

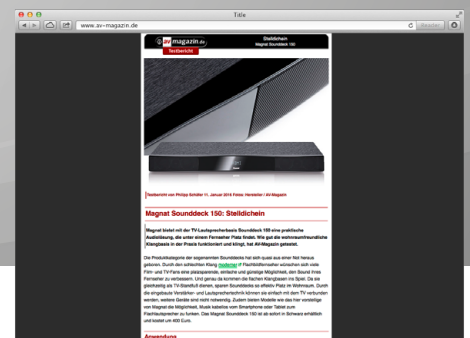


"WITH THE SOUNDDECK 150, MAGNAT OFFERS A SPACE-SAVING, SIMPLE AND REASONABLY PRICED POSSIBILITY TO IMPROVE THE SOUND OF A FLAT-SCREEN TV."

Magnat SOUNDDECK 150



- SOUND: **GOOD - VERY GOOD**
- CONFIGURATION: **OUTSTANDING**
- OPERATION: **VERY GOOD**
- FINISH: **VERY GOOD**
- PRICE/PERFORMANCE: **VERY GOOD**
- OVERALL: **VERY GOOD**



With the Sounddeck 150 TV loudspeaker base, Magnat offers a practical audio solution that can be accommodated below the television. AV Magazin has tested how well the living-room-friendly sound base functions and sounds in practice.

The product category of so-called sound decks was born out of necessity, so to speak. Due to the poor sound of modern flat-screen televisions, a lot of film and TV fans would like to have a space-saving, simple and reasonably priced way of improving the sound of their TV. And this is precisely where the flat sound decks come in. As they also act as a TV pedestal at the same time, sound decks also effectively save space in the living room. The integrated amplifier and loudspeaker technology makes them easy to connect to the TV, with no other devices needed. In addition, there are models, like the one from Magnat presented here, that offer the possibility to transmit music from a smartphone or tablet to the flat loudspeaker in wireless mode. The Magnat Sounddeck 150 is available in black as of now and costs around €400.

Application

The TV loudspeaker base can receive the TV sound in analogue or digital mode. An optical and electrical digital input as well as an analogue cinch input are provided for this. Those using an HDMI connection can even control the Sounddeck volume with the TV remote control. The requirement for this is that the so-called CEC function is activated on the television.

In addition, the cable must be plugged into an ARC-capable HDMI port on the TV so that this can output the sound to the Magnat deck. Also worthy of praise is the USB port via which MP3 and WMA music files can be played directly on the Sounddeck 150. As this connection is located at the rear of the device, using it is a little bit awkward, however. Wireless music transmission via Bluetooth is then more practical. Thanks to the integrated aptX standard, compatible smartphones, tablets and computers can even transmit the audio signals in CD quality. Hard disk recorders and games consoles can be connected to the other ports. To enable the best possible reproduction of surround-sound-coded audio signals, Magnat has incorporated a Dolby Digital decoder. If the Sounddeck is connected to a TV or set-top box via a digital audio cable, movies, TV programmes and sports events then sound particularly effective. If the source material is in stereo format, a DSP-controlled 3D surround sound program will ensure the necessary wow effect. The integrated equalizer allows a further sound modification. Using this, the sound deck provides for three default sound settings. The user can therefore decide according to his or her personal taste how the Sounddeck should sound.

Loudspeaker technology

To achieve the best possible sound quality, Magnat has fitted the Sounddeck 150 with a three-way stereo system. In the bass range, a 14 cm subwoofer in a bass reflex enclosure provides the necessary boost. The chassis itself is embedded in the base plate and is therefore out of sight.

Located on each side to the left and right of the just 80 mm high baffle are 2 x 45 mm mid-range units and one 20 mm dome tweeter. A digital amplifier with a maximum output of 200 watts is integrated for powerful signal conversion.

Sound

We first listen to normal TV sound via the Sounddeck. It becomes immediately and unmistakably clear how much better the flat sound bar sounds than the original TV speakers. The authentic reproduction of the fundamental tone makes the news presenter sound less nasal and much easier to understand. We then put the third part of the film trilogy "Planet of the Apes" in the drive of the Blu-ray player. The Sounddeck 150 immediately produces decent sound. The bass ranges are rich and powerful, the mid-tone ranges impeccably neutral and the trebles display a pleasant resolution. And the TV loudspeaker base also has good resolution and wide-ranging sound when playing music via Bluetooth. However, not too much should be expected of the switchable 3D surround sound. Nevertheless: The Sounddeck 150 offers a considerable improvement in sound compared with the original TV sound for less than €400.

+ Sound: Good - Very good

+ Features: Outstanding

+ Operation: Very good

+ Workmanship: Very good

+ Price/performance: Very good

+ Overall Very good

