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› Shimano SPD PD-M520 Clipless Pedals User Manual

## SHIMANO PD-M520

# Shimano SPD PD-M520 Clipless Pedals User Manual

Model: PD-M520 | Brand: SHIMANO

## INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your Shimano SPD PD-M520 Clipless Pedals. Designed for efficient power transfer and reliable engagement, these pedals are suitable for various cycling disciplines. Please read this manual thoroughly before use to ensure proper function and safety.



Image: A single Shimano SPD PD-M520 clipless pedal in white, highlighting its compact body and dual-sided binding mechanism.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

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- Always wear appropriate cycling shoes compatible with SPD cleats.
- Practice clipping in and out in a safe, controlled environment before riding in traffic or challenging terrain.
- Ensure cleats are securely attached to your shoes and pedals are properly installed on your bicycle cranks.
- Regularly inspect pedals and cleats for wear or damage. Replace components as necessary.
- Adjust cleat tension to a comfortable level that allows for easy release but prevents accidental unclipping.

## PACKAGE CONTENTS

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Upon opening the package, verify that all components are present:

- Shimano SPD PD-M520 Clipless Pedals (1 pair)
- SM-SH51 Cleats (1 pair)
- Cleat mounting hardware (screws and plates)
- Instruction Manual

## マウンテンバイク



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Image: The complete package contents, including the pair of white Shimano PD-M520 pedals, a bag of SM-SH51 cleats with mounting hardware, and the printed instruction manual.

## SETUP

### 1. Pedal Installation

1. Identify the left (L) and right (R) pedals. The left pedal has a reverse thread.
2. Apply a small amount of grease to the pedal threads.
3. Thread the right pedal (R) clockwise into the right crank arm.
4. Thread the left pedal (L) counter-clockwise into the left crank arm.
5. Tighten both pedals securely using a 15mm pedal wrench or an 8mm hex key (for the spindle end) to a torque of 35-55 N·m (26-40 ft·lbs).



Image: A Shimano SPD pedal securely installed on a bicycle's crank arm, ready for use.

## 2. Cleat Installation and Adjustment

Install the SM-SH51 cleats onto your SPD-compatible cycling shoes. The cleats allow for fore-aft and rotational adjustment to optimize pedaling efficiency and comfort. Ensure the cleats are positioned correctly for your foot and securely tightened.

### Cleat Tension Adjustment

The release tension of the binding mechanism can be adjusted to suit individual preference and riding style. This is crucial for safe and comfortable use.

1. Locate the tension adjustment screw on the rear of each pedal binding.
2. Use a 2.5mm hex key to turn the screw.
3. Turn the screw clockwise (+) to increase tension (harder to release).
4. Turn the screw counter-clockwise (-) to decrease tension (easier to release).
5. Ensure the tension is set equally on both pedals for consistent release.

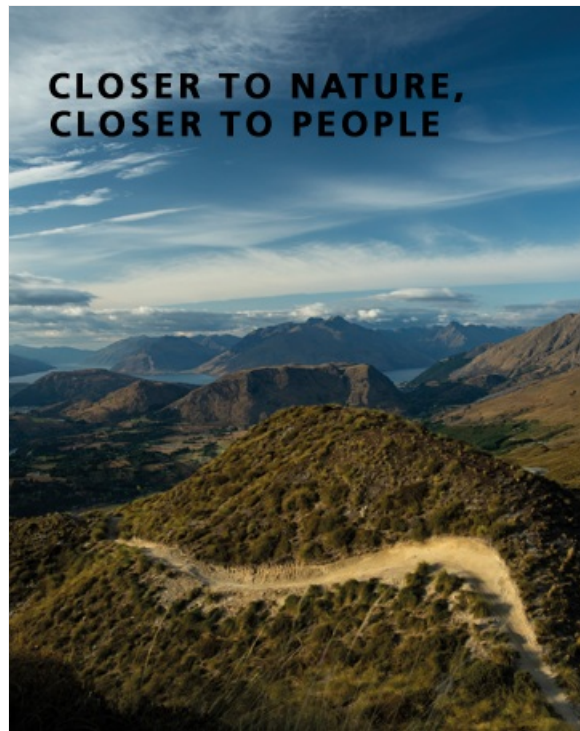


Image: A detailed view of the Shimano SPD pedal, highlighting the tension adjustment screw with plus (+) and minus (-) indicators for adjusting cleat release force.

## OPERATING THE PEDALS

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### Clipping In

To engage your foot with the pedal:

1. Position the front of your shoe's cleat over the front hook of the pedal binding.
2. Press down firmly with your heel to engage the rear of the cleat into the pedal binding. You should hear a distinct click.
3. Ensure your foot is securely clipped in before beginning to pedal.

