
Subject: Re: Longest you've used a cartridge

Posted by [hurdy_gurdyman](#) on Thu, 06 Aug 2026 20:10:08 GMT

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My go to cartridge for many years now is the Grado G1+ with an 8MZ stylus. Dating back to the Signature series of Grado's golden age in the late 70's and early 80's, this combo is renowned among Grado fans for it's lush organic mids, clean treble and full but rhythmic bass. The treble really benefits from having it loaded into ~30K instead of the standard 47k when using the 8MZ stylus. Someday I'm going to buy a MCZ stylus for it (will have to load to 10K.) This is supposed to bring it up on par with mid tier moving coils.

I also have a Shure V15 RS with a JICO HE stylus. The V15 RS is Radio Shack's version of a V15 VxMR. It has a plastic body instead of machined aluminum, and a hyper-elliptical stylus instead of a micro-ridge. It will readily accept a SAS stylus for an upgrade. I find the Shure to be more detailed in the upper registers than the Grado but leaner in the mids and bass, although bass is a bit more taunt. I think it sound a bit bland compared to the Grado on acoustic music that I listen to the most, although for classic rock it is supieor.

I have a AT95e that I just plain don't like. I find it brash.

I have an old Empire 1000 and a Pickering that I don't recall the model, but they are a little to complinent for my arm. I haven't heard them for many years and can't comment on them.

Dave
