

Magnat

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Magnat Quantum 657
very good

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Testresult

+ powerful bass
+ good vocal rendition
+ precise stage representation

Class

upper class

Price/Performance

very good



"The fact that something so good can be so cheap is proven every year by Rhine-based speaker specialist Magnat. A good current example is the recently revised Quantum 650 series. Its top model, which is designated the 657, has been tested extensively by AV-Magazin.

Magnat's Quantum series have evolved over the last few years to become a real insiders' tip for sound enthusiasts. The reason for this is obvious: The speakers have been improved with each generation thanks to diligent development work. Fortunately, Magnat has only been concerned with enhancing the potent speaker technology - it has left its fair pricing structure untouched. The customer is set to get a high quality sound for the money invested. That was, and is, the ambitious goal that every newly developed speaker has to attain.

At AV-Magazin we were able to see the exceptional qualities exhibited by the Quantum 650 series for ourselves back in October 2010. The compact 653 speaker being tested at that time even scooped a highlight accolade. Whether or not the top model of the 650 series also has the makings of a high-flier will be addressed by AV-Magazin in the following test report.

Design and workmanship

With a housing measuring 108 cm in height, Magnat's Quantum 657 makes an imposing appearance from the very outset. To ensure perfect visual integration in the living room there are four tasteful colour combinations to choose from. The Quantum 650 components are available in a black, mocha, cherry and Calvados finish. The latter version features a silver baffle, while the others are equipped with a black lacquered front.

The finish that has been applied is smooth and exhibits no unevenness. The lavish high gloss appearance of the front is perfectly suited to the matt film veneer of the rear of the housing. If required, a detachable metal grille can be attached via mounting holes recessed in the baffle.

The workmanship of the housing itself is solid and of an extremely high quality for this price class. The rounded side panels also make the Quantum 657 look even more impressive than it already is.

Under the beautiful surface is a multi-reinforced body manufactured from MDF. A total of five end-to-end struts connect the front, rear and side surfaces with one another. Thanks to these stabilising measures the housing's susceptibility to vibration is significantly reduced, thereby minimising harmful sound resonance. Or in other words: The bass sounds more precise.

In order to ensure sufficient stability a solid base plate is located on the underside of the speaker, to which four rubber feet are adhered. Alternatively, Magnat's 657 set can also be equipped with four rounded metal spikes.

Technology

Magnat's Quantum 657 is a passive speaker that has been configured according to the three-way principle. Two 170 mm conical speakers are utilised for the reproduction of long-wave sound frequencies. The woofers, which are accommodated in a large reflex housing, transmit audio pitches to around 300 Hertz. Thanks to its rigid ceramic-aluminium cone and a thermally stable 25 mm

voice coil, the Quantum 657 even ensures a potent, low-distortion sound at high volume levels. A flow-optimised carbon fibre composite chassis prevents compression effects behind the cone surface, which, in conjunction with the ventilated reflex volume, promises a very dynamic reproduction of the bass range.

The frequency range between 300 and 3000 Hz, which is important for vocal and instrument reproduction, is also transmitted via a 170 mm chassis. This is positioned directly above the tweeter in the baffle. The three cm dome has been manufactured from a fine-mesh fabric that is characterised by a particularly low weight for optimum sound fidelity. The small voice coil is located in a narrow magnetic gap which is cooled with ferrofluid. This means Magnat even ensures flawless signal conversion with low resonance susceptibility in the treble range.

Sound

Magnat's Quantum 657 sounds exactly as it looks: powerful and dynamic. The two 17 cm bass chassis conjure up an impressive pressure level in the lower octaves. The Quantum 657 also ensures a controlled bass response at high volume levels thanks to the excellent reflex coordination and perfect chassis/drive configuration. The developers have splashed out on an extra level in the upper bass range for the top model of the 650 series. The frequency range that is important for the pressure sensation generates an extraordinarily potent and powerful bass characteristic. This provides real listening pleasure. Hip-hop, pop and reggae fans will be in their element with the Quantum 657.

A factor that shouldn't go unmentioned is the tonal quality of the midrange sector. The audio range which is important for rendering vocal segments shone during AV-Magazin's test with the best resolution and most expressive character. This means we can recommend this speaker for classical orchestral works, operas and jazz pieces alike.

Thanks to the meticulous coordination of the crossover the 657 is able to offer excellent omni-directional characteristics. This enables the music to still sound fresh and lively even outside the so-called sweet spot. The tweeter and mid-range perform as if they had been cast from a mould. Stereo breadth and the graduation of the bass range give no cause for criticism either. The cleanly defined virtual stage and the excellent locatability of individual instruments underline the impeccable sound quality of the Quantum 657.

Clear text

The Quantum 657 floorstanding speaker from Magnat provides maximum listening pleasure with its crisp sound at a reasonable price. And the best thing about it is that the powerful speaker is versatile. Immaterial whether it's rock, pop or classical music: Thanks to sophisticated technology the Quantum 657 provides a sound quality which would have cost twice as much just a few years ago."