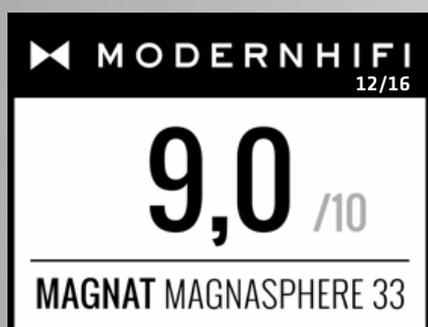


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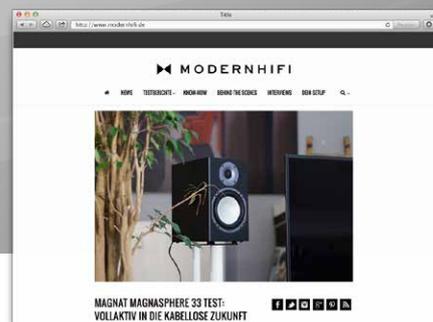
"...The high-frequency response of the Magnat Magnasphere 33 strikes the right balance between level of detail and constrained sharpness. The sound of the drum cymbals and rattles displays a fine resolution, for example, while the vocals have no difficulty whatsoever with sharp consonants."

Magnat

MAGNASPHERE 33



- + Easy to operate
- + Up to 3 music streams at the same time
- + Effective tone control
- + Bluetooth® aptX®



Magnat

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Magnat MAGNASPHERE 33

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Only one pair of loudspeakers? Not at all! The Magnat Magnasphere 33's are fully active shelf-top loudspeakers that also receive music from the room next door with the integrated transmitter. Transmission works in HD, with Bluetooth also available, and the transmitter controls up to three pairs of loudspeakers. Let's hear how the modern stereo solution sounds.

Modern hi-fi does not just mean reducing the stereo system to the essential and equipping it with modern functions but, rather, also streaming to it from different locations in a flexible way.

This is what Magnat feels it has created with the Magnasphere range, which comprises two loudspeakers that can do a lot more than simply reproduce tones. The Magnat Magnasphere shelf-top speaker is a clever complete solution with built-in amplifiers, D/A converter and multi-room system. Those who prefer something bigger can go for the Magnasphere 55 floor-standing speaker.

Magnat Magnasphere TX11

All that is needed to get going is a single source like a smartphone, computer or network player, and this can also be located in a different room to the speakers. The Magnat Magnasphere 33 accessory package includes the Magnasphere TX11 wireless transmitter, which offers two analogue, two optical digital and one USB input. It also receives Bluetooth signals at CD level with the aptX codec from compatible smartphones, tablets and computers and sends these to the speakers.



One cable is sufficient and the player and transmitter are connected. Apart from this, only one power cord is needed per speaker - the loudspeakers themselves communicate wirelessly at 24 bits and 96 kHz.

The Magnat Magnasphere TX11 provides for wireless transmission to up to three pairs of loudspeakers, which can be spread over different rooms. Three frequency bands (2,4 GHz; 5,2 GHz; 5,8 GHz) can be selected from for interference-free operation so that the transmitter does not clash with other appliances in the home.

Modern operation

Viewed from the front, the Magnat Magnasphere 33's look like conventional loudspeakers. However, a look at the rear reveals their modern genes. Using a toggle switch, we first select the assignment: is the loudspeaker on the left, the right or is it playing mono?

Variable location adjustment is also provided for the bass and treble frequencies separately. The switches control the volume level in the range of +/- 2 dB. This is useful for difficult set-up situations, such as directly in a corner of the room.

What mode the speakers are currently playing in is shown via an LED display between the tweeter and the subwoofer. The system is very easy to control using the elegantly designed remote control made of solid metal.



The inside of the Magnat Magnasphere 33 is also very different. Instead of a passive crossover unit, what we find here is a digital signal processor and power amps fed by an active crossover. The two chassis - a 25 mm fabric dome at the top and a 170 mm ceramic-aluminium driver at the bottom - are driven by Class D amplifiers with a power output of 65 watts.

Listening test

And how do the Magnat Magnasphere 33's fare in the listening test? Neither austere nor timid - what is striking is the prominent low-frequency response which, depending on the music, can be just right or somewhat too much of a good thing. After a bit of trial and error, I decided to cut back on the bass by -2 dB.

This makes the speakers sound more balanced, though without losing any of their vividness.

While the acoustic guitar on the album "Jack White Acoustic Records" sounded a bit too deep for my liking in the neutral EQ setting, it now plays more realistically and allows Jack White's voice to develop a lot more space. Playback was initially by Bluetooth stream via the iPhone Tidal app. Although this already sounds very rousing and leaves hardly anything to be desired, the same album played back via a USB computer connection really does raise the bar. The guitar strings sound more concise, the spatial depth appears to be somewhat more expansive and the overall reproduction sounds a little tighter. The high-frequency response of the Magnat Magnasphere 33 strikes a good balance between level of detail and constrained sharpness. The sound of the drum cymbals and rattles displays a fine resolution, for example, while the vocals have no difficulty whatsoever with sharp consonants. This makes the active loudspeakers suitable not only for music playback but, rather, also for use with the TV. When played back via the optical signal connection, dialogue voices sound clearly understandable at all times and wild chases from the "Mad Max" Blu-ray are sufficiently dynamic. And: Those who like explosions to be even more intensive can switch the bass to neutral or ramp up an extra 2 dB.



Summary

The Magnasphere range from Magnat revamps the classic hi-fi image of source, amplifier and conventional loudspeakers with a modern playback concept. Digital, analogue and via Bluetooth, the transmitter included picks up various sources and sends them wirelessly to up to three loudspeakers. The Magnasphere 33's perform in a relaxed dynamic way with a slight inclination towards the bass and can be adjusted via EQ. What more could you want?