

**"A SLENDER, BEAUTIFUL PRODUCT
WITH POWER AND PASSION"**



HECO

ALEVA GT 1002



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Heco's Aleva series is popular with both music and movie fans alike. The reasons for this are obvious; there's hardly any other speaker series out there that manages to combine power and elegance so harmoniously while delighting the eyes and ears in equal measure.

Only the best ...

Let's start from the beginning: the most striking feature in the new series is obviously the elegant high gloss cabinet (which is optionally available in black or white) that the German engineers have used for their slender three-way floorstanding speakers. While it has become common for even the most reasonably priced speakers to feature a high gloss finish today, there are some very good and not so good finishes out there. In this case, however, it is clearly very good; the piano finish, which is the result of a complex multi-layering process, proves to be extremely sophisticated in our critical examination and it provides the 1002 models with an air of beauty and elegance. Naturally, the developers didn't want its technology to be inferior in any way. And because special projects require special measures, the Pulheim company spared no expense or effort in developing its new Aleva family. In fact, Heco itself describes it as follows: "All of the chassis used for the Aleva GT series have been completely redeveloped, while the state-of-the-art 130 mm bass-midrange driver, which has been integrated in these chassis, has been entrusted with a central and particularly important role. ... Aerodynamically formed, diamond cut aluminium die-cast baskets, durable rubber surrounds and cones manufactured from tried and tested HECO kraft paper are naturally also incorporated in the new Aleva GT series. The flagship model, namely the Aleva GT 1002, also features a heavy-duty 250 mm woofer in the side panel for an enhanced bass response. The dome tweeter has also been redesigned according to state-of-the-art developments. The short horn attachment accommodated in the diamond-cut aluminium front panel, the powerful double magnet system and the particularly wide surround ensure a high loading capacity, excellent

dynamics at all volumes and a harmonious sound pattern. The solid panels and internal bracing that have been used for the cabinets of each Aleva GT unit ensure excellent low-resonance properties, while the crucial baffles used for all models are particularly thick at 25 mm. ... In addition, the generously sloped sides of the baffle optimise acoustic properties by reducing edge reflections. Screwed, flow-optimised bass reflex tubes at the rear of the housing ensure a powerful and distortion-free bass response. Connectivity is provided by connecting terminals with gold-plated and insulated screw connections, which are compatible with bi-wiring and bi-amping configurations. Phase- and amplitude-corrected crossovers - which are complemented in the floorstanding speakers by an optional treble adjustment function - ensure an above-average acoustic performance."

In practice

The 1002 models certainly know how to impress with their near-perfect spatial representation, which is thanks, in no small part, to the orientation of the two speakers in our listening room. After some toing and froing it turns out that when the speakers are slightly aligned towards the reference position they generate an effects-laden, and at the same time credible, soundstage - in terms of both breadth and depth - with hardly any room for improvement. This is quickly confirmed in Mozart's "Fluete Concerto" by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. The musical collective consisting of the wind section and violinists unfolds in front of me as if from nowhere. Virtually every member of the orchestra is allocated their own place on the imaginary stage and no detail seems to be omitted, even during the most complex of passages. All of the sound elements are projected ceremoniously into the room to acoustically transform our editorial office into a concert hall. This is thoroughly impressive and definitely wasn't expected. The abundance of fine information that is provided for the listener here with a minimal amount of exertion is, in fact, sensational! However, there's also another side to the slim speakers from the Rhineland. When requested

they roll up their sleeves and generate an impressive reproduction of the bass range that is quite something. They build up the sound pattern from the bottom up without being the slightest bit sedate. The speakers demonstrate their agility in Sarah Moule's "That Old Black Magic" with a lot of verve and a performance that is anything but intrusive. The visually impressive midrange duo that is accommodated in each speaker follows each impulse precisely and returns to an absolute standstill again just fractions of a second later. This is a technical advantage that is not only of benefit to the fundamental tone, but also to the bass response and it enables the Aleva GT 1002 to master even the most complex of musical tasks. The fact that our test pair is also adept at higher levels is demonstrated with James Blake's "Unluck". This is a track that has driven so many test models to their limits. This cannot be said, however, of "my" two Aleva units. The slender sound transducers not only reproduce the artist's distinctive vocals in an exemplary dry manner, but they also generate a sound with an amazing pressure that is anything but intrusive, as demonstrated by the sudden bass beats in our listening room. And, as if that wasn't enough, this impressive bass performance is further enhanced by a considerable portion of structure-borne sound, which always seems to make our clothes vibrate. This is an effect that fans of harder music will particularly enjoy.

Conclusion

Sound and design do not necessarily have to be mutually exclusive. Heco proves this with its Aleva GT 1002: the speakers exude an elegant and charming appearance on one hand and outstanding sound properties on the other. Carefully selected materials, very good workmanship and excellent sound properties are combined in this speaker to form a perfect symbiosis. In short: thanks to its performance and excellent sound the Aleva GT 1002 is highly recommended for use in a living room setup and, to top things off, it is also available for a reasonable price.