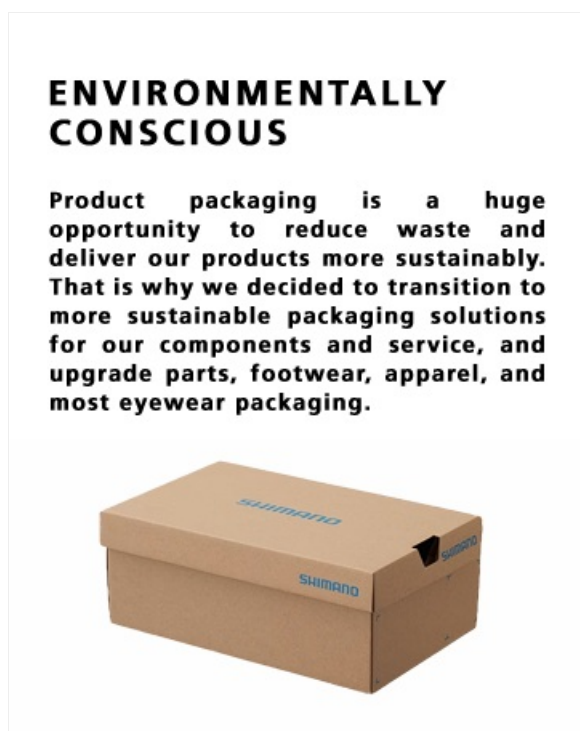


Image: A cycling shoe with an SPD cleat successfully clipped into a Shimano PD-M520 pedal, demonstrating proper engagement.

## Clipping Out

To disengage your foot from the pedal:

1. Twist your heel outward away from the bicycle.
2. Continue twisting until the cleat releases from the pedal binding.
3. Practice this motion repeatedly to develop muscle memory, especially for emergency stops.

## MAINTENANCE

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Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your pedals.

- **Cleaning:** The PD-M520 features an open binding design for superior mud-shedding. After riding in muddy or dusty conditions, clean the pedals and cleats with water and a brush to remove debris. Allow to dry thoroughly.
- **Lubrication:** The pedals feature a sealed bearing cartridge axle, which requires minimal maintenance. However, periodically apply a small amount of light grease to the pedal spindle threads and the cleat contact points on the pedal binding to ensure smooth operation and prevent corrosion.
- **Inspection:** Regularly check the pedals and cleats for signs of wear, cracks, or damage. Ensure all screws (cleat screws, tension adjustment screws) are tight. Replace worn cleats or damaged pedals immediately.

### TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

SHIMANO partners with the  
International Mountain Bike Association  
to help create and maintain  
sustainable mountain bike trails  
across North America.



Image: A close-up view of the Shimano SPD pedal's open binding mechanism, designed to effectively shed mud and debris for consistent performance.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

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Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Difficulty clipping in or out	Cleat tension too high/low Mud or debris in binding mechanism Worn cleats or pedal bindings	Adjust cleat tension (see Setup section). Clean pedals and cleats thoroughly. Inspect and replace worn cleats or pedals.
Pedals making noise (creaking, clicking)	Loose pedal installation Dry or dirty cleat-to-pedal interface Worn bearings (less common)	Re-tighten pedals to crank arms. Clean and lubricate cleats and pedal bindings. If noise persists, consult a professional bike mechanic.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	SHIMANO
Model Name	Shimano PD-M520 MTB SPD Dual-Sided Mud Shedding Pedals for Cycling, White
Model Number	PDM520L
Bike Type	Road Bike (also suitable for MTB/Hybrid)
Color	White
Material	Chromium-Molybdenum Steel (Spindle), Aluminum (Body)
Item Weight	0.2 Kilograms (per pair, approximate)
Product Dimensions	7.87"L x 3.15"W (approximate)
Thread Size	9/16 inches
Cleat Compatibility	SPD (SM-SH51 included)
Binding Type	Dual-sided
Axle Type	Sealed Cartridge
Country of Origin	Malaysia

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

**Warranty:** The Shimano SPD PD-M520 Clipless Pedals come with a 90-day warranty from the date of purchase, covering manufacturing defects. This warranty does not cover damage resulting from improper installation, misuse, neglect, accidents, or normal wear and tear.

**Customer Support:** For technical assistance, warranty claims, or replacement parts, please contact SHIMANO customer service or visit their official website. Ensure you have your product model number (PD-M520) and proof of purchase available when contacting support.

For more information, you may visit the official SHIMANO store: [SHIMANO Store on Amazon](#).

