

# video



**THX**  
ULTRA2

**DOLBY ATMOS**

4/16  
**video**  
MAGNAT CINEMA ULTRA  
**HIGHLIGHT**

4/16  
**video**  
MAGNAT CINEMA ULTRA  
Price/performance: outstanding

4/16  
**video**  
MAGNAT CINEMA ULTRA  
Testresult: very good

"IT'S AMONG THE BEST  
WE'VE EVER HEARD"

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CINEMA ULTRA 5.1.2

TEST RESULT: VERY GOOD

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Lise-Meitner-Str. 9 • 50259 Pulheim • Germany • [www.magnat.de](http://www.magnat.de)



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04-2016

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There's no accounting for taste. So we want to look at things in a positive way: The new Cinema Ultra is as stylish as an anvil. Its exterior, which does not remotely raise the suspicion of originating from the pen of a style-loving designer, underlines its serious pretensions. The home cinema set, which is certified with the THX Ultra 2 licence, is a device designed to move ambitious cinema enthusiasts closer to the action. Examined in greater detail, the 5.1.2 set, which is suitable for Atmos, also appears to be very stable and practical. This starts with the integrated wall brackets and the corresponding flat design, which favours concealed installation. The surfaces also look practical. Magnat speaks auspiciously of a "Cinema Ultra Stealth Design" with an offset baffle in a high-quality deep black silk matt lacquer finish and a tough brushed-metal textured foil in anthracite on the bottom, top and sides.

## License to thrill

Typical of THX are the rear dipoles, which build up a diffuse sound field in the surround channels and make the acoustic localisation of the speakers as speakers more difficult – continuation of the stealth design by other means, so to speak. Space-saving and conducive to acoustic radiation, the AEH 400-ATM Atmos add-ons for the compact LCR 100-THX 2-way speakers have been designed as a coaxial system. However, Magnat is familiar with not only the listening, but also the purchasing habits of the home cinema community. The German company offers customary combinations like 5.1, 5.1.2, 7.2 or 7.2.4 as a package solution. The price range is from €4400 to €8400, which means that our setup is more towards the lower end of the range. Those looking for tailor-made solutions or wanting to expand subsequently can also buy different speakers individually, but will not get away quite so cheaply. Magnat also demonstrates its flexibility with the use of the LCR 100-THX which, in addition to the front channels, also takes on the role of the centre speaker, which

is possible in either vertical or horizontal format.

To achieve perfect tonal balance in the dispersion characteristics, it is advisable to position it vertically. In normal living rooms – if the professional-looking device should lose its way – it can be turned 90 degrees to fit better below the screen on a flat rack, for example.

## All-purpose weapon

For maximum pulse precision, the developers have designed their all-purpose weapon as a closed system. In addition, Magnat thus ensures that no interference noise occurs, as with some bass-reflex speakers, even at the maximum levels required by the THX Ultra 2 standard. The diaphragm and dust protection caps of the two 14 cm deep subwoofers are made of a rigid ceramic-aluminium sandwich material for maximum reproduction precision. They play together with a high-performance polyfibre compound dome with a large 4.2 cm diameter. This ensures level stability combined with the computer-optimised waveguide front panel with an integrated diffuser. At the same time, the horn ensures THX-compliant dispersion characteristics.

## A question of level

The measure can, however, as the measurement in the video laboratory shows, haul the omnidirectional sound distribution at 30 degrees outside the central axis in the upper frequency range to not quite the level of a well-made smaller dome, which has conceptual advantages in this regard. The 108 dB maximum volume measured is a clear statement in this respect. Also the lower cutoff frequency of 82 Hz at -3 dB:

This speaker definitely needs a powerful subwoofer for support! The solution is the Sub 300-THX which can, if need be, make the earth quake with its maximum level of 112 dB. This is guaranteed by the striking combination of a 32 cm subwoofer with two equally large passive diaphragms.

As a precautionary measure, the developers have lined the baffle with 4.5 cm thick MDF board. The elaborate design of the bass cube is reflected in the weight of 32 kg.

There are no gimmicks, however, though the phase is infinitely adjustable while on many other units it can only be switched from 0° to 180°. In the listening test, the German product with the THX licence unleashed a veritable storm. Sylvester Stallone would certainly have been thrilled at how incisively, masterfully and authentically the epic dialogues of his best friend ("Takatakata") were transported into the listening room. But the old warrior's voice also sounded balanced and more sophisticated than ever before. However, the low-frequency effects really made an impact – in the literal sense – when the train sped into the fort at the beginning of "The Expendables 3", for example. Then you could feel the shock wave of the explosion in the basement floor and your midriff, without anything humming or being distorted. It's among the best we've ever heard. Everything was convincing except the helicopters flying over and other effects on various Dolby Atmos Blu-Rays. Here there were gaps in the high-reaching panorama, really crying out for a 7.1.4 setup.

## Conclusion

Saving on looks, which don't really count anyway, and showing off with the special effects and the balanced, differentiated fine-tuning of the sound quality. And added to that: micro and macro-dynamics in abundance – incredible. Incidentally, Magnat also makes music almost as crisp as a small PA.