

# THE GRADO LIBRETTO



Vol.10

*Celebrating  
Over 50 Years  
of Tradition...*

## GRADO'S RA-1 HEADPHONE AMP

After years of relying on other equipment to drive Grado headphones, you can now listen and enjoy headphones through our Grado Reference Headphone Amp, the RA-1. Designed for state-of-the-art performance and specifically to play Grados, the RA-1 will allow you to hear your headphones like never before. This amp is machined from a solid block of mahogany and measures 5" wide, 5 1/2" deep and 1 1/2" tall and weighs in at 12 oz. The RA-1 comes A/C powered or powered by two 9-Volt batteries which will drive the amp for 40 to 50 hours of listening pleasure. And the sound? Just like all Grados: warm, smooth, full-bodied, non-fatiguing and rich. Hook it up to any line source (portable or in-home) and drive your Grado headphones to their full potential. A must for any serious headphone listener.



## THE RS 1 HEADPHONES

**THE RS1'S ARE THE ONLY PRODUCT EVER  
NOMINATED BY STEREOPHILE FOR THEIR "PRODUCT  
OF THE YEAR" DISTINCTION, TWO YEARS IN A ROW!**

*And the accolades continue as the RS1 receives high praise from around the world:*

"It's rare that any audio product can come along and simply bowl me over. In this case, I yield!"

Jack English, *Stereophile*, Vol. 19, No. 7

"One of the years awesome high-end audio achievements!"

Ken Kessler, *Robb Report*

"Listening to my RS1's through the Grado headphone amp is like listening to a live performance, it puts you right there!"

Mark Rivera, *Musician*;  
Longtime Member of the Billy Joel Band

"I can honestly say that there is no better sounding headphone on the market at any price than the Grado RS1."

Corey Greenberg, *Home Theater*

"If you value headphone listening enough to consider buying a reference dynamic, then you should audition the RS1's"

Wes Philips, *Stereophile*, Vol.19, No. 7

## MORE ACCOLADES FOR GRADO HEADPHONES



Grado's SR60 has reached legendary status with the SR60 being the most awarded headphone in history. The SR60 had been the only headphone awarded with two PRODUCT OF THE YEAR awards from *Stereophile* magazine. The SR60 continues to have honors bestowed upon it throughout the world from the headphone community. But now, the SR60's distinction as the only headphone to receive two PRODUCT OF THE YEAR awards has ended. We are proud to have another family member join the SR60 with that honor. The Grado SR125 has been awarded both "ACCESSORY OF THE YEAR" and the more prestigious "BUDGET COMPONENT OF THE YEAR", joining the SR60 as the only headphones to be awarded *Stereophile's* PRODUCT OF THE YEAR in two different categories. Bob Reina of *Stereophile* says the SR125 is "neutral, detailed, and a warm-sounding headphone overall, with extended frequency extremes and wide dynamic range" he continues "it is simultaneously musical and revealing of every nuance recorded, but never aurally or physically fatiguing. Undeniably, a very valuable tool at a great price." Grado is proud of all their headphones and along with these two winners feels all their models are a must for any serious headphone listener!

# GRADO

## Reference & Prestige Series Headphones

Grado, the oldest family-owned company in the Audio industry, has for over half a century been the leaders in design engineering in the high-end audio and recording industries. Grado is famous for their remarkable headphone and phono cartridge designs and holds over forty-eight patents. Company founder, Joe Grado, is the inventor of the moving coil phono cartridge and is responsible for more innovations in phono cartridge design than any other person in our lifetime. He was inducted into the Audio Hall of Fame in 1982.

Grado first brought you the **Signature Series** of headphones, acknowledged as the world's most accurate sounding headphones and then the **Prestige Series**, possibly the winner of more awards than any other headphone line in the world. Now Grado brings to you their new wooden **Reference Series** headphones which has set all new standards to headphone listening. They are truly great sounding headphones by comparison to any others at their prices!

### **SUPERIOR DESIGN & PRECISION FABRICATION:**

All Grado headphones have a vented diaphragm design that incorporates a large air chamber. This design concept lowers the frequency resonance (distortion) of the diaphragm and extends bass response. The diaphragm is made of a low mass polymer, carefully formed to broaden resonant modes to reduce their amplitude. The diaphragm mass is determined with the compliance of the suspension in mind so that the desired low frequency resonance is achieved. The diaphragm's total mass is calculated to provide a full 20 KHZ bandwidth, while avoiding break-up at lower frequencies.

