

i-fidelity.net

Magnat Quantum 753
Test result: very good

12/2012

Magnat

Quantum 753

i-fidelity.net
Price Tip

“Too good to be true - well done MAGNAT!”



A good start

The Quantum series from Magnat has represented an excellent blend between sound quality and price for many years. And the new compact Quantum 753 doesn't appear to be an exception to the rule.

In a nut shell, the secret to producing high quality, affordable speakers lies in combining European know-how with manufacturing in the Far East. The notoriety that this model once endured is now no more. One reason for this, of course, is that almost all manufacturers are now following this path. Shandro Fischer's team at Magnat utilises the beneficial prices offered by the production site fairly, as these are passed on to the customer.

After intensive evaluation of the Quantum 753 compact two-way speaker, it is unlikely that anyone would guess that the unit, which features a glossy four and a half centimetre thick(!) baffle, has a retail price of just € 349. This is because the 753 creates a higher quality impression. The same applies to the removable, resonance-absorbing rubber feet, which are designed for using the speaker on a shelf. In order to achieve the best possible playback, however, we recommend purchasing the corresponding stand, namely the Unistand 500, which costs around €180 for a pair.

Think again

Anyone under the impression that, given the build quality of the speaker, a compromise must have been made in terms of the technology used, will need to think again. A glance at the chassis will attest to this. The 17 cm woofer is equipped with a double magnet. This powerful drive ensures higher resilience and a low distortion level. According to Magnat the struts used for the aluminium baskets have been aerodynamically optimised. These should prevent the accumulation of air behind the cone, thereby ensuring the speaker does not lose any of its precision even when subjected to a high load.

The development department has resorted to a tried and tested 25 mm dome for the treble frequencies. Both chassis are assigned their operating range by a crossover, whose development involved meticulous planning to ensure phase shifts remain within a tolerable range. This is a factor which also facilitates the operation of the amplifier. Even the internal wiring used is above the usual standard for this price range.

Removing the bass driver and tweeter from the housing reveals that struts have been incorporated to minimise resonance. The tapping test reveals that this construction works perfectly, as the acoustic response fades quickly. A bass reflex port and a bi-wiring terminal can be found at the rear. Everything is solid and there are no major complaints. The level of workmanship employed for the speaker's feet is seldom found amongst the competition.

Suitable for even the smallest of spaces

If space restrictions dictate that the Quantum 753 is placed on a shelf or on a sideboard, there's nothing to prevent you from doing so. But this would be a shame, as its configuration is too good for such a setup. It would make much more sense to position the speakers freely on

the aforementioned stands. This can be done by simply unscrewing the feet and placing the speakers on the Unistand 500. When positioning the speakers it is important to ensure that the distance to the rear wall is at least 30 cm. The spatial reproduction of the speaker predominantly benefits from this measure.

Before the listening test can start, the speaker needs to be run-in for several hours. This is down to the fact that the surrounding seams exhibit an initial degree of stiffness, which decreases during the first hundred hours and results in a more pleasant listening experience. When operated directly out of the box the 753 sounds rather bright while avoiding any kind of fundamental tone. Simply select the radio as the source and let the speakers get to work. You can then experiment with various types of setup. In the i-fidelity.net listening room the Magnat speakers are angled inwards so that the inside line just disappears from the perspective.

Too good to be true

During the first few bars of "Better Than A Dream" by Katie Melua, it immediately becomes clear that the Quantum 753 has excellent sound properties. Her vocals are reproduced precisely at the centre of the soundstage between the speakers and do not appear inverted. A virtue of compact speakers is the disentanglement of various sounds from the housing, which, of course, is also mastered by Magnat's units. Another factor the testers find extremely appealing is the detailed level of reproduction, which listeners are often deprived of when it comes to speakers in the lower price ranges.

Restrictions are naturally placed on the bass range due to the size of the housing. The 753 is capable of reproducing bass-heavy tracks really well, but it goes without saying that it cannot generate physical pressure levels like those, for example, that are produced by floorstanding speakers. However, it reproduces natural instruments exquisitely. Tracks such as "The Tragic Lives Of Maximilian And Carlota" by saxophonist Karolina Strassmayer particularly benefit from this aspect. Fine drum segments by Drori Mondlak deliver a discreet, but very stable foundation for the soulful and expressive performance of the Austrian musician. The Quantum 753 series represents a very good entry into the world of high-quality music reproduction - well done Magnat!

Test result

The Quantum 753 series from Magnat is a reasonably priced and excellent-sounding speaker. An analysis of the structural components confirms the notion that this speaker offers a lot, if not too much, performance for your money. It is therefore the deserved winner of our "price tip" award. These speakers are ideally positioned and set up on the corresponding stands, which are also extremely well-priced. The financial leap from cheap speakers to the Quantum 753 units is thoroughly worthwhile and recommended, because listening to music with such well-constructed speakers is a much more intensive experience.