

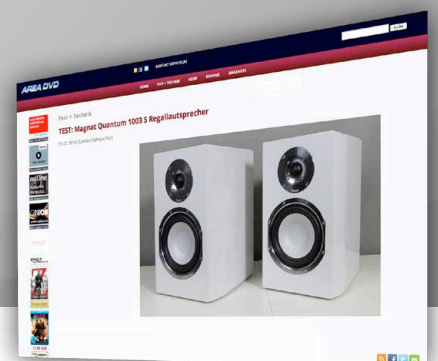
AREA DVD

"An elegant shelf speaker with excellent dynamics and superb spatiality"



Magnat QUANTUM 1003S

- +Very good pulse fidelity
- +Impressive bass range
- +Clean workmanship
- +Chic visual appearance



Magnat

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The Quantum 1003 S 2-way bass reflex shelf speaker is new from Magnat. Costing €799 per pair, they are rather attractively priced considering their excellent workmanship and high quality materials. The speakers have been developed based on the Quantum 1000 series – with some interesting modifications, such as the new dome tweeter, which has been designed with a wide surround for optimised dispersion of frequencies above 20 kHz. Many structural features, such as the 170 mm bass-midrange driver in the case of the 1003 S, have been taken from the Quantum Signature flagship model, which means that highly advanced technology is now also available in the bourgeois middle class.

The elegant shelf speaker is available in a high-gloss white or black finish. As matt colours are currently on trend again, Magnat could have considered offering additional colour options. When its accurately covered, magnetically attached fabric grille is removed, however, the speaker seems even more attractive. This is because, firstly, the design of the housing is showcased to better effect and, secondly, we get to see the aluminium rings around the chassis. The thick side panels of the speaker convey the appearance of an expensive hi-fi component. With an RMS rating of 150 watts and a maximum load capacity of 230 watts, the speaker generates extremely good values – at least on paper. Magnat recommends 30 watts as the minimum power for the amplifier, as the speaker's level of efficiency (2.8 V/1m) is 91 dB. Its impedance is specified by the manufacturer as 4 to 8 ohms. The representable frequency range covers 27 Hz to 75 kHz, meaning the sound transducer is also very well suited for playing high-resolution audio files that are currently all the rage. Measuring 230 mm wide, by 360 mm high and 315 mm deep, the speaker is still relatively compact.

How well does the new member of Magnat's family fair in terms of its sound? We used HiRes audio files in a Flac format with resolutions of 88.2 kHz, 96 kHz and 192 kHz to get to the bottom of this question. "Gentle Rain" by Diana Krall is reproduced with an amazing volume and an excellent bass response. Moreover, her vocals also emanate extremely well from the speaker. Anyone listening to the 1003 S without actually seeing it could easily think the sound was coming from a small floorstanding speaker. An excellent feature is that Magnat hasn't simply configured the Quantum 1003 S with a monitor's sound characteristics, but rather a wide vertical and horizontal angle of dispersion. This means nothing gets in the way of the sound, even when used in larger rooms. Higher levels are superbly reproduced by Magnat's unit over an area measuring up to 25 square metres.

Minimal over-emphasis does occur in the upper mid and treble range, however, but this is not at all excessive.

We are left with a similar acoustic impression with "I Miss You So", also by Diana Krall. The speakers generate an amazing volume with this track and separate Diana's vocals from the instruments really well. The Quantum shelf speakers are not only compelling through the degree of spatiality produced, but also their positioning of the instrumental and vocal components within the track.

"Alone For You" by Jan Lundgren Trio demonstrates just how emotional and direct the Quantum 1003 S can be. We feel surrounded by the music without ever thinking that the sound is being reproduced just in front of us. We feel really immersed in everything that's going on, and that's very surprising for a relatively compact speaker. You shouldn't make the mistake, however, of setting up the 1003 S too low down, as doing so will mean you are unable to take full advantage of the benefits just described. An outstanding level is offered in terms of both fine and coarse dynamics for this price class. The new tweeter has enabled an improvement of the speaker's dispersion properties, which in turn has had a positive impact on the degree of spatiality produced.

Let's take a look now to see what it's like playing music in CD quality. We not only change the resolution, but also the style of music with "Awakening" by Skyfreak, which is an energetic trance track from the autumn of 2013. With an excellent reproduction of the various sound effects and a hard-hitting bass line, the Quantum 1003 S also seems at home with this genre.

Defining these speakers as "restrained" would definitely be doing them a disservice. So anyone of a sensitive nature be warned in advance. The Quantum is resolute and doesn't hesitate, when necessary, to hurl all manner of electronic effects into the listening room with the appropriate level of oomph. Effects that build up in the background can be detected immediately and are not omitted in any way.

"Prayer In C" by Lilly Wood, the Prick and Robin Schulz (Robin Schulz Radio Mix) is also reproduced by the Quantum 1003 with a hard and unerring bass line, extremely well-formed vocals and a spatially dense effect. The 1003 S treats different acoustic events that occur in parallel with the appropriate weighting. Significant improvements have not only been made in the treble range, but also in the bass frequencies. More emphasis is generated in comparison to the previous series, along with a higher pulse fidelity and an enhanced bass response.

Conclusion

Magnat's Quantum 1003 S speakers are a delight thanks to their elegant appearance, excellent workmanship and a dynamic, spatially dense sound. The speakers are extremely cultivated, even though they veer towards a relatively concise and powerful playing structure. The newly developed tweeter offers more brilliance and enhanced spatiality, while the bass range has been improved in terms of its volume, precision and depth. The mids are more clearly defined in comparison to the previous generation and seem better integrated.



*Price is relating to the former recommended retail price