

GRADO®

“Truly the World’s Finest”

Grado Labs Advances Its Cartridge Line

Refined stylus, coil, and housing designs deliver improved performance.

The evolution of Grado, applied to cartridges.

Brooklyn, NY — April 9, 2026 — Grado Labs, the family-owned American audio manufacturer founded in 1953, announces the evolution of its phono cartridge lineup. Spanning the Lineage, Timbre, and Prestige Series, the updated lineup introduces meaningful improvements to cartridge performance through refinements to the stylus assembly, coil composition, and housing geometry.

Phono cartridges are the foundation of Grado’s history. For decades, they defined the company’s work in analog and were central to its early innovation. This latest evolution focuses on their performance. These refinements contribute to better tracking, greater control, and a more balanced presentation, while also improving consistency and ease of setup.

Refined Core Elements

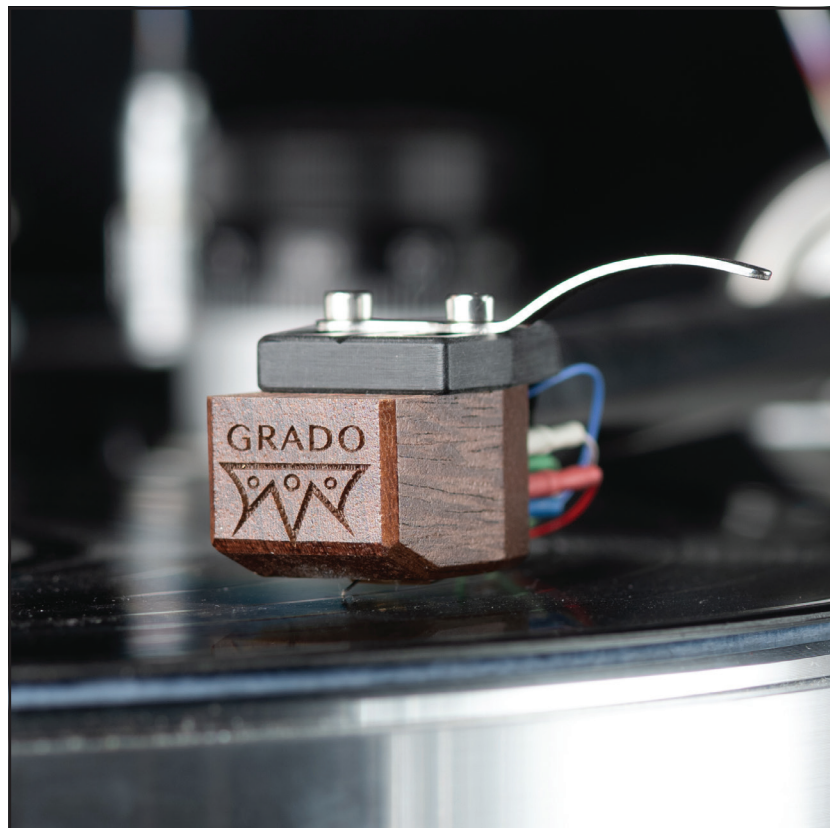
At the center of the updated lineup are refinements to the elements that most directly influence performance.

The stylus assembly has been further developed across the range, with diamond profiles and cantilever materials carefully matched to each model. Select models now incorporate nude Shibata diamonds, expanding beyond the elliptical profiles used throughout much of the previous generation, improving groove contact, tracking, and detail retrieval.

Coil composition has been updated across all models, moving to OCC copper at varying levels of purity. These changes contribute to improved signal transmission, greater clarity, and more consistent channel balance.

Housing geometry in wood-bodied cartridges has also been refined, with updated profiles designed to improve both performance and the setup process, allowing for easier installation and greater stability during use.

Together, these refinements result in a more controlled, more consistent presentation across the entire cartridge lineup.





Lineage Series — Highest Level of Performance

The Lineage Series represents the highest level of performance in Grado cartridge design.

Each model is built around a nude Shibata diamond paired with precision cantilever materials, including sapphire in the Epoch and Aeon and machined boron in the Statement. Combined with ultra-high purity coil composition, these designs deliver speed, resolution, and control while preserving the natural character of vinyl playback.

Grado's moving iron design, based on its patented flux-bridger system, remains central to the Lineage Series. This approach delivers the speed, detail, and low-level resolution associated with moving coil designs,

while providing greater stability, consistency, and long-term performance.

All Lineage models utilize Brazilian Ebony wood housings, selected for its density and mass, contributing to stability, resonance control, and a more grounded presentation.

Models such as the Epoch and Aeon reflect this approach, offering reference-level performance and strong value within the high-end analog category. Lineage cartridges are available in low output configurations, with both stereo and mono options.

