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9 | 2010

Die technische Dimension von HiFi

Deutschland 5,30 €

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HECO Music Colors 100



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Highlight

Price/Performance: outstanding

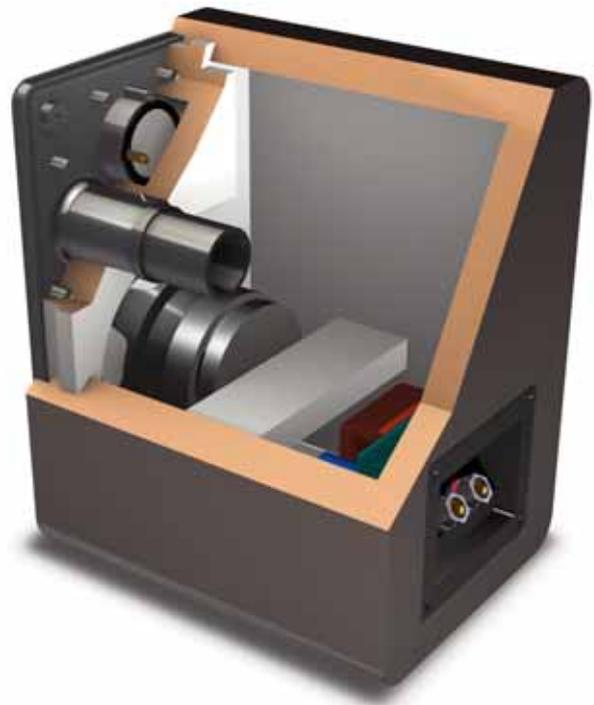
HECO

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Highlight

Music Colors 100

Is this small, colourful speaker a serious HiFi? You bet! Heco's Music Colors 100 series is currently the most audiophile shelf speaker for less than ... € .

Compact speakers usually end up where there's space: On a shelf or on a sideboard. Nevertheless, the majority of these speakers have been designed to be free-standing - with a bass unit built-in. Why developers do this remains a mystery. Because it's more than likely that the small speakers will be positioned between books, thereby producing a bass level that is far too opulent. The developers from Cologne, however, are presenting a product at the IFA that's difficult to ignore. According to development director, Shandro Fischer, the small Music Colors speakers, which are available in four trendy colours, have been consequently designed for a sideboard setup. This provides significant advantages. If the bass increase near a wall or on a shelf is taken into account, then the woofer needs to be significantly less potent in the lower frequency ranges. And then it can be somewhat smaller. Heco has developed a completely new 4.5 inch bass-midrange with a lightweight paper cone for the speakers in its Music Colors series, which, together with the likewise newly developed 19 mm fabric dome, results in a sophisticated two-way system.



The preppy Music Colors series is currently available in four colours: Red, black, wenge (espresso) and white. The lacquer finish for a speaker in this class is excellent.

Excellent oscillation properties

... The speaker's oscillation properties are superb. The measuring impulse settles quickly, thereby alluding to a predominantly resonance-free construction. The frequency response is fairly linear, although the sound pressure curve over the entire basic sound range is rather restrained. However, the adjacent furniture and/or the rear wall are intended to re-enforce the sound.

The housing

The bass reflex construction is a remarkably sturdy. The baffle is a composite consisting of plastic (external) and a supporting 16 mm thick MDF panel (internal). The rest of the housing is also manufactured from this medium-density fibreboard. This ensures adequate rigidity - after all, the bass-midrange doesn't need to generate any bass earthquakes. The reinforcement strengthens the areas that are more susceptible to vibration and simultaneously pacifies the bass-midrange as the cross brace presses against the magnet. The design of the cover is also interesting. It consists of a double layer of MDF, as the Heco developers identified it as being particularly crucial to the sound: Knowledge gained by the Cologne experts alludes to the fact that if the cover vibrates excessively, the spatial element of the sound decreases dramatically. Therefore it needs to be particularly firm. The crossover sits directly on the terminal. This is not particularly audiophile-like, but it facilitates access and maintenance.

HECO

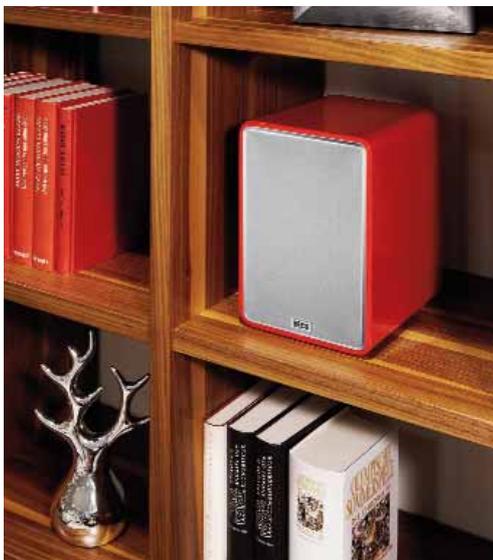
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Always on the wall

The first listening test, which was conducted on a stand set up freely in the room, resulted, as expected, in some long faces. It sounded rather flimsy, i.e. it was fine and open, but thin and without any bass reproduction. However, when it was set up on a makeshift shelf on the wall, our impression altered radically. The sound was finely balanced and the colour of Jack Johnson's guitar and his voice in "Happy Together" were powerful and grew in distinctiveness. However, no-one should expect the small Heco speakers to completely master such bass-heavy tracks as "Tuva Rap" by Melo X on a shelf, as they are simply too small. Saying that though, they came across respectably and captivated our testers with their good spatial illumination, superb naturalness and outstanding resolution of minute details, such as those evident in the complex choir passages by the King's Singers ("Eleanor Rigby"). The individual phrasing segments, the overtones, the finely graded dynamics: Everything you hear is brilliant! This really is high-end equipment on a small scale, immaterial whether it's purchased as a first hifi for the little ones, a speaker for the kitchen, bedroom or dining room, or as a rear speaker for a large home cinema system.

My tip: Buy it. Because you won't find a better quality sound, especially in such beautiful packaging, at this price anywhere else.



A brilliant speaker on a shelf and with its back to the wall:
Music Colors 100.

Conclusion:

An amazing small speaker finished in an elegant lacquer that is suitable for sideboard or shelf installation. An amazing fine resolution and great tonal qualities. Suitable for any occasion and practically any amplifier.

stereoplay Testurteil

Klang	42 Punkte
Gesamturteil	57 Punkte
Preis/Leistung	überragend