



"Excellently equipped, technically elaborate and outstanding sounding active loudspeakers with wireless transmission"



Magnat

MAGNASPHERE 55



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TEST: Magnat Magnasphere 55 - High-quality active floor-standing loudspeakers with wireless transmission + control unit with USB-DAC and Bluetooth

The Magnasphere 55 wireless active loudspeaker system for EUR 2,500 (complete price) with high-performance, fully active bass reflex floor-standing loudspeakers enhances our range of test devices in its white finish. So it's now time to explain what the modern hi-fi solution from Pulheim can actually do. The set contains two fully active loudspeakers and a small, compact transmitter unit for digital wireless transmission. Thanks to the multi-zone capability, up to three speaker zones are possible with the Magnasphere equipment. Those looking for something more compact can opt for the Magnasphere 33 set with shelf-top speakers and a control unit (EUR 1,700 complete).

Sound

We start straightaway with HiRes audio files in Flac format and listen to the opening Allegro from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 4th Violin Concerto. We leave the sound switch at the rear of the Magnasphere 55's in the neutral position. The internal DACs convert signals up to 96 kHz/24 bits native, and our Allegro is in 96/24 format. The tweeter with fmax technology typical for high-quality Magnat loudspeakers immediately comes to life in terms of three-dimensionality and resolution. The entire sound comes across as clean, pure and authentic. The interference-free wireless transmission and the fully active, DSP-filtered speakers with Quantum technology ensure a truly "high-fidelity" listening experience. The strings are very acoustically transparent and are not shrill even at higher levels. And level is something the Magnasphere 55's are good at in any case. And, if you want things to get louder, the power reserves are more than sufficient. This is also due to the fact that Magnat obviously does not do things by halves. One loudspeaker active with amplifier electronics, the other passive - not at Magnat. Both speakers have their own Class D amplifier with a full 100 watts of total RMS power output - just as it should be. Praise from our side. (...) we are delighted with the fine sound of the Mozart Allegro. The "FE Dynamics" bass and midrange drivers also do their job convincingly all-round. The high-tech membrane is made of ceramic and aluminium material. The high-performance magnet system is distortion-optimised. High-quality material is also used for the loudspeaker baskets: Carbon-fibre composite material is chosen for this. What's the practical benefit of this? We can hear clear, solid mid-tones and precisely graduated bass ranges. There's no doubt that the Magnasphere 55 wireless active loudspeaker system is also especially well-suited to classical music.

That is how it should sound: "Freedom Everyday" (Flac 88/24) has substance in the bass range and outstanding detachment of the voice from the loudspeaker chassis. The bass is firm and round. The

bass and treble controls at the rear do not have to be readjusted (-2 dB/0 dB/- +2dB) - the intensity of the bass and treble ranges is absolutely right for the room, which is not too bright in acoustic terms and does not tend excessively towards being "dead". Very good graduation, very good dynamics even at high levels and three-dimensionality perceived as tight and credible at the same time make this active, wireless Magnat floor-standing loudspeaker system the best Magnat floor-standing speaker duo we have tested so far. It consumes less than 0.5 watts in standby mode - but who wants to leave such powerful sounding active speakers in standby mode? We quickly get our marching orders - and an entire army of amplifiers suddenly springs into action. Subwoofers, bass-midrange drivers and tweeters each have their own amplification stage. "My Love Is" by Diana Krall (96/24 Flac) begins with a rather low bass passage. The 170 mm subwoofer immediately comes to life in a convincing manner. The 170 mm bass-midrange driver and the 25 mm tweeter are responsible for the very good voice reproduction and the accurate lining of the treble range. The overall seamless sound is an undoubted success. Harmonious, uniform transitions between the individual frequency ranges are a clear endorsement of the Magnat system. With "Garden In The Rain" (Flac 96/24), which is trimmed more to harmony and performed once again by Diana Krall, we can hear charismatic, very finely structured voice reproduction. However, the voice is clearly and harmoniously focused without the instruments being incorporated with too little consideration. The piano also gives a feel of the rudiments of keyboard expression dynamics. Though we could have imagined somewhat greater conciseness in this regard.

Off to Italy: We revive the feeling of summer again with "Diamante" (Alessi, 96/24 Flac). And the two Magnasphere active loudspeakers have no trouble stepping on the gas: Down below, they create a matching, powerful foundation, with good voice reproduction. However, the male singing voice does tend to get a bit sharp at distinctly higher levels. The reason for this also lies in the source material, however. The Magnat system defines the spatial depth and width very well in the reproduction. Clear, vivid and vibrant - it turns listening into an enjoyable overall experience.

And when things really get going, as with "True North" from Bad Religion, the Magnat speakers are then also in their element. Emphatic, hugely dynamic and with the ability to differentiate still retained almost entirely even at high levels, they really make a statement.

This enormous dynamism is something that hardly any competitor can match, and the power in the bass range is also huge. Compared with the older passive Magnat speakers, also from the "Quantum" range with similar technology, the Magnasphere 55's sound more engaging, less sharp and, therefore, more pleasant all-round. On "Nothing To Dismay", the Magnat speakers also perform with verve,

offering a rousing, vigorous sound that corresponds exactly to what punk rock fans also expect.

We then left the HiRes track to take a closer look at playback via Bluetooth. We listened to various numbers from our Spotify play lists and started with the Mario Lopez version of the a-ha classic "The Sun Will Always Shine On TV". Clear, powerful bass, very good management of the dynamic peaks and excellent incorporation of the vocals impressively demonstrate the ability of the Magnasphere loudspeakers even with greatly data-compressed material. The dance floor and large disco classic "Anthem # 2" by Floorfilla thunders through the listening room at club-type volume. The accurate impulse response membranes still deflect cleanly even at extreme levels, with their long-stroke design guaranteeing a rich, powerful kick bass that is also enjoyable because of the excellent speed. However, we still couldn't "dismiss" the Magnasphere 55's yet. They had to prove themselves further, so we then listened to the Eurodance number "Life" by E-Type. The dynamics and the forward thrust accompanied by the powerful bass made the title very enjoyable. Masterful and unimpressed by even higher level demands, the two Magnasphere 55's delivered an impeccable performance that was really impressive.

Conclusion

At a price of EUR 2,500 a pair, the performance here was very convincing. The quick, problem-free installation, the powerful, impulse fidelity sound, the excellent three-dimensionality and the outstanding level stability are a delight for the user. In addition, the Magnasphere active loudspeakers have a technically sophisticated design and are very well finished. The practically interference-free digital wireless signal transmission and the possibility of multi-zone application thanks to wireless signal transmission are also cause for delight.