

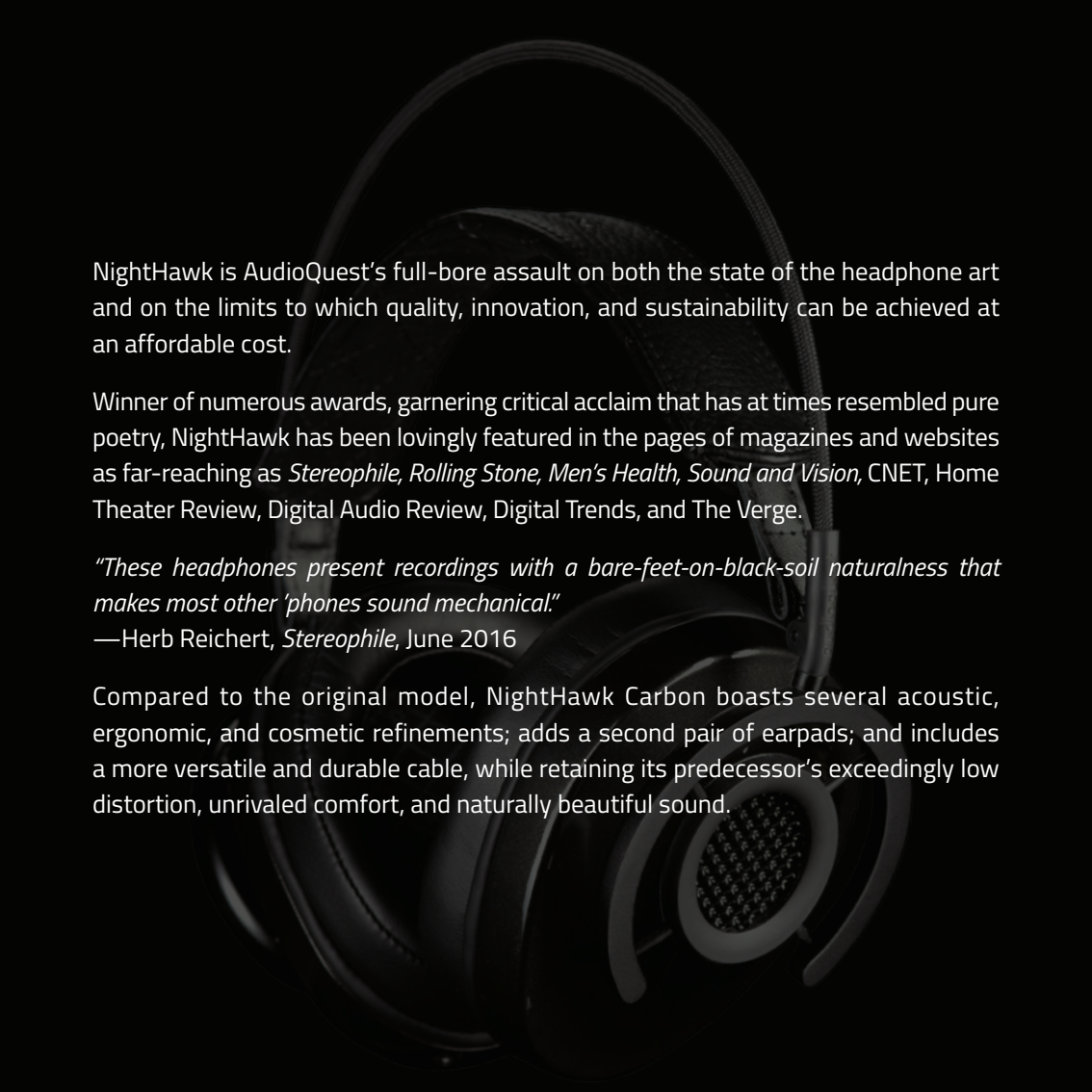


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- EN** Instructions in English are available at the link below.
- ES** Las instrucciones de instalación en el español se encuentran disponibles en el enlace que se indica a continuación.
- FR** Les instructions d'installation en français sont disponibles au lien suivant.
- DE** Eine Anleitung in englischer Sprache ist unter dem unten stehenden Link verfügbar.
- NL** Instructies in het Nederlands zijn beschikbaar via onderstaande link.
- ZH** 安裝說明請詳見下列網址連結。
- JA** 日本語 のインストールガイドは下記リンク先でご覧いただけます。
- KO** 한국어로 작성된 설치 지침은 아래 링크에서 볼 수 있습니다.
- RU** Инструкции по установке на русском языке можно найти по ссылке ниже.
- IT** Le istruzioni per l'installazione in italiano sono disponibili nel link indicato in basso.
- PT** Pode encontrar as instruções de instalação em português através do link em baixo.
- PL** Instrukcja w języku polskim są dostępne w linku poniżej.
- TH** คำแนะนำในการติดตั้งไทยมีจัดไว้ให้ผ่านลิงค์ต่อไปนี้



