

NLE-I®

# User Manual

*At Harbeth, we are dedicated to reproducing the musicality and warmth of natural sound. With careful use, our loudspeakers will give you years of listening pleasure and will prove to be the ultimate audio investment. I warmly welcome you to join the Harbeth User Group and share your experiences with other Harbeth owners. Thank you for supporting us.*

Alan Shaw, Managing Director

## 1. Introduction

Every Harbeth product benefits from thoughtful installation, so may we suggest that you take some time to read this guide before beginning the installation process.

We'll make a few suggestions, but your own experience must ultimately lead you, and what really matters is what sounds best to you in your room, with your music, your taste and your equipment. Don't hesitate to turn to the Harbeth User Group for help and advice.

## 2.1 Reading and storing the User Manual



This manual accompanies the Harbeth NLE-1 speaker (hereafter referred to as the "speakers"), and contains important information on setup and handling.

Before using your speakers, read this manual and the safety information booklet (separate document) carefully. This particularly applies to the safety information. Failure to do so may result in personal injury or damage to the speakers.

Retain the User Manual and safety information booklet for further use. Make sure to include the User Manual and safety information booklet when passing the speakers on to third parties.

You may find the User Manual and Safety Information booklet on the Harbeth website. Alternatively, you may order replacement copies through your local retailer/distributor or through Harbeth directly.

## 2.2 Signal Symbol/Word Definitions

The following symbols and signal words are used in this user manual.



This signal symbol/word designated a hazard with moderate risk, which may result in death or severe injury if not avoided.

**NOTICE!**

This signal provides you with useful additional information on handling or use



This signal provides you with useful additional information on handling or use

## 3. In the Box and Unpacking

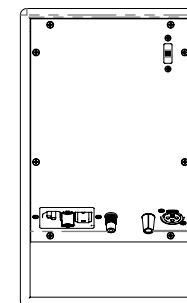
Please remove any jewellery and belts to negate the risk of scratching the product's surface finish or catching the fabric during the unpacking.

**Notice!**

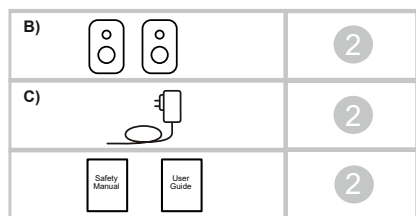
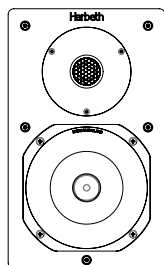
Risk of damage!

Using a sharp knife or other pointed object to open the packaging may damage the speakers. Please be careful.

- Lift up the speakers from the sides to avoid damaging the drive units.
- We would recommend placing the speakers on a stable surface before adding the front plates.
- We do not recommend regularly removing the front plate from the speaker cabinet as it may cause wear marks to the paint finish.



1. Take the accessories, front plate and speakers out of the packaging.
2. Check to make sure that all parts are included, namely:



- NLE-1 loudspeaker x2
- Front plates x 2
- Power cable x2 (length: 2 m, with country-specific power plugs)
- Printed materials: User manual and Safety Information booklet

3. Remove the front plate from the protective cloth bag.

4. Carefully place the front plate onto the NLE-1 speaker and then place the speakers in your preferred location (check section 4.3 for speaker placement)

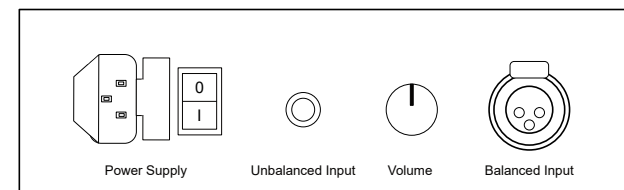
## 4. Connection

The NLE-1 features integrated Class-D amplifiers with analogue and digital inputs. All connections and settings are available on the back plate.

Please use the XLR connector (far right) to connect your streamer/amplifier to the speakers. Users also have the choice to connect a source via a RCA input, normally used for turntables with a built-in phono preamp, pre-amplifier or CD player.

Connect the speakers power cable to a mains outlet using the supplied mains cable. Now connect the power cable to the speakers power input socket. After this has been done, you may flip the power switch to power up the speakers. The red light on the power switch will turn on once it is connected to the mains.

## NLE-1 connection plate



RCA input jack (unbalanced)

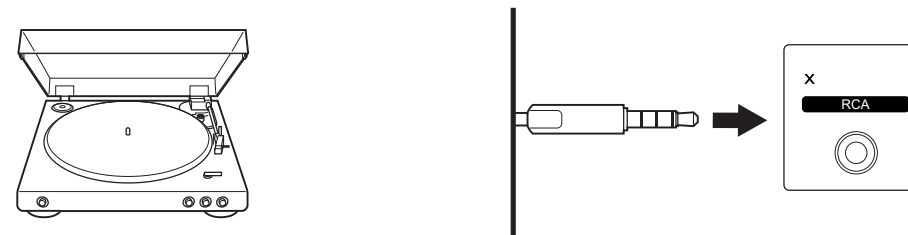
Plays audio from a source (e.g. turntable with phono stage) through a 3.5 mm audio cable

XLR Input (balanced)

Plays audio through a source (e.g. streamer) through an XLR cable

Volume control

Control the volume of the system



## 5. Speaker Placement

In order to get the best performance from your Harbeth speakers, care must be taken when positioning them in the listening environment. The room greatly affects the sound so the position and angle of the monitors relative to the walls, ceiling and floor is critical in any listening environment.