Timbre Series — Performance That Exceeds Expectations

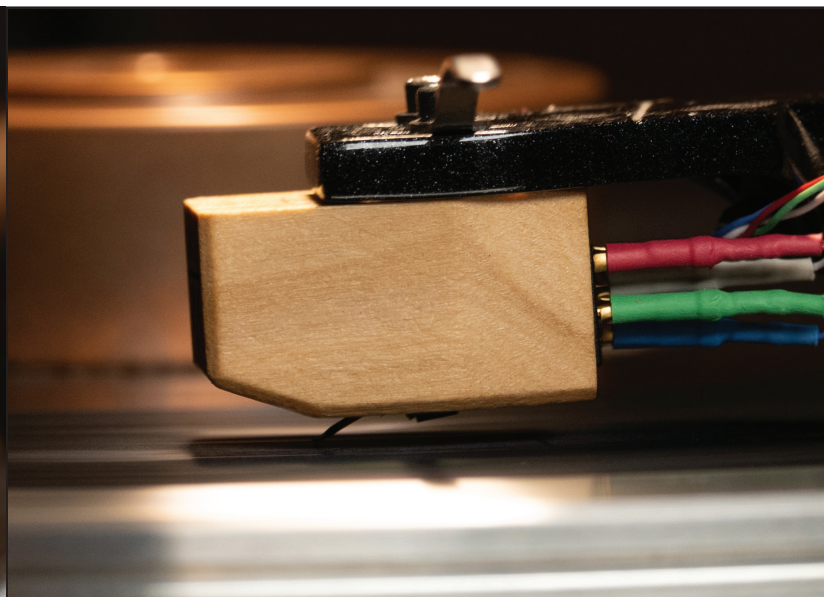
The Timbre Series delivers performance that consistently exceeds expectations within its class.

Each model pairs elliptical diamond stylus profiles with carefully selected cantilever designs and OCC copper coil composition to achieve a balanced, engaging presentation. Developed as complete systems, these cartridges emphasize how each element works together rather than any single component.

Grado's moving iron design, based on its patented flux-bridger system, is carried through the Timbre Series, maintaining the same core approach used in its reference models.

Material selection plays an important role across the series. The Reference and Master utilize American Osage wood with machined boron cantilevers, while the Sonata and Platinum feature Mediterranean Olive wood with a specially developed aluminum cantilever design. The Opus, crafted from American Maple, completes the series with an aluminum cantilever configuration.

The result is a range of cartridges that delivers performance exceeding expectations within their category, with a balance of resolution, musicality, and control.





Prestige Series — Proven Performance and Stability

The Prestige Series remains the foundation of the Grado cartridge lineup.

With a design that has evolved over more than five decades, Prestige models continue to deliver stable, reliable performance with a focus on ease of use and long-term consistency. Built around elliptical diamond stylus profiles, aluminum cantilevers, and OCC copper coil composition, these cartridges provide strong tracking integrity, a full and balanced sound, and a presentation that remains true to the original recording.

Grado's moving iron design, based on its patented flux-bridger system, is carried through the Prestige Series, maintaining the same core design approach used throughout the lineup.

A key element of the Prestige Series is its user-replaceable stylus system, allowing listeners to maintain performance over time without replacing the entire cartridge.

Simple to install, easy to maintain, and consistent in performance, the Prestige Series continues to serve as both an introduction to Grado cartridges and a long-term reference for dependable analog playback.

A Different Approach to Long-Term Ownership

For wood-bodied models, Grado offers a cartridge trade-in program designed to support long-term ownership and system flexibility.

Customers may return an existing cartridge—regardless of condition—and receive a discounted price toward a new model. Each exchange provides a current production cartridge, allowing listeners to move into the latest generation of Grado design.

Customers may also move within the range, selecting a higher or lower model based on their system and listening preferences.

A Continuing Evolution

Our focus has always been on performance. Releases aren't rushed—new models are introduced when improvements are clear and meaningful to the listener.

That focus continues to guide our work, with each refinement centered on how a cartridge tracks, resolves detail, and presents music.



Availability and Pricing

The updated Grado cartridge lineup will be available across all three series, with pricing starting at \$3,500 USD for Lineage models, \$300 USD for Timbre models, and \$140 USD for Prestige models.

Additional product details and specifications are available at gradolabs.com.

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About Grado Labs

Founded in 1953, Grado Labs is a family-owned American manufacturer of headphones and phono cartridges. Operating from its original Brooklyn, New York location, the company has spent more than seven decades designing products dedicated to bringing listeners closer to their music. Grado products are distributed in more than 40 countries worldwide and remain known for their distinctive sound, open-back designs, and enduring craftsmanship.