

GRADO Reference RS1x

GRADO RS1x Reference Series Open-Back Headphones

Model: Reference RS1x

INTRODUCTION

The Grado RS1x Reference Series represents over six decades of audio engineering and craftsmanship, meticulously handcrafted in Brooklyn, New York. These headphones are designed for discerning listeners who prioritize audio fidelity and a natural sound experience. The RS1x is notable as Grado's first headphone to integrate cocobolo, maple, and hemp wood in its construction, contributing to a unique balance of warmth, speed, and textural richness in its sound reproduction. At its core, the RS1x features Grado's advanced 50mm X Drivers, specifically tuned to complement the triple-wood chamber. This design delivers clear high frequencies, rich mid-range tones, and natural, deep bass, all within an expansive open soundstage. The RS1x is engineered to provide an immersive listening experience, bringing music to life with its iconic open-back design and studio-grade performance.

PRODUCT FEATURES

- **Flagship Grado Sound:** Equipped with large 50mm X Series drivers, engineered for expansive detail, clarity, and warmth in audio reproduction.
- **Crafted from Real Wood Trio:** Features a unique combination of cocobolo, maple, and hemp wood, enhancing both aesthetic appeal and acoustic resonance. Each pair exhibits unique wood grain patterns.
- **Hand-Assembled in Brooklyn:** Each unit is meticulously built by the Grado family in Brooklyn, NY, ensuring high standards of quality and consistency.
- **Open-Back Design:** Provides a wide soundstage, natural imaging, precise instrument separation, and immersive stereo depth, allowing music to breathe.
- **Designed for Audiophiles:** Features a durable braided cable, comfortable ear cushions, and a lightweight yet robust frame, optimized for critical and extended listening sessions.
- **Connectivity:** Wired connection via a 3.5mm jack, with a 1/4" adapter included for broader compatibility.

SETUP

The Grado RS1x headphones are designed for straightforward setup and immediate use.

1. **Unpacking:** Carefully remove the headphones from their packaging. Inspect for any visible damage.
2. **Connecting to Audio Source:**

- Locate the 3.5mm audio jack at the end of the headphone cable.
- For devices with a 3.5mm audio output (e.g., smartphones, laptops, portable music players), insert the 3.5mm jack directly into the audio output port.
- For devices with a 1/4" (6.35mm) audio output (e.g., home stereo receivers, dedicated headphone amplifiers), attach the included 1/4" adapter to the 3.5mm jack, then insert the adapter into the 1/4" audio output port.

3. **Adjusting Fit:**

- Place the headphones on your head, ensuring the earcups cover your ears comfortably. The RS1x features an open-ear design, meaning the earcups rest on or around your ears rather than fully enclosing them.
- Adjust the headband by sliding the metal rods up or down until the earcups sit comfortably and securely. The headband is designed to be lightweight and flexible for extended wear.
- Ensure the left (L) and right (R) indicators on the headband sliders correspond to the correct ears for optimal stereo imaging.

4. **Initial Listening:** Begin playback from your audio source. Start with a low volume level and gradually increase it to a comfortable listening level.



Image: Front view of the Grado RS1x headphones, highlighting the distinctive cocobolo wood earcups and the adjustable leather headband.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Grado RS1x headphones are designed for a pure listening experience, with operation primarily controlled by your audio source.

- **Volume Control:** Adjust the listening volume directly from your connected audio device (e.g., smartphone, amplifier, computer). The RS1x headphones do not feature inline volume controls.
- **Open-Back Design:** Be aware that the RS1x features an open-back design. This design allows for a more natural and expansive soundstage, but it also means that sound can leak out of the headphones and external sounds can be heard by the listener. This is an inherent characteristic of open-back headphones and contributes to their unique sound signature.
- **Optimal Listening Environment:** For the best audio experience, use the RS1x in a quiet environment where external noise is minimal. This allows you to fully appreciate the detailed sound reproduction.
- **Comfort for Long Sessions:** The lightweight design and comfortable ear cushions are intended for extended listening. If discomfort occurs, readjust the headband and earcup position.



Image: Side view of the Grado RS1x headphones, illustrating the design of the left earcup and the adjustable headband mechanism.

MAINTENANCE

Proper care and maintenance will ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Grado RS1x headphones.

