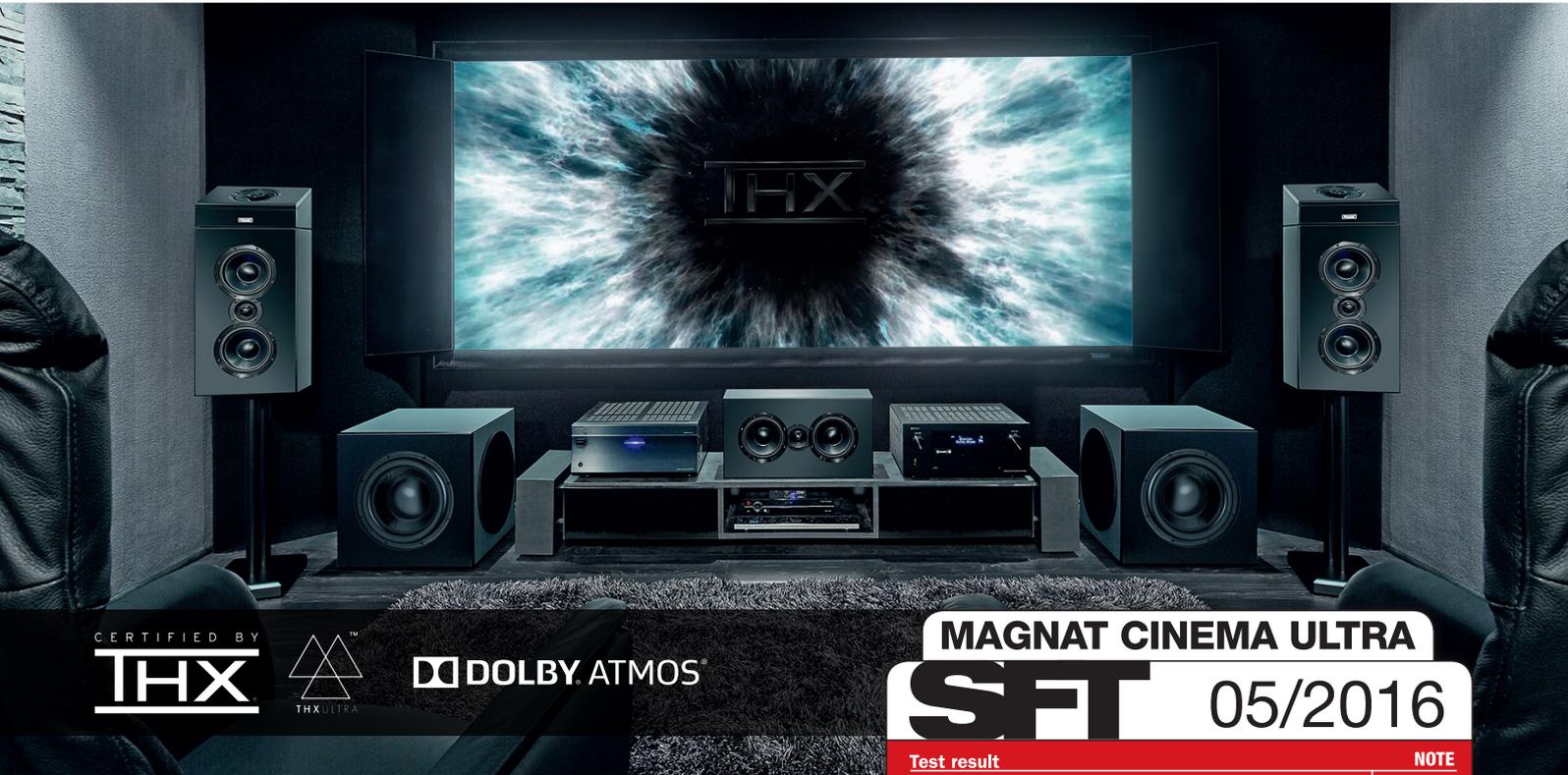


SFT



MAGNAT CINEMA ULTRA

SFT

05/2016

Test result

VERY GOOD

NOTE

1,1

"THE CINEMA ULTRA COMES UNDER THE CATEGORY OF THE PREMIUM CLASS OF ALL PREMIUM CLASSES ..."

Magnat

CINEMA ULTRA 5.1

- + First-class symbiosis of sound quality and flexibility
- + Impeccable finish
- + Extreme volume combined with the highest sound precision



Magnat

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Magnat CINEMA ULTRA 5.1

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The superlative home cinema system. Highest degree of flexibility with the best THX® sound – Magnat sets standards with the new Cinema Ultra Set.

When you see the THX® logo on a sound system, you know, as a listener, that you can sit back with a big grin and look forward to excellent sound. The quality label launched personally by master filmmaker George Lucas in 1983 is only awarded to loudspeakers that meet the highest requirements. Simply belonging to this elite circle is not enough for Magnat, however. Indeed, the Cinema Ultra comes under the category of the premium class of all premium classes: THX® Ultra2. The standards that have to be met in this category are much stricter (more information about THX® can be found on the right). In this respect, the Cinema Ultra is, together with the Theater and System 8-THX® Ultra2 sets from Teufel, way out on its own in the home cinema domain. What makes the Magnat system even more special, however, is that it is on a completely different level in terms of being flexible and compact.

