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 Österreich 5,20 € | Schweiz ab 9,00 | Slowenien 6,10 € | Belgien/Lux 5,30 €
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HOME VISION

HECO

Ambient 5.1A

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Heco Ambient 5.1A

best buy

video

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Heco Ambient 5.1A

Price/Performance: very good



Ambient Sound

"Less is more. Heco wants to shake up the hotly contested mini sub/satellite market with its new Ambient 5.1A set. The signs are good.

Pretty much every speaker manufacturer today offers small sub/satellite systems in addition to its renowned speaker series. This is something demanded by the customer. These sets are real problem solvers. Whether it's for a cramped dorm room or an entry-level set for inconspicuous integration in the living room: Sextets in this format have a right to exist. The products available are diverse and range from small, plastic speakers with cheap broadband chassis, up to solid aluminium cabinets with integrated two-way technology. Heco has set itself the ambitious aim of introducing a set that is to be taken seriously in this often derided segment. Its Ambient 5.1A set consists of four identical one-litre capacity satellite speakers, a slightly larger centre speaker and a 20cm chassis subwoofer with bass reflex technology. Their aim is evident externally: The black cabinets in a Piano lacquer finish look really impressive. The aluminium cabinets are equipped with a 75 mm long-stroke chassis and 20 mm dome. The importance of the centre speaker in a home cinema setup is evident through the integration of two small bass/midrange units. Reversible fuses protect the chassis from a heat-related fatality. An uncommon feature in this segment comes in the shape of the solid gold-plated screw terminals, which are capable of accommodating banana plugs. Wall brackets are supplied for all four satellite speakers. Small glass feet and optional slim speaker stands round off the overall image very nicely.

A challenge for any developer

It's clearly evident that Heco is taking this seriously. Chassis units haven't just been taken off the shelf; rather developers have been thinking about how to conjure up the best possible sound from the miniature cabinets. Strictly speaking, these are challenges for the engineers, for whom neither the format nor money plays a role. This has seen the bass/midrange units being subjected to targeted stress levels in order to create an optimised drive and achieve the best possible cone consistency. No expense has been spared on the crossover either, as high quality components have been predominantly used. This

really pays off, as the listening test reveals. The set operates in a surprisingly mature manner thanks to its good bass range. In other words, the listener isn't left with the impression of the sound being produced by miniature speakers. The developers have wangled a clean transition between the subwoofer and the satellite speakers in particular. Although the bass unit has to run up to 120 hertz, if is positioned between the satellite speakers, its sound cannot be located. There is no gap between the sub and satellites.

Immaterial whether Diana Krall is giving it her all in stereo jazz songs or whether you're watching the film "Brotherhood of the Wolf", the set always performs well. The bass range is truly impressive: not only with regards to depth but also in terms of precision. It's hardly inferior to large sets which cost several times as much. The set's soft presence can be forgiven in light of the otherwise excellent level of tonality. Above all, the uniform sound generated by all satellite speakers in the set is particularly pleasing. This makes spatial scenes appear very authentic without distracting the viewer from the actual film.

Conclusion

We have to attest to the set's good soundstage. It does almost everything right, even though it inherently cannot tolerate high levels. But this can be overcome, especially if you bear in mind that it otherwise generates a balanced level of tonality and an extremely plausible panoramic soundstage. Spending € 700 on Heco's Ambient 5.1A set is a good investment. This can only mean one thing: **PURCHASE TIP.**"



The solid aluminium cabinet cuts a good figure on the glass base. The two-way combination of the satellite speakers is clearly coordinated. The necessary basic tone is present even when placed close to a wall, which provides vocal segments with an adequate amount of conviction.