A sonic compromise should be reached between placing the speakers near walls or positioning them farther out in the listening area.

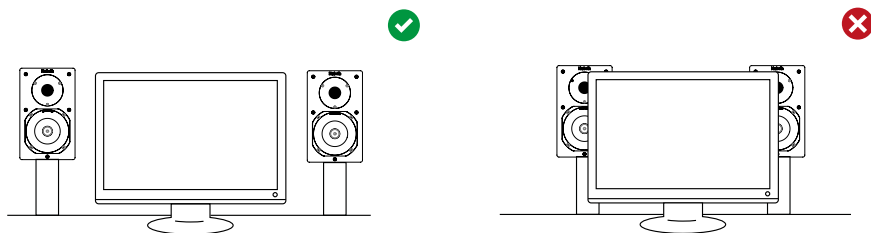
Echoes or reflections can be readily identified by moving around your room and loudly clapping your hands as you listen to the sound decay into silence. In the middle and upper frequencies, soft-fabric treatments are an easy solution to damping a 'live' room.

Progressively add absorption and listen again until there are no obvious acoustic issues; don't overdo sound damping - add just enough to tame reflections and no more.

The speakers should be placed on a flat and level surface that is free from vibration and no objects should be blocking the sound path.

Progressively add absorption and listen again until there are no obvious acoustic issues; don't overdo sound damping - add just enough to tame reflections and no more.

The speakers should be placed on a flat and level surface that is free from vibration and no objects should be blocking the sound path.



The vertical angle of the monitors should orient the monitor directly towards the listener's ear level. If the monitor is placed higher than the listener, they should be angled downward. Conversely, if the monitor is below the listener's ear level, they can be angled upward to point at the ear as shown in Figure 1.

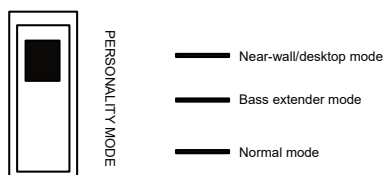


## 6. Personality Mode

Speaker balance (normal mode): We consider this mode to be optimised for normal listening.

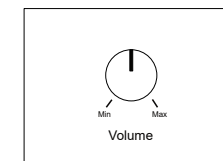
Extended bass: If the slider is moved into bass mode (by moving personality switch to the middle), more bass output will be generated. Note: the overall loudness of the system will reduce when in this mode.

Near-wall/Desktop:



## 7. Adjusting the volume

Please remember that each speaker has its own volume control knob on the back panel. It would be our recommendation to place the volume in the central position (as shown) for both speakers at all times and then adjust the volume through your streamer/amplifier.



## 8. Cleaning and Maintenance

Warning!

Risk of electric shock!

Improper cleaning of the speakers may result in injury. Please read the safety instruction manual carefully before cleaning the speakers. If you have misplaced or lost the safety manual, you may use the QR code (found on the last page) to direct you to our dedicated website page or you may order a replacement through your local retailer/distributor or through Harbeth directly.

To maintain your speakers, occasionally wipe over the paint finish with a slightly damp cloth rinsed in a dilute detergent suitable for paint finishes. Please avoid direct sunlight, radiators, draughts, smoke, ozone and other chemicals on or near the cabinets.

If necessary the bass unit can be cleaned with a photographer's air-brush - never a cloth. Do not clean the tweeters units.

Please do not allow objects to impact any of the panels or the drive units of your speakers.

## 9. Aftercare

Should you have any issues with your Harbeth speakers, please speak with your local retailer/distributor immediately. For warranty information, please visit the Harbeth website.

No modifications, including the use of a different power plug, must be made to the product at any time. Replacement parts must be purchased through official Harbeth channels. Spare parts purchased outside of the official channels will invalidate the warranty cover and may pose a safety risk. Do not unplug the power cable from the unit whilst it is on. Never expose the speakers or the power cable to rain or moisture. Do not open the product at any time.

## 10. Environmental Information

All Harbeth products are designed to comply with international directives on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) in electrical and electronic equipment and the disposal of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). These symbols indicate compliance and that the products must be appropriately recycled or processed in accordance with these directives. Consult your local waste disposal authority for guidance

Product packaging  
recycling information



## 11. Product Registration

Thanks to our rigorous quality in design and production, Harbeth products will give a long, trouble-free service life.

In the event you need to speak with your dealer about your NLE-1 product, you will need to quote the Serial Numbers, which can be found on the back plate of the product (indented), within the User Manual or on the outside of the transport carton, and provide evidence of purchase. Only buy from official outlets listed on the Harbeth website.

The ex-factory Warranty can be extended (subject to conditions) by registering the product on the Harbeth website.

Finally, thank you; we wish you many great years of satisfying listening.

**Harbeth.**

Harbeth Audio Ltd  
3-4 Enterprise Park, Lewes Road, Lindfield,  
Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 2LX,  
England

[www.harbeth.co.uk](http://www.harbeth.co.uk)

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this manual is accurate. Harbeth is not responsible for printing or clerical errors.

NLE (The New Listening Experience) are trademarks of Harbeth Audio Ltd.

©2024 Harbeth Audio Ltd. All rights reserved.