

## Magnat

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CS40



CS10



OVERALL RATING: 1.0  
PRICE/PERFORMANCE: VERY GOOD



OVERALL RATING: 1.1  
PRICE/PERFORMANCE: VERY GOOD



## Magnat

# Magnat MAGNAT CS RANGE - MULTI-ROOM

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## Magnat CS range - Multi-room - in a very relaxed way

Over the past few weeks and months, just about every loudspeaker manufacturer has felt panicked into bringing some kind of multi-room solution onto the market - some of them have proven their worth in our tests, and some we have preferred to steer clear of. However, Magnat has not allowed itself to be affected by the hectic goings-on in the sector. Magnat has approached the multi-room topic in a very relaxed way, enabling users who consciously forgo unusual wishes to enjoy a very intuitive and convenient multi-room experience.

Wireless hi-fi and multi-room are not completely new areas of activity for Magnat; the Magnasphere range already represents a speaker family positioned in the high-end segment. Indeed, we have already tested the compact Magnasphere 33's. However, as not everyone is interested in buying a set for €1,700, the more economical multi-room option represented by the CS range is definitely worth taking a look at. There is a choice of two models here and these can be operated completely independently or in any combination (with a maximum of 10 speakers) and via a smartphone app. As is usual nowadays, we are dealing here with a smartphone loudspeaker that can also be taken onto the balcony, for example, thanks to the built-in battery. In the Magnat portfolio, this model is known as the CS 10. It is partnered by a full-size loudspeaker, called the CS 40. The generous features make the "big brother" of the CS range particularly suitable for use in the living room or other larger rooms where you would occasionally also like to listen to music at higher volume levels.

### Clear concept

To ensure that a higher volume does not negatively affect the sound, the features of the larger CS 40 are, of course, different to those of the compact CS 10. The substantially more generous dimensions are immediately noticeable, of course, with this also accompanied by a larger volume and, logically, greater power reserves. The CS 40 can produce a power output of 50 watts, while the CS 10 makes do with a relatively moderate 15 watts. So it's no wonder that the number of drivers chosen is also different. Both speakers in the CS range are designed as active 2-way systems and operate with 25 mm tweeters and 120 mm subwoofers as well as a passive radiator positioned at the rear. In the small CS 10, however, the two drivers are only installed once, with the tweeter located at the top right and the subwoofer offset slightly to the left. In the CS 40, the set-up is doubled, roughly speaking. Strictly speaking, the CS 10 system is simply mirrored again horizontally, meaning that there is a tweeter concealed in each of the top corners, framing the two subwoofers, as it were. The permanently fitted power cord on the CS 40 is striking, while the power supply of the CS 10 is removable. The reason for this can also be found on the inside, of course, where a built-in battery is provided in the smaller of the two multi-room speakers. The battery power supply is activated via a slide control at the rear and this then delivers up to 2 hours of energy so you don't have to go without musical entertainment if there is no power socket available (or in the event of a power outage). So although long trips may not be quite the discipline intended for the CS 10, it is absolutely ideal for a leisurely, relaxed breakfast on the patio or taking a break in the hammock. As mentioned at the beginning, the CS range is designed to introduce multi-room in a relaxed manner to those who feel somewhat overwhelmed by the large number of extremely varied models available and are not inclined anyway to lug loudspeakers around with them outside the home.

### Flexible and stable

Thanks to its low weight of just 1.5 kg, the CS 10 can be carried from A to B within your own four walls and used flexibly without any difficulty. On the other hand, the CS 40 is, at a somewhat more bulky 4.85 kg, more of a sedentary contemporary and would therefore normally occupy a permanent place in the house. To ensure that it remains calm and still there, the CS 40 is fitted with non-slip feet to keep it firmly in place. The CS 10 also has four rubber feet that are somewhat more discreet than those on its big brother, of course, but no less effective. Something else the two CS loudspeaker models have in common can be found on the connection panel, where both have a LAN socket for an Ethernet cable as an alternative to the integrated WLAN module. The cable is not included in the package however and, particularly in view of the "wireless hi-fi" nature of the CS range, is not likely to be used that often. Much more interesting, on the other hand, is the possibility of also being able to connect a source device like a smartphone via a 3.5 mm audio cable. Both the CS 10 and the CS 40 have an AUX input right next to the LAN socket for this purpose. A "Set" button is also provided for cases where the speakers are

to be connected to the network via WPS. The remaining controls are located on the top, where they are both functional and visually appealing.

### Timelessly elegant

The sensor buttons on the enclosures of the two CS models are not necessarily recognisable as such and so do not disturb the continuous surface of the speakers. There are three buttons solely dedicated to controlling the volume - volume up, volume down, mute. The rest is done via the app to ensure that the reduced design appears just as modern as it is timeless. In the form of a cube with rounded sides, the CS 10 and CS 40 are likely to appeal to the vast majority of people in visual terms. With regard to colour, Magnat has therefore also opted for the classic black and white hi-fi colours (although white is only available for the CS 10), complemented by an anthracite-coloured metal perforated grille. The double-sided insert on the CS 40 is particularly attractive. The side inserts serve merely to interrupt what would otherwise be a wrap-around perforated grille. This also makes it easily possible to place the larger of the two speakers on a room-dividing shelf unit without having to stare at an unsightly rear panel all the time. Naturally enough, a display is not provided in the reduced, plain design, though a multi-coloured status LED is incorporated into the front panel of the two multi-room loudspeakers. This is located behind the protective grille, creating a pleasantly diffuse atmosphere. A white light indicates the WLAN mode, with orange signifying the active AUX input. A red light signals stand-by mode, with green appearing for a reset or software update. On the battery-operated CS 10, a red light also flashes twice in normal operation as soon as the battery reserves are gradually being depleted. When this warning appears, you should switch to mains power operation as soon as possible.

