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HIFI · SURROUND · HIGH END · MUSIK

# HECO

## Music Colors 5.1

**AUDIO**

Sound: 70 points

Price/Performance: excellent



**Price/Performance:  
excellent**

# HECO®

## Music Colors 5.1



“The invention of the sub/satellite set has made it possible to keep the visible speakers in a surround sound setup to a minimum and to hide the woofer. This is a celebration for anyone wanting a largely uncompromised interior design, without completely relinquishing home cinema enjoyment. However, real hi-fi fans have increasingly reacted to the mass of small, bargain priced sets that are on the market with a degree of scepticism; often rightly so. Even if the satellite speakers in a 5.1 set do not need to create too heavy and voluminous bass levels, the basic acoustic quality has to be right. Perhaps a reason for Heco to keep the shape of the new Music Color set in a classical style: the satellite speakers are formally designed along the lines of a shelf speaker, albeit with significantly reduced dimensions. The basic technical values are well-coordinated, with a 20 mm silk dome tweeter operating in a closed 2-way construction. At 3500 Hz the crossover frequency is relatively high; however, this provides good distortion values and doesn't generate any acoustic problems for the small 9 cm conical speaker. The small speakers don't need to generate any bass, as they are designed to operate exclusively with the sub as satellite speakers. This is favoured by the acoustic calibration, which produces a relatively gently sloping level below 120 Hz and therefore fits in perfectly with the customary 100 Hz crossover frequency. In order to ensure the level of homogeneity within the set is as high as possible, the front and rear speakers are identical: dipoles are not offered. However, this isn't a problem for even serious film buffs, as it's likely Heco's set will be used in small to medium-sized rooms, where, according to experience, the effects produced by dipoles are unable to unfold.

### Play partner

More important in this case is a good centre speaker. This speaker in the Music Color system exhibits an identical configuration to the front satellite speakers, which is an invaluable advantage in terms of surround sound. In order to ensure the interference generated from its

horizontal position doesn't impede the dispersion properties, the tweeter has been slightly offset above the axis of the conical speaker. Nevertheless, the listener shouldn't sit too far to the side of the ideal listening zone, as the two conical speakers alone provide a significant narrowing of the angle of radiation. The subwoofer naturally doesn't have a problem here, as it radiates in all directions. The Music Colors woofer is a down-firing model and utilises the increase in sound pressure. Only the bass reflex tube functions at the front. A search for connection options and setting elements on Heco's sub will be one in vain: the entire system is designed for operation with an AV receiver, which is to be used for all setting and filtering options. Heco has invested more money in the housing for the satellite speakers than in their configuration: These are not only manufactured from sturdy MDF, but are also provided with an extremely good high-gloss finish. The woofer housing is somewhat plainer in appearance, however, but this isn't overly tragic as the sub can be positioned virtually anywhere. Heco's set demonstrated its “Plug and Play” quality in the listening area: regardless of precise positioning and parameter adjustment, it was compelling from the very outset thanks to a homogeneous, unusually large sound pattern. The live concert “Warpaint” by The Black Crowes revealed an excellent club atmosphere with precisely positioned musicians and a rousing atmosphere amidst the crowd. The transition between the subwoofer and the satellites is managed particularly smoothly by the Heco set; guitars and drums sound warm and full, without any loss in terms of power or depth at room volume. Naturally, the Music Colors set wasn't able to set off any fireworks in the testing room with regard to level and deep bass range, but what the small set generated in terms of dynamics in “X-Men: The Last Stand” was amazing. The centre speaker is characterised by excellent speech intelligibility and warm vocal reproduction, independent of the volume. For € 900 this is an ideal entry surround sound set for those who can sacrifice little space in the living room, yet do not want to relinquish classic hifi virtues.”