in somewhat larger rooms. The Heco unit scores more points thanks to its high-quality workmanship, as everything is fitted together perfectly and the black high-gloss surface finish is very chic. The small cube shouldn't pose any setup problems for anyone. A high quality acoustic performance in such compact dimensions comes at a price of 549 Euros.

An extremely compact active subwoofer with a high degree of efficiency and solid workmanship