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D: 3,99€

Osterreich: 4,90€, Schweiz: sfr 7,90,  
BelNeLux: 4,90€, Italien: 5,90€, Spanien: 5,90€

DIGITAL TESTED

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Die ganze Welt der Unterhaltungselektronik

# HECO

Music Colors 100 +  
Music Colors Center 80  
Phalanx Micro 200A

DIGITAL  
TESTED

85% 5.2012

very good

Heco  
Music Colors

Test result





## Surround sound in colour

“Thunderous explosions, hurtling projectiles and multiple pile-ups create the typical atmosphere for an action film. However, this impression can only be generated by a true surround sound, which is something the 5.1 set from Heco produces - and it does this whilst looking extremely good.

Music Colors. This is the name given by traditional German manufacturer Heco to its surround set. The combination selected by the editing department consists of the Phalanx Micro 200A active subwoofer, two pairs of Music Colors 100 2-way bass reflex speakers and the corresponding Music Colors Center 80. This compilation may not be available as a set so to speak, but the units can be purchased individually. It offers a good-sounding and particularly space-saving alternative, which also happens to be visually appealing. Heco's Phalanx Micro 200A features a 200 mm direct-radiating long stroke woofer and two side-mounted passive cones of the same diameter. All three are made of aluminium. This material exhibits high torsion resistance to a certain degree. The lack of bass reflex resonance and the reliance on an optimally effective cone surface can have a positive affect on the acoustic problems experienced in small rooms. More than 300 watts of continuous power is provided by a digital amplifier for the power reserves. This turns playing computer games or watching movies into a physical experience in rooms measuring up to 25 square metres. The connection and adjustment options on offer would be at home on larger models. The crossover frequency, the so-called phase position, the switch-on function and the volume can all be adjusted. The Music Colors Stand 100 is also available in the corresponding colours for the shelf speakers of the 100 series. This allows the speakers to be freely positioned in the room, which is beneficial for the front speakers as they should not be hidden on a shelf, but located on either side of the screen. The Music Colors 100 series is available in four high-gloss finishes, namely espresso/wenge, red, white and black. The design principle corresponds to a 2-way bass-reflex system and includes a 25 mm fabric dome as the tweeter and a 110 mm bass-midrange driver with paper cone. A bass reflex port, which is positioned between the two acoustic radiators, rounds off the visual appearance and also enables installation in a bookcase - perfect for listening to music. The small Music Colors Center 80, on the other hand, exhibits an enclosed 2-way configuration, with the aforementioned tweeter and two additional 90 mm bass-midrange drivers. Both constructions can be provided with a magnetically adhesive cover to hide their technical features and equipped with small rubber feet to prevent them from slipping. A pair of speaker terminals for common connection

types can be found at the rear. In contrast to the small speakers for surround operation, a lower impedance of 4 ohms is specified for these constructions. The measurements in the audio lab effectively confirm these impedance ratings. Caution: When using AV receivers\* that only support a speaker impedance of 6 ohms, damage can be caused by the amplifier and power supply circuits overheating. It is therefore essential you exercise care when selecting the components. The surround set presented here functions most effectively in rooms that are not too sparsely furnished. If the automatic calibration function of the AV receiver determines a crossover frequency of 70 Hz for the Music Colors 100 and 120 Hz for the Center speaker, this will result in a much more homogeneous sound pattern. If the speakers are installed on a shelf, it is worthwhile increasing the crossover frequencies, thereby reducing their tendency to drone, as the active woofer needs to assume more bass energy. The Phalanx Micro 200A subwoofer is able to radiate firm and powerful bass pulses thanks to its enclosed design and additional cones, which makes it perfect for action-packed films on Blu-ray. It produces a performance for the recommended room size that is not prone to exaggerating music and film-related frequencies. The intelligibility of speech from the centre speaker can be classified as good to very good. It is not too intrusive in practice, but is something that will stand out to experts. Of particular note is that there is no significant overemphasis of S-sounds and the speaker does not tend to "hiss". The four other Music Colors 100 speakers exhibit a slightly brighter sound character, thereby enabling them to support a detailed, open-sounding and vivid surround sound pattern, in which movement can be localised extremely well. Overall, this set is regarded as an insider tip for sound, style and budget-conscious users. The reduced space requirements will benefit smaller living rooms, thereby making the Music Color series from Heco a compact and serious alternative to a soundbar.

A stylish surround set, which is ideal for music, movies and games consoles alike. The compact dimensions and the colour variations allow a great deal of flexibility in terms of setup and design.”