

"And if you interpret that now as being highly recommended by the editorial staff, you're dead right."

"This speaker does everything perfectly."



## HECO

*Direkt*

**stereoplay**  
**Highlight**

11/15

Sound:

**Absolutely top class**

Price/performance:

**Very Good**



Stereoplay 11 | 2015

## HECO

Lise-Meitner-Str. 9 · 50259 Pulheim · Germany · www.heco-audio.de

## New Old Stock

**This speaker is a huge surprise in the German loudspeaker scene. Heco puts an end to the mainstream monotony.**

Hi-fi freaks who have drifted a bit towards the tube, vintage and efficiency corner in the last few years will surely not have had Heco on their radar screen. This now needs to be corrected with a bang. You have to congratulate those who came up with the "Direkt" for their courage to go against the (loudspeaker) flow. In the face of loudspeaker engineering that is visibly becoming standardised, it is certainly high time this happened. Detractors are already claiming that the practically 'identical simulation and measuring technology' used everywhere means that the loudspeakers produced with it are hardly distinguishable any more.

## The Direkt is quite different

The Direkt is completely different to all the others. It breaks what are regarded as cast-iron rules, borrows from the past, dares to be "loud" again and does not care about conventions. The result is a fresh, new speaker that really is needed, given the threat of perfectionist boredom lurking on the horizon. Now we see that everything can be different. With a wide instead of a narrow enclosure. With little depth and striking, solid aluminium feet that tilt the MDF cabinet gently backwards. And not without reason: There are two large bass reflex openings pointing downwards that help to produce amazing pressure in teamwork with the 28 cm subwoofer which, in practical terms, is virtually a wide-range speaker. The chassis is optimised for efficiency, runs gently upwards, and has a paper diaphragm. "Kraft paper", as Heco call it, reminiscent of a glorious past that certainly did not present us with any bad drivers but, rather, ensured - unlike now - high efficiency. The Direkt is, in contrast, happy with 10 watts, typically suited for tube amplifiers and with high load capacity. This means it is also an effective playing partner for the rocker in us.

## Attractive curves

The inventors refer to the edges of the just 20 cm deep but 44 cm wide enclosure, which has additional bracing inside, as "attractive curves". Nonetheless, the Direkt comes across, as if in defiance of the slimness craze currently prevailing in loudspeaker design, as wonderfully large and accelerates like lightning from a standing start with the large but lightweight paper diaphragm, while still displaying surprisingly low distortion and being finely chiselled. Logically enough, the subwoofer is not a resolution wonder.

However, it does find a happy medium between the necessary bass pressure, mid-range reproduction that is as pure as possible and radically fast response characteristics.

The Direkt is therefore not the normal two-way compromise but, rather, a convincingly powerful speaker with a proverbially strong foundation. And the vintage group, now rubbing its eyes in astonishment, is already peering at an Alnico version of this fine driver ...

## Dome with horn attachment

But let's take a look at the tweeter first. The 28 mm silk dome has been redeveloped and is fitted with a powerful double magnet system and a solid aluminium front panel. This is also designed as a horn attachment and therefore performs a twofold function. Heco calls this "high-efficiency wave-control horn geometry". This results in high efficiency and, with it, a seamless fit for the subwoofer. Not without a crossover, of course. This separates at 2300 Hertz and also linearises the impedance curve. Amplifiers like that, just as much as the specified 95 dB per watt and metre efficiency.

## Efficiency is woefully underestimated.

Despite affordable, high amplifier performance nowadays, the Direkt proves that the subject of efficiency is woefully underestimated. Because the Heco takes off "like a bat out of hell", always comes across as "wide awake" and is, in particular, also unusually quick in the lower mid-range. It is evident: It is not that easy to replace the efficiency level with power alone. And paper diaphragms are by no means antiquated but are, rather, a topic that can be developed further marvelously with current methods.

## Perfect

Anyone able to enjoy the Direkt for a longer period of time will notice an amazing effect in him or herself: Calm, attention turned to the music. And it's fun. This speaker does everything perfectly. This may also be due to its large figure, which causes it to rise far above the speaker, which is only a metre or so high, to an astonishing extent. Or simply due to its tonality, which arrives at the listening position as a unified whole free of artifacts. The listening position is designed to be and certainly can be in the middle as the subwoofer is certainly not a world champion in terms of broad emission characteristics. But that is no harm. Any increase in level is digested by the Direkt without any complaint. It can rock, stomp and sometimes even yell. The most important thing, however: It is not what is meant by a fun speaker. It is, rather, a very serious, absolutely top-class example of how it could be done - if you only wanted to. And if you interpret that as being highly recommended by the editorial staff, you're dead right!



## Assessment:

Fine, richly detailed, agile sound, impulsive and stable. Large, prominent figure. Happy with just a few watts and also expressly suitable for tube amplifiers.

## HIGHLIGHT

Sound: **Absolutely top class**

Overall rating: **81 Points**

Price/Performance: **Very Good**