[personal.audioquest.com/manual](https://personal.audioquest.com/manual)



NightHawk is AudioQuest's full-bore assault on both the state of the headphone art and on the limits to which quality, innovation, and sustainability can be achieved at an affordable cost.

Winner of numerous awards, garnering critical acclaim that has at times resembled pure poetry, NightHawk has been lovingly featured in the pages of magazines and websites as far-reaching as *Stereophile*, *Rolling Stone*, *Men's Health*, *Sound and Vision*, CNET, Home Theater Review, Digital Audio Review, Digital Trends, and The Verge.

*"These headphones present recordings with a bare-feet-on-black-soil naturalness that makes most other 'phones sound mechanical."*

—Herb Reichert, *Stereophile*, June 2016

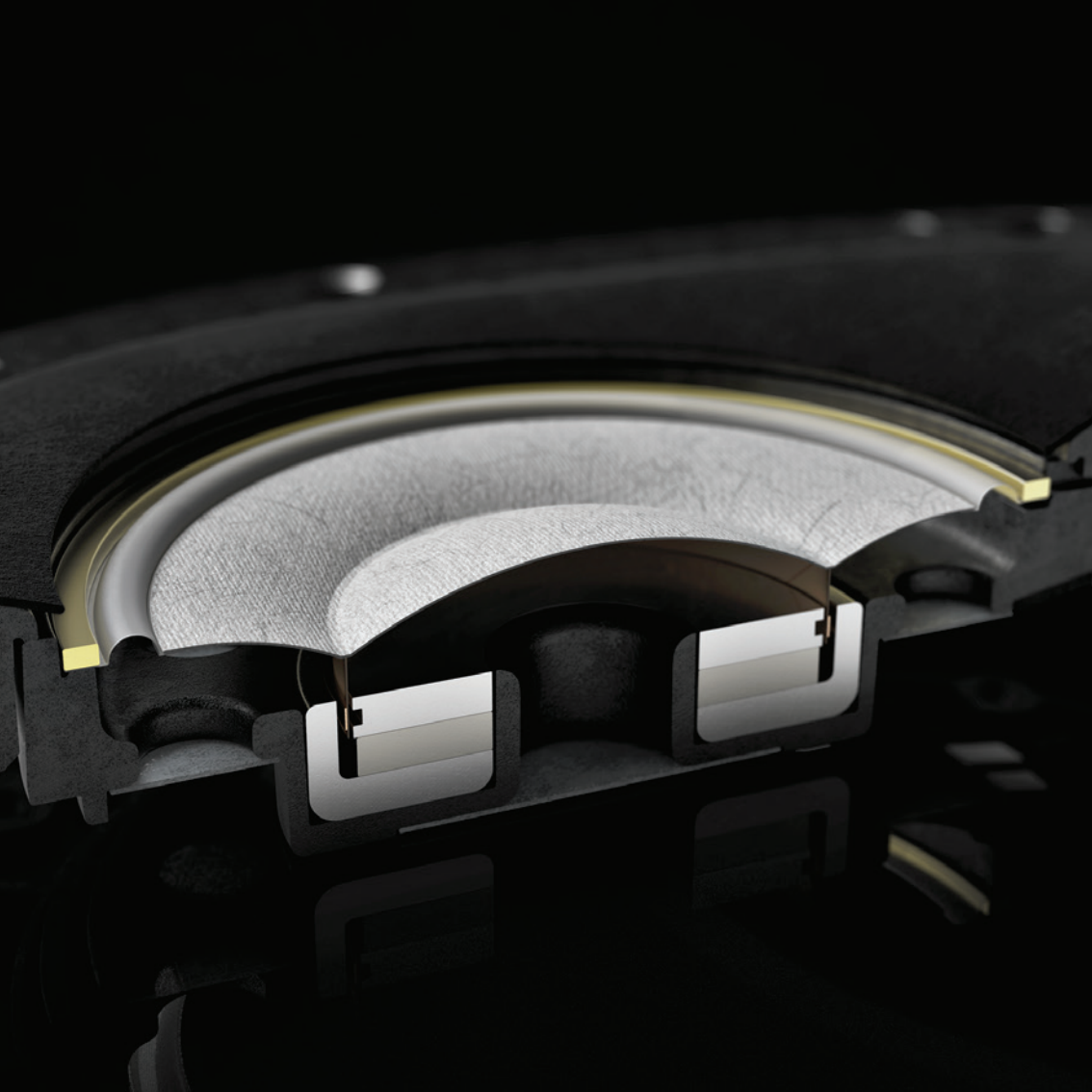
Compared to the original model, NightHawk Carbon boasts several acoustic, ergonomic, and cosmetic refinements; adds a second pair of earpads; and includes a more versatile and durable cable, while retaining its predecessor's exceedingly low distortion, unrivaled comfort, and naturally beautiful sound.