The Cinema Ultra comprises a total of four different components: the LCR 100-THX front speaker, the RD 200-THX dipole rear speaker, the SUB 300-THX subwoofer and the AEH 400-ATM Dolby Atmos element. For our test, we used a 5.1 formation without any Atmos add-ons. The total price of our configuration is just under €4,400. The complete all-round carefree package in the 7.2.4 format comes in at €8,350. A hefty price tag for some, but a real investment for others. Because, in many respects, there has never been a sound system quite like the Cinema Ultra before. Let's start with the small Atmos speakers: These can be located on top of the surround sound speakers or directly on the ceiling. The 3D impression with or without reflection is controlled via a toggle switch at the rear - there has never been such a flexible Atmos speaker before. We continue with the LCR 100-THX front speaker. This is the first THX® Ultra2-certified model that can be operated either vertically or horizontally. This means it can - as in our set-up - also be used as a centre speaker. And Magnat is particularly proud of the SUB 300-THX subwoofer. This is the smallest bass unit on the market to meet the strict THX® Ultra2 demands. And despite the fact that most competing systems need two bass speakers to meet the criteria.

The secret of success.

Now let's take a detailed look at the components. It quickly becomes clear how much importance Magnat attaches to a high-quality finish. The loudspeaker enclosures are all made of thick MDF boards, ensuring a strong feel and optimum acoustic conditions. We also like the ribbed anthracite look very much. In addition, the matt surface prevents the film action from being reflected onto the speakers unintentionally. All of the speakers in our setup come with fine acoustic cloth membrane protection that can be removed and put back quickly thanks to a number of magnets. The front and surround speakers have VESA standard brackets pre-fitted at the rear. Despite the spacers supplied, wiring the speaker is a bit tricky once it has been mounted. Speaking of wiring: In classic hi-fi fashion, the passive speakers are connected to the receiver via immaculately crafted metal pole terminals. Meanwhile, the 550 watt subwoofer acts as the only active component in the system via an RCA connector. In addition, the frequency response and bass level can be adjusted on the rear control panel. Before dealing with the sound impression, let's take a look at the components that ultimately led to the Cinema Ultra being awarded the THX® certification. The LCR 100-THX® units are fitted with 2 x 17 cm (sub)woofers as well as a large dome tweeter. Ceramic and aluminium as well as a so-called polyfibre compound material are used for the membranes. All of the materials are designed to withstand high volumes with minimal vibrations - meeting the main criteria for THX®. A huge 32 cm kraft paper driver has been embedded into the multiple-reinforced subwoofer housing. Here, too, the priority is the highest possible volume without any impurities. Just how successful Magnat has been in building the system is first shown in the sound check, however. The individual components harmonise together brilliantly, producing a seamless surround sound impression. The LCR 100-THX front/centre units shine with a very homogeneous, natural performance in both the mid and treble ranges. The same is true for the rear-positioned RD 200-THX dipole speakers, which contribute greatly to the broad soundstage produced by the system with their sideways-firing tweeters. The SUB 300-THX subwoofer puts on a particularly brilliant show: When a dark, sinister storm front brews on the screen, the room is filled by such a powerful rumble of thunder that, as a listener,

just the THX® history lesson almost makes you scared. The THX® quality label was launched by Star Wars creator George Lucas and sound engineer Tomlinson Holman in 1983. The strictly regulated acoustic standards for cinemas and their equipment guarantee that the soundtrack always sounds equally good in appropriately classified movie theatres. It also later created the standard in the home cinema domain in the form of THX® Select. The criteria were adapted accordingly to smaller listening rooms (around 30 m²), with the THX® Ultra certificate added for larger home cinemas (around 40 m²). Among other things, the transmission angle and frequency response of the speakers were carefully scrutinised in this regard. In addition, strict requirements have to be complied with in terms of noise and distortion. THX® Ultra2 is a further development in this respect which extends the rules to include, among other things, guidelines for 7.1 playback and sound in music mode. To pass this test, the speakers have to produce sound that is extremely loud and exceptionally clear. In principle, home cinema systems of this type could also be used to provide sound for cinemas.

Conclusion

We salute Magnat and its Cinema Ultra Set. The way the Rhineland experts have combined a THX® Ultra2-worthy performance with maximum compactness and flexibility is something others have yet to copy. Anyone investing their savings in this will have great living-room sound for life. Here we would also like to specially commend the aspect of the Dolby Atmos upgrade possibility. Even at very high levels, it becomes clear that Magnat has every right to hang the THX® Ultra2 certificate on the wall: Where slight sound impurities can creep in on other systems, the Cinema Ultra plays spotlessly clean.

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