

NLE-I®

User Manual

Harbeth®

www.harbeth.co.uk

ENGLISH / ISSUE 1

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. 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.

2.1 Signal Symbol/Word Definitions

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



This symbol indicates a moderate-risk hazard that could result in serious injury or death if not avoided.

NOTICE!

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 during the unpacking.

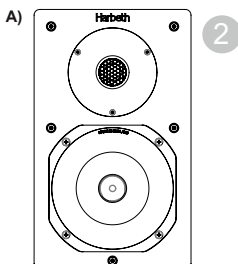
Notice!

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



B)		2
C)		2
D)	<div><div>Safety Manual</div><div>User Guide</div><div>Certificate</div></div>	3

- **A)** NLE-1 loudspeaker x2
- **B)** Front plate x2
- **C)** Power cable x2 (length: 2 m, with country-specific power plugs)
- **D)** Printed material: User Manual, Safety Information and Ownership Certificate

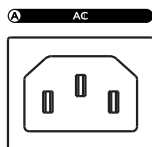
3. Remove the front plate from the protective cloth bag.

4. Carefully place the front plate onto the NLE-1 speaker, then position the speakers in your preferred location (check section 4 for speaker connection and section 5 for speaker placement).

4. Connection

The NLE-1 features integrated Class-D amplifiers with RCA/phono and balanced XLR analogue inputs. All connections and settings are available on the back plate. Each speaker will need to be connected to the chosen source.

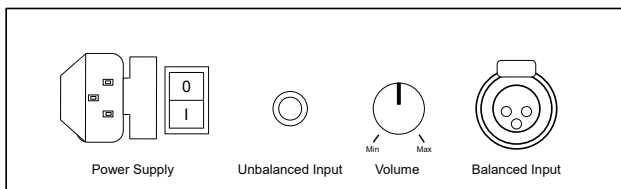
Plug the supplied cable into a mains outlet, then connect it to the speaker's power input socket. Once connected, flip the power switch to turn on the speakers. The power switch's red light will illuminate when the speaker is turned on.



You can connect any line-level analogue audio source with a volume control to the NLE-1s: a streamer, DAC, pre-amplifier, CD player, etc. To play vinyl you could use a turntable with a built-in phono preamp and a volume control. The RCA/phono plug input is more sensitive, so will give you more volume with lower-level sources.

Use whichever input is more convenient, but do not connect to both at the same time. However, with the XLR as the audio input you can use the RCA/phono connector as an *output* to the Harbeth Nelson bass extender. This will produce more and deeper bass than the NLE-1 alone.

NLE-1 Connections



RCA input jack
(unbalanced)

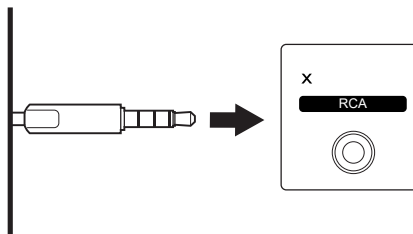
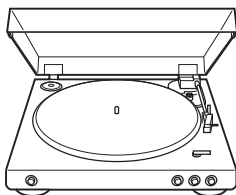
Plays audio from a source (e.g. turntable with phono stage) through a 3.5 mm audio cable

XLR Input (balanced)

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

Volume control

Control the volume of the system



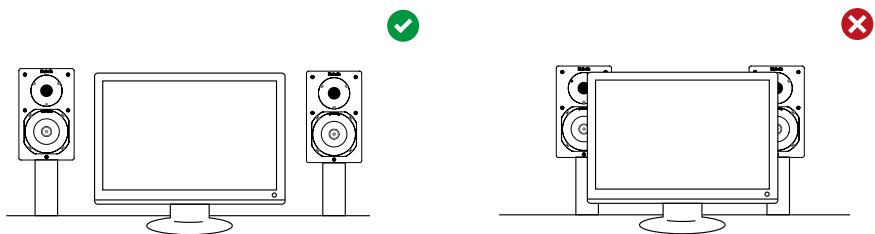
5. Speaker Placement

To achieve the best performance from your Harbeth speakers, careful positioning is essential. The room's acoustics significantly impact sound quality, making the placement and angle of the monitors relative to the walls, ceiling, and floor crucial.

You can identify echoes or reflections by walking around the room and clapping your hands while listening to how the sound decays. 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.

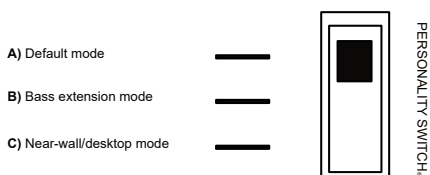
Place the speakers on a flat, stable surface, ensuring no objects obstruct the sound path.



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 the figure below.



6. Personality Mode



A) Default mode: the speaker has a similar tonal balance to other small, closed-box speakers such as the P3ESR. We consider this mode to be optimised for normal listening with the speakers in a normal room position, i.e. away from the walls.

B) Extended bass: with the personality switch in the middle, deeper bass output will be generated and the speaker will sound larger than it really is. Again this mode is intended for use with speakers placed away from the rear walls.
Note: the maximum loudness of the system will be reduced in this mode.

C) Near-wall/Desktop: in this position the speaker response is slightly reduced in the lower mid-range and bass regions to compensate for the boost given to these frequencies when speakers are placed against walls.

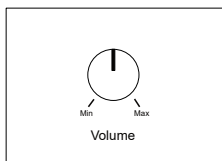
In practice, as with speaker placement, the best switch position will depend on your room, musical tastes and personal preferences – please experiment to find which option sounds best for you.

7. Adjusting the volume

Volume should normally be adjusted using the level controls on your signal source. However, each speaker has its own volume control knob on the back panel, and in domestic situations this can be used to adjust the balance of the speakers so as to get the stereo image centred in your listening space.

We recommend starting with both volume controls at maximum. If you find that sounds meant to be in centre of the sound stage (lead vocals, for example) are slightly to the left, turn down the left-hand speaker until the balance is correct.

We do not recommend using the NLE-1 volume controls to reduce the overall volume in the room, as the analogue to digital converters in the NLE-1 may be overloaded by very high-level audio signals. It is better to reduce the output from the signal source than to use the NLE-1 controls.



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, please visit the NLE-1 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 microfiber 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.

Replace fuses only with the same or equivalent type and specification as marked on the apparatus. Please contact your local retailer/distributor or Harbeth directly for further advice.

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 using a different power plug, should 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 within the certificate of ownership 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.