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› Shure 520DX Green Bullet Dynamic Microphone User Manual

Shure 520DX

Shure 520DX Green Bullet Dynamic Microphone User Manual

Comprehensive guide for the setup, operation, and maintenance of your Shure 520DX microphone.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Shure 520DX "Green Bullet" is a dynamic microphone renowned for its distinctive sound, particularly favored by harmonica players. Its signature green and chrome die-cast casing gives it a classic, rugged appearance. The microphone features an integrated volume control knob at its base, allowing for convenient adjustments during live performances. It comes with an attached cable terminating in a standard 1/4-inch plug, designed for connection to high-impedance devices such as guitar amplifiers. Beyond harmonica, its unique characteristics also make it suitable for distinct, lo-fi vocal applications.



Image: The Shure 520DX Green Bullet microphone, showcasing its iconic design, attached cable, and 1/4-inch connector.



Image: A detailed view of the Shure 520DX microphone's front grille and the green and chrome casing.

KEY FEATURES

- **Volume Control Knob:** Allows users to adjust the volume to fit each musical situation directly on the microphone.
- **Rugged, Dynamic Cartridge:** Features an improved response for reliable performance.
- **High-Impedance, Omnidirectional:** Designed for versatile sound capture.
- **Integrated 1/4-inch Connector:** Supplied with a built-in cable for direct connection.
- **Definitive Blues Harp Microphone:** The 520DX is the first choice of microphone for blues harmonica players.
- **Ambidextrous Hand Orientation:** Comfortable to hold for both left and right-handed users.

SETUP

Setting up your Shure 520DX microphone is straightforward. Follow these steps for optimal performance:

1. **Initial Volume Setting:** Before connecting the microphone, ensure the volume control knob at the base of the 520DX is turned down completely. This prevents sudden loud sounds when connecting.
2. **Connect to Amplifier:** Plug the integrated 1/4-inch connector cable directly into a high-impedance input on your guitar amplifier or other compatible audio device.
3. **Power On:** Turn on your amplifier or audio device.
4. **Adjust Volume:** Slowly increase the volume on the microphone's control knob to your desired level. Adjust the amplifier's volume as needed.

The 520DX is designed for direct connection to guitar amplifiers to achieve its classic blues harp sound.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Shure 520DX is designed for intuitive use, especially for harmonica players. Here are guidelines for operation:

- **Volume Control During Performance:** The volume control knob on the microphone is a key feature for live adjustments. Use it to fine-tune your output level as needed, for example, when switching between playing rhythm and lead, or to temporarily mute the microphone between sets.
- **Proximity to Amplifier:** As you move further away from your amplifier, you may need to increase the microphone's volume. Conversely, if you are very close, you might need to reduce it to prevent overdriving the input.
- **Feedback Prevention:** To minimize acoustic feedback, maintain as much distance as possible from monitors or loudspeakers. Adjust the volume of monitors or loudspeakers at the mixing console so that no feedback is present when the volume control knob on the harmonica microphone is at its maximum setting.
- **Hand Position:** The microphone is contoured to fit comfortably between a harmonica and hands, allowing for expressive playing techniques.

MAINTENANCE

Proper care and maintenance will ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Shure 520DX microphone:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the microphone's casing. For the grille, a soft brush can be used to gently remove any debris. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners, as these can damage the finish or internal components.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the microphone in a clean, dry place, preferably in a protective case or bag, to prevent dust accumulation and physical damage. Avoid extreme temperatures and humidity.
- **Cable Care:** Avoid sharp bends or kinks in the attached cable. Coil the cable loosely when storing to prevent internal wire damage. Do not pull the microphone by its cable.
- **Handling:** While the 520DX is built to be rugged, avoid dropping or subjecting it to excessive impact, which could affect its internal dynamic cartridge.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Shure 520DX, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound Output:**
 - Ensure the microphone's volume knob is turned up.
 - Verify that the 1/4-inch plug is fully inserted into the amplifier's input.

- Check that the amplifier is powered on and its volume is adequately set.
- Test the microphone with a different amplifier or cable if possible to isolate the issue.

- **Excessive Feedback:**

- Increase the distance between the microphone and any loudspeakers or monitors.
- Reduce the microphone's volume using its onboard knob.
- Adjust the gain or volume settings on your amplifier or mixing console.
- Consider repositioning speakers or using a graphic equalizer to cut problematic frequencies.

- **Distorted Sound:**

- Lower the microphone's volume knob.
- Reduce the input gain on your amplifier or audio interface.
- Ensure the amplifier's input is suitable for a high-impedance microphone.

If problems persist after these steps, contact Shure customer support or a qualified technician.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Type	Dynamic
Frequency Response	100 to 5,000 Hz
Polar Pattern	Omnidirectional
Impedance	High, unbalanced
Load Impedance Range	Minimum of 100 kilohms
Output Level (at 1,000 Hz)	Open Circuit Voltage -38.0 dBV/Pa (13 mV)* -- *1 Pa = 94 dB SPL
Polarity	Positive sound pressure on diaphragm produces positive voltage on tip with respect to sleeve (ground) of microphone output phone plug connector
Cable	20-foot cable, two conductor shielded with standard 1/4-inch phone plug attached (supplied wired for high-impedance, unbalanced connection)
Case	Green and chrome finished die casting
Weight	26 ounces (approx. 1.62 pounds)
Product Dimensions	3.25 x 2.5 x 2.5 inches
Model Number	520DX

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information regarding your Shure 520DX microphone, please refer to the official warranty document

provided by Shure. This document outlines the terms and conditions of your product's warranty coverage.

Warranty Document: [View Warranty \(PDF\)](#)

For further technical support, product inquiries, or service, please visit the official Shure website or contact their customer service department. Up-to-date contact information and additional resources can typically be found on the manufacturer's official support pages.

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Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page’s manual context to help answer it.

Name

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question