

HEIMKINO
Sound
recommendation
6/7-2017

HEIMKINO Quick info

- Home Cinema ■■■■■■■■■■
- Living room cinema ■■■■■■■■■■
- Music (Stereo) ■■■■■■■■■
- Music (5.1) ■■■■■■■■■



M&K Sound 750 THX Series:
Compact home cinema set
with professional aspirations

Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Our faithful readers should be familiar with M&K Sound from our test of the ultimate THX-surround set S300 Series in edition 1/2-2017. For the slightly less well-heeled home cinema fans, M&K Sound offers the 750 Series, a notably more affordable and more compact surround set – which also comes with a THX quality seal.

Like almost no other brand, M&K Sound has earned a first-class reputation among true surround sound professionals. It is therefore no wonder that for nearly three decades, M&K loudspeakers have been used in almost all well-known film studios for the mixing of the major Hollywood productions. M&K's products are primarily marketed based on THX licenses – a seal of quality that should draw the attention of home cinema enthusiasts. With this quality standard for cinema sound, developed by Lucas Film at the beginning of the 1980s, a consistent sound quality was ensured in professional motion-picture theaters. Thanks to strict standards for frequency response, radiation characteristics, dynamics and bass extension, cinemas with a THX license can guarantee that a film sounds exactly the way the director had it produced in the mastering studio. For home cinemas, in principal the same is true, but the licenses intended for home use (such as THX Ultra and THX Select) do not demand quite as high standards of maximum sound pressure levels. Still, home theater speaker sets and AV receivers with THX license offer a guaranteed performance in one's own four walls that is close to the original sound in the recording studio.

M&K Sound 750THX Series

With a total price of around 4,600 Euros for the 5.1 set, the 750THX series is priced well below the S300 series reference set. However, there is no THX Ultra logo, but the somewhat less demanding variant THX Select, which, however, easily suffices for living areas of up to 30 square meters. The three front-end systems of the 750 series are also surprisingly compact loudspeakers, which can easily be accommodated in real living rooms or small home cinemas. The front loudspeakers, which are about 40 cm high, are designed to be stable and low-resonant, and they have an elegant protective grille made of fine-perforated metal. The



The rear speakers of the M&K set are real tripoles: In addition to a direct-beam 2-way system, two broadband drivers built into the side walls ensure the desired diffuse sound of the surround channels



The approximately 300 watt amplifier module of the V12 subwoofer provides the standard settings for level, phase and crossover frequency. Unfortunately, the V12 does not have a remote control or EQ setting on board

acoustically and mechanically identical center loudspeaker, however, has been especially designed for a transversal position - this is an installation that is usually preferred for living space solutions underneath a flat TV or a screen.

The equipment of the three front systems consists of enormously powerful mid-range drivers with a 110 mm diaphragm; two specimens per box share the work and guarantee a considerable power rating, high dynamics and massive sound pressure. For the high frequencies, a 25 mm dome tweeter is responsible, which has been installed slightly inclined, so as to achieve a more direct radiation to the listening position when the left and right speakers are correctly positioned. Since for a THX system in principle the subwoofer only plays below 80 Hertz, a closed housing for better impulse reproduction could be realized for the front systems, as below 100 Hz the „satellites“ of the THX set do not have to produce any sound pressure. As is right and proper for a true THX home cinema set, real rear dipoles are used for the desired diffuse surround sound. The Sur55T rear speakers actually are even „tripoles“, because in addition to the two 76 mm broadband drivers in dipole configuration, a further 2-way system is added as a direct beam on the side, facing the listening area. When installed correctly on the listening position axis at a height of about 1.5 meters, the Sur55T therefore create an incomparable mix of direct and indirect sound that offers a very special surround sound experience. An M&K subwoofer called V12 comes into play for a powerful and deep bass reproduction. The naming already points to a 12 „chassis with 260 mm diaphragm diameter, which has been installed in a closed housing with a practical size of 36 x 46 x 40 cm. A 300 Watt amplifier module allows the extremely robust woofer with its enormous magnetic drive to deliver impressive performance – after all, the objective is to fulfill the demands of the THX Select2 license, which places high demands on sound pressure, distortion and frequency extension.

Lab and Listening

In the acoustics laboratory, we were able to certify the 750THX front-end systems an excellent radiation response, there's practically no deviation from the frequency response ideal even at 30° angles – as it is right and proper for a THX-Select system. The extremely low distortion factor also speaks for itself and the impulse behavior of the M&K compact loudspeakers is exemplary. As normal with small front systems, the amplitude decreases below 100 Hz, but here the subwoofer takes over and extends the frequency spectrum down to about 25 Hz. The center of the set behaves surprisingly well, too. It shows only very small slumps at an angle, despite the horizontal set-up – an excellent result. In the listening test, the compact M&K Sound loudspeaker set exhibits a quite dynamic character, with very good, immediate impulse reproduction,

providing a well-defined and clear sound scape even in complex and effective scenes. Finest details such as rustling foliage are not drowning in the battlefield action of films like „Lone Survivor“. Even whispered

Two woofers with a 110 mm diaphragm ensure the corresponding load capacity and high sound pressure of the compact 750THX front speakers



Slightly angled tweeter chassis ensure better sound at the listening position when the front speakers are flush and parallel to the wall (suitable mounting options for wall mounting are provided)

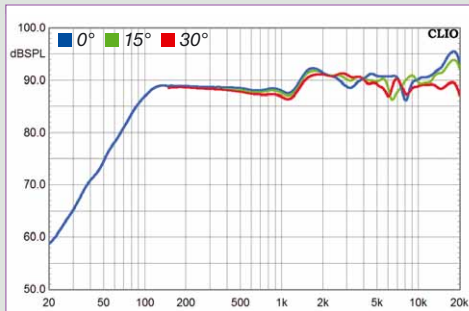
dialogues are clear and transparent, no matter if the corresponding scenes are oozing violent explosions. All in all, the entire set plays as if from a single cast, all channels have a nearly identical tonality, perfect for a truly realistic movie sound. The powerful V12 subwoofer provides for a perceptible entertainment, with the air not running out even at high levels. It has a tremendously powerful and profound performance and an astonishingly direct response that plays straight to the point.

