

## THE LARGE ROOM DREAM

# Magnat

Quantum Signature



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**Magnat Quantum Signature**  
**TEST RESULT: VERY GOOD**

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**Magnat crowns the Quantum series with its Signature model. This is a monumental sound transducer whose sound is rather surprising in light of its exterior. Magnat has enjoyed a lot of success over the years with its various Quantum series. The models, which are available in various incarnations ranging from the shelf and centre speakers to the floor-standing speaker, enable both multi-channel and stereo playback.**

### High quality material

The cone itself has been manufactured from an aluminium/ceramic compound that is lightweight and extremely rigid. Unlike a typical configuration, the dust cover in the centre speaker has been fitted inversely, which, according to the findings of the development department, results in further enhanced rigidity of the cone. The basket, which accommodates the magnet system and cone, is made of aluminium. The struts have been kept as thin as possible to avoid even the smallest compression effects. The voice coil mount is coated with polyimide, which is capable of withstanding temperatures of around 200°C without any damage. Anyone intending to use the Signature speakers at extremely high volume can reasonably expect them to survive unscathed even when using a high quality amplifier. The 30 mm dome tweeter is located between the two symmetrically arranged 17 cm midrange drivers. Technically this is referred to as a D'Appolito configuration. This layout reduces reflections from the floor and ceiling, thereby enhancing the accuracy of the reproduction. The dome is accommodated in an aluminium ring that has been optimised for sound conduction and is equipped with a powerful magnetic drive. The two-part crossover separates the chassis of the three-way configuration cleanly from one another with a 24 decibel slope, while a bi-wiring or bi-amping configuration are also possible. The internal wiring doesn't consist of standard copper wire, but enhanced and optimised connections from Oehlbach.

The designers have afforded the same level of care and attention to the meticulously coated housing. This has been manufactured from medium density fibreboard, which exhibits different material thicknesses at the sides to effectively suppress housing resonance. Inside the speaker there are a number of reinforcing elements that ensure a high level of rigidity is maintained, even when the speaker is subjected to high mechanical loads. The one and a half hundredweight unit rests on four solid spikes. Above the connecting terminal at the rear are two large bass reflex ports, which are completely inconspicuous in terms of the production

of flow noise. When setting up such a weighty speaker there is a natural tendency to give up, particularly as the Quantum Signature doesn't adhere to the traditional motto of "unpack, set up, connect and – sit back!". The first step is to ascertain the distance of the stereo base; in our setup the distance between the two inner sides of the speakers was three metres and the distance to the listening position was around 20 cm less at 2.8 metres. These details are not universal and must be determined individually for each room.

### Perceived starting difficulties

What do we actually expect when using a speaker of this size? Maybe a monster bass range in combination with tinkling highs while the midrange is overlooked? The first few bars generated by the Quantum Signature make it abundantly clear that it is not a slouch by any means. Nor is it an elephant in ballet shoes; no, this sound transducer surprises with its accurate and solid playback regardless of the amplifier that's connected. The album "Sacred Love" by Sting on SACD will only deliver pure listening pleasure if the system has been installed in a perfectly coordinated manner. Otherwise, disappointment is inevitable. This is perfectly exemplified by the track "Stolen Car", which unfolds extremely well from the Signature speakers. Even minor contributions from the percussion section are generated clearly. The tinkle of the triangle sounds transparently bright and metallic and is harmoniously incorporated into the broad spatial sound pattern. The double-tracked vocals recorded by Sting are wonderful to follow – this is something that definitely cannot be said of all speakers. Magnat's speakers also seem as if they are made for "Rebirth Of The Cool" by Rayford Griffin. When playing the title track they deliver a deep, clean and punchy bass line that would be extremely difficult for a physically smaller transducer to produce. Above all, the accuracy of the soundstage and its size (!) make for an impressive listening experience. The Quantum Signature generates a bone dry bass line in the listening room, which could only result in one thing: us cranking up the level. As expected, Magnat's units respond superbly well to the increased volume. Even the dynamic brass sections don't appear strained, but remain clear and concise in the overall sound pattern. For anyone wanting to take it to the extreme at this point we recommend Lady Gaga's "Swine" from her latest album "Artpop". At the highest levels this warped pressure requires all of the approximately one hundred litre capacity of the housing. The overall enjoyment, however, isn't created by the volume

but by the constant precision of the sound pattern.

An extremely pleasant listening experience is also generated by Mike Oldfield's "Tubular Bells", whose rhythm and detail haven't lost any of their charm over the years. The size of the electronically generated dimensional soundscape is, of course, achieved perfectly with a speaker of these dimensions. Even more surprising, however, is the sensational handling of the acoustic nuances that aren't swallowed up or suppressed. We have a tendency to listen to these tracks at too high a volume, but it's just so much fun cranking up the amplifier. However, this doesn't only apply to high levels. The Quantum Signature also functions extremely well at low volume and with singer/songwriter material. It enables the reproduction of Mike Silver's "Tumble Of Love" at a volume that is more in keeping with a guitar. The sounds of the strings and the fine resolution of the backing choir enrich the overall sound of the track. Magnat's speakers create an extremely cohesive and harmonious sound pattern, which has potential for long-term enjoyment.

### Test result

Magnat's Quantum Signature speakers are monumental sound transducers that generate an outstanding sound. To achieve this result you will need a suitable room and musically flawless electronic components. You are able to use a highly potent transistor amplifier or a less powerful tube amplifier here, as the level of efficiency offered by the Quantum Signature is very high. In other words, a few watts of power is sufficient for an extremely good sound pressure level. The latter, incidentally, simply adds to the overall allure, because the initial feeling you have of sitting at home in front of the speakers gives way very quickly to being in front of a realistic stage in a concert hall. Furthermore, the performance generated is extremely suitable for the long-term, which further justifies the investment in Magnat's Quantum Signature series.

