

## "EASILY SEES OFF LARGER SETS"



## Magnat

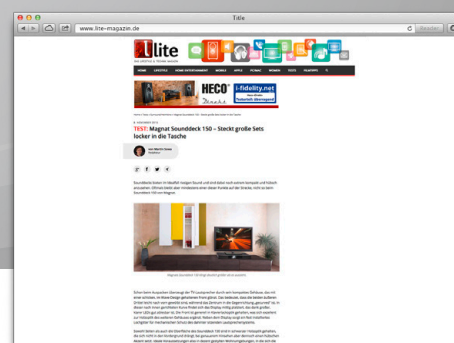
### Sounddeck 150



OVERALL RATING: **1,0**

CLASS: **MID-RANGE**

PRICE/PERFORMANCE: **VERY GOOD**



# Magnat

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11 | 2015

# Magnat SOUNDDECK 150

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## Magnat Sounddeck 150 – Easily sees off larger sets

Ideally, sound decks provide huge sound and are still extremely compact and also look good. Often, however, at least one of these points is missing – but not with the Sounddeck 150 from Magnat.

As soon as you unpack it, the TV speaker is impressive with its compact enclosure gleaming with a stylish wave-design front. This means that the two outer thirds are arched slightly forward, while the center is "curved" in the opposite direction. Located in this inward "curve" is the display, which is easy to read thanks to the large, clear LED's. The front generally comes in a piano lacquer look, which nicely complements the wood look of the rest of the enclosure. In addition to the display, a permanently fitted perforated grid ensures that the loudspeaker behind it is protected.

Both the sides and the surface of the Sounddeck 150 are finished in black imitation wood, which does not impose itself but, rather, creates an attractive highlight on closer inspection. All of the connection ports and a bass reflex opening are located at the rear. The bass reflex opening supports the 140 mm subwoofer, which operates according to the downfire principle and is situated at the bottom of the enclosure, in an extremely effective way.

### Double two-way system

Apart from the subwoofer, the Sounddeck 150 is also fitted with 2 x two-way systems, each comprising a 20 mm tweeter with a textile dome and 2 x 45 mm mid-range drivers. In principle, Magnat's TV loudspeaker therefore combines a complete 2.1 set in just one device – which brings us back once again to the advantage of low space requirements. The sole criticism of this compactness is the fact that all the connection ports are, as already mentioned, positioned at the back which, naturally enough, makes these rather difficult to reach after set-up and, in particular, if a TV set is placed on top.

Magnat has actually accommodated a number of interesting connectivity options in this regard. Let's start with the usual: Unsurprisingly, the Sounddeck 150 has an HDMI connection, which is also ARC-capable, of course, and therefore only has to be connected to the television via an HDMI cable. Those that think they need a second HDMI port to connect a games console or a Blu-ray player to the Sounddeck 150, for example, and loop the signal can rest assured that this does not pose a problem. The source feed can also be connected directly to the television and the sound will then be routed to the sound deck via the ARC connection.

If you prefer a different solution, you can, of course, use a different port on the sound deck and, for example, send the movie soundtrack to the sound deck via the optical digital cable. A coaxial input is also provided, as well as an RCA input. Also interesting is the possibility to play music from a memory stick via the USB port located next to the HDMI slot – though, as already mentioned, this can be a bit awkward if the stick is plugged in at the back. However, even then, there is still an appealing alternative, at least if you have stored your digital music on a Bluetooth-enabled device. Because the Sounddeck 150 also likes to receive signals wirelessly.

The connection is established within a few seconds and is very easy (also thanks to the detailed user manual). The Bluetooth function simply has to be activated on the source player and the corresponding source selected on the sound deck. The remote control provided then also plays its part. This, too, is compactly designed, but also very easy to handle thanks to the rubberized surface, and is also equipped with highly legible labelled buttons. Pressing the "BT Pair" button once on the remote control is then enough and the sound deck appears on the smartphone, etc. in the list of available devices. Once the connection has been established, the Sounddeck 150 signals this with a short beep. However, there was a distinct difference in volume in the test compared with the sound of the TV – so don't be surprised if you don't hear anything after a few seconds. Just increase the volume carefully.

### Full sound for music and film

You will then also be rewarded with very full stereo sound (which can, incidentally, be optimized accordingly through different sound modes or by manually adjusting trebles and basses), which stretches out in an amazingly expansive way. The unexpectedly wide virtual stage suggests, indeed, that there is more than one loudspeaker being used here, with these set up at an appropriate distance from each other. Seen in technical terms, the former is even the case, but the generous spread of the sound is still unexpected and impressive. This also applies, in particular, to the precision and balance with which the Sounddeck 150 plays music. Because, although the bass comes across in an extremely dynamic and powerful way here, the mid and treble ranges are by no means overshadowed. On the contrary, the guitars in the rock number "Cutting Room Floor" by "boys2setfire" make their mark just as well as the vocals in the very bass-heavy "Talk is cheap" from Chet Faker and, which nevertheless tends more towards an electro-folk mix.

Ultimately, with a sound deck, it mainly comes down to the TV or movie sound, of course. We first took a look at the Bundesliga Conference from the well-known pay-TV broadcaster.

The details of the stadium atmosphere come across particularly well in this regard (even in the Rhine-Neckar stadium, which is not exactly known as a cauldron, to use the clichéd sideswipe). While the chants and, sometimes, the cymbals and drums are nicely placed and deliver a worthy setting, the acoustic effects come across very well as the point of focus in the on-screen program announcements and the commentary, of course. Though the latter is certainly not a particularly desirable aspect for some football fans ...

### Equipped for blockbusters

When it comes to movie sound, the Sounddeck 150 even goes one better and proves conclusively that, for all its compactness, it does not have to be afraid of the competition with genuine 2.1- and, to a certain degree, even with 5.1 sets. We tried it out with two action blockbusters and put the Blu-rays of "The Dark Knight Rises" and "Black Hawk Down" into the drive one after the other. In the Batman movie, the very effect-oriented and appropriately choreographed scenes demonstrate in particular that the sound deck is quite capable of going about things with concentrated power and producing impressive highlights in this way. On the other hand, the by far more chaotic military action in the second test film comes over very well through the Magnat Sounddeck building up an appropriately large soundscape which spreads throughout the area very well. The, beyond all doubt, majestic bass tone ensure a very dynamic foundation that provides an appropriate stage for any action movie. Thanks to the 3D sound or the "virtual surround" sound, the surround channels are actually also simulated very well – experienced home cinema fans will of course notice the difference to "real" surround sound in large rooms, which is also expressed in terms of volume in a sensible setup. However, this difference is so minimal for smaller rooms, in particular, that the Sounddeck 150 easily meet everyone's wishes. And all that for a recommended retail price of just €399 – an announcement that is likely to be unrivaled.

### Conclusion

Those who want to enjoy all the advantages of a sound deck as well as outstanding sound without breaking the bank need look no further than the Sounddeck 150. With well-designed features and a very stylish double-curve front as well as problem-free installation, the TV loudspeaker is a real multi-talent and is ideally suited as an entertainment hub in small to medium-sized living rooms.

