

HOME THEATER BEAUTIES - with charm and stage presence

HECO Celan GT 5.1 SET

- + SOUND: **1.0**
- + PRACTICAL APPLICATION: **1.0**
- + CONFIGURATION: **1.1**
- + CLASS: **TOP CLASS**
- + PRICE/PERFORMANCE: **VERY GOOD**



(Heco Celan GT 202 - Heco Celan GT 102F - Heco Celan GT Center 32 - Heco Phalanx 202A)

HECO

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Heco's elegant new addition to the legendary Celan series is a real eye-catcher. It wants to prove that it can be smoothly integrated into the 5.1 set and has the visual appeal to enhance even the most modern of living rooms. We wanted to explore it more in depth and find out what kind of sound experience can be expected from these classy transducers.

A few weeks ago, we sent the new Heco Celan flagship product to our test department to put it through its paces. It is a lean, elegantly designed and astoundingly well-crafted floor-standing speaker that also displays stunning acoustic capabilities. The test results produced by the Celan GT 602 – the correct name of the three-way speaker and, ultimately, the leading product of our premium brand – were thoroughly impressive. We were completely surprised by this because of its lean design, so much so that we brought in a 5.1 surround set from the same series for our home theater test. This set consists of the GT 202, GT 102F, GT Center 32 models and the New Phalanx 201A subwoofer.

Visually spectacular

As with the GT 602 already thoroughly tested, its "younger siblings" are now garnering notice in our test room with their brilliant high-gloss white surfaces and their outstanding workmanship, which will even make the most staunch critic stop and stare. This is again surprising because for those who know a thing or two about coatings ideally intended to attract notice with a high-gloss finish also know how hard it is to achieve this, especially on wooden substrates. Yet, as we said, everything here is perfect, which can be ascribed to (many competitive models are not as cleanly machined) the completely and flawlessly coated edges and transitions of each member of our multichannel setup. The coating is one thing, the shape is another. And in this case, too, Heco craftsmen have done their job well and endowed their "little" GTs with a gently rounded housing and a clear design language that allows its family origin to be identified while also being well-proportioned. Regarding its likely and most frequent use – in the living room – the GT 102F model is especially worth mentioning. At first glance, it is more of a classic shelf loudspeaker whose depth, however measures just 11 centimeters. Because this speaker is perfectly designed with an on-wall mounting in mind, it can bypass many obstacles that have so far prevented a surround sound system from being integrated into the living room landscape. In brief, the new, lean loudspeaker from our test set-up is cleverly designed, simply beautiful and mainly recommended for use in elegant, modern and tastefully designed living room environments.

Heco New Celan: Compact and generously equipped

As we have said, when it comes to quality workmanship and design, the new Celans leave behind a big impression. One that cannot take a backseat to the technology it uses.

And it doesn't either, that much can be precluded. If you remove the grille placed on the front panel, you will immediately notice the chassis carefully inset flush to the baffle. In doing so, the German loudspeaker experts did not rely on "off the rack" technology, rather it provided its GT 102, GT 102F and the GT Center 32 models to the two-way systems developed especially for this line. The high-energy tweeter is located in the top compartment of the compact speakers or directly in the center. It measures 30 millimeters and rests at the center of a cone-shaped aluminum front disk. The word "disk" is not precisely correct here because it is slightly recessed. This enhances its look, on the one hand, though acoustics were the primary consideration. Simply stated, the cone-shaped disk targets the tweeter's waveguide, making it much more powerful and efficient. Directly below it or flanking it in the center is the bass-midrange speaker also designed for this application. As is usual in two-way systems, the same was designed especially for the playback of a very broad frequency range. The 150 millimeter diameter, long-throw surround and the highly resilient kraft-paper cone already suggest a deep and harmonious sound. A glance at the technical data has confirmed our expectations. A lower limit frequency of 34 Hertz was given in the manufacturer's information for the GT 202 front speaker that we used for our test. A further indicator of its performance and the trust placed by Heco engineers in their new product can be found on the backside of the speaker. There, both in the already mentioned GT 202 as in the GT Center 32 are located generously dimensioned double connector panels equipped with high-quality bridges, which makes both models suitable for bi-wire as well as bi-amping operation. The latter naturally does not apply to the GT 102F because it was designed to be wall-mounted. Nevertheless, this Celan product family member also comes with high-quality screw terminals to which the more massive signal cables can be easily connected.

Clever solution: The mere 11 centimeter deep GT 102 comes equipped with a complete chassis and is primarily designed to be a wall-mounted speaker.

Compact powerful cube

Selecting the extra subwoofer was relatively easy. Though Heco offers – depending on the intended use – a substantial selection of corresponding basses, it became clear very quickly that it had to be a very compact speaker that can be flexibly and unobtrusively placed in any living room.

Since we wanted to know precisely how well it would work, we ultimately picked the smallest model from the Phalanx Series, the New Phalanx 202A, which has gotten outstanding reviews. It is a power cube that delivers a max. 350 watt output and whose side panels contain two woofer chasses. While one operates actively and the other passively, each one has a diameter of 200 millimeters. "That doesn't sound very impressive, at first, does it?" is perhaps what you are thinking. Wrong. Because the 202A measures 28.5 centimeters high, 27 cm wide and 29 cm deep (compare: a DIN A4 sheet of paper is 29 cm long), our test system offers a gigantic cone surface, considering its dimensions.

In order to withstand the comparatively high pressure maxima generated here, Heco engineers placed the technology just described in a massive MDF housing reinforced with internal bracing. It not only provides enormous stability, but its design enables it to reduce harmful sound resonances, according to the manufacturer. The active module placed in the rear rounds off the impressive package of features and functions. This lavishly equipped home theater speaker system comes with volume knobs, variable crossover frequency and phase selection also for the bass equalizer (bass extension) as well as two input jacks, thus leaving nothing to be desired, even from the most sophisticated home theater fans.

Living room surround sound

What Heco's good-looking 5.1-setup in our test room gives as its best is at least as extraordinary as the quality of its workmanship and its standard package of features. Its playback is thoroughly powerful, balanced and delivers an astoundingly full and clean bass foundation. As the identical configuration already suggests, the snow-white surround package acoustically matches the 5.1 set perfectly and is therefore tailored to a dramatic playback of multichannel film sound tracks. Just as an aside, center and front loudspeakers know how to shine through an outstanding vocal and detailed playback.

Conclusion

With its new Celan, the traditional German brand Heco offers a product line whose design, workmanship and quality are perfectly joined together. The agility of their enthralling fundamental tone, paired with the clean midrange and treble resolution, delivers a home theater experience that listeners will not be able to get enough of. And all that in an amazingly compact package and a stylish design that even the lady of the house will not be able to refuse. So if you are looking for a space-saving, elegant 5.1 set with outstanding sound quality for your living room, then the Celan GT 5.1, available in high-gloss white, black, or espresso, may be just for you.