



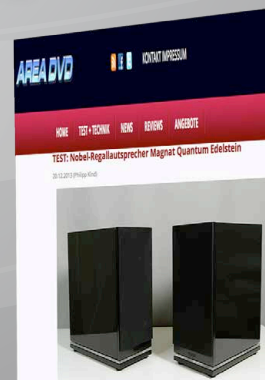
"ELEGANT SHELF SPEAKERS"



Magnat Quantum Edelstein



- Fine workmanship
- Elegant visual appearance
- Very compact
- Impeccable coarse dynamics
- Excellent fine dynamics for the price range
- Astonishingly powerful yet precise bass line



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area dvd
Edition 12 | 2013



"Edelstein" is the name given to the new jewel in Magnat's Quantum series - the speaker seems as eternal, elegant and perfect as a polished diamond.

Its aesthetic appearance lives up to the demanding maxim. The two shelf speakers exhibit a deep, high gloss black (or optional white) finish and a solid aluminium front panel. The housing is accommodated on a double base plate, which is a combination of polished acrylic glass and aluminium. In order to truly live up to its name the speaker shouldn't simply look amazing, but should also have an abundance of "inner values". A high-end performance in a compact format - this is the motto of the Quantum Edelstein. But how do these shelf speakers, which retail at €349 each*, fare in a practical test? Let's cut to the chase.

Measuring 135 x 232 x 246 mm Magnat's new shelf speakers may be rather compact, but still weigh in at a solid 5 kg. The front panel is impressively thick and oozes high quality with its polished aluminium surface. This is complemented by the milled, burnished sound guides for the chassis, which have been integrated cleanly into the baffle without any visible screws. The housing that is connected to the aluminium baffle has been manufactured from MDF. This exhibits a deep, high gloss black finish that has been cleanly applied to every square inch and doesn't appear to be very prone to scratches. The rear of the Edelstein is a sight to behold. The deep, high gloss finish is also present here and it surrounds the cleanly integrated bass reflex port and the terminal area with its gold-plated, acrylic-sealed screw terminals. The crossover is located horizontally inside the housing and not directly behind the cover of the speaker connections. The internal wiring appears solid and has a large cross-section. The housing also incorporates a reinforcing board for low resonance properties and minimal intrinsic vibration.

Both the tweeter and bass-midrange driver are precisely embedded and appear particularly elegant with their milled and burnished surface. The silk dome tweeter features a particularly wide surround and is capable of reproducing frequencies above 20 kHz. A high performance neodymium magnet system ensures excellent dynamics and a high resolution.

The aluminium/ceramic sandwich cone sits in a non-magnetic die-cast aluminium basket. The powerful magnet system has been optimised with respect to the stray field and ensures minimal distortion with optimum efficiency.

In fact, the Quantum Edelstein generates an excellent efficiency rating of 90 dB. In terms of its acoustic properties it has been developed for use on a shelf and it can utilise the reflections caused by walls near the housing to its advantage; however, this doesn't mean that it shouldn't be freely positioned in the room in any way.

Sound

Does the Edelstein also sound polished? This is a question we are happy to investigate.

An advantage offered by this configuration, for example, is that high-res audio files can be used to just test the resolution of the Quantum Edelstein's tweeter. We don't start proceedings with a very high resolution and revert to "Lose Yourself To Dance" by Daft Punk in a 44.1 kHz/24 bit (FLAC) format. The small Edelstein unit generates an extremely fine sound. The excellent spatial effect in the treble range is just as responsible for this sound as the precise bass range. Of course, you shouldn't expect any miracles in terms of deep bass response. In saying that, though, the bass range itself is compelling with considerable vehemence and accurate separation. The small speaker also delivers a sophisticated and surprisingly powerful performance with another track by Daft Punk called "Motherboard". The different, sometimes imaginative electronic effects are provided with a good foundation and power of expression when reproduced by the Quantum Edelstein.

We continue with Diana Krall's "Garden In The Rain" (FLAC 96 kHz/24 bit) - Diana's voice dissolves really well from the small speakers, while the bass level is also outstanding. The piano itself sounds detailed, however, tonality is somewhat bright when played at a significantly high volume. The vocals remain acoustically compelling; it's only when the volume is cranked up does a slight undertone materialise. When played at a normal or slightly enhanced level, however, the vocal representation is charismatic and appealing. Before we go any further, there's one thing we should point out - while a visually appealing piece like the Quantum Edelstein is extremely suitable for an elegant living room or small, chic music room, it's not a tool for level-hungry enthusiasts. Magnat has some very different candidates in its extensive product portfolio if that's what you're interested in. "I Miss You So", again by Diana Krall, opens with an instrumental passage that the two Edelstein units let unfold with an amazing spatial effect. This reveals an impeccable spatial depth as well as an astonishing breadth.

As a listener, you really get the feeling of "looking into the music". The entire acoustic field appears natural and authentic. The superficial, artificially inflated sound that is generated by some speakers to conceal their weaknesses is nowhere to be found in the Quantum Edelstein.

"Freedom Everyday" by Torsten Goods (882 kHz/24 bit FLAC) is impressive with a clearly focused reproduction of the vocals and a finely structured instrumental presentation that never fades too far into the background. With such a direct and lively playback and clear rhythm the small Quantum Edelstein unit manages to draw the listener under its spell. Even listeners that have slightly elevated standards will be impressed by this affordable and elegant speaker. "Outa Here" by the same artist is also reproduced extremely well - the small Quantum Edelstein simply proves to be a great partner for jazz tracks that will put you in a good mood. Typical vocal details, instrumental nuances and overall separation are well above average.

What is it like with "Past Is Dead" by Bad Religion? The electric guitar at the start of the track is handled well as is the integration of the lead singer's vocals. Then the song "explodes" and it all goes off - the small Quantum Edelstein, however, remains unfazed and generates a dynamic performance.

Conclusion

Small, desirable and elegant - a real gem, the latest addition to Magnat's Quantum series has clearly been designed for the modern environment - these are small and chic speakers that deliver a strong-sounding performance and speakers that the "lady of the house" would be proud to show off to visitors. The price set for the Quantum Edelstein appears to be right on the mark. With fine workmanship, a finely detailed reproduction and a sophisticated, acoustic finesse, it is ideal for both visually and acoustically demanding users alike.