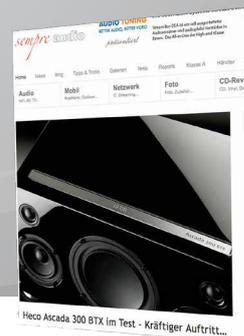# HECO
Ascada 300 BTX

"POWERFUL PERFORMANCE"

HECO

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

Heco's Ascada 300 BTX, which features Bluetooth functionality, apt-X support and a rich sound, is an excellent example of how high quality and attractive music can be reproduced directly from a smartphone or tablet in a very convenient way throughout your home.

We think...

Heco's Ascada 300 BTX is definitely one of the best compact speaker systems available on the market and in its class. It is able to play music directly from a smartphone or tablet in the simplest way possible thanks to its Bluetooth functionality with apt-X support. And it does this in a quality that is always compelling, immaterial of the genre of music, and regardless of whether it's used for fine, soft tones, or a much louder and faster sound.

... Heco, the Pulheim based company, has developed its Ascada 300 BTX to be an alternative to a stereo speaker system that is in no way inferior to a compact hi-fi system. It takes up very little space, however, which enables it to be set up flexibly throughout the house.

In a nutshell, Heco's Ascada 300 BTX is a fully active Bluetooth speaker system that is equipped with an integrated subwoofer to support the lowest frequency ranges. Heco is a traditional speaker manufacturer that is intimately acquainted with the fundamental laws of physics and has developed a compact system that reproduces a more than adequate volume.

... There is no reason for complaint in this respect, especially since the developers have opted for a very appealing design. Heco's Ascada 300 BTX is optionally available in black or white. Both versions feature a flawless high-gloss finish in which metal applications, such as the engraved lettering at the top of the unit, form an elegant visual contrast. The feet used for the speaker are also metal and are resplendent in their silver finish, which simply adds to the attractive overall appearance.

What is rather remarkable is the driver assembly in this active speaker system. The developers were obviously able to pick from an embarrassment of riches and apply all of their experience to elicit the best possible sound from this compact system.

The system features two 92 mm midrange drivers that are equipped with paper cones, while two 20 mm fabric domes cater for the treble frequencies. These have been positioned as close as possible to the outside of the speaker to ensure an optimum stereo image is produced despite the comparatively small dimensions of the Ascada 300 BTX. The midrange drivers and tweeters have been accommodated in an enclosed housing construction to achieve a particularly accurate sound pattern. Things are a little different for the low-frequency driver, which can best be described as an integrated front-firing subwoofer. The developers have used a centrally located 130 mm driver in this setup in addition to a bass reflex system with flow-optimised ground effect reflex port. This provides the foundation for high level stability and a particularly powerful reproduction of the bass range.

Heco's Ascada 300 BTX features DSP signal processing to ensure optimum activation of the driver. A Class-D amplifier generates a total output of 80 watts, of which 40 watts is used for the subwoofer alone and 20 watts is used for each of the midrange and treble drivers. Four sound programmes are also offered by the DSP signal processor, namely Linear, Rock, Ambient and Vocal. These allow playback to be adapted to the respective content at the push of a button. We found the "Linear" setting was best in each case, however, this is purely a matter of personal taste.

... Nothing else is really required, as Heco's Ascada 300 BTX primarily relies on wireless signal transmission via its integrated Bluetooth 4.0 module. This ensures that the apt-X codec, and not just A2DP, is available for transmitting signals directly from a smartphone or tablet.

Finally, this just leaves us with the question of how Heco's Ascada 300 BTX works in practice and, importantly, how does it sound?

This question can be succinctly answered in two words: very good! We are almost tempted to say 'surprisingly good', because we have rarely witnessed such a competent performance in this class. Of course, Heco's Ascada 300 BTX cannot replace a "genuine" hi-fi system entirely; after all an optimum set up of two (!!) speaker systems isn't possible here. But it comes extremely close! This is probably what the developers at Heco wanted to achieve.

Even fastidious music lovers will find it easy to make this compromise, as Heco's Ascada 300 BTX sounds surprisingly mature and delivers a well-balanced and appealing sound, regardless of the music genre. The Ascada 300 BTX can be pushed quite far before it reaches its limits. This makes it suitable for larger rooms and it is ideal for anyone looking for an optimum solution for a party with friends. Heco's Ascada 300 BTX also reproduces gentle "softer tones" in a compelling manner, complete with all of the various nuances and subtleties, which makes for a relaxing evening with a good book and discreet background music. This is by no means an easy feat, certainly not in this class, and it shows that there are some real specialists behind the Heco Ascada 300 BTX who definitely understand their trade.

Heco's Ascada 300 BTX rightfully deserves its recommendation from our editorial staff, because it is one of the best solutions in this segment. The extremely appealing design, impeccable workmanship and ease of use of the Heco Ascada 300 BTX go hand in hand with its compelling musical performance, meaning you can often forgo a conventional hi-fi system and enjoy music anywhere in your home in the easiest way possible.

Evaluation

Heco's Ascada 300 BTX is definitely one of the best compact speaker systems available on the market and in its class. It is able to play music directly from a smartphone or tablet in the simplest way possible thanks to its Bluetooth functionality with apt-X support. And it does this in a quality that is always compelling, immaterial of the genre of music, and regardless of whether it's used for fine, soft tones, or a much louder and faster sound.

Plus

A very elegant design, extremely stable levels, fine nuances with a very warm, rounded sound, Bluetooth functionality and apt-X support.