Conclusion

Genuine home cinema fans still swear by the THX seal. Although also speaker sets without the THX license can offer great performance, the THX-Select logo guarantees to abide by certain minimum requirements in respect of level stability, frequency extension and ideal radiation characteristics. The surprisingly handy M&K Sound 750THX offers professional home theater sound, is easy to install and even fits elegantly into the living room. If you are serious about your home cinema sound but do not want to invest a small fortune, the 750THX set from M&K Sound is a very good contestant – a true wolf in a sheep's clothing, at a fair price.

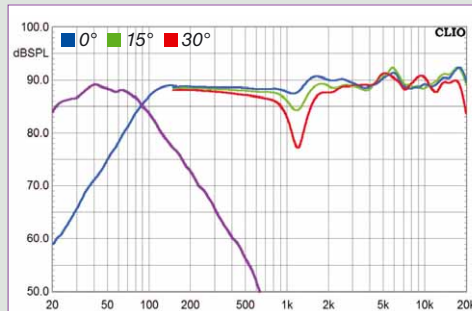
Specifications:

Frequency response front loudspeakers:



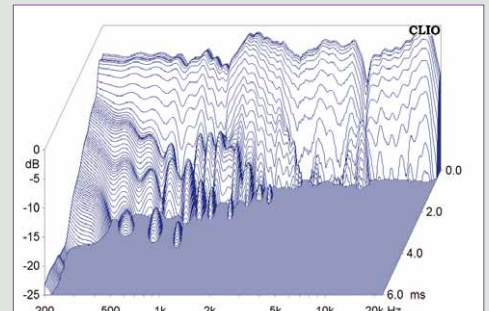
Typical for a THX set: The gentle slant of the front systems below 100 Hz. Thanks to their perfect radiation response and balanced reproduction, the LCR-750 THX loudspeakers' performance stands out on the axis and at angles of up to 30°.

Frequency response Center + Sub:



Exemplary: Even in a horizontal position and at an angle, there are hardly any slumps in the center loudspeaker's frequency response. The subwoofer V12 delivers rich sound from about 25 Hz.

Spectral decay front loudspeakers:



Impulse-fidelity is one of the great strengths of the M&K Sound loudspeaker set: No resonances above 1 kHz and even underneath it only minimal, harmless overshoots – something like this is rarely seen.

Lab report: **M&K Sound 750 Series**
THX Select Set

Set price (5.1-Set)	around 4,600 Euro
Single prices Front/pair / Center	1,200 Euro / 600 Euro
Rear/pair / Sub	1,300 Euro / 1.500 Euro
Distribution:	Audioreference, Hamburg
Phone:	+49 40 53320359
Internet:	www.audioreference.de

• **Equipment**








Versions black (subwoofer: black / white)





Front speakers:	LCR-750 THX
Dimensions (W x H x D)	178 x 408 x 223 mm
Weight	6.9 kg
Connection	Single-Wiring
Woofers (rated diameter / Membrane diameter.)	2 x 130 / 110 mm
Tweeter (Membrane diameter)	1 x 25-mm dome
Design	type sealed





Center speaker:	Center 750THX
Dimensions (B x H x T)	408 x 178 x 223 mm
Weight	6.9 kg
Connection	Single-Wiring
Woofers (rated diameter / Membrane diameter)	2 x 130 / 110 mm
Tweeter (Membrane diameter)	1 x 25-mm-Kalotte
Design	type sealed

Rear speakers:	Sur55T (Tripole)
Dimensions (B x H x T)	178 x 259 x 221 mm
Weight	4.7 kg
Connection	Single-Wiring
Woofers (rated diameter / Membrane diameter)	1 x 130 / 110 mm
Tweeter (Membrane diameter)	1 x 25-mm dome
Dipole (rated diameter)	2 x 76-mm broadband chassis
Design	type sealed (Tripole)

Subwoofer:	V12THX Select2
Dimensions (B x H x T)	360 x 465 x 400 mm
Weight	22 kg
Power rating acc. to the manufacturer	300 Watt RMS
Woofers (rated diameter / diaphragm diameter)	1 x 300/ 260 mm

• Sound	70 %	1,0	
Dynamics/Liveliness	15 %	0,8	
Deep bass characteristics	15 %	1,0	
Tonal balance	10 %	1,0	
Detail resolution	10 %	1,0	
Driver interaction	10 %	1,0	
Listening zone center	10 %	1,1	

• Lab	15 %	1,0	
Frequency response	5 %	1,0	
Distortion	5 %	0,9	
Level stability	5 %	1,0	

• Praxis	15 %	1,2	
Craftmanship	5 %	1,2	
Features	5 %	1,2	
Manual	5 %	1,1	

• **Price/performance** **Very good**

M&K Sound 750 Series
THX Select Set

- ⊕ high performance abilities
- ⊕ THX Select2 License
- ⊕ perfect impulse behavior



Reference Class **Verdict:** **6/7-2017**

HEIMKINO **Outstanding** **1,0**