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HECO

Elementa 5.1 SET



+ Lively sound with powerful bass combined with top finish



- 2 x Heco Elementa 700
- 2 x Heco Elementa 300
- 1 x Elementa Center 30
- 1 x Sub 3830A



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HECO ELEMENTA 5.1 SET

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Heco now offers a huge range from very economical to very expensive. Nevertheless, there was still room for growth at the last IFA trade fair. The Elementa range is designed to concentrate on the basic needs of home cinema users. Given the high-quality finish, it even come across as slightly understated. With their timeless design and their silk-matt lacquered MDF enclosures with rounded sides, the German speakers appear more expensive than they actually are. The economical €400 Elementa 30 Center, in particular, looks a lot more with its half-metre wide bass-reflex enclosure, which shines with its impeccable edge finish and numerous metal applications. And this is in no way just for show. The support plate for the ferrofluid-cooled 2.8 cm silk-compound dome really is made of aluminium. Its wave control geometry helps to improve the dispersion characteristics and efficiency. The powerful double-magnet drive also does its part for the efficiency of the tweeter, which is also used in the Heco Elementa 700 front columns and the Elementa 300 surround speakers.

On the two bass-midrange drivers, the mounting flanges are diamond-ground, while also displaying solid craftsmanship. The baskets are made of rigid die-cast aluminium and have been aerodynamically optimised. This measure allows the air to flow unhindered at the rear of the 13.5 cm membranes for the centre speaker, enhancing the purity of the reproduction. Heco has always attached great importance to this point - after all, the development team under Shandro Fischer was one of the first to use the computer-based measurement and simulation systems like Klippel.

A lot of effort

Despite high-tech design work, Heco has selected tried-and-tested lightweight long-fibre membranes for the bass and midrange drivers as well as flat dust caps of the same mixture, which displays high internal damping qualities. The Elementa 700 uses two long-stroke 17 cm basses and one midrange driver of the same size. The crossover frequency of the two ranges is at 280 Hz, with the silk dome tweeter taking over at 3200 Hz. The 25.5 kg 3-way column can be operated in bi-wiring and bi-amping mode with its gold-plated, encapsulated screw terminals. It rests, with its 113.5 cm high, elaborately braced enclosure, on sturdy aluminium cross members, which facilitate the use of height-adjustable solid metal cone spikes. Interchangeable metal or rubber tips guarantee optimum stability on all floors. It is clear that the 2-way bass-reflex compact speakers do not need any supporting bridge. They do have rubber feet, however, to ensure stable positioning on shelf tops without any scratches. Even the minis have high-quality gold-plated and encapsulated bi-wiring terminals and a lovingly designed bass-reflex tube transplanted into the rear wall. In the Elementa 300, the soft dome tweeter is coupled with a 17 cm bass-midrange driver.

For the bass module, Heco has come up with something quite special. Rarely has there been so much membrane area with such compact dimensions. Both side walls of the Elementa Sub 3830A are almost completely filled with imposing cones. But only one is active. The other is a 38 cm passive radiator which is made to resonate by the 30 cm long-stroke chassis opposite. Thanks to the 450 watt strong Class D power amp, the two sidewire drivers should always have sufficient reserves without incurring any damage during level orgies thanks to fast-responding real-time limiters. The German producers use another English term to ensure that the relationship with the neighbours also remains unharmed. Extended Surface Dampers (ESD) serve the purpose of effectively uncoupling the 26 kg woofer from the floor

Tremor quality

Despite these precautionary measures, we were happy to be sitting in a basement with thick concrete walls. The pressure wave of the Heco subwoofer was enormous. It's hard to imagine how this acoustic Godzilla can be tamed in a normal apartment building with thin walls and ceilings. Just the set-up itself and the adjustment to the speakers was something that took a while. We had to listen with different material in order to make fine corrections and also adjust the phase patiently. It would appear that the set is not necessarily aimed at pronounced aesthetes but, rather, at those who love it when things really get going. This is also in keeping with the balance of the speakers in the treble range, where the possibility of lowering this would normally be more preferable to raising it by 2 dB, as is possible on the Elementa 700 through an additional tap on the crossover.

The cheerful optimists from the Rhineland region performed in an extremely fresh and snappy way, a bit on the lean side in the basic tone range, and extremely brilliant. This was better suited to rock and pop than to choirs, where the whole thing sometimes came across as somewhat artificial. In terms of dynamics, the Hecos were a pure delight. They reproduced every action adventure with special effects just as naturally as rock concerts in surround sound. (...)

Conclusion

This is just the right system for those who prefer things upbeat and also like to look at their surround sound set in the light or set it up in the living area.

Price/performance: VERY GOOD

+ Lively sound with powerful bass combined with top finish