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".... The Shadow is a real acoustic all-rounder. "

Magnat

SHADOW 209



- + SOUND:
VERY GOOD
- + FEATURES:
VERY GOOD
- + FINISH:
VERY GOOD



Magnat

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av-magazin.de
04 | 2015

Shining light - Magnat Shadow 209

With the new Shadow series, Magnat presents attractively priced loudspeakers that are every bit as good as the successful predecessors of the Vector range. AV-Magazin ordered the flagship model Shadow 209 for the test.

The Magnat audio professionals from the Rhine region have for many years been a guarantee for successful loudspeakers and audio electronics on account of their powerful sound and affordability. The latest coup goes by the name Shadow and currently features five different speaker models. In addition to the top model 209 referred to above, the two smaller floor-standing loudspeakers, Shadow 207 and Shadow 205, are also available. These have the same chassis, but differ in terms of subwoofer features and, therefore, the enclosure size. Recommended as a compact speaker is the Shadow 203, which feels equally at home as a small stereo monitor or as a rear home movie effect loudspeaker. The specialist center speaker, the Shadow Center 213, takes over the transmission of the voice channel and, therefore, the important voice reproduction in a multi-channel surround system. There is currently no Shadow subwoofer. However, home movie fans are sure to find a suitable model for their needs in the form of one of the three Betasub models. The Shadow 209 costs around 500 Euro per speaker and is available in black or white.

Package contents and start-up

The Magnat speaker comes packed in an individual stable cardboard box. In addition to the actual loudspeaker, the package also contains a matching front cover, four rounded metal spikes as well as printed operating instructions. When starting up for the first time, the user has the option of setting up the floor-standing speaker with the hard rubber feet fitted as standard or screwing in and using the enclosed metal spikes via the metric thread. As a rule of thumb: Soft floors with hard floor connection, hard floors with soft floor connection. Only in this way can optimum stability and low-resonance impact sound decoupling be ensured. The wired connection is made via the rear terminal, which is countersunk into the enclosure. Located there are four gold-plated screw terminals for connecting your choice of bare strands, cable shoes or banana plugs. Those wanting to operate the Magnat Shadow in so-called bi-wiring mode must first remove the short-circuit jumpers between the low and mid-high range branch. Signal transmission then ensues via two separate loudspeaker cables, which can improve the sound quality in certain circumstances.

The good omni-directional sound distribution characteristics of the Shadow 209 means it is not absolutely necessary to align the speakers directly to the listening area; this can be done according to one's own personal judgment and individual listening taste.

Design and material quality

The outer form of the new Magnat speaker is classic and is reduced to a small number of discreet design features. For example, the silver-colored edges of the chassis cages stand out from the rest of the body in a pleasantly restrained way but in a nonetheless visually effective manner, giving the 209 a vibrantly strong form. The enclosure proportions appear absolutely consistent and harmonious, making the shadow an attractive furnishing item. This is helped by the tastefully graceful wood veneer, with its impeccable finish nestling around the cleanly broken lines of the stable body. The combination of the high-gloss baffle together with the base and the silk-matt rear enclosure is very smart. Even when looked at more closely, the Rhineland speaker does not display any weaknesses, pampering the user's senses of sight and touch with top-class material and, therefore, tactile quality. And that is not a given for a full-blown floor-standing loudspeaker for less than 500 euro.

Technical configuration

To ensure powerfully sounding audio reproduction, the Magnat developers have delved deep into their box of tricks. Only high-quality drivers and low-tolerance passive components are used. The latter are deployed in the perfectly dimensioned crossover. This ensures that each chassis is assigned only those ranges that it can also transform into optimum sound. As many as three 170 mm diameter subwoofers are used in the bass range. The effective air pressure generation is carried out via rigid paper cones with an inverse dust protection cap in the center. The cone surround is secured by a permanently elastic rubber bead, which can guide the radiation surface in a secure and low-torsion manner even in the case of substantial cone excursions. The ventilated voice coils enable the Shadow 209 to easily reproduce high levels constantly. In the mid-frequency range, the identical 17 cm chassis converts frequencies between 280 and 3,000 hertz. To improve the polar pattern of the speaker, the woofer and tweeter are situated at the top, countersunk into the baffle. This causes them to play at ear height, benefiting the sound pattern in the shortwave range. The tweeter works via an imposing 30 mm cone, whose dome-shaped radiation surface is made from impregnated textile fiber material.

The sound conductor, which is bent slightly inwards towards the dome of the cone, has enabled Magnat to once again optimize the polar pattern, which improves treble reproduction audibly, especially in the seats at the side.

Sound quality

What can you expect from a tall floor-standing loudspeaker for less than 500 euro. A lot if it carries the Magnat brand name. And this is demonstrated impressively by the Shadow 209 from the very first few minutes. Thanks to the three subwoofers, the Rhineland speaker produces absolutely clean and clear bass sounds even at high listening levels. It also masters the fine nuances with the best control and agile dynamics. Even the most demanding jazz and classical pieces sound contoured and clean at all times. The 209 can present bold hip hop bass lines with the same enthusiasm as delicately plucked double basses. The Shadow is a real acoustic all-rounder. In the mid-frequency range, the 17 cm cone chassis shows its superiority through pleasantly silky voice reproduction with perfectly balanced tonal harmony. The whole thing is finished off by crystal-clear treble reproduction, augmenting the soundscape effectively but subtly without taking over. All in all, the Shadow 209 is a proverbially consistent and harmonious loudspeaker that is recommended for all musical directions as well as home movie applications without any exceptions.

Clear text

With the Shadow 209, Magnat offers a tremendously powerful floor-standing loudspeaker with a very fair price-performance ratio. The generous technical features result in first-class sound quality characterized by powerful bass reproduction, excellent level stability and high resolution.

CLASS: TOP CLASS

PRICE/PERFORMANCE: VERY GOOD

+ SOUND: VERY GOOD

+ FEATURES VERY GOOD

+ FINISH: VERY GOOD