The Reference Series RS1, RS2 and the Prestige Series SR325's, SR225's and SR125's feature voice-coils that are wound from ultra-high purity, long crystal (UHPLC) oxygen free copper. The copper is slowly drawn through the die in extremely small increments and is annealed following each drawing operation. Ultra-high conductivity copper yields the clearest transmission and lowest coloration possible. The sound of UHPLC copper is smoother, cleaner and more dynamic. All use very high power neodymium magnets to provide maximum efficiency and better sound. Each headphone driver is made to Grado's high standards, then pair-matched for exact imaging. The RS1's, RS2's and SR325's also utilize UHPLC copper in the connecting cable.

All metal work for the SR325 is machined from a special non-resonant, very hard alloy. Grado utilizes a special processing method to increase the material's porosity. This complex treatment insures that the earphone chamber has no "ringing" which might obscure detail or add coloration.

Grado's wooden Reference Series are hand-crafted at our labs from a specially selected species of mahogany. An intricate procedure of curing is done between production steps to achieve optimal sonic quality. The overall sound remains pure Grado, warm harmonic color, full bodied vocals, excellent dynamics and an ultra smooth top end.

Technical refinements for Grado drivers include improved diaphragm and voice coil design for increased bass response and a larger perceived sound stage. A unique process to "de-stress" the diaphragm results in enhanced inner detail. An increased ability to control driver resonance virtually eliminates distortion. For all models, an improved headband spring will afford greater comfort for the majority of listeners.

### **RS1:**

Transducer type ..... dynamic  
Operating principle ..... open air  
Frequency response ..... 12-30  
SPL 1mV ..... 98  
Nominal impedance ..... 32 ohms  
Driver matched db ..... .05

#### Features:

Vented diaphragm  
Wooden air chamber  
UHPLC copper voice coil wire  
UHPLC copper connecting cord

### **SR325:**

Transducer type ..... dynamic  
Operating principle ..... open air  
Frequency response ..... 18-24  
SPL 1mV ..... 98  
Nominal impedance ..... 32 ohms  
Driver matched db ..... .05

#### Features:

Vented diaphragm  
Aluminum air chamber  
UHPLC copper voice coil wire  
UHPLC copper connecting cord

### **SR125:**

Transducer type ..... dynamic  
Operating principle ..... open air  
Frequency response ..... 20-20  
SPL 1mV ..... 98  
Nominal impedance ..... 32 ohms  
Driver matched db ..... .1

#### Features:

Vented diaphragm  
Non resonant air chamber  
UHPLC copper voice coil wire  
Standard copper connecting cord

### **SR60:**

Transducer type ..... dynamic  
Operating principle ..... open air  
Frequency response ..... 20-20  
SPL 1mV ..... 98  
Nominal impedance ..... 32 ohms  
Driver matched db ..... .1

#### Features:

Vented diaphragm  
Non resonant air chamber  
Standard copper voice coil wire  
Standard copper connecting cord  
mini plug with 1/4" adaptor

### **RS2:**

Transducer type ..... dynamic  
Operating principle ..... open air  
Frequency response ..... 14-28  
SPL 1mV ..... 98  
Nominal impedance ..... 32 ohms  
Driver matched db ..... .05

#### Features:

Vented diaphragm  
Wooden air chamber  
UHPLC copper voice coil wire  
UHPLC copper connecting cord

### **SR225:**

Transducer type ..... dynamic  
Operating principle ..... open air  
Frequency response ..... 20-22  
SPL 1mV ..... 98  
Nominal impedance ..... 32 ohms  
Driver matched db ..... .05

#### Features:

Vented diaphragm  
Non resonant air chamber  
UHPLC copper voice coil wire  
Standard copper connecting cord

### **SR80:**

Transducer type ..... dynamic  
Operating principle ..... open air  
Frequency response ..... 20-20  
SPL 1mV ..... 98  
Nominal impedance ..... 32 ohms  
Driver matched db ..... .1

#### Features:

Vented diaphragm  
Non resonant air chamber  
Standard copper voice coil wire  
Standard copper connecting cord  
mini plug with 1/4" adaptor

### **RAI:**

#### Grado headphone amp

The RA-1 comes A/C powered or powered by two 9-Volt batteries which will drive the amp for 40 to 50 hours.

## **AND THE SOUND?**

Grado headphones can reproduce as natural a soundstage from stereo recordings and provide as much listening pleasure as a good pair of speakers do. Grado headphones are free of room effects and placement problems, and they minimize any interference from external noise. They also offer portability and the ability to listen without worrying about the neighbors. With Grado headphones, you will hear recordings with greater clarity and with deeper bass than others! Grado headphones are the antithesis of mass production, as each Grado headphone is hand-assembled and closely scrutinized to meet full performance specifications in the U.S.A.

**GRADO**

4614 Seventh Avenue • Brooklyn, New York 11220  
Tel. (718)435-5340 • www.gradolabs.com