SHIMANO FDM371X3

SHIMANO Altus FD-M371X3 Front Derailleur Instruction Manual

Model: FD-M371X3 | **Brand:** SHIMANO

1. Introduction and Overview

The SHIMANO Altus FD-M371X3 is a 9-speed compatible front derailleur engineered for recreational off-road cycling. This component features a conventional top swing design and dual-pull cable routing, offering flexibility for various bicycle frame configurations. Its wide linkage construction is designed to enhance shifting rigidity and reduce the effort required for gear changes.

Key features include compatibility with 9-speed drivetrains, a multi-fit clamp band for diverse frame dimensions, and a design optimized for hybrid bikes with a 63-66 degree chain stay to seat tube angle range. It supports outer chainring sizes from 44 to 48 teeth and has a total capacity of 22 teeth, operating with a 50 mm chainline.

2. Setup and Installation

Proper installation is crucial for optimal performance of your SHIMANO Altus FD-M371X3 front derailleur. Please follow these guidelines carefully.

2.1 Unpacking

Carefully remove the derailleur from its packaging. The package typically contains one bike part, the FD-M371X3 front derailleur.

2.2 Mounting the Derailleur



This image displays the SHIMANO Altus FD-M371X3 front derailleur. It highlights the conventional top swing mechanism and the multi-fit clamp band, which allows for installation on various frame sizes. The silver finish is visible.

1. **Clamp Band Installation:** The derailleur features a multi-fit clamp band compatible with various frame dimensions. Position the derailleur on the seat tube at the correct height, ensuring the outer cage plate is parallel to the largest chainring.
2. **Angle Alignment:** Ensure the derailleur is aligned with the chain stay to seat tube angle range of 63-66 degrees, common for hybrid bike fitment.
3. **Spacer Retention:** The derailleur may come with a spacer pre-installed, typically set for the largest chainring. Be careful not to lose this spacer during installation, as it is critical for proper setup. Refer to the official SHIMANO dealer manual for detailed instructions on spacer usage.

2.3 Cable Routing

The FD-M371X3 features a dual-pull design, allowing for either top or bottom cable routing. Select the appropriate routing method based on your bicycle frame's design. Secure the cable firmly to the derailleur's cable fixing bolt.

2.4 Chainline and Chainring Compatibility

This derailleur is designed for a 50 mm chainline. It is compatible with outer chainrings ranging from 44 to 48 teeth and has a total capacity of 22 teeth. Ensure your crankset and chainrings meet these specifications for proper function.

2.5 Adjustment

After mounting and cable routing, adjust the high and low limit screws to prevent the chain from overshifting off the chainrings. Adjust cable tension to ensure smooth and precise shifting across all 9 speeds.

3. Operating Instructions

The SHIMANO Altus FD-M371X3 front derailleur works in conjunction with your bicycle's front shifter to move the chain between the different chainrings on your crankset. This allows you to select appropriate gear ratios for varying terrain and riding conditions.

- **Shifting Up (to larger chainring):** Use your front shifter to move the chain to a larger chainring. This provides a higher gear, suitable for faster riding or downhill sections.
- **Shifting Down (to smaller chainring):** Use your front shifter to move the chain to a smaller chainring. This provides a lower gear, suitable for climbing or starting from a stop.
- **Smooth Shifting:** Always pedal forward with moderate pressure when shifting to ensure smooth and efficient gear changes. Avoid shifting under heavy load.

4. Maintenance

Regular maintenance will prolong the life and ensure the smooth operation of your front derailleur.

- **Cleaning:** Periodically clean the derailleur body, cage, and pivot points to remove dirt and grime. Use a mild degreaser if necessary, then rinse and dry thoroughly.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a small amount of bicycle-specific lubricant to the pivot points of the derailleur and the cable. Avoid over-lubricating, which can attract dirt.
- **Cable and Housing Inspection:** Regularly check the shifter cable and housing for fraying, kinks, or corrosion. Replace them if any damage is found to maintain crisp shifting.
- **Adjustment Check:** Periodically check the limit screw settings and cable tension. Readjust if shifting becomes imprecise or if the chain rubs against the derailleur cage.
- **Fastener Torque:** Ensure all mounting bolts are tightened to the manufacturer's recommended torque specifications.

5. Troubleshooting

If you experience issues with your front derailleur, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **Poor Shifting / Slow Response:**
  - Check cable tension. Too loose, and it won't shift up; too tight, and it may rub or overshift.
  - Inspect cable and housing for friction or damage.
  - Clean and lubricate the derailleur pivots.
- **Chain Rubbing Derailleur Cage:**
  - Adjust limit screws (H for high gear, L for low gear) to ensure the cage is correctly positioned relative to the chainrings.
  - Check for proper derailleur alignment on the seat tube.
  - Ensure the chainline is correct (50mm for this model).
- **Chain Overshifting (falling off chainring):**
  - Adjust the high (H) or low (L) limit screw to prevent the chain from moving too far inward or outward.
  - Verify the derailleur's angle and height on the seat tube.
- **Difficulty with Installation Spacer:** If you encountered issues with a small spacer during installation, ensure it is correctly placed or re-installed according to SHIMANO's technical documentation. This spacer is crucial for setting the initial position of the derailleur cage.

For persistent issues, consult a professional bicycle mechanic or refer to the official SHIMANO technical service manuals available online.

6. Specifications

Model Name	FDM370X3
Part Number	FDM371X3
Brand	SHIMANO
Speed Compatibility	9 Speed
Mounting Type	Clamp-On Mount
Swing Type	Conventional Swing (Top Swing)
Cable Routing	Dual Pull (Top or Bottom)
Outer Chainring Capacity	44-48 teeth
Total Capacity	22 teeth
Chainline	50 mm
Chain Stay to Seat Tube Angle	63-66 degrees
Material	Aluminum
Item Weight	0.05 Kilograms
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	6.7" x 4" x 3.74"
Included Components	Bike Part
Model Year	2013

7. Warranty Information

The SHIMANO Altus FD-M371X3 front derailleur typically comes with a 2-year warranty. For complete details regarding warranty coverage, terms, and conditions, please refer to the official SHIMANO warranty policy document or contact SHIMANO customer service. Proof of purchase may be required for warranty claims.

8. Support

For further assistance, technical documentation, or to locate an authorized service center, please visit the official SHIMANO website or contact their customer support channels. You can often find detailed technical service instructions (dealer manuals) and FAQs on their support pages.

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