

# AUDIO

"... It's not a loudspeaker, it's a world of its own."



## Magnat

MAGNAT MAGNASPHERE 33



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**AUDIO** 03/17

**RECOMMENDATION**

Bluetooth® Qualcomm® aptX™

"RECOMMENDATION FOR THE OVERALL CONCEPT"

FINISH: OUTSTANDING

SOUND QUALITY: 86 POINTS

PRICE/PERFORMANCE: OUTSTANDING



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Lise-Meitner-Str. 9 · 50259 Pulheim · Germany · magnasphere.magnat.de

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**With the Magnasphere 33, Magnat has discovered the digitally amplified and wirelessly controllable loudspeaker. A world manifests itself - as well as really good sound.**

It's not a loudspeaker, it's a world of its own. Magnat took a long time to design an elaborate overall architecture, which also gets its own name: Magnasphere. There are already two loudspeaker types, a floor-standing speaker and the compact speaker 33, which we ordered for the test. The set comes with a small transmitter box, which provides a surprisingly large number of inputs. Apart from the classic cinch port, there is also a USB input - this transmitter also converts and can completely replace the internal sound card of a computer. Those who want to can, for example, also use the optical output of a CD player. Two digital inputs are available for this, which can fine screen up to 24 bits and 96 kilohertz. And you can even get into the small transmitter box via the fast Bluetooth connection. Decisive for the sound, however, is how signals get to the loudspeakers. As many as three selectable frequency bands ensure high transmission stability. The transmitter can handle 2.4 GHz, as well as 5.2 and 5.8 GHz. It is then up to the speaker which signal it wants to access: At the rear, the box can be assigned three different zones and it can also be determined whether it should play left, right or mono. The practical concept: The transmitter transmits into the house; the speakers choose the signal. This would allow the setting up of an extensive multi-room architecture. The only real display is therefore located on the speaker itself: Here you can read off on a small display how loud the Magnasphere 33 is playing and what the source is. The remote control becomes the crucial element. What sound advantages has Magnat endowed its speaker with? First of all, a Class D power amp for each individual chassis. There is a total of 100 watts available - that's impressive for such a compact unit. In addition, filtering is via DSP. So this is a very "smart" speaker that knows exactly how to operate its membranes.

The configuration is unconventional: Magnat follows a philosophy of hard and soft in this respect. Oscillating in the subwoofer, for example, is a sandwich membrane with an aluminium core coated back and front with a ceramic material. Resounding above this is a fabric dome with a neodymium drive, which is designed to go as high as an impressive 50 kilohertz. The ears of our listening team were in for a surprise with the very first bars. The small unit is really punchy - with a dry upper bass range, but nicely voluminous. Nobody has to call for an accompanying subwoofer here. We first put on one of our favourite live CD's. Leonard Cohen singing his "From The Road" songs. It's like a grand sound theatre, the crowd noise conveys atmosphere, and the old master has never sounded better. Also in terms of tone quality and engineering. Moderate loudspeakers cannot cope with the large volume of individual information, things threaten to get bogged down. But not with the Magnasphere 33: It sorted out the details and produced an immensely wide panorama. There's no question, this speaker can meet audiophile demands. We liked the tremendous thrust once again. The power amps can manage quite a lot. This was released quite easily by the membranes, especially Cohen's bass voice, which appeared in front of the speaker axis in a wonderfully sculpted way.

How fast can the Magnasphere go? In this regard, we love the recording of selected Mozart arias by the soprano Lenneke Ruiten. This is not only the highest form of vocal artistry, the sound engineers from Pentatone have also accomplished something extraordinary. The coloraturas race through a perfectly graduated recording space. If the loudspeaker is too slow, there is a threat that the charm of the recording will go under. The Magnasphere demonstrated its atmospheric music-making yet again, laying out a carpet of bright velvet, with the soprano voice rejoicing above it; delightful how the micro-dynamics unfolded, and the high degree of analysis in the recording room was also just right. Could the Magnasphere 33 act as a monitor speaker in a recording studio?

Quite frankly, the final grain of analysis is missing for this. But there is always that pleasurable moment in the way it handles music. Which is really enjoyable, e.g. on Nick Cave's "Push The Sky Away" album. Really nice bass grooves fly by which the Magasphere falls in love with. This had bite and a good thrust.

We also enjoyed the voice reproduction once again; the way Nick Cave's singing voice was positioned in front of the speaker plane was extremely vivid.

## Conclusion

A special concept: Magnat has invested a great deal of knowledge in its new Magnasphere range, which can be expanded to form a really big sound installation. However, all the good genes are combined in the small 33 speaker. This includes, for example, the power of really good digital power amps. In terms of sound, you get a huge amount of oomph for your money. The reproduction performance is strong, managing almost everything in an astonishingly relaxed way. This captivating musical zest and the overall concept also make it our price recommendation.