

Heco Music Colors 100

Price / Performance

Very Good

HECO

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Very Good

Category

Top class

Price/Performance

Very good

January 2011



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“Small but powerful!”

The Rhine-based audio specialists from Heco maintain that shelf speakers should also be able to reproduce music properly - if they are set up and co-ordinated correctly. This quality is set to be demonstrated by the new Music Colors 100 series, which AV-Magazin placed under the microscope for the following test.

The Music Colors 100 speakers aim to prove that a good sound does not necessarily have to go hand in hand with large dimensions. At a suggested retail price of €199 each, the smart speakers with shelf-compatible dimensions are not particularly cheap. What is more important, however, is whether they are worthy of their price tag. AV-Magazin's verdict: definitely yes! So much is revealed in advance. The perceived difference between what is expected and what is offered by the Music Colors speakers is rather vast. If we didn't know better, we could easily have thought that the dainty shelf speakers cost a lot more.

Material and workmanship

The small speakers, which have been developed under the care of managing director and hifi enthusiast Shandro Fischer, promise a great deal when being unpacked. The very first touch of the smooth and sleek lacquered surface makes us aware that we are dealing with a really special test object here. The rounded edges of the housing reveal a profound look at the finely structured wooden veneer that is coated in a flawless clear lacquer. Our test unit is provided with a dark brown wenge wood tone. The speakers are alternatively available in white, black and red. All come with an elegant high-gloss finish.

The visible baffle is manufactured from anthracite-coloured plastic on all models. Directly underneath is the actual body, which is made of medium density fibreboard (MDF). To optimise oscillation behaviour, and thus the resonance sensitivity of the housing, the Music Colors 100 series features an internal cross member directly behind the bass-midrange driver. The fact that such a highly elaborate structure is not without consequence is hardly surprising. A single shelf speaker weighs in at a hefty three kilograms.

Technology

A passive two-way system is accommodated inside the 15 cm wide speaker. This consists of a 110 mm bass-midrange, a 25 mm tweeter and a crossover. The latter sits directly behind the rear connection terminal and is equipped with high quality components. On closer inspection we discover expensive MKP and MKT capacitors, which are characterised by a particularly good signal performance, thereby enabling a pure sound pattern.

The lower cone chassis features a classic paper cone which is connected to the torsionally rigid chassis basket via a flexible rubber surround. A 25 mm voice coil operates at the centre of the drive section.

A textile dome cone caters for the treble range. Powered by compact neodymium magnets, the short-wave transducer handles frequencies of 2,800 hertz and above. On the right-hand side of the baffle between the two speakers is a reflex tube port. This ensures ventilation of the compact housing and provides the Music Colors 100 series with an effective level increase in the bass range. It must also be mentioned that the Heco shelf speakers are acoustically co-ordinated to operate in a bookcase or on a

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Sound	Very good
Equipment	Very good
Workmanship	Very good

sideboard. How they perform acoustically can be read in the following section.

Sound

The listening test provides the Rhenish speakers with the opportunity to demonstrate their inner power. Of course, the restricted construction of the 11 cm woofers means they aren't able to perform miracles in the bass range. Even if their position on a shelf or sideboard generates a certain amplification of the bass range, one shouldn't expect any miracles from the speakers in terms of bass response. Nevertheless, dynamic music sequences from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony are transmitted with genuine level stability and a corporeal presence. When playing the CD "Ambra, Child of the Universe" the various tonal effects are reproduced with staggered depth and an optimum degree of spatiality. This was a surprising element of the performance produced by the weighty compact speaker. The low bass frequencies always sound contoured and differentiated. Vocal reproduction of mid-range-heavy pitches is pure and free from compression. Treble-heavy synthesizer segments are also generated precisely at increasing levels without losing any detail. Heco's Music Colors 100 series reproduces vocals with a good level of comprehensibility which is not impaired, even when listened to from the side. The high acoustic quality is particularly evident when playing the CD "Just For You" by Gladys Knight. The sonorous, powerful voice of the colourful Soul legend is reproduced expressively and authentically. It's only a matter of time before every listener gets a case of the goosebumps.

Heco's Music Colors 100 series demonstrates that particularly small speakers can feature the best material and sound quality. Anyone looking for a stylish, high quality compact speaker for the office, kitchen or living room can't go wrong with the Music Colors 100 series from Heco."

Underneath the flawless high gloss finish of the Music Colors 100 series lies a high quality wooden veneer