## **Innovative Materials & Safe, Efficient Manufacturing**

NightHawk's earcups are made from a revolutionary material called "Liquid Wood"—actual wood that has been combined with reclaimed plant fiber, heated, liquefied, and processed in such a way that it can be injection molded. While injection molding is commonly accomplished with environmentally hazardous plastics or synthetic polymers, Liquid Wood is a natural material—as sustainable as it is physically beautiful. Moreover, compared to ordinary plastic or wood, Liquid Wood has far superior acoustic properties and provides a seemingly endless array of geometric possibilities. In NightHawk, we've used Liquid Wood to shape our earcups to more closely resemble the human ear, thereby providing a more complete and comfortable fit, reducing stress on the listener's head and ears.

The subtly lustrous hue of NightHawk Carbon's earcups is achieved by employing a process similar to one used in the luxury automobile industry. Several primer coats set the foundation upon which we introduce multiple base coats of Carbon Grey Metallic high-gloss automotive paint. On top of this, we apply several clear coats that are then instantly cured by UV light, before a careful hand polishing produces a high-gloss finish. Rest assured that we use only high-solids paints with minimal volatile organic compounds—safe for the environment as well as those who apply it.



## **Driver Technology: Biocellulose Diaphragm & Split-Gap Motor**

Many of today's headphones use diaphragms made from Mylar—an easily sourced, inexpensive, lightweight plastic material. Unfortunately, Mylar is inherently flimsy and brittle, typically distorting as the audio signal reaches high frequencies of 6-10kHz and invariably causing listening fatigue. NightHawk takes a radically different approach: Inspired by the advanced drive-units used in today's high-performance loudspeakers, NightHawk's 50mm high-excursion driver has a compliant rubber surround and a piston diaphragm made of biocellulose—an extraordinarily pure, rigid, self-damping material far more accurate and musically pleasing than Mylar. Furthermore, NightHawk's unique split-gap motor design dramatically reduces intermodulation distortion to provide tight, clean, well-defined bass and a convincingly realistic representation of space. Your music sounds clean, clear, large, and *alive*.





## **Anything But Ordinary: A Loudspeaker-Inspired Headphone Experience**

Many of NightHawk's design elements are successfully implemented in today's most innovative loudspeakers, but have never been used in headphones. Much like the internal bracing of a beautiful loudspeaker cabinet, NightHawk's sophisticated earcup enclosure incorporates support beams that enhance structural integrity and minimize unwanted resonances and vibrations. An elastomeric coating is carefully applied to the enclosure's internal surfaces to further reduce harmful vibrations, while a damping material comprising a purposeful blend of wool and polyester enables an extraordinarily smooth, natural frequency response for a deeply immersive and emotionally compelling listening experience. With NightHawk, vibration-induced distortion is intelligently minimized, allowing music to breathe freely.



## **Diamond Cubic Diffusion & 3D-Printing Technology**

NightHawk is a semi-open headphone with a biomimetic grille inspired by the underlying structure of butterfly wings—a fascinating diamond-cubic latticework that diffuses light to create iridescence. Built to a much larger scale in NightHawk, the complex design of the grille’s intricate latticework diffuses sound and defeats the resonances that ultimately distort and damage our music. Far too complex to machine or mold, NightHawk’s grille can only be created through 3D printing via an advanced form of additive manufacturing known as “Selective Laser Sintering.” NightHawk was the first completely original production headphone to use a 3D-printed part, and, like its forebear, NightHawk Carbon represents beauty, intelligence, and responsible innovation.

