

**TEST**



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**HECO**

**Music Colors Cinema 5.1A**



- + Brilliant treble range
- + Solid coarse dynamics
- + Beautiful visual appearance
- + High quality workmanship
- + Precise, powerful subwoofer

“Back in May we tested a member of the Music Colors series, namely the Music Colors 100, which achieved an excellent result. Now the Cinema 5.1A system has arrived in our office and is awaiting our test. The sub/satellite system, like the aforementioned shelf speaker, is also suitable for smaller living rooms and boasts relatively compact dimensions. There’s no need to hide the components away by any means. Elegant with a high gloss Piano lacquer finish, the Cinema 5.1A set is very modern and exhibits an extremely high level of quality. In contrast to the Music Colors 100 series, the satellites in the Cinema 5.1A set are somewhat smaller and enclosed, while the 11kg subwoofer operates according to the downfire principle.

### **Workmanship and technology**

The centre, front and rear speakers are extremely stylish with their rounded edges and exhibit an excellent surface quality. The high gloss Piano lacquer is relatively deep and is resistant to scratches. The MDF cabinets are extremely sturdy and the satellite speakers are equipped with an integrated wall mount. The front is adorned with a removable fabric cover, which is attached magnetically. High quality connections with gold-plated screw terminals can be found at the rear of the speakers, which are suitable for accommodating large diameter cables as well as banana plugs. Small rubber studs are attached to the base. The tweeter is a 20mm fabric dome with neodymium magnet system. The 90mm bass-midrange consists of a long-fibre paper cone, a longthrow surround and a resilient voice coil, which has been optimised for broadband reproduction. Thanks to their enclosed design the components can be placed near a wall or even directly on the wall itself.

The front of the subwoofer features a high gloss Piano lacquer finish that is identical to the satellites and is also resistant to scratches. The bass reflex tube is also located at the front. The edges of the multi-braced MDF subwoofer cabinet are also rounded. The active subwoofer has a maximum output of 120 watts and operates between 30 and 250 Hz. A 200 mm hardened paper cone radiates downwards according to the downfire principle.

### **Sound**

Our initial test with “The Dark Knight” in Dolby TrueHD 5.1 reveals a compelling performance from Heco’s Music Colors Cinema 5.1A set from the very outset, thanks to an enclosed soundstage and a profound degree of spatiality. We feel like we have been transported right to the middle of the action and are swept away by the swift and lively acoustic backdrop. The active subwoofer cuts a very good figure from the very first drumbeats, although the window shattering scene lacks a bit of structure in the bass range. We particularly like the clarity in the treble range, where the reproduction of the upper frequencies appears very direct. Sensitive listeners will have to be mindful of high levels, as the sound may be too aggressive for their liking. The clarity in the treble range is also evident during the bank robbery scene; whether it’s Uzis being fired or the safe door being drilled, the upper frequencies are quite brilliant and can be arduous for sensitive listeners. The excellent level of spatiality, which is present for the duration of the film, is something we find extremely pleasing, as is the exquisite separation of the soundstage by the speaker components. The active subwoofer provides a solid bass foundation, in which various levels are discernable. Heco’s set also performs extremely well during our next test setup with chapter 20 of “Tron: Legacy”, where it generates good vocal characteristics for the dialogue between Zuse and Flynn. The solid foundation is presented during the first few minutes, in which the electronic music takes a backseat. When the music is propelled to the foreground after the arrival of the fighters, the listener is immediately catapulted into the action, where they become surrounded by the acoustic soundstage. The excellent spatial presentation and dense atmosphere continue in this vein during our test.

The extremely clear reproduction of the treble range is also discernible, especially when discs and “swords” clash during the fight scene. When Zuse shoots through the area with his staff the

effects appear very directional and are radiated freely throughout the room. Heco’s Music Colors Cinema 5.1A set is put to the test again with Avatar in DTS-HD Master 5.1, where it is thoroughly compelling with a succinct-sounding helicopter rotor and the discernible flapping wings of the dinosaur-like creatures. The stage remains broad, deep and wide, while the viewer is left feeling surrounded by the dense atmosphere and part of the action. When Jake falls onto the “fleeing” plant and then onto the rhino-like creature, the power and depth of the relatively compact subwoofer in the Cinema 5.1A set is pleasing, however, we are familiar with the scene having more volume, a better structure and more punch. Saying that, however, the small unit offers a very solid performance which puts other living room systems in the shade.

After looking at the movie aspect we decided to get acquainted with the musical side of Heco’s Music Colors Cinema 5.1A. In Andrea Bocelli’s “Vivere” concert in Tuscany the tenor starts by telling us about the landscape. The vocal rendition is characteristic, while even the bells in the background can be heard clearly. When the concert starts the subwoofer integrates superbly well into the action and comes to life at the necessary points - without being over-emphatic. The soundstage is impressive and exhibits good orchestral separation. The piano sounds clean with a gentle warmth. The soundstage is presented in a very spatial manner and places the listener in the front row of the amphitheatre.

Heco’s set is put through its paces with slightly more up-tempo music thanks to Tiestö’s Elements of Life World Tour in Copenhagen. The compact subwoofer in the Cinema 5.1A set blows us away with its powerful bassline on “Traffic” (second track of the second Blu-ray). The subwoofer responds quickly and gives no cause for criticism with regards to precision, while there is hardly any post-pulse oscillation either. It clearly loses power and depth at a certain point, but at average levels the LFE remains poised and sophisticated. Despite the aggressive mix, the clear highs of the system are not unpleasant and are definitely to the benefit of electronic music. The atmospheric frequency response curves are extremely good thanks to the homogeneous level of transparency and excellent separation of the soundstage. In the following track, “Back in Your Head”, the subwoofer creates a solid foundation while simultaneously generating an even more powerful bassline. The vocals provided by Teagan & Sara are integrated successfully at the centre of the broad soundstage. Overall, Heco’s set performs extremely well in this sequence. Even those who have a penchant for high levels won’t be disappointed by the compact speakers.

### **Conclusion**

Heco’s Music Colors Cinema 5.1A set is compelling thanks to a clear treble range, an enclosed surround sound and a solid bass foundation. Despite their compact dimensions the components from the German manufacturer generate convincing acoustics and deliver an enjoyable, lively sound for movies and music alike. The degree of level stability will also surprise even the most discerning listener. The quality of workmanship and material is extremely good; the elegant appearance and clean, rounded edges of the Cinema 5.1A set enable it to be easily integrated into any environment. At a cost of € 900 the compact set is not the cheapest, but it offers an acoustic performance which rivals systems in higher price classes.”