



November 2010

Magnet

Quantum 657

- + Excellent spatiality
- + Separation by speaker components
- + Instrumental elements separated extremely well
- + Balanced, harmonic



Price/Performance: EXCELLENT

Magnat

Quantum 657

"The Magnat Quantum 657 3-way bass reflex speakers are available in cherry, mocha, Calvados and black. Thanks to the selection of colours, the high quality MDF cabinet and the sturdy base plate, the sound transducer, which measures 202 x 1080 x 316 (WxHxD), integrates effortlessly into a modern living room without being too ostentatious. The floorstanding speakers are equipped with 2 x 170mm woofers, a 170mm midrange speaker and a 30mm tweeter. A short-term maximum power of 350 watts is evidence of a high performance speaker. We have tested the practicality of the Quantum 657 for you.

Workmanship

The Quantum 657 exhibits exquisite workmanship for its price range. The speaker chassis, like the rear bass reflex ports, are fitted very cleanly. The MDF cabinet exhibits edges that are somewhat sharp but straight. The front of the speaker has been provided with a high gloss black finish and the piano lacquer ensures a high quality and elegant appearance. The large base, which can be set up on either rubber studs or spikes, reinforces this impression. We also really like the comparatively heavy aluminium front grille, which is able to withstand a bit of rough handling without any problems at all. Of a similar high quality are the speaker connections on the rear, which are by no means standard in this price range. A large crossover is accommodated within the cabinet. The cross-section of the internal wiring could be a little bit larger.

Overall rating in relation to the price class: Outstanding.

Specifications at a glance

- * Solid MDF cabinet, rounded at the sides, 25mm low-resonance baffle
- * Harmonic radiation horn - tweeter with 30 mm cloth dome, special damping and ferrofluid cooling
- * FE-Dynamics bass-midrange with ceramic-aluminium cone, 25 mm voice coil unit and a flow-optimised basket made from carbon fibre composite.
- * Airflex ports with extremely wide openings
- * Large bi-wiring terminal area with solid screw connections

Sound

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra presents James Bond Themes - James Bond Theme & Goldeneye.

The new Quantum speaker reproduces the orchestral sounds authentically and clearly. It makes the ensemble appear very spacious with a broad presence. The differentiation between the individual instruments is excellent with a good degree of gradation and the components ensure good separation of the sound pattern. The last fine dynamic nuance, especially in the treble and midrange, is somewhat lacking, as the chimes of the Glockenspiel and the beat of the hi-hat and cymbals do not appear quite as consistent. The 657 exhibits a conciseness in the upper frequency ranges which, at times, threatens to break too much into the foreground; this is exemplified by the brass instruments on track 13 as they seem somewhat brash when played at a high level. Otherwise there is a balanced harmony between the various frequency ranges and the Magnat sound transducer also manages to reproduce low frequencies in a powerful, yet structured manner.

Vivaldi - Four Seasons, Allegro - SACD

We found the differentiation of instruments and the particularly distinctive orchestral separation even better here.

Admittedly, the recording of Vivaldi's Concerto is also of a somewhat higher quality. The level of spatially generated is broad and the different violins can be easily located at their envisioned stations. A somewhat finer resolution and detailed imagery in the



upper frequencies are lacking, however, when measured against the price range the Magnat speaker exhibits outstanding qualities. Even the treble range, which seems a bit aggressive initially, appears more harmonic here and harmonises well with the other frequency ranges. At 300Hz the crossover for the lower frequencies is a bit too high for our liking and the bass range is a little too thick, however, it remains dry and precise.

Jan Hammer feat. TQ - Crockett's Theme

A rather intoxicating mood is generated by the summer sounds of Jan Hammer's "Crockett's Theme" thanks to high dynamics, a spirited bass reproduction and balanced highs. However, the otherwise clear vocals are somewhat withdrawn. The separation of the sound pattern is extremely good with a very spacious reproduction. The otherwise very hard bass segments are full, but somewhat softened.

Dj Tiestö - Elements of Life, Traffic & Back in your Head, PCM 2.0

The spirited reproduction and high dynamics generated when playing the lively tracks from the Dutch DJ and producer really carry us away. The rich bass is precise and purposely aggressive, as in the previous test sequences, but is a trace drier and more structured. We can commend the level stability, as the speaker does not become overwhelmed at high loads and neither does it overwork a specific frequency range, however, the treble range may appear a little too shrill to the sensitive listener. We again find the degree of spatiality excellent and the broad structure and atmospheric density generate a closed sound pattern.

Conclusion

The Quantum 657 speakers are impressive through their solid build quality and versatility. The sound transducers from Pulheim generate a multi-faceted and harmonious reproduction, immaterial whether it's classical music or dynamic, fast and power-hungry electronic beats. The degree of spatiality and structure of the sound are particularly perceptible in all ranges. The sound pattern produced by the stereo components, which is credible and broad despite an uncomplicated setup, also deserves a mention. Audiophile users may demand a slightly higher resolution in the treble range and a more clearly structured reproduction in the lowest frequencies, however this is rarely achieved by speakers in this price class.

A versatile floorstanding speaker at an interesting price"

