

+ EXTREMELY CLEAR AND LOW DISTORTION,
NEUTRAL & HIGHLY EFFICIENT



Magnat

Quantum 1000 S 5.0 Set

video AUGABE 05/15 **Best Buy**

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

Video
Edition 5 | 2015

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MAGNAT QUANTUM 1000 S ^{※2} € 7200

+ Extremely clean with minimal distortion, neutral and powerful

Testresult: very good

Price/Performance: very good ^{※1}

83%

Sound cocktail

Using high-end ingredients, Magnat has mixed a 5.0 cocktail which will whet the appetite of sound gourmets to plunder their piggy banks. But do the hot, white speakers play as well as they look. Magnat has been a long-established player for more than 40 years now, especially where loudspeakers are concerned. However, the Pulheim-based company near Cologne does not stick to traditional methods and materials at any price. Magnat was an early innovator in applying the latest computer simulation techniques, such as high-performance Klippel software, in the development phase. This results in the speakers produced by the Rhineland-based manufacturer displaying excellent value for money. The 5.0 set subjected to our test costs, complete with the Quantum 1009S front speakers, the Quantum Center 1000S and the two Quantum 1003S shelf-top rear speakers, a staunch 7200 euro. This raises high expectations regarding sound as well as concerns about whether the Germans will be able to maintain the excellent price-performance ratio even in these regions.

White is beautiful

Finally, as the price rises, more and more money goes into the enclosure finish and often benefits the impression and appearance, in particular. And it really is TOP class for this quintet. Whether in white piano lacquer as in our high-gloss photographs or in black, the 1000S range is a real eye-catcher. This is due, not least of all, to the sheer mass. The lead vocalists are 1.25 meters high and weigh in at 51.4 kilograms - each, of course. In addition, Magnat dares to use comparatively large 20 inch basses in the front. The two parallel drivers use, like the extremely large, 17 cm diameter mid-range cone, aluminum cones fitted with inverse ceramic-aluminum dust protection caps to enhance rigidity. The aerodynamically optimized cages of the two chassis types are also particularly rigid. Their generous ventilation avoids compression effects and air turbulence. Magnat has also invested a lot of care in the voice coil ventilation in order to achieve a particularly high load capacity.

So-called controlled flexing cone membrane geometry results in the controlled emission of bending waves in the mid-range. With this, the designers want to achieve an improved band width. The 3 cm diameter tweeter dome with its solid aluminum front plate with computer-optimized sound conduction is based on the absolute high-end solutions from Magnat. It has wide beading for the improved emission of high frequencies over 20 kHz. Its particularly lightweight cone made of semi-crystalline polymer (PTFE) ensures maximum efficiency.

Furthermore, a copper cap over the drive magnet minimizes the distortion content. These chassis tweaks are not only found in the front pillars, designed as 3-way bass-reflex units; they are also present in the Quantum Center 1000S and the Quantum 1003S for the rear channels. The latter two are of a 2-way bass reflex design. They share the 17 cm diameter low to mid-range unit, while the center speaker has two of them. Its tweeter has been moved upwards slightly in order to optimize emission towards the top of the speaker, with the effect of this particularly evident when the center speaker is positioned under the screen.

The mechanical decoupling of the crossovers, designed with 24 db slope steepness, from the enclosure - in the 1009S, the bass and mid-high range sections are accommodated on two separate boards to optimize bi-wiring operation - is intended to reveal the final sound nuances. Just like the high-quality Oehlbach wiring inside the ultra-solid designed MDF enclosure. Its double side wall design is intended to help reduce enclosure resonances through different material thicknesses. Reinforcing boards make the housings really quiet. Another factor is the resonance-absorbing chassis support behind the woofers, which diverts vibrations away from the drivers. The care is reflected in the weight: The just 36 cm high Quantum 1003S unit weighs in at a good 11.4 kilograms, with the 60 cm wide center speaker weighing as much as 15.5 kg. One privilege is reserved for the front loudspeakers: Only the Quantum 1009 S has two specially coated airflex ports with aerodynamically rounded openings. The aim of the developers in this case is to achieve the best possible bass reproduction without any flow-generated noise.

Care goes right to the bottom

"As you make your own bed, you must lie on it", the popular saying goes. The Magnat technicians are also familiar with this. They have bedded their dream enclosure on solid feet. M8 threaded inserts for enclosure feet and rubber conical feet that do not harm the floor (1003S, Center 1000S) as well as high-quality metal spikes are included as part of the package (1009S). All this effort and outlay really made Product Manager Isabel Halbauer go out on a limb. "I'm sending the five to your editorial office without a subwoofer. They're so good, you won't need any support in the bass range." That was a clear message for the eagerly awaited listening test. In terms of stereo, Magnat's own assessment proved to be extensively valid. The white speaker pillars reproduced the vigorous bass drums from the Eagles classic "Hotel California" in the live version of the "Hell Freezes Over" album in a powerful and controlled way.

The two Quantum 1009S speakers encompassed the audience in a wide arc all round. The performance was very high quality and stable - a very generous and credible spatial representation.

Nor was there any lack in the wealth of detail. Here, the soft murmur of the guitar intro captured on the recording revealed the fine resolution and high transparency of the two "cheerful souls" from the Rhine region. Also demonstrated to an equal extent were the tonal accuracy and the, in overall terms, very pleasant, relatively warm coordination and harmonization.

The stability of the reproduction and its focus were likewise convincing. The maximum possible sound pressure of the 1009S was easily sufficient to arouse envy or complaints in the house next door depending on the neighbors' attitude. Even on paper, it's impressive: Our laboratory ascertained 110 dB which, thanks to the extremely low distortion also documented, can lead in practice throughout the entire listening area to the putty flying out of the windows before gaining any impression whatsoever of listening to music at high volume.

On account of the high efficiency of the overall set and the nominal impedance curves of all five speakers, even mid-range receivers are sufficient to elicit a great deal of fun and enjoyment from the Magnat products. This is also true when it comes to surround sound. The center speaker achieves an even better, almost record-breaking efficiency level (87.3 dB mean sound pressure) and, with it, staggering volumes of up to 109 dB without any signs of strain. The rear compact speakers, which reach astonishingly low in the bass range, can confidently be controlled as "large" in the menu of the AV receiver. In conjunction with this, other virtues also emerge again such as extreme precision, neutrality and extensive, as well as extremely stable spatial representation. And if Messrs Cruise or Schwarzenegger were to thunder across the screen on a rumbling archaic Harley Davidson, this team will help them to put on a proper performance. Nevertheless, in spite of all the talents gifted to these white, shining examples among the host of surround sound speakers available, the question of a subwoofer will inevitably arise sooner or later.

Conclusion

Control is better, something Lenin was well aware of long ago. Coupled with homogeneity, neatness and clarity, this results in solid value for money.