

GOD SPARK

Magnat

Quantum Signature

- PREMIUM QUALITY WORKMANSHIP
- SUPERB DYNAMICS
- EXTREMELY LOW DISTORTIONS



Magnat

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Sometimes there just has to be something more! This was the exact thought of Magnat's developers, who have created a real gem of a speaker for the company's 40th anniversary in the shape of the Quantum Signature

Happy 40th!

Magnat has been developing and manufacturing premium speakers in Germany for exactly four decades. A wide variety of innovations and sophisticated technologies in chassis and housing construction have repeatedly redefined the standards for premium speakers. One of the many highlights in the company's history is the legendary Magnat All Ribbon 10, which, with its innovative flat-wire voice coil, was the best-selling speaker in its class at the end of the 70s. Magnat's top of the range model was introduced in 2005 as the Quantum 900; to date the models in the Quantum series feature the company's state-of-the-art technology.

Quantum Signature

To coincide with the company's anniversary, Magnat has once again gone one better and introduced the most elaborate, most advanced, most sophisticated and probably the best speaker in its history in the shape of the new Quantum Signature. Weighing in at a whopping 73 kg and measuring around 1.40 m tall, this floorstanding speaker truly is an impressive sight. The extremely solid, high-gloss black housing of the Signature speaker has been finished in a quality that would do a grand piano proud. Discreet metal applications on the double-walled side panels break up the overall appearance of the Signature unit, making this gem of a speaker rather suitable for living room setups. You should allow a little space for the Quantum Signature, however, as this speaker has an enormous sound potential and has been designed for a maximum frequency range with virtually limitless dynamics.

Chassis technology

Magnat's developers have paid the utmost attention to every little detail - in fact, to mention every individual aspect would go well beyond the scope of this test. The most important aspects, however, are the drivers used, as these represent the ultimate in chassis construction. A total of three woofers, each of which features a 170 mm aluminium/ceramic cone, are accommodated in the large bass reflex housing. Their voice coils, Kapton voice coil mounts, magnetic drive system and die-cast aluminium baskets have been fine-tuned to ensure the lowest distortion values and an absolutely linear drive. The same applies to the two 130 mm midrange drivers, which have been installed above and below a 30 mm dome tweeter in a D'Appolito configuration. Moreover, a special cone geometry also ensures wider-ranging playback. This enables an extremely broad frequency range between 200 Hz and 2.9 kHz to be created by these two midrange drivers - ideal for a particularly spatial reproduction and natural-sounding music. Necessary separation of the frequency bands (outside the critical mid-range) is catered for by 4 dB filters, which have been constructed from high quality components and mechanically decoupled from the housing. The Signature speaker can be naturally operated in a bi-wiring or bi-amping configuration; the corresponding solid and high quality connections can be found near the huge bass reflex ports at the rear.

Sensation in the test lab:

Rarely have we seen such a linear frequency response like that generated by the Quantum Signature from 35 Hz with a full, undistorted level. Three 170 mm woofer cones in a perfectly coordinated, huge bass reflex enclosure prove once again that impressive low-frequency dynamics requires large scale cones. And the Quantum Signature certainly has plenty to offer in this regard. It knows how to convert the physical advantages on offer into audible musical qualities. Rarely have we

experienced such a thrilling and percussive sound in our listening room with such tangible and physically perceptible pressure. The Signature reproduces the deepest bass sounds of Dave Weckl's "Heads Up" with an unbelievable level of precision, without generating an artificially inflated pseudo-bass tone. The Signature also masters vocals and acoustic instruments, such as those in Ry Cooder's "Buena Vista Social Club", with absolute tonal perfection. Even complex orchestral pieces - which pose a challenge for any speaker - don't seem to phase the Quantum Signature in the slightest: Magnat's speaker reproduces Beethoven's "Freude schöner Götterfunken" with fantastic precision and generates an impression of actually being in the concert hall. Volume? Dynamics? Neutrality? These are all points that can be classified as "perfect" for the Quantum Signature speaker. However, to enjoy the exquisite Magnat unit in all its glory and to really savour its qualities, you will need a serious music source and a high quality amplifier. In our case we used an Accuphase E-260 amplifier plus an Accuphase DD-510 CD player with premium cable from Oehlbach.

Conclusion

This speaker is absolutely superb! With its Quantum Signature series Magnat has managed to perfectly combine high-tech materials, current chassis technology and an elegant appearance. The Signature is definitely an impressive, dynamic and extremely agile reference class speaker, which is undoubtedly the current highlight of the company's 40-year history.