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"PLEASANT ALL-ROUND"

Magnat
MAGNASPHERE 33



Bluetooth® Qualcomm® aptX™ X

Magnat

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With the Magnasphere 33, Magnat has succeeded in producing a highly musical active loudspeaker with remote control.

The dream of wireless music enjoyment - nothing comes closer to this than active wireless speakers like Magnat's Magnasphere33. The amazingly tough little speakers are positioned on the shelf or sideboard and connected to the mains in the blink of an eye. On account of the manufacturer including generously dimensioned three-metre strips, the 33's also have adequate freedom of movement even without an extension cable. You then connect the TX11 transponder, also provided, to the computer via USB or optically to a digital component and the virtual link between the loudspeaker and the music source is complete. You could hardly want things any easier, and we can also add that we never had to struggle with connectivity disruptions during our two-month trial operation. In addition, the correspondence between the wireless module and the speakers proved to be extremely smart and snappy. The latency is always a central sticking point in systems of this type. Meant by this is the time before the sound of a signal reproduced by a CD player or computer emerges from the speakers. As digital signal processing goes hand in hand with computing processes, this can take a few dozen to a few hundred milliseconds. It doesn't matter when listening to music, but it's definitely a no-go for home cinema enthusiasts! In our tests - mind you, there was a direct line of sight between the transmitter and the loudspeaker - the Magnats only took a few milliseconds for the music to emerge from our computer into the room. So the video output was also reasonably consistent. As is now normal, multi-room is also an integral part of the concept in the Magnat system. The TX 11 can transmit incoming signals on three different channels. On the back of the speakers, you can choose whether it is located on the left, in the middle or on the right and what channel they are to

receive via. In this simple way, up to three transmission sources can be operated in three different rooms and these can be distributed throughout the house in the most varied set-ups on as many pairs of speakers as you want. As each TX11 has two analogue and two digital (24/96) inputs and Bluetooth (aptX), a total of 18 sources can be managed within a Magnasphere group. The level control of the loudspeakers is meanwhile regulated via a resilient IR metal remote control. The reproduction ensues via two drivers derived from the genes of the current generation of Magnat's Quantum range. In addition to a 25 mm dome, a 170 mm chassis made of an extremely lightweight and yet very rigid ceramic-aluminium compound is also used. The integrated amplifiers produce 65 watts of continuous power output, enabling music pulses up to an impressive 110 watts - power enough that we were amazed how stable and unshakeable the small enclosures are, which never rattle or shudder even at high levels. We also rate the two DSP-controlled bass/treble tone controls as extremely useful. These allow adjustments by a gentle +/-2 decibels and can give the speakers a bit of punch or a touch more freshness. All in all, we liked the 33's very much with their linear and balanced character. As you can see in our measurement chart on the right, the loudspeakers represent a real benchmark for balance. The comparatively early low-pass filtering from scarcely 15 kilohertz provides for a pleasant velvety touch without giving us the impression of treble range information being obscured. Thanks to its high temporary precision, the Magnasphere is also extremely "musical", regularly animating the listener's legs to move to the beat - a well-balanced, powerful little speaker with which you can listen deeply into the music, but which is exceedingly suitable for everyday use due to its minimally rounded charm and offers stress-free music enjoyment even at high levels. Well done, Magnat! Carsten Barbeck

Conclusion: Solid finish, balanced, musical character and high flexibility with simple operation - The Magnasphere 33 is a wireless loudspeaker that highlights the advantages of active loudspeaker designs. In short: The compact powerhouse really is a lot of fun!

Laboratory comment: Respect: For a speaker of its size, the Magnasphere 33 has an amazing lower cut-off frequency of 38 hertz - really the domain of medium-size floor-standing loudspeakers. Its efficiency is also excellent: even quiet signals lead to high levels.