

PRIME TIME

HEIMKINO
PRICE TIP
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HECO

VICTA PRIME 5.1 SET



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



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Heco's Victa series has been a best-seller over the years. This is hardly a surprise considering that the series offers a superior sound quality at comparatively low prices. We compiled a compact 5.1 set from the company's enhanced Victa Prime series.

The name "Prime" suggests straight away that the current addition to the Victa series has been further refined in terms of its technical and audio components. Heco is renowned for placing the utmost value on sophisticated chassis technology - all of the drivers used in the series, as is customary for Heco, have been completely developed in-house, with every minor design detail being meticulously analysed and optimised. Despite their reasonable price (the Victa Prime 302 shelf speakers, for example, cost just under €140), the Victa models are extremely impressive thanks to their exquisite design and impeccable workmanship.

The Victa Prime series

All of the models in the series are striking with their slightly curved side panels. These not only provide an elegant visual appearance, but also ensure less housing resonance and a reduction of standing waves inside the housing. All of the side panels are covered with a high quality decorative veneer that is optionally available in an "Ash Black", "Espresso" or "Cognac" finish. Also unusual in this price range are the solid bi-wiring speaker terminals (with the exception of the Center 102), which have been mounted on a solid aluminium plate. Just as pleasing are the rounded bass reflex ports exhibited by all Victa models, which effectively suppress disruptive flow noise in the reflex tube.

Technology

The lion's share of our 5.1 set is made up by the large Victa Prime 302 shelf speakers, which we use for both the front and surround sound. An homogeneous sound is thereby ensured thanks to an identical configuration over four channels. The entire set also exhibits dimensions that make it extremely suitable for a living room setup. The 302 speakers, which measure approximately 20 cm wide by 35 cm high, are equipped with a bass-midrange driver and a 25 mm silk dome. The 130 mm cone, which has been manufactured from long-fibre paper, is responsible for low distortion and a neutral reproduction. The tweeter's mounting plate, which is precisely embedded in the front of the housing, features a small horn attachment, which, together with a ferrofluid cooling element in the voice coil, ensures a high degree of efficiency and a high power handling capacity. The frequencies in the compact 2-way speaker are routed to the appropriate driver by a high quality crossover, which has been optimised in terms of its amplitude and phase response. All in all this is extremely elaborate for such a reasonably priced speaker. The Victa Prime 302 combi is complemented by the corresponding centre channel speaker, namely the Center 102. Besides its 48 cm wide horizontal configuration, this speaker also differs from its 302 siblings by its two bass-midrange drivers and smaller 100 mm cones. The tweeter is also a little smaller at 20 mm, however, this doesn't impair the overall performance at all, which is clearly demonstrated by our measurements.

Subwoofer

Despite the powerful bass response of up to 80 Hz provided by the front speakers, the compact Victa Prime set requires the support of a fully-fledged subwoofer for home cinema use. Heco has developed a suitable partner here in the shape of its Victa Prime Sub 252 A. Its 250 mm hardened paper cone, together with a 100 watt (RMS) amplifier module in the 32x45x40 cm large reflex housing, is responsible for a bass level of well below 40 Hz. Two large bass reflex ports provide ample pressure in the bass range without any disruptive air noise.

Listening test

We conducted our listening test with "Wrath of the Titans" on Blu-ray and the scene where the Cyclops start ripping the forest apart. This played to the strengths of the Victa set thanks to its considerable dynamism and excellent bass response. We both heard and physically felt the thundering steps of the Cyclops thanks to the precise pressure generated by the Sub 252 A. The dialogue between the main characters was clear and easy to understand amidst the noise of exploding tree trunks and the scene itself was finely garnished with realistic sound effects from behind - this is where the use of fully-fledged speakers for the rear channels really pays off.

Conclusion

This compact 5.1 set, which is extremely suitable for a living room setup, really deserves its recommendation. On the one hand it provides a fantastic sound for exciting movie nights at home, and on the other hand it exhibits optimum workmanship and an extremely elegant appearance. But the real wow factor is the tantalising price of around €1,100 for the entire 5.1 set. This proves to be real value for the home cinema fan - with great entertainment included!