

"What makes it such a grandiose wall of sound, however, it most definitely the outstanding sound quality."

HECO

Direkt Dreiklang

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Heco Direkt Dreiklang

Test result: very good

Soundquality: **OUTSTANDING**

Laboratory: **GOOD – VERY GOOD**

Workmanship: **VERY GOOD**

Overall: **VERY GOOD**

HIGHLIGHT



HECO

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



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Terrific appearance

After the »Direkt«, Heco is now offering its new top model, the »Dreiklang«. Technically and in terms of sound, it is intended to set new standards, visually in any case. Does it succeed? Most floor-standing loudspeakers have a narrow baffle and a deep enclosure. Among others, Avantgarde Acoustic set an initial counterpoint with the Zero One, which is wider than it is deep, [Heco followed with the Direkt](#). Anyone who thought that the logical next step would be to push ahead with the development a smaller model of the design with "the baffle twice the width of the enclosure depth" is quite wrong. With the Direkt Dreiklang, Heco has created a monumental loudspeaker system. This definitely puts a brake on the move towards miniaturisation. However, i-fidelity.net finds it really bold to immediately set a counterpoint in these dimensions. Because the Direkt Dreiklang astonishes the observer for several reasons. With a depth of 35 cm, it is 70 cm wide. Its weight of almost 70 kg rests on four legs, at the bottom of which there are either spikes or half-round rubber supports. All of this lends it an appearance that can be described as very elegant despite its powerful physique. It exudes an almost "magnetic" attraction even before a single tone emerges from this enclosure. What a speaker! But the work is not finished just with the enclosure, of course! The Dreiklang is designed as a 3-way bass reflex loudspeaker. Located on the narrow bottom of the enclosure are as many as three openings, which is also plausible in view of the air mass that can be moved by the powerful 40 cm woofer chassis. The 4-layer 7.5 cm Kapton voice coil is seated at the centre of a 17 cm magnet. The components are assembled in a die-cast aluminium basket. The large, yet lightweight membrane is bordered by a soft rubber surround. This extremely powerful unit is responsible for the transmission of frequencies up to 200 hertz. It demonstrates its surprising qualities during listening as well as in the laboratory. A 21.5 cm chassis operates between 200 and 3,100 hertz with a high level of efficiency and, according to developers, bows out in a good-natured way at the end of the upper frequency range. This chassis also has a very stable aluminium die-cast basket. The paper membrane is bordered by a fabric surround. A powerful drive comprising a strong magnet and a highly resistant voice coil is also fitted here. The Klippel measuring system was used when developing the chassis in order to suppress distortions to the lowest possible level.

Really well made

On account of the enclosure height of 1.5 metres, the tweeter is located directly below the midrange driver and therefore on the listening axis. A striking feature is the aluminium front panel of the Dreiklang, in which the 28 mm silk dome is located. It has a horn-like shape to improve efficiency and reduce sound focusing.

Looking at the rear reveals a magnet drive that is unusually strong for a tweeter and consists of three parts. Like its two playing partners, its working range is allocated by the crossover. This is equipped with just a few, close tolerance components and is firmly mounted on the inside of the rear panel of the enclosure. The single wire connection terminal is fitted with solid, gold-plated screw terminals.

Before we concentrate on listening, a few comments from the i-fidelity.net laboratory need to be made. After all, the Dreiklang is not just visually striking. Firstly, there is the very high average efficiency of almost 95 dB. With this value, even low-performance amplifiers manage to elicit high levels from the Heco's. It is also interesting how cleanly the 40 cm bass is incorporated without any protrusions. Someone will certainly have already thought: "The way it looks, I already know how it sounds." But that's nonsense, as a glance at the frequency record and the waterfall diagram shows. Our compliments to the Fischer/Gather development team for their really good work in this regard.

There are a small number of points where the term "standard" can be applied to the Heco Dreiklang. The path to achieving optimum set-up is steeper than usual. For example, a minimum of four hands are needed to get the loudspeaker out of the packaging. The feet then have to be fitted carefully. You have to make sure the Allen screws are tightly secured. Manoeuvring during set-up then proceeds very smoothly. This is done in a quick and assured manner using an Isotek test CD. Small adjustments in the angling of the speakers can be carried out alone without any difficulty. You should proceed with great care at this point because, even though the name Heco indicates the "hi-fi" category, the Dreiklang actually is high-end. After the Audionet AMP mono-blocks and the McIntosh valve combination of the C2600 AC and MC 75 AC mono-blocks had warmed up sufficiently, they transmitted their power to the Dreiklang via loudspeaker cable.

When you have 2 x 40 cm bass loudspeakers in front of you, it is, of course, very appealing to put on music that contains the appropriate fuel. Jean-Michel Jarre has just released his album »Oygene 3«. »Pt. 14« begins with the lowest octaves desired and the surprise is a success because the Dreiklang does not batter the listener to death with a solid bass wall, nor do the low tones of the keyboard mumble vaguely through the listening room. You first get the impression that you have an active loudspeaker in front of you. Because the Heco is present over the entire frequency range like a stretched bow, it is awake and sets to work at an awesomely invigorating pace. Despite electronic synthesizers, you feel you are watching the French artists as they actually strike the keys. A musical soundscape is produced quite effortlessly, gleaming in credible shading.

It also becomes clear that the Heco is quick, there is no pulse delay and subsequent reverberation is not lost, either.

What is Goliath doing with David?

When guitarist John Scofield intones »Jolene«, it is quite clear by the end of the intro that the Heco also maintains neutrality as regards naturalness. The many instrumental details of the guitar and drums are captivating here. The Dreiklang really shows off its abilities in the spatial quality of the sound. The piano and drums are arranged behind Scofield's guitar, none of the musicians is playing just for himself and an attractive interplay emerges. The intensity with which the electric guitar makes itself felt without getting out of hand or unpleasant is impressive. Admittedly, the raised listening volume is also really enjoyable here.

»Church Bells« by Carrie Underwood is absolutely perfect for the Heco Dreiklang. What begins cautiously with the banjo is interrupted by the solid beats of the drums and then finally topped off with Underwood's energetic vocals. When the solid guitars then also get involved, there's only one thing to do: up the level! It is quite clear that, with the Heco Dreiklang, you are extremely well served with just one attendee for a roaring sound party. Despite all the acoustic precision, musical emotions do not remain stuck in the enclosure. Those who want to go to the extreme should put AC/DCs »Ballbreaker« album in the player and press »Play« to find themselves directly in the clutches of the Australian rockers. The music is now not only excellent to listen to, you can also experience it physically. This title alone confirms the value of the Heco Dreiklang - just think about how much music you have!

Conclusion

After this i-fidelity.net test report, it is clear that the Heco Dreiklang is something quite special. With its striking visual appearance, the very carefully selected technical ingredients and the development achievements of the Heco team, everything fits together perfectly. The pricing framework is also right. What makes it such a grandiose wall of sound, however, it most definitely the outstanding sound quality. Contrary to its visual appearance, what is actually happening is not dominated by any frequency range; the Dreiklang is a unified whole that flatters the ears. It masters every repertoire - from the smallest ensembles to brutal live concerts, which it stages with a credibility that is extremely rare. Heco's Dreiklang fully deserves a solid »Highlight« stamp.