Writing for [3DPrintingIndustry.com](http://3DPrintingIndustry.com), Shane Taylor said of the original NightHawk: “There is almost nothing about this headphone that suggests anything other than near perfection... NightHawk shows 3D printing in action, where advanced manufacturing processes push product design almost to high art.”



## **Ergonomics: Removing the Barriers between Listener and Music**

A successful ergonomic design removes unnecessary barriers between the listener and his or her emotional involvement with the music. NightHawk's flexible headband efficiently distributes the headphones' weight, providing a feel that is both comfortable and comforting—you'll *want* to wear NightHawk. Its simple yet intelligent, patent-pending suspension system allows the earcups to move freely, accommodating heads of almost any shape or size, while effectively decoupling the earcups to counteract resonances. NightHawk's earpads (again shaped to resemble the human ear) place greater thickness toward the rear of the pad, thus providing additional comfort where it's most necessary, simultaneously setting NightHawk's drivers at an angle optimized for precise, stable imaging. You can listen for hours—in comfort, immersed in naturally beautiful sound, moved by the music.

Impressed by the fit and overall comfort of the original NightHawk, Vlad Savov of TheVerge.com wrote: "It is, in a word, sublime. Okay, another few words: sumptuous, luxurious, awesome."



## The NightHawk Cable

NightHawk Carbon benefits from AudioQuest's 30+ years of experience in the high-performance cable business, including a durable headphone cable designed to effectively control noise and minimize distortion, enabling a deeper emotional connection between listener and music. The cable's conductors are made of high-purity copper that has been drawn and cast with exceptional care to eliminate as much oxygen content as possible, thereby significantly reducing impurities in the metal that would otherwise exacerbate distortion. The cable's flexible jacket greatly reduces microphonics—the annoyingly audible rustling or thumping sounds that occur when headphone cables come into contact with external surfaces—and its rigorously tested strain relief ensures longevity. The mic and smartphone controls allow the listener to accept and make phone calls, or, of course, play, pause, and select tracks—and our control circuitry is kept separate from the audio circuitry, meaning that audio quality is never compromised for convenience.

This commitment to quality extends right down to the cable's plugs, which use a base metal of Tellurium Copper (TeCu), selected for its outstanding purity and superb machinability. Because TeCu is far easier to machine than other commonly used varieties of copper, we can achieve a much smoother plug surface, which, in turn, results in higher plating quality, better contact mating, and, most importantly, improved signal transmission. Further, the cable itself is supplemented by a 3.5mm-to-1/4" adaptor that, like our finest cable connectors, features thick Direct-Silver plating over high-purity copper; far from merely functional, our adaptor is made to meet the standards defined by NightHawk itself. Indeed, every bit of NightHawk was designed to exude quality, performance, innovation, and beauty.





## **NightOwl Around-the-Ear Closed-Back Headphones**

A direct descendant of our award-winning NightHawk semi-open headphone, NightOwl improves upon its predecessor's outstanding fit and finish, refines its overall beauty and durability, and provides exceptional isolation from external sound.

Listen longer, later, and with greater freedom, enjoying a more intimate relationship with your favorite music, movies, videos, and games.



## **DragonFly®: Beautiful Sound from Computers, Smartphones, and Tablets**

The size and shape of a USB thumb-drive, DragonFly is a digital-to-analog converter and headphone amplifier with a USB plug at one end and a 3.5mm minijack at the other. Compatible with Mac® and Windows® PCs, as well as Android and Apple mobile devices, DragonFly bypasses its host's compromised audio circuitry to deliver beautiful sound to earbuds and headphones, desktop speakers, or to a full-blown home entertainment system.

Simply plug your favorite headphones into DragonFly's minijack, or use one of our versatile Bridges & Falls analog interconnects to connect DragonFly to powered desktop speakers, an amplifier, or receiver. Whether you're on the go or at home, exploring one (or many) of the exciting new streaming music services, listening to convenient MP3s or high-resolution (up to 24-bit/96kHz) downloads, DragonFly reveals the color, detail, and emotion that brings life to your favorite music, YouTube videos, movies, and games.

