

Heco Phalanx Micro 200A  
**very good**

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**HECO**<sup>®</sup>

PHALANX MICRO 200A

The Heco Phalanx Micro 200A offers maximum sound quality while taking up the minimum of space.



## Mini soundblaster

With the Phalanx Micro 200A, audio specialist Heco presents a particularly compact subwoofer that is, it appears, equally suitable for both home cinema and stereo applications. You can read in the following report how the stylish base cube got on in the practical test.

Active subwoofers like the Phalanx have an integrated amp. This means that the connected home cinema amplifier is freed from the burden of bass tone conversion, which usually improves the sound quality. The powerful reproduction of long-wave bass frequencies intensifies the acoustic perception by virtue of enhancing the three-dimensionality of music and movie sound.

In addition, the bass ranges allow the listener to become deeply immersed in the acoustic experience.

In the best case scenario, you do not just hear the bass tones – you can actually feel them on your body. Subwoofers are the units that provide the kick in a good home cinema system and increase the enjoyment factor. In a stereophonic hi-fi setup with two compact speakers, active bass speakers expand the tonal bandwidth in the bass range, which also improves the sound quality.

### Design

The Heco Phalanx Micro 200A is an active subwoofer measuring just 24 x 24 x 27 centimetres. Its extremely compact dimensions mean that it can be accommodated almost anywhere in the living room. Because the bass frequencies reproduced by the subwoofer are not locatable, there doesn't even have to be a line of sight between the listener and the active bass.

The design is one of classic elegance on account of being timeless and simple. The quality of the workmanship and the selection of materials are also exceptionally good. The cube-shaped enclosure is made of solid MDF board and is very sturdily built. This reduces susceptibility to vibration and, therefore, resonances, which is conducive to good sound. The surface is covered with a deep-black high-gloss film which fits neatly over the rounded edges of the enclosure.

### Technology

The amplifier module together with the control panel is fitted on the rear of the Phalanx Micro 200A. With an RMS rating of a full 325 watts, the modern digital amplifier guarantees particularly efficient bass reproduction. A large quantity of air has to be moved to enable the small subwoofer to reproduce low-frequency tones. This, in turn, requires substantial stroke movements of the bass cone. For this reason, the Heco engineers have fitted a level limiter and preset equalizer, a so-called DSP equalizer. This optimises the sound and protects the subwoofer

against electromechanical damage from overload.

Three knobs are provided on the control and connection panel at the rear to adjust the sound. In addition to the volume, the crossover frequency and runtime (phase) can also be regulated. Two analogue audio inputs receive the signal from the stereo or home cinema amplifier. Further subwoofers can be connected via the two cinch outputs. The very low power consumption in standby mode also needs to be mentioned. With a standby power draw of just 0.4 watts, it costs only 90 cents to keep the Phalanx Micro 200A in standby mode for an entire year. An automatic on/off switch ensures particularly efficient operation on account of the energy-saving properties.

A 20 cm woofer is fitted as the sound transducer. This functions via an extremely rigid aluminium cone connected to the chassis basket by means of an inverse rubber surround. Instead of a bass reflex tube, Heco uses not one but two passive radiators. The two cones are located in the right and left sides of the enclosure and help the mini-subwoofer to reach even more depth.

### Sound quality

To assess the Phalanx Micro 200A subwoofer in a listening test, we backed it up with a 5.1 speaker set from the Heco Music Colors range. The front left and right positions were taken by the Music Colors 200 slim floor-standing speakers. The centre channel and surround channels were reproduced by the Center 80 and 100 shelf speakers (test report).

The test software used was the fantasy film Jurassic Park II. In this test, the Heco set rendered the Blu-ray movie tone with good resolution and lively temperament. The subwoofer also delivers the lower frequencies with a powerful and voluminous vitality. Compared with its small size and shape, the bass unit surprises the listener with an amazing depth of sound. Under the assault of the two T-Rex monsters on the tour bus, the Phalanx Micro 200A pushes out really rich and earthy bass sounds into the AV Magazine listening room. All in all, the compact Heco subwoofer scores in the sound test with a solid acoustic performance that will ensure a great deal of listening enjoyment in small and medium-sized living rooms.

### Clear text

The Heco Phalanx Micro 200A offers maximum sound quality while taking up the minimum of space. The elegant high-gloss subwoofer produces powerful and deep bass ranges that will enrich the acoustics of any home cinema or hi-fi system. The successful overall package is rounded off by the fact that the mini soundblaster also looks really good.