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**Heco Music Colors 200**  
**Testresult: very good**

**HECO**

**Music Colors 200**



**“The Heco Music Colors 200 truly offers an excellent sound quality at the lowest possible price.”**

Heco is a speaker specialist. Its Music Colors series used to be primarily concerned with technological features, but it now boasts an appealing visual appearance. Has this been at the expense of technology and sound quality in the MC 200 though?

Anyone creeping through a shop with a raised collar and sunglasses perched on their nose will undoubtedly arouse suspicion and attract attention. This also applies to speakers that stand out due to their elegant visual appearance. There are plenty of examples out there where a beautiful shell doesn't always deliver an adequate sound. A classic example are the speakers produced by Danish manufacturer Bang & Olufsen.

The fact that there are such variations appears to be associated with the planning of the products. You can just imagine a marketing and development department sitting around a table and arguing about how the budget is going to be distributed. It is this 'either/or' mindset that often forms the basis for deciding upon a speaker that either has an excellent sound quality or an appealing visual appearance. This rarely plays a role in the luxury-priced segment though, as both aesthetic and audio requirements generally need to be satisfied.

Combining form and function at a low price point seems to be an art in itself. A prerequisite for the success of such a venture includes low-cost production processes. These processes, however, should definitely not appear cheap. The planning of adequate quantities is an important factor here. And last but not least the chassis, crossovers, wiring and housing should also be of a quality that is average at the very least (even better if it's above average).

### Music Colors 200

In naming its Music Colors series Heco has targeted both the eyes and ears alike. The MC 200 is the floorstanding speaker in this series, which is complemented by compact satellites and a centre speaker. The selection of available colours includes a glossy white and black finish as well as a Wenge finish coated with clear lacquer. Whereas the side panels of a speaker normally meet at a 90° angle, Heco's speaker exhibits soft curves. The neatly crafted body rests on a base that can be provided with spikes or carpet studs.

In light of the speaker's elegant visual appearance and the fact that it costs 998 Euros for a pair, it seems pretty evident that there was a limited budget for the technology in the MC 200. But this is far from the truth. The more we look at the components that are critical to the quality of the sound, the more unrealistic the price seems to be. As there is no room in the 15 cm baffle for the 20 cm bass driver, it has been mounted at the side of the housing. For a component of this size it is unusual in the fact that you only notice it at second glance.

The bass reflex port on the MC 200 is not at the rear, as is the case for 90 percent of speakers, but at the front. The developers were keen to ensure the 200 series could be positioned close to a wall, which also suits its 30 cm deep housing. A single-wiring terminal for connecting the speaker cable is accommodated at the rear, which requires less space than a bi-wiring configuration.

### Good configuration

In contrast to the inferior setup that is assumed because of its low price, the Music Colors 200 offers a wide range of technology for your money. To transmit the high-frequency range the developers have opted for a 25 mm dome, which, like the 10 cm midrange

cones, is concealed by a protective panel. If you don't want to look at these three chassis while listening to music, you can attach the panel via its magnetic mounts. Heco has reverted to a paper mixture for the material of the mid- and bass-range cones, as it ensures tonal neutrality. A 20 cm bass chassis operates at the side and completes the three-way configuration. Even the crossover has been equipped with decent parts instead of run of the mill components. It leaves you wondering about how the price of a speaker that costs twice as much can be justified. Both rubber feet and spikes are available for separating the speaker from the floor. The corresponding threads can be found in the base plate.

When setting up the speakers in the i-fidelity.net listening room we experimented with various parameters such as angle and distance from the back wall. We can conclude that Heco's speakers are more than capable of reproducing excellent music with their backs almost right against the wall. Anyone concerned with audiophile characteristics, however, should ensure a clearance of at least 25 cm. This enhances the level of precision significantly. Caution should also be exercised when angling the speakers, as Heco's units offer optimum spatial imaging at minimal angles. Therefore, if you invest a bit of time during the setup process, you will be rewarded with enhanced playback quality.

### Off to the sound booth

For testing purposes we used the new "Reference Sound Edition – Great Voices Vol. 2" (HQCD) from In-Akustik. Kendel Carson's track "Lady K" seems to provide difficulties for numerous components, especially speakers. This isn't the case for the Music Colors 200, however, as the vocals are positioned correctly and concretely between the speakers. Cymbal clashes don't sound like a hissing a snake pit, but something that is close to the original. The correct level of imaging is amazing in light of this price range.

Things become more complex with Roisin Murphy's track "Let Me Know". What starts quietly swiftly transforms into music fit for the dancefloor. Heco's speakers generate the solid bass line in a compelling manner, as everything is precise without any resonance. Playback benefits from the fact that the Heco units adopt a more emotional approach to music as opposed to an academic approach. Murphy's voice has been edited rather well in the recording studio, which is complimented by the Heco units instead of being ruthlessly dissected.

The Music Colors 200 series merely confirms its claim to produce outstanding results with Katie Melua's "Nine Million Bicycles". When this track is played on poor quality speakers it can become irritating; when it's played on the Heco units, however, it simply demonstrates their extremely homogeneous nature. The speakers merge the various components that make up the track such as vocals, percussion, drums and guitar, as well as the clearly discernible flute, into a very attractive overall acoustic image that is rather unusual for this price range.

### Test result

The Heco Music Colors 200 truly offers an excellent sound quality at the lowest possible price. This is coupled with the excellent workmanship of the housing, which is available in three high-quality finishes. Anyone who has room for these beautiful speakers shouldn't hold back, because the Music Colors 200 series is a delight to the eyes and ears alike, it doesn't cost the Earth and would make an ideal partner for a corresponding amplifier or receiver. This excellent performance earns it our "Price-tip" accolade.