### Easy operation via the app.

Mains power supply is also recommended when the CS speakers are used in a multi-room group. The last thing you want is for one or more speakers to pack up in the middle because of the battery running low. A maximum of ten multi-room devices can be combined together, which should certainly be enough for most large apartments and family homes - through aristocratic castle owners could well be stuck - still, we all have our crosses to bear. A handful of speakers that can be connected to the network within a couple of minutes should be more than enough in normal situations. To do this, you will first need the "AllPlay Jukebox" smartphone app, which you can get free of charge from the App Stores for Android and iOS. Instead of opting for an exclusive in-house development for the technology used, Magnat relies on the Qualcomm AllPlay smart media platform. This also makes the CS 10 and CS 40 compatible with devices from other manufacturers, meaning there are fewer restrictions than with other multi-room solutions. However, an even bigger advantage is the installation, which is made very smooth and easy by the cross-brand use concept and can be completed within a very short time. When launching the app, you have the possibility to include the speakers in the device list right away. If the components are connected to the power supply and switched on, they will be found straightaway. If you have your router at hand, you can activate the connection via the WPS and Set buttons; alternatively, the WLAN password can also simply be entered via the app. Those wanting to put several speakers directly into the home network can do this one after the other or, alternatively, change to the playback screen in the app after installation. Music files can then be selected and played back from a smartphone or hard disks registered on the network, such as NAS drives, or from a laptop. Access to streaming services is also possible, with the app offering a number of somewhat less well-known services in addition to Spotify and Napster, as well as the Allplay Radio Internet radio platform. The only restriction is when controlling the CS speaker via its WLAN in direct mode. This is therefore particularly beneficial where your own home network reception is non-existent or very weak, e.g. in the garden. On the other hand, if you have incorporated several speakers into the network, you can, depending on the playback mode, stream different music to different speakers ("multi-audio") or compile individual groups and even reproduce the same playback on all devices at the same time ("multi-room"). The multi-audio option is especially suitable for families or couples when the people in the house want to listen to different music in different rooms. In that case, they select the relevant CS device, leaving the other speakers in the network available to other users. If, however, you would like to listen to the same music playback throughout the entire home or at least in the living room and kitchen, the corresponding devices can be grouped together via the multi-room mode. Or if you are having a party with a full house, all of the speakers in the network

can be combined together to ensure that the guests do not miss a single second of the playlist, regardless of whether they are in the kitchen, living room, corridor or even in the bathroom. The volume of the individual devices can still be controlled individually, enabling you to make adjustments for an overall balanced sound. And if the mood needs a little bit of help, the levels in relation to each other can be raised simultaneously as a whole via the master volume control.

### The right sound for every situation.

At a raised level or when consciously listening to music in general, the CS 40, designed as a stereo system, is almost certainly likely to satisfy demands more than the smaller CS 10 mono-loudspeaker. The higher performance reserves and the "sophisticated" features make a difference and are expressed in - as Tim Taylor would say - "more power" and greater richness of detail. The two speaker models of the CS range divide up the areas of activity very well between them. Thanks to its flexibility, the CS 10 is ideally suited as a companion for parallel activities in the kitchen or while doing the ironing, taking the drudgery out of housework with your favourite music. What makes both speakers stand out in particular is the powerful bass, plus the dynamic sound. We play titles like "Sway" by The Kooks as well as "Mountain Climbing" and "This Train" from Joe Bonamassa, already tested on other multi-room ranges, through the CS speakers and this turns out to be just the right material, reproduced in a very convincing manner. Crisp bass, dry drums and rousing guitar melodies are always very enjoyable. In a direct comparison, we also notice more detail and precision from the larger CS 40, for example when Bonamassa's guitar solo competes with an equally ambitious piece of piano playing or when the background vocals start. Logically, the CS 40 also manages the positioning on the virtual stereo stage much better than the single-channel CS 10, something that is particularly striking on the "Sway" track, which is very suitable as a reference in this regard. However, it doesn't always have to be high tempo rock for the CS 10 and CS 40 to show their potential. The two multi-room speakers also like relaxing music, something they demonstrate impressively with the bluesy "Never Tie Me Down" by Chris Rea and the very relaxed "Go Love" from Mark Knopfler. While the distinctive voice of Rea comes across perfectly with a wonderfully raw touch, Knopfler's very calming vocal sounds incredibly clear and totally pure. And the equally clear reproduction of "Johnny" by Edith Piaf in the higher frequencies then finally makes it absolutely clear that the CS range from Magnat really is able to spread good cheer at the touch of a button.

### Conclusion

Magnat has designed its CS range multi-room speakers in a very targeted way. Easy to operate and particularly suitable for your own home with occasional excursions to the balcony or patio - this was quite obviously the plan and it has been implemented in a very consistent way. The intuitive operation leaves no questions unanswered and, in terms of sound, the CS 10 and CS 40 definitely hold their own in the top divisions. Added to this is a successful, timeless design and, looking at the bigger picture, a very good price-performance ratio.