

01/16

LAZERED



Magnat LZR 588 BT

EAR IN

Upper Class

1,3

Das Kopfhöreremagazin

1/2016

Price/Performance

Very Good

«EXCELLENT FEEL, HIGH TECHNICAL QUALITY AND AN APPEALING, UNTIRING SOUND THAT IS RIGHT AT THE TOP OF THIS PRICE CLASS.»

CLEAR CUT

Hardly any other set of headphones has impressed me so much over the past year as the top headset from Magnat, the LZR 980, designed by Pininfarina. Whether the first Bluetooth® headphones from the traditional Pulheim-based company can keep pace here?

Although the smaller and substantially cheaper LZR 588 BT has to do without the Italian design, the latest creation from the North Rhine-Westphalian specialists does have the pleasure of being developed with the help of Magnat's own ultra-precise LZR laser technology. LZR is intended to ensure "a transparent soundscape and spatial staging with regard to volume" and to also do this wirelessly. Naturally enough, both Bluetooth® 4.0 and AptX® technology have been incorporated for this purpose to also guarantee rich bass and clean, clear treble ranges in wireless mode. So far, so good but - enough of the marketing talk - let's get down to the facts. The fit and ergonomics of the LZR 588 BT are said to be guaranteed by the use of memory foam in the ear cups. And the ear cups do indeed sit very comfortably without exerting too much pressure on the head. The AirTec ventilation system, i.e. the use of breathable materials combined with tiny openings in the ear cup, is designed to ensure that your ears don't get hot. According to Magnat, the battery lasts up to 19 hours and, as I only had to charge the LZR 588 BT only once during the test (warm-up was done using the cable), I can believe this. Even if the battery is empty, it can be completely recharged in just two hours. It can also be charged via any USB port. As already indicated, you can still enjoy listening to music with the Magnat when the battery is empty by simply connecting the tangle-free 3.5 mm flat-band cable supplied. You can, of course, also make phone calls in passive mode.

The surfaces have a really high-quality finish for the price class. Magnat refers to „leather and soft-feel paint“ in this regard. The folding mechanism with its patented headband and joint system makes it possible to transport the LZR 588 BT easily and safely - a small textile bag is included. According to Magnat, the materials used offer optimised spring rigidity and fracture resistance and, when you touch the LZR 588 BT, you can feel exactly what this means. Bluetooth® operation includes Volume, Play, Pause, Track forward/back and Telephone and is supported by a large number of smartphones via the controls on the headphones. The microphone has been integrated so as to be protected against the wind and actually does permit reasonable voice quality in hands-free mode.

Sound

Hossa: in the bass range, the LZR 588 BT kicks off straightaway in a powerful and yet precise way, though without overwhelming the rest of the frequency band with its bass power. The mid-tone range is not extremely wide-ranging in its reproduction though does have a clear quality that benefits the realism of the voice playback. In the treble range, the Magnat LZR 588 BT does not reveal any trace of hardness, displaying instead a more silky resolution, though without any noticeable reticence. This slightly warm-tinted and, at the same time, precise soundscape - as if cut by laser (ha!) - is already familiar to me from the manufacturer's top model, the LZR 980. What is astonishing is how much of its qualities it has been possible to incorporate into this headset at less than half the price and also equipped with Bluetooth®!

With real richness and depth and genuine courage, the Magnat also gets dancehall rhythms surging and even the violent whatever core attacks by Botch on „We Are the Romans“ are enjoyable with power and drive, also at high volumes - it's just great the way the deep bass rumbles and the mid-tone sections are still presented in a very acoustically transparent way. In terms of airy spaciousness, the Magnat 588 BT does not, as already mentioned, set any new heights in the price class, but is convincing with its precise and clear reproduction. With regard to broad dynamics, in particular, the Magnat.LZR 588 BT leaves nothing to be desired and sprints almost like Carl Lewis once did (and then there is, of course, the Usain Bolt league of headphones). In this respect, it emphasises more the body of the drums than the impact of the drumstick - a practical adjustment for mobile applications. All in all, however, the Magnat is still very balanced - it manages the balancing act between dynamic lively and yet durable, pleasant reproduction in a very skilful way. Although the qualities of the Magnat.LZR 588 BT are particularly evident in cable operation, the actively enhanced Bluetooth® mode is hardly any less impressive ...

Assessment:

Sound	50% 1.3
Fit	20% 1.3
Features	20% 1.2
Design	10% 1.4

Conclusion:

Excellent feel, high technical quality and an appealing, untiring sound that is right at the top of this price class. An honest, likeable and very practical Bluetooth® headset.