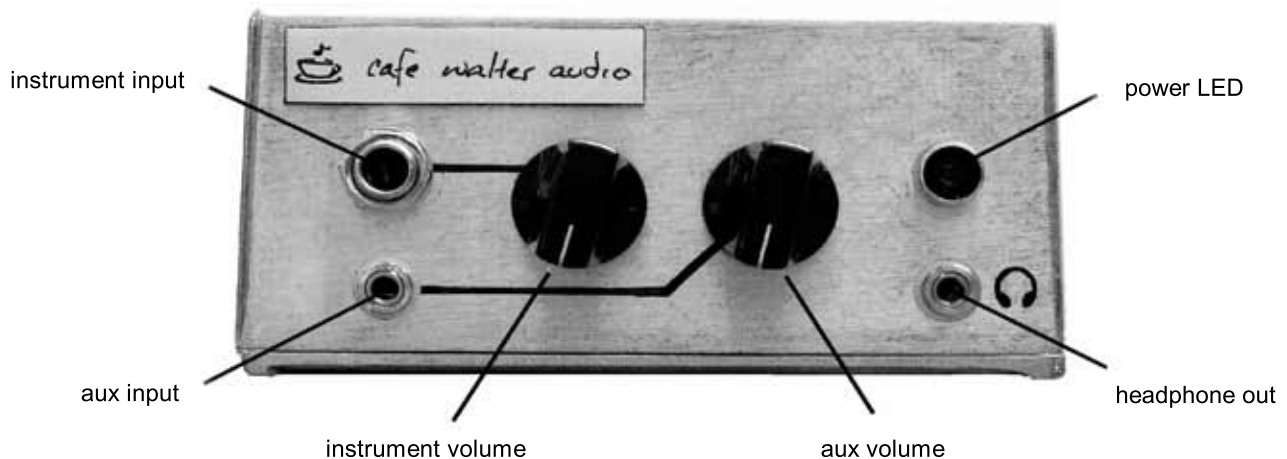


## Cafe Walter Audio

### HA-1A Headphone Practice Amplifier – Owner's Manual



Congratulations on owning a Cafe Walter Audio HA-1A practice amplifier! Unlike most music equipment, the HA-1A is not designed to make you sound good. Instead, it is designed to tell you the truth about how you sound. If your fingers make squeaky noises on the strings when you move, if your E string is twice as loud as your D, if your intonation is lousy – the HA-1A will tell you. And if you sound great, it'll tell you that, too. There are no tone controls, effects loop, enhance knobs, or subharmonic thingamajigs: the HA-1A tells you what you do sound like, not what you wish you sounded like.

To use the HA-1A, start with the volume knobs turned down. Plug your headphones into the headphone jack, and plug your instrument into the instrument jack. Turn up the volume and play! If you want to you can plug a CD player, metronome, etc. into the stereo aux input; and you can plug a tuner (or a mixer, recording device, or another HA-1A) into the aux output jack on the back. Please, only plug stereo headphones into the headphone jack. Plugging a mono plug into the jack will short out, and possibly destroy, one channel of the amplifier.

The HA-1A works on battery power or AC. The HA-1A is automatically turned on when powered by the AC adapter; when it senses no AC power, the HA-1A runs on batteries and turns on when something is plugged into the input jack. Depending on how loud you turn it up and how efficient your headphones are, you should expect 10 to 25 hours of practicing from a pair of 9v alkaline batteries. When the power LED stops lighting up, the batteries will soon need to be replaced.

The HA-1A has much lower distortion and better headroom and transient response than most instrument amplifiers. However, some instruments may drive the input stage into distortion, particularly if the batteries are low or if your playing style is aggressive (e.g., slapping on an electric bass). If you encounter this, simply turn the volume down on your instrument, and turn up the volume on the HA-1A.

**Warning:** Headphones can produce sound levels loud enough to injure your hearing. Even at levels that don't cause injury, hearing fatigue soon means your ability to hear fine detail is diminished. Please don't turn it up any louder than you need. Your batteries, your ears, and your skills will all benefit.

About Cafe Walter Audio: Cafe Walter Audio is me, Walter. (My wife Anne helps too.) I believe in simplicity of purpose and quality of design and construction, and Cafe Walter Audio lets me produce equipment that reflects that belief. If you've got a problem, a question, or if you just want to tell me what a fantastic tool the HA-1A is, you can email me at [audio@cafewalter.com](mailto:audio@cafewalter.com). I can also help with your other equipment design, repair, and modification needs. There's more info on the web, at <http://www.cafewalter.com>. Thanks!

