

stereoplay

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Die technische Dimension von HiFi

Deutschland 6,50 €

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# HECO

## THE NEW STATEMENT

"The large kraft paper cone and the elaborate Alnico magnet system ensure a wonderful listening experience"



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Highlight

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# ABSOLUTELY TOP CLASS

“The majority of mid-range drivers in hi-fi speakers are equipped with tapered cones that are composed of rigid materials such as aluminium or paper with various additives. The systems operate in a similar manner to woofers; they are just more compact and optimised for processing shorter wavelengths. In contrast to dome drivers, the voice coils are smaller than the cones and do not come into contact with the edge mount, but close to the centre. The mount, or 'surround' in technical jargon, can therefore be softer and exhibit a longer stroke. Cone midranges can generally couple at lower frequencies and create higher levels, particularly in the lower mid-range. They are valued for their durability and because they offer numerous options for refinement. A special second generation cone midrange is now available as Heco's flagship model, which goes by the name "The New Statement". The chassis uses a taut textile edge mount and a cone manufactured from kraft paper combined with a small amount of wool. Despite its high level of rigidity the mixture produces a very neutral performance and is considered one of the best materials for midrange speakers. The oscillating system is supported by a high-strength die-cast basket, which is provided with a high gloss finish. The magnetic field required to drive the 25 mm voice coil is provided by an Alnico magnet, which consists of aluminium, nickel, cobalt and iron. The expensive material is extremely temperature-stable and is described by speaker experts as being particularly pure and melodic. While most cone midranges eke out their existence in enclosed chambers that prevent acoustic short circuits in a rather brutal manner, Heco has provided its driver with a chamber that opens to the rear and is filled with a range of insulating materials. A large proportion of the out-of-phase, rear wave energy pools here. What's left passes outwardly through a large, mesh-covered opening at the rear of the speaker. The Statement thereby exhibits a certain dipolar characteristic, which results in a free and relaxed reproduction. In essence, the partly open design is used to prevent harmful sound reflections that are normally repelled back towards the cone in sealed enclosures.

### A wonderful listening experience

Not quite as spectacular is the rest of the configuration: Two bass drivers with kraft paper cones that have been slightly modified in comparison to the first generation unit and three metallic reflex ports at the rear cater for the low-frequency range. A dome with a soft fibre cone and double-ferrite magnet has been enlarged from 25 mm to 30 mm in diameter for the treble range. Although the materials used have a certain retro charm, the drivers are extremely modern. Heco has been using the legendary Klippel Analyzer, which is currently the most advanced tool for the development of oscillating systems, for quite some. In terms of wattage requirement and harmonic distortion Heco's unit is clearly head and shoulders above the ADAM and ATC systems. The housing now exhibits a curved design instead of its previously angular lines. Even though the dimensions are virtually the same, the second generation unit weighs in at six kilos heavier (equating to around 50 kilos per unit), which, in light

of the premium tangible quality, creates a lot of enjoyment. The sturdy connecting terminal is still at the cutting edge of technology with an integrated adjusting element for the treble range. Other manufacturers could learn a thing or two here. The same goes for the sound, which is characterised by a sensational amount of fun and enjoyment in the New Statement; just watch out it doesn't overwhelm you. Part of this wow factor is down to the speaker's outstanding level of efficiency. The New Statement is barely restrained, even after the obligatory compensation level, and it reproduces all kinds of music in a manner that brings tears of joy to the listener. We find ourselves automatically looking for weaknesses, which becomes irritating because there are none. In the New Statement it's not just the midrange that sounds flawless, as the rest of the setup is of an exceptionally high quality too: The bass is extremely solid, while the treble is subtle and completely free of any stress.

This makes the Heco unit a clear favourite in the final.

### Evaluation

Large elegant floorstanding speaker. A striking, high quality finish and an ambitious three-way configuration with an Alnico magnet for the midrange. A powerful and sensational multi-layered sound that is world class. This is where dreams are fulfilled!

### A cone with class

With its hard edge mount and highly linear drive, the 17 cm cone midrange creates a high degree of pulse fidelity that makes every minor detail audible. Thanks to the generous surface area of the cone even the smallest oscillations are sufficient for a rich and full level. The driver never appears strained even when in full use. Even at a sound pressure of 100 dB and a distance of 1 metre, the ambient noise in the mid-range remains within the measuring limit. In theory, the unusually large midrange unit should focus between 1000 and 3000 Hz, but this doesn't happen in practice. The operating range of the cone starts below 300 Hz. "The polished die-cast basket is held in place by eight screws."



The terminal is outstanding to touch, high-contrast and also offers a high frequency filter.

In the test field: Adam, ATC, Heco