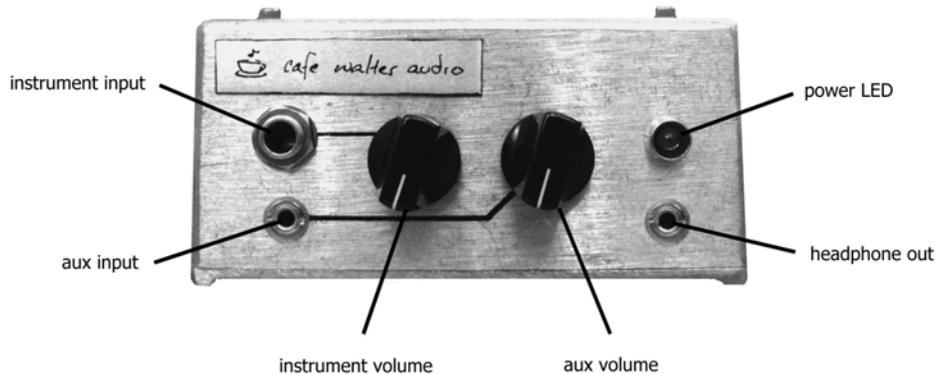


HA-1 Headphone Practice Amplifier – Owner’s Manual



Congratulations on owning a Cafe Walter Audio HA-1 practice amplifier! Unlike most music equipment, the HA-1 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-1 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-1 tells you what you do sound like, not what you wish you sounded like.

To use the HA-1, 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 aux input; and you can plug a tuner (or a mixer, recording device, or somebody else's HA-1) into the aux output jack on the back.

The HA-1 works on battery power only. The batteries are turned on and the power LED lights up whenever something is plugged into the input jack. (So make sure you unplug when you're done playing!) Depending on how loud you turn it up, you should expect about 20-30 hours of practicing from a pair of 9v alkaline batteries. When the power LED stops lighting up, the batteries need to be replaced.

The HA-1 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-1.

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 me solder.) My day job has nothing to do with music or electronics; this is a hobby. 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-1 is, you can email me at audio@cafewalter.com. And there's more info on the web, at <http://www.cafewalter.com>.

