

# AUDIO AUDIO

DAS MAGAZIN FÜR HIFI · HIGH END · SURROUND · MUSIK

„... it is simply brimming with technology and advanced features.“

## Magnat

Quantum 1009 S

**AUDIO** 09/14

**RECOMMENDATION**

**NATURAL STAGING**

PRICE/PERFORMANCE:

**VERY GOOD\***

SOUND JUDGEMENT:

**96 POINTS**



## Magnat

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Audio  
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Of course, Magnat could have equipped its new Quantum 1009S with exotic-looking drivers and a bolder housing, however, its orientation towards tried and tested concepts in combination with an elegant and timeless visual appearance is definitively not a disadvantage when it comes to commercial success. The sound furniture, which has been developed in Pulheim near Cologne, certainly creates a lasting impression with its elaborate 1.25 m frame. The polished die-cast baskets and front panels create subtle highlights and provide a clear indication of the quality of drivers installed. Magnat has limited the colours available for its new 1000S series to the most sought-after options, namely black and white, in a high-gloss lacquered finish. If you harbour any doubts with regard to the seriousness of the 1009S models, they will soon vanish when you attempt to set up the speakers without a helping hand, as they weigh in at over 50 kg. This hefty weight is a result of numerous reinforcing struts and a double skin construction. The attached side panels are thicker at the centre than they are at the front and rear, which impairs resonance. As a side effect this breaks up the angular shape of the speaker, which reduces its sharp appearance. Threads have been inserted in the base plate for accommodating spikes, which are supplied at no additional charge, as is common in this price class.

The load generated by the high energy bass range is divided via two 20 cm bass chassis, which are equipped with extensively ventilated oscillating systems and silver aluminium/ceramic cones. The midrange driver in the 1009S, which covers frequencies between 500 and 3000 Hz, is 3 cm smaller than its woofer counterpart, mainly to counteract undesired directivity at the upper end of its effective spectrum. It occupies the uppermost position on the baffle, meaning it has hardly any reflective surfaces in its immediate vicinity, which, according to experience, promotes the disengagement of the sound from the speakers. Contrary to its appearance, the cone, which is also made of aluminium and ceramic, has not been tailored to ensure maximum rigidity; instead, it is capable of generating piston-like vibrations as well as radiating bending waves to a certain extent, which is supposed to specifically enhance the sound properties in the upper midrange frequencies. The driver has been provided with a separate enclosure, which is separated from the rest of the housing to protect it against the brute power generated by the bass driver. A small port insulated with dark grey foam has been integrated into the midrange chamber at the rear of the speaker, whose purpose is to balance the pressure generated and enable the sensitive oscillating system to produce a higher fine dynamic range. The tweeter, which is equipped with a ventilated magnet system, is characterised by its particularly low intrinsic resonance.

It features a lightweight fabric cone that measures around 25 mm in diameter and an unusually wide edge mount. As the latter also contributes to the sound pressure generated, the datasheet specifies that its diameter is 30 mm. The aim of the system is to reproduce a superior bandwidth and resolution. The outstanding measuring technology that has been used is highlighted by the sophisticated driver, as it ensures just a slight decrease in the treble level even at an angle of 10 and 30 degrees relative to the main axis (see 'Test lab'). The highest audible frequencies are radiated in a wider and more evenly dispersed manner than that produced by many 19 mm domes, which, due to their low dynamic reserves, are predominantly only used in compact speakers. The signals are distributed inside the speaker via a sophisticated crossover with low-distortion induction coils and high quality film capacitors. To prevent disruptive crosstalk from occurring between the adjacent branches, the bass branch, which is characterised by the highest currents and stray fields, has been equipped with a separate circuit board. The connecting terminal is compatible with a bi-wiring configuration and features contact-friendly cable bridges. Thanks to its amplifier-friendly impedance rating, which doesn't fall significantly below 4 ohms in any frequency range and only varies slightly in the midrange, the large Quantum speakers are extremely suitable for use with a wide range of amplifiers, including those with tubes and an output of just 30 watts.

While more sophisticated speakers are made to sound plain and ordinary when used with low-powered amps, this is definitely not the case with the 1009S series. In general, it's fascinating to hear how powerfully and emphatically Magnat's units are able to build up the sound from the very lowest frequencies. Large-scale orchestral music is generated with a grandiose feeling of fullness and warmth, which quickly dispels any doubts we may have had regarding the significance of such a large and cone-heavy floorstanding speaker. The album "Poet Wind" by David Munyon sounded wonderfully rich in terms of its fundamental tone and the fragile vocals sounded vivid and dynamic. Although the tracks on the album are by no means bass-heavy, you definitely won't want to go back to smaller speakers afterwards, as it will seem they are left gasping for air when Magnat's speakers reveal no sign of strain whatsoever. A fuller sound is only generated in our test by the significantly more expensive Signature Alpha series from Triangle, which stands 5 cm taller and dominates the corner of the room slightly more than Magnat's units. The French speakers are able to better distinguish fast and complex bass sequences, however, this doesn't play a significant role when it comes to the rather relaxed tracks by guitarist Munyon. Magnat's units are definitely not prone to melancholy.

They are able to differentiate exquisitely in the mid and treble frequencies and generate an excellent dynamic response. The ludicrously fast-paced "You Can't Judge A Book By Its Cover" by Kenny Wayne, which can stylistically be attributed to the Blues genre, sounded so engaging and unobscured that we were left feeling as though we were in the middle of an intimate cellar bar where everything simply revolves around the music. In addition, the large Quantum speakers also managed to reproduce a remarkably accurate soundstage in which the music unfolds between the speakers in a range that is well beyond the usual field. In fact, our 30 square metre listening room seemed to fade into the background, as the sound field generated penetrates the furthest corners of the room, leaving us completely forget its dimensions. The 1009S speakers reproduced the American guitar prodigy and the rest of his band in clearly defined positions on the imaginary stage, thereby enhancing the impression of vitality and effortlessness of the speakers. A compliment that must be paid to the technicians in Pulheim is that affordable three-way speakers only rarely produce such a joyful, effortless and spatially precise sound. When they do, they don't often sound as neutral as the Quantum 1009S.

#### CONCLUSION:

While the top-of-the-range model in Magnat's new 1000S series may not be extremely revolutionary in terms of its appearance, it is simply brimming with technology and advanced features. The height of the speakers, in combination with the midrange driver that is located towards the top of the configuration, is a tried and tested recipe for expansive, three-dimensional spatial imaging, which is fully confirmed by our listening test. What the new 1009S achieves with its sophisticated drivers and perfectly coordinated crossover is simply astonishing. Its distinctly non-critical behaviour also enables you to choose from an extremely wide range of amplifiers