*Partner DragonFly with AudioQuest headphones for an especially satisfying and emotionally compelling listening experience.*

### **DragonFly Black**

- Medium output (1.2 volts) drives a wide range of headphones
- 32-bit ESS 9010 DAC with minimum-phase filter

### **DragonFly Red**

- High output (2.1 volts) drives almost all headphones, including power-hungry models
- 32-bit ESS 9016 DAC with minimum-phase filter



## Headphone Specifications

**Impedance:** 25 ohms

**Sensitivity:** 99dB SPL / mW

**Power Handling:** 1.5W

**Driver:** 50mm Dynamic | Biocellulose Diaphragm | 1.2T Split-Gap Motor

**Weight:** 346g (12.2 oz.)

## Cable Specifications

**Length:** 4.25' (1.3m)

**Conductors:** Long-Grain Copper

**Terminations:** 3.5mm TRRS → Dual 2.5mm Mono | Direct-Silver Plated High-Purity Copper

**Adaptor (included):** 3.5mm → 1/4" | Direct-Silver Plated High-Purity Copper

**Note:** Cable can be terminated with balanced connections or customized to various specifications. For details, contact your AudioQuest dealer or visit [www.audioquest.com](http://www.audioquest.com).

## Contacts

For technical support, call **1-800-747-2770**, or email us at [info@audioquest.com](mailto:info@audioquest.com).

For additional information, visit [personal.audioquest.com](http://personal.audioquest.com). Replacement parts and accessories are available at [shop.audioquest.com](http://shop.audioquest.com).

The technology in NightHawk Carbon is protected by one or more of the following patents or patents applied for: US # **7,039,213**, US Application # **61/888,392**, US Application # **62/077,825**.

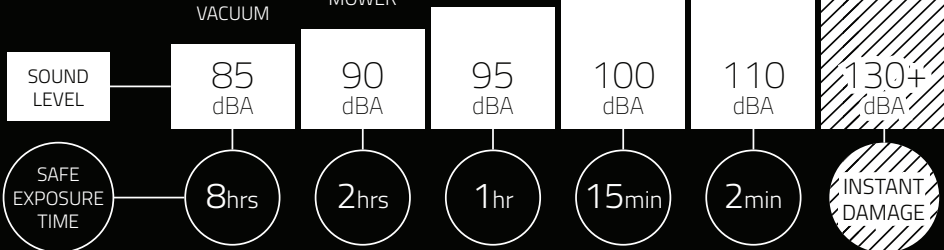
## Safety: Listen Responsibly

Do not use NightHawk while operating a vehicle, crossing the street, or during any activity that requires complete attention.

To avoid hearing damage, make sure that the volume on your music player is turned down before connecting NightHawk. After placing NightHawk on your head, gradually increase the playback volume until you've reached a comfortable listening level.

Sound levels are measured in A-weighted decibels (dBA). Extended exposure to any sound at or above 85dBA can cause hearing loss. NightHawk has been meticulously designed to deliver long-term listening satisfaction. Because of NightHawk's uncommonly low distortion and high power handling, the psychoacoustic cues that would normally alert the listener to potentially damaging volume levels are diminished. Therefore, you should carefully monitor your use.

Hearing loss is a function of loudness versus time: As loudness increases, the time required to develop hearing loss decreases. Lower volume levels ensure safer listening over longer periods of time.



## A Note from the Designer

The act of listening to music through headphones should be a singularly intimate and transcendent experience. Though in my designs I affectionately borrow from the world of loudspeaker technology, my quest is to deliver an experience that can *only* be achieved through headphones.

Rather than attempting to recreate the loudspeaker-listening experience through a set of headphones, I've judiciously incorporated elements of loudspeaker design that honor the *headphone*-listening experience. While my designs are tailored to music lovers who, like me, grew up listening to headphones, I hope that my work will also appeal to traditional loudspeaker enthusiasts who crave even deeper immersion in music.

High-end headphones should allow the listener to become absolutely consumed by the experience. Compared to the sound of loudspeakers in a typical room, headphones can provide a dramatically lower noise floor, affording unprecedented detail and clarity, significantly lower distortion, and imaging marked by exceptionally clear and present ambience cues. The result is a listening experience that is emotionally compelling and *seriously* immersive.

Nothing brings me as much pleasure as music, and I sincerely aspire to help you feel equally moved by its beauty.

—Skylar Gray, Designer/Engineer



## AudioQuest: Matching Value and Performance

Founded in 1980 by William E. Low, AudioQuest manufactures and distributes high-performance audio/video cables, digital-to-analog converters, headphones, power-conditioning products, and various audio/video accessories.

Our mantra is “Do No Harm.” As such, our goal is to always remain truthful to the original signal, minimizing distortion while bridging the emotional and intellectual gaps that exist between artist and audience.

However you decide to connect to your media, AudioQuest develops and delivers an attractive, durable, reliable solution that represents both extraordinary value and exceptional performance.

