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Shure SM48-LC

Shure SM48 Cardioid Dynamic Vocal Microphone User Manual

Model: SM48-LC

1. Introduction and Overview

The Shure SM48-LC is a high-performance unidirectional dynamic microphone designed for professional vocal and spoken word applications. Its robust construction and tailored frequency response make it an excellent choice for various live and recording environments.

This microphone maintains a true cardioid pattern throughout its frequency range, ensuring high gain before feedback and effective rejection of off-axis sound. The tailored frequency response, featuring a presence rise to brighten mid-range performance and a low-frequency roll-off to control proximity effect, is ideal for clear and natural-sounding vocals.

The SM48 includes a shock-mounted cartridge for exceptional ruggedness and reduced handling noise, a durable steel mesh grille, and an integral "pop" filter to reduce explosive breath sounds and wind noise. It comes supplied with a stand adapter and a carrying/storage bag, embodying legendary Shure quality and ruggedness.

▶ **Watch video online**
Shure Brand Video - Sound Extraordinary

Official Shure Brand Video: "Sound Extraordinary". This video provides an overview of Shure's commitment to audio excellence.

2. Product Features

- **High-Performance Vocal Microphone:** Delivers crisp and clear sound for vocals and spoken-word applications.
- **Rugged Construction:** Features a shock-mounted cartridge, steel mesh grille, and tough metal construction for durability in stage and studio use.
- **Impressive Signal-to-Noise Ratio:** Neodymium magnet and tailored frequency response provide a high signal-to-noise ratio for recording and live sound.
- **Great Off-Axis Rejection:** Cardioid polar pattern minimizes unwanted background noise and feedback.
- **Tailored Frequency Response:** Includes a bass roll-off and mid-range boost for clear and natural-sounding vocals.
- **Integrated Pop Filter:** Reduces explosive breath sounds and wind noise.
- **XLR Connector:** Standard 3-pin XLR connector for wide compatibility.

3. Setup

The Shure SM48-LC is designed for straightforward setup. Follow these steps to get started:

1. **Unpack Contents:** Carefully remove the microphone, mic clip, and any other accessories from the packaging.
2. **Attach Mic Clip:** Securely attach the supplied A25D mic clip to a standard microphone stand.
3. **Mount Microphone:** Insert the Shure SM48-LC microphone into the mic clip. Ensure it is firmly seated.
4. **Connect XLR Cable:** Connect a 3-pin XLR cable (not included) to the microphone's XLR connector at the base. Connect the other end of the XLR cable to your mixer, audio interface, or amplifier's microphone input.
5. **Position Microphone:** Position the microphone appropriately for your application. For vocals, a common starting point is 2-6 inches from the sound source.





Image: The Shure SM48 microphone, ready for connection.



Image: The packaging for the Shure SM48 microphone.

▶ **Watch video online**
Product Overview Video

Video: A product overview demonstrating the unboxing and basic components of the Shure SM48.

4. Operating Instructions

To achieve the best sound quality from your Shure SM48-LC, consider the following operating tips:

- **Microphone Placement:** For optimal vocal clarity and to minimize plosives (harsh 'p' and 'b' sounds), position the microphone slightly off-center from your mouth, or use the integrated pop filter effectively.
- **Proximity Effect:** The SM48 exhibits a proximity effect, meaning bass response increases as the microphone is moved closer to the sound source. Experiment with distance to achieve your desired tonal balance.
- **Gain Staging:** Adjust the gain on your mixer or audio interface to ensure a strong signal without clipping (distortion). Start with the gain low and gradually increase it until the signal is healthy.
- **Feedback Prevention:** Due to its cardioid polar pattern, the SM48 is designed to reject sound from the rear. Position speakers or monitors behind the microphone to minimize feedback. Avoid pointing the microphone directly at speakers.
- **Handling Noise:** The shock-mounted cartridge reduces handling noise. However, excessive movement or tapping on the microphone body can still produce unwanted sounds. Use a microphone stand whenever possible.

5. Maintenance

Proper maintenance will ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Shure SM48-LC microphone:

- **Cleaning:** Regularly wipe the microphone body with a soft, dry cloth. For the steel mesh grille, you can gently clean it with a soft brush to remove any debris. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive materials.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the microphone in its supplied carrying/storage bag to protect it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Avoid Moisture:** Keep the microphone away from liquids and excessive humidity. Moisture can damage internal components.
- **Handle with Care:** While rugged, avoid dropping or subjecting the microphone to severe impacts, as this can affect its performance.

6. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Shure SM48-LC, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound Output	XLR cable not connected properly; Mixer/interface input gain too low; Microphone switch (if applicable) is off.	Ensure XLR cable is fully seated at both ends. Increase input gain on your mixer/interface. Check if the microphone has an on/off switch and ensure it is in the 'On' position.
Feedback (High-pitched squeal)	Microphone too close to speakers; Speakers/monitors pointed at microphone; Excessive gain.	Move microphone further from speakers. Reposition speakers/monitors so they are not directly facing the microphone. Reduce input gain or master volume.
Distorted Sound	Input gain too high (clipping); Microphone too close to sound source.	Reduce input gain on your mixer/interface. Increase distance between microphone and sound source.
Excessive Handling Noise	Microphone being held improperly; Loose mic clip.	Ensure a firm but not overly tight grip. Use a microphone stand to minimize direct handling. Check if the mic clip is securely attached.

7. Specifications

Model Name: SM48

Item Model Number: SM48-LC

Brand: Shure

Microphone Form Factor: Handheld

Polar Pattern: Unidirectional (Cardioid)

Connectivity Technology: XLR

Connector Type: 3-pin XLR

Material: Alloy Steel

Item Weight: 1.25 Pounds

Product Dimensions: 10 x 5 x 3.5 inches

Included Components: Microphone, A25D Mic Clip, Storage Bag (No cable included)

Country of Origin: Mexico

First Available Date: July 16, 2004

8. Warranty and Support

Shure products are known for their reliability and quality. For detailed warranty information, please refer to the official Warranty (PDF) document provided by Shure.

For further support, product registration, or to explore other Shure products, please visit the official Shure Brand Store.

Warranty Document: Download Warranty (PDF)

Shure Brand Store: Visit Shure Store on Amazon

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