



"SOUND SCULPTURE"



HECO

Aleva GT 402



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very good

Sound: Very Good
Configuration: Very Good
Workmanship: Very Good
Price/performance: Very Good
Overall: Very Good



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Heco Aleva GT 402: Sound sculpture

The speakers in Heco's new Aleva GT series are characterised by state of the art technology, an attractive design and a high quality sound. This is reason enough for AV-Magazin to put the compact Aleva GT 402 floorstanding speaker to the test and see just what qualities it has. The new Aleva GT series not only includes the compact Aleva GT 402 speakers presented here, but also the two larger and more expensive speakers, namely the Aleva GT 602 and the Aleva GT 1002. All three floorstanding models are suitable for wide-ranging audio playback within a stereo or multi-channel setup. If you want to put together a surround set, you can opt for the space-saving Aleva GT 202 shelf speakers for the rear-left and rear-right positions. The centre channel, which is all-important for speech intelligibility, sounds best on the horizontally configured Aleva GT Center 32. The Aleva GT Sub 322A active subwoofer generates the required pressure in the deep bass range. This report, however, is dedicated to the smallest floorstanding speakers in the series, which, despite their petite dimensions, look set to generate an impressive sound. The Aleva GT 402 is currently available in either a black or white high gloss finish and costs around € 500 per unit.

Design and workmanship

The Aleva GT 402 speaker looks rather harmonious with its respectable proportions and it should blend in easily in any living room. Standing at a metre tall and exhibiting a narrow baffle, it looks both classy and graceful. The attached side panels give the compact Aleva GT speaker a particularly powerful and elegant look. The high gloss finish is flawless and has been evenly applied to provide a luxurious, reflective surface. While the baffle and the side panels have been finished in a glossy lacquer, the rear of the unit has been given a silk-matt veneer. The drivers, like the generously equipped terminal area and the rounded bass reflex tubes, have been recessed by Heco so they sit flush in the solid MDF cabinet. The gaps between the chassis baskets and the milled edges run parallel, which simply emphasises the highly detailed quality of the units. The rubber feet under the base plate provide optimum stability on all hard floor coverings such as tiles, parquet and laminate flooring. Optimum stability is also ensured on softer surfaces such as carpet and vinyl flooring thanks to the supplied metal spikes, which can be screwed into the metric threaded inserts under the base plate.

Technical configuration

To ensure the best possible sound quality, Heco has utilised elaborate, technically developed chassis. The baffle is adorned with a total of three drivers, which operate two cones and a tweeter. The latter features a small 28 mm domed cone made of lightweight textile fibre. To optimise the speaker's playback performance the tweeter has been equipped with a subtly curved aluminium front panel that serves as a sound guide for the high-frequency range. Heco has also embedded the voice coil used for the dome driver in a magnetic ferrofluid solution to effectively dissipate the heat that is generated during operation and to improve its load-handling capacity and resonance behaviour. A dual ferrite magnet system ensures optimum conversion of the various audio signals. A 130 mm cone driver is installed above and below the dome tweeter. The lower driver acts as a pure woofer and operates up to a fundamental frequency range of 450 Hz. The upper cone reproduces the bass and midrange spectrum and thus functions as a wide-ranging bass-midrange driver. The upper cut-off frequency of this driver is approximately 3,400 Hz. The tweeter then takes over proceedings from this point. To ensure an optimum sound in the mid- and low-frequency ranges Heco has utilised a lightweight and low-resonance paper cone that is characterised by a particularly harmonious sound reproduction. Stabilising dust caps, long-throw rubber surrounds and high performance voice coils are also used to ensure a low-distortion conversion of the sound. To guarantee a secure seating of the cone mount and the drive section, all of the cone drivers in the Aleva GT series have been equipped with aerodynamically-shaped die-cast aluminium baskets, which permit the best possible oscillating behaviour of the radiating surfaces. The generously equipped terminal area shouldn't go unmentioned either. This features five gold-plated and insulated screw terminals that ensure low-loss signal transfer between the connecting cables and the speaker. The separate construction and signal flow of the integrated crossover means the floorstanding speaker can either be connected in a bi-wiring or bi-amping configuration. Directly behind the sturdy terminal area the audio signals are transferred to the amplitude- and phase-optimised crossover, which is equipped with high quality components. As a special feature, the Aleva GT 402 features a level adjustment option for the treble range. Heco's speakers can either be made to sound neutral or a little bit crisper depending on the pole terminal that's used to connect the positive cable.

Sound quality

We start our listening test with the rather ambient "Relax - Edition One" by Blank and Jones. The Aleva GT 402 delivers a rather pleasing performance here with an excellent sound quality that is distinguished by a clear treble, present mid-range and a voluminous bass. The spherical sounds are distributed perfectly across the virtual stage in a broad stereo image. The enveloping, spatial sound pattern is underlined by a perfectly graduated bass range, which has a particularly positive effect on classical music. Large orchestral ensembles, for example, are provided with a clean and perfectly structured sound. This enables the listener to easily distinguish between all instrument groups in terms of dynamics and tonality, without the overall sound appearing disrupted or "thinned out". The vocal reproduction of the Aleva GT 402 doesn't give any cause for criticism either. The slender floorstanding speaker reproduces the album "Unplugged" by The Corrs with a coherent tonality that perfectly showcases the females' vocals. The tweeter supports the overall sound pattern with an outstanding level of detail that never appears unpleasant or overly emphasised. In summary, the Aleva GT 402 provides its listeners with a wonderfully relaxed and stress-free environment in which to enjoy their music.

Clear text

Heco simply reinforces its claim of producing strong-sounding compact speakers with its new Aleva GT 402 series. The slim floorstanding speakers, which are both living room-friendly and real all-rounders, put in an excellent performance in the AV-Magazin test with a full-bodied and crisp sound.

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