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"Magnet presents (...) a powerful active wireless loudspeaker that is recommended for all music lovers with top-class sound quality and flexible connectivity options."



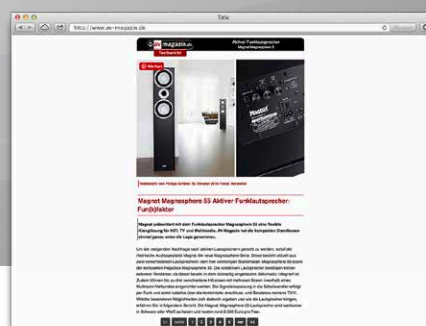
## Magnet

### MAGNASPHERE 55



**Magnet Magnasphere 55  
VERY GOOD**

SOUND - VERY GOOD  
FEATURES - VERY GOOD  
OPERATION: VERY GOOD  
WORKMANSHIP:  
GOOD - VERY GOOD



# Magnet

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**With the Magnasphere 55 wireless loudspeaker, Magnat presents a flexible sound solution for hi-fi, TV and multimedia. AV-Magazin has taken a closer look at the compact floor-standing speakers.**

To cater for the rising demand for active loudspeakers, the Rhineland audio specialist Magnat has created the new Magnasphere range. This currently consists of two different loudspeakers: the Magnasphere 55 floor-standing model presented here and the Magnasphere 33 compact shelf-top speaker. The fully active loudspeaker does not require an external amplifier as this is already incorporated into the active module fitted at the rear. In addition, up to three different listening zones can be set up in a multi-room system with several speakers. The signal is fed to the speakers wirelessly via the combined connection and transmitter unit with the name TX11. The following report explains what special options this offers and how the speakers sound. The Magnat Magnasphere 55 loudspeakers are available in black or white and cost around EUR 2,500 a pair.

### Initial operation

The Magnasphere 55's receive their audio signals from the small TX11 module, which roughly takes up the space of a flat audio CD. The speaker is powered via an external mains adapter and features an integrated transmitter in addition to the analogue and digital audio inputs. This takes care of the wireless transmission of the audio signal. Depending on local conditions, the user can choose between the three transmission frequencies of 2.4, 5.2 and 5.8 gigahertz via a latching switch so as to guarantee the best possible wireless audio transmission with as little interference as possible. Televisions, set-top boxes, as well as Blu-ray/DVD and CD players can be connected to the TX1 compact connection box. Two digital-optical Toslink sockets and two analogue stereo inputs are provided for this. Both Mac and PC computers can be connected to the USB port. The internal electronics of the Magnasphere 55 then function as a sound card to reproduce data streams with a word length of up to 24 bits and a 96 kilohertz sampling rate. It is commendable that all the audio cables needed to start up the unit are included in the package.

### Multi-room operation

In addition to bass and treble sound control, one of three different listening zones can be set via the active module recessed in the rear wall of the Magnasphere 55. The A, B and C setting positions define the group each loudspeaker belongs to. For example, if the two floor-standing speakers in the living room are set to group

A and two Magnasphere 33 shelf-top speakers in the study are also set to group A, all four loudspeakers will play the same music. All of the speakers assigned to the same zone are then controlled synchronously. It doesn't matter which speaker receives the remote control signal because each Magnasphere loudspeaker has its own receiver. This is located behind the small device display showing the selected input, the set volume and the operating status. If a loudspeaker is assigned to zone B, control is independent of the first zone A. This makes it very easy to set the volume and audio input independently for each zone via the high-quality remote control.

### Wireless music reception

In addition to audio reception via analogue, digital and USB cable, the TX11 box also receives music in wireless mode. For this, Magnat relies on the popular Bluetooth technology. In this way, the Magnasphere system can receive music wirelessly from a smartphone, tablet or computer. The Pairing button needed for the first pairing process is located on the right-hand side of the TX11 module and only has to be activated when starting up for the first time. Those with a compatible mobile device that supports the aptX codec can even transmit their music wirelessly to the Magnasphere system in CD quality.

### Technology

To enable the active loudspeaker to reproduce the audio signals received in an optimum manner, Magnat has equipped the Magnasphere 55 with a powerful digital amplifier. This offers three channels, with the result that each individual chassis has its own power amp. With a total RMS power output of 100 watts per speaker and an active crossover network connected, each driver receives the audio signals perfectly tuned to it in relation to frequency, phase and level. Despite its high performance and efficiency, the Magnasphere 55 offers power-saving standby consumption. If no input signal is detected after a few minutes, the active speaker switches to standby mode automatically.

Two loudspeakers then together consume less than 1 watt, meaning that it only costs around EUR 2.20 to keep a pair of Magnasphere 55's on standby for an entire year. A 2.5 way system is used for effective sound reproduction. This consists of 2 x 17 cm bass-midrange drivers and a small 25 mm dome tweeter. In the bass range, the two cone chassis work their way into a ventilated reflex volume via ceramic-aluminium membranes. The enclosure tunnel needed for this is recessed into the rear wall and has a very large rounded flange to avoid severe air turbulence and, therefore, audible flow noise.

### Sound quality

We first start the listening test with the wireless playback of a current music sampler via Bluetooth. Here the Magnasphere 55's present a very tight, closed sound stage. The stereo presentation is excellent and convincing with accurate width and well-proportioned depth. When we then play back music via a CD player using the digital audio input, the sound quality rises once again. The jazz ensemble sounds fabulously open and spacious, without the localisation capacity being affected. Each instrument can be heard in its proper place with differentiated sound and in high resolution. The bass reproduction is also commendable. The cone drivers go about their work in a tight, structured and dynamically agile manner. The Magnasphere 55's display pleasing level stability in this regard. Even at raised listening volumes, the active speakers play with cool and consummate ease. In the treble range, the tweeter shines with a silky brilliance, standing out with a wealth of multi-faceted variety and attention to detail. Speech and song sound authentic and vivid thanks to the overall neutral coordination. The basic tone is interpreted rather strongly, giving masculine voices a fantastic presence and making female vocals come across as particularly expressive.

### Clear text

With the Magnasphere 55, Magnat presents a powerful active wireless loudspeaker that is recommended for all music lovers with top-class sound quality and flexible connectivity options. Thanks to the wireless music playback, the compact design and solid finish, these loudspeakers enhance every living room not only acoustically but also visually.