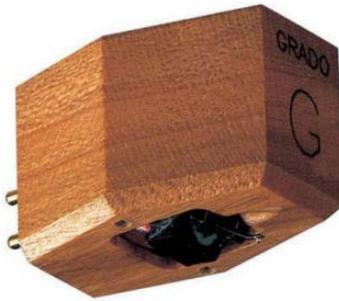




The 6th Annual *Positive Feedback Online's* Writers' Choice Awards - for 2009

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Grado Statement 1 Phono Cartridge

http://www.positive-feedback.com/Issue44/grado_statement.htm

Never thought I'd be overwhelmed by a phono cartridge in the 21st Century, but here it is. Sophisticated and powerful, neutral and revealing, 3-D definition and delicate nuance, linear from top to bottom and a flawless tracker, the Statement1 is the Grado for the ages. We knew there was an awesome Grado design yet to be revealed and now that involving and organic sense of reality in previous Grado's are combined with the kind of super definition offered by the \$10k designs from Japan and Europe. That's right, you get this world beater bargain for \$3000 because the Grado is made in America and there is no middle man price-doubling like you get from those fancy imports.

The Statement 1 is a Grado developed moving iron design taken to the absolute max. Built of mostly pure gold and housed in rare wood from Australia, every conceivable improvement including a super low 2 ohm impedance is incorporated in the cartridge. It has a normal .5 mv output that will work well in any mc phono stage. The diamond is specially selected and mounted on a boron cantilever, a first for a Grado cartridge. The design is so unique in it's stereo form, it cannot be adapted for mono.

All this science and 30 plus years of development has yielded a cartridge that makes most top Japanese and Swiss models sound rather lean and hyper detailed with not enough meat on the bone. The Koetsu goes the opposite direction offering a fantasy filled lusciousness and just okay tracking for big bucks. The closest mc I've compared to the Statement1 is the \$4600 Dynavector XV-1S, but for all its intense definition, it sounds like paper ships on a paper sea compared to the fleshier and more realistic Grado. You can clearly hear the differences of tube versus solid state recording chains on vinyl rereleases with the Grado. Direct to disk has an energy and involvement to die for. The jump factor is stupendous and Statement1 tracks flawlessly at only 1.6 grams in my Helius Omega [medium+ mass] tonearm. Enough babbling, time to listen! John Grado and his superb team of dedicated folks have earned my 2009 Reviewer's Choice Award for the ground breaking Grado Statement1 Phono Cartridge