

AUDIO TEST

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"GOOD!"

HECO

MUSIC STYLE 5.1 SET

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4.2013

Good

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Heco's Music Style series appears to incorporate simple speakers at first glance. But a closer inspection - both audibly and visually - is certainly worthwhile, as the technical refinements present make the assembled 5.1 set rather interesting, particularly for film buffs.

The cornerstone of Heco's surround set consists of the Music Style 800 floorstanding speakers. These feature a fully-fledged three-way system, which operates according to the bass reflex principle. A side-mounted 22 cm woofer with hardened long fibre cone and long-throw surround ensure a powerful foundation. The tweeter consists of a newly developed composite silk dome which measures 2.5 cm in diameter. This is driven by a powerful ferrite magnet system, while a ferrofluid cooling component permits high power levels. The midrange drivers have been designed for broadband playback and are equipped with lightweight long fibre cones. The multi-braced housing is constructed from individual MDF panels. While the sides are visually adorned with a decorative film, the front and top are finished in the corresponding colour with a glossy lacquer. The Center 2 speaker and the Music Style 200 surround speakers are equipped with the same tweeters and bass-midrange drivers as the 800 models. These feature two-way systems in a bass reflex configuration. Even without an explicit bass driver these speakers are also capable of reproducing a pleasant bass response.

The active subwoofer also features a bass



reflex system with two flow-optimised reflex ports at the rear. The 26 cm hardened paper cone is located at the bottom of the unit and is also driven by a ferrite magnet system. The finish of its housing is in keeping with that of the satellite speakers. The necessary drive is provided by a class A/B power amplifier, which produces an output of 125 watts (250 watts peak). The crossover frequency can be adjusted between

50 and 150 Hz, and the phase inverted, which corresponds to the basic configuration of a subwoofer. The automatic switch-on and switch-off function, which depends on the input signal, is a practical feature. One word that came to the fore immediately during the listening test was: Wow! This impression particularly comes from the level of bass response produced by the system. This is not only down to the subwoofer, however, which is what we came to realise in the stereo test, but also the bass drivers in the stereo speakers. The set is also compelling thanks to the spatiality of its reproduction. Whether it's required to generate the atmospheric elements in a film or to broaden a few sounds in a huge orchestra, the set cooperates and provides optimum support for everything that's going on. We have to lower our sights, however, when it comes to the set's dynamic behaviour. Heco's units work vigorously even during quiet passages, which detracts somewhat from the vibrancy of dynamic music. When watching action-packed scenes it is striking how much fun the force generated in the bass range can really be. Furthermore, the upper mid and treble ranges are restrained, which prevents metallic, percussive sounds from standing out unpleasantly, thereby ensuring they blend in well with the overall sound pattern. Overall, this produces a warm base character that doesn't sound dull by any means, but it does seem somewhat cramped with the weakening level of dynamism. The centre speaker generates a sonorous reproduction of vocal segments by enhancing the lower mid-range levels. In terms of dispersion properties a difference can be heard initially when moving to the side of the setup; apart from this the sound pattern remains largely constant. However, no-one will have any major complaints when watching a film together on the sofa. The woofers integrated in the sides of the Music Style 800 become noticeable during the stereo test. No one will probably end up switching off the subwoofer when listening in stereo, because it adds to the foundation. The sound pattern doesn't seem washed-out, while flat bass lines and booming tones remain accurate and unobtrusive. Orchestral music also benefits here, especially when large kettledrums and low strings come into play. Nevertheless, such a bass heavy sound pattern will not always be welcome. We recommend you conduct a trial run to determine whether it's to your personal taste and liking.

Opinion

The warm, light coloured character of the set may not be everyone's cup of tea. I think the bass range is a little too powerful for my taste when listening in stereo. Otherwise, the Music Color series is an audibly impressive set that will certainly quicken the heart rate of film buffs.