- **Cleaning Ear Cushions:** The foam ear cushions can accumulate dust and oils over time. Gently pat them with a lint-

free cloth. For deeper cleaning, the foam cushions can typically be removed and hand-washed with mild soap and water, then allowed to air dry completely before reattaching. Refer to Grado's official support for specific instructions if needed.

- **Cleaning Wood Chambers:** The cocobolo, maple, and hemp wood chambers should be cleaned with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. Avoid using liquid cleaners, solvents, or abrasive materials, as these can damage the wood finish.
- **Cleaning Headband:** The leather headband can be wiped with a slightly damp cloth. Avoid excessive moisture.
- **Cable Care:** The braided cable is durable but should not be sharply bent or pulled forcefully. Store the headphones in a way that prevents the cable from becoming tangled or kinked.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the headphones in a clean, dry place, away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and high humidity. Consider using a headphone stand or a protective case to prevent dust accumulation and accidental damage.



Image: Detailed view of the Grado RS1x earcup, showcasing the natural wood grain and craftsmanship of the cocobolo chamber.

TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Grado RS1x headphones.

No Sound or Low Volume:

- **Check Connections:** Ensure the 3.5mm jack (or 1/4" adapter) is fully and securely inserted into the audio output port of your device.
- **Volume Level:** Verify that the volume on your audio source is turned up and not muted.
- **Audio Source Functionality:** Test your audio source with another pair of headphones or speakers to confirm it is functioning correctly.
- **Cable Integrity:** Inspect the headphone cable for any visible damage, kinks, or breaks.

Distorted Sound or Poor Audio Quality:

- **Volume Level:** Reduce the volume on your audio source. Excessive volume can cause distortion.
- **Audio File Quality:** Ensure the audio file or streaming quality is high. Low-quality audio sources can result in poor sound.
- **Source Compatibility:** While the RS1x has a relatively low impedance (38 Ohm), some high-fidelity headphones benefit from a dedicated headphone amplifier for optimal performance.
- **Clean Connections:** Ensure the audio jack and the port on your device are free of dust or debris.

Discomfort During Use:

- **Adjust Headband:** Re-adjust the headband sliders to find a more comfortable fit on your head.
- **Earcup Position:** Ensure the earcups are positioned correctly over your ears. The foam cushions are designed to be comfortable for extended periods.
- **Break-in Period:** New headphones and ear cushions may require a short break-in period to conform to your head shape.

If you continue to experience issues, please refer to the Warranty and Support section for further assistance.



Image: Overhead view of the Grado RS1x headphones, displaying the full profile of both earcups and the leather headband.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	Reference RS1x

Feature	Detail
Brand	GRADO
Connectivity Technology	Wired
Headphones Jack	3.5 mm Jack (1/4" adapter included)
Ear Placement	Open Ear (On-Ear Cups)
Form Factor	Over Ear
Audio Driver Type	Dynamic Driver
Audio Driver Size	50 Millimeters (X Series Drivers)
Frequency Range	12-30,000 Hz
Impedance	38 Ohm
Material	Wood (Cocobolo, Maple, Hemp)
Included Components	Headphones, Cable, 1/4" Adapter
Item Weight	2.23 pounds
Manufacturer	Grado
UPC	850929008065

Safety Information

- Hearing Protection:** To prevent possible hearing damage, do not listen at high volume levels for long periods. Prolonged exposure to loud sounds can cause permanent hearing loss.
- Environmental Awareness:** Due to the open-back design, these headphones allow external sounds to be heard. Do not use these headphones in situations where the inability to hear ambient sounds could pose a danger (e.g., driving, cycling, walking in traffic).
- Cleaning Precautions:** Always disconnect the headphones from the audio source before cleaning. Use only dry or slightly damp, soft cloths for cleaning. Avoid harsh chemicals, solvents, or abrasive materials.
- Temperature and Humidity:** Do not expose the headphones to extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, or high humidity. This can damage the wood and internal components.
- Children:** Keep headphones and small parts out of reach of small children to prevent choking hazards.

Warranty and Support

For detailed information regarding the warranty coverage for your Grado RS1x headphones, please refer to the official Grado Labs website or the warranty card included with your product. Grado Labs provides support for their products, including troubleshooting assistance and service information.

Official Grado Labs Website: For the most up-to-date support resources, FAQs, and contact information, please visit the official Grado Labs website. This is the primary resource for product support and warranty claims.

Contacting Support: If you require technical assistance or have questions not covered in this manual, please contact

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page’s manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question