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› Shure PGA181 Condenser Microphone - Instruction Manual

Shure PGA181-XLR

Shure PGA181 Condenser Microphone

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Introduction

The Shure PGA181 is a side-address cardioid condenser microphone engineered for versatile sound reproduction. Its durable construction and smooth frequency response make it suitable for a wide range of applications, including capturing acoustic and amplified instruments, vocals, and for live rehearsal recording and performance.



A front view of the Shure PGA181 Condenser Microphone, showcasing its sleek black metallic finish and side-address design.

Setup

Unpacking and Components

Carefully remove all components from the packaging. The Shure PGA181-XLR package includes:

- Shure PGA181 Condenser Microphone
- 15-foot XLR-to-XLR Cable
- Stand Adapter
- Zipper Pouch

Connecting the Microphone

The PGA181 features a 3-pin XLR connector for reliable audio transmission. Connect the XLR cable from the microphone to your audio interface, mixer, or preamplifier. As a condenser microphone, the PGA181 requires 48V phantom power to operate. Ensure your connected device can supply phantom power and that it is enabled.

Mounting

Attach the included stand adapter to a standard microphone stand. Securely fasten the microphone into the stand adapter. Position the microphone as needed for your recording or performance setup.



The Shure PGA181 microphone attached to its stand adapter, with the included 15-foot XLR-to-XLR cable and zipper pouch, ready for setup.

Operating

Microphone Placement

The PGA181 is a side-address microphone with a cardioid polar pattern, meaning it primarily picks up sound from the front while rejecting sound from the sides and rear. For optimal results:

- **For Vocals:** Position the microphone directly in front of the vocalist, typically 6-12 inches away, with the front of the microphone facing the sound source.
- **For Instruments:** For acoustic guitars, aim the microphone towards the soundhole or where the neck meets the body for a balanced sound. For amplified instruments, place the microphone close to the speaker cabinet, experimenting with distance and angle to achieve the desired tone.

Gain Staging

Set the input gain on your mixer or audio interface to ensure a strong signal without clipping. Monitor your levels to prevent distortion, especially when recording loud sources.

Applications

The PGA181 is highly versatile and can be used for:

- Acoustic and Amplified Instruments
- Vocals (singing and spoken word)
- Live Rehearsal Recording
- General Studio Recording



The PGA181 microphone mounted on a stand, capturing audio from musical instruments during a recording session, demonstrating its side-address functionality.

Product Demonstration Video

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This video provides a comprehensive review of the Shure PGA series microphones, including demonstrations of the PGA181's performance on spoken word, acoustic guitar, and electric guitar. It highlights the versatility and sound quality of the microphone for various recording

Maintenance

Cleaning

To maintain the microphone's performance and appearance, regularly wipe the exterior with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive materials. For the microphone grille, gently brush away any dust or debris. Do not attempt to clean the internal components.

Storage

When not in use, store the PGA181 in its included zipper pouch to protect it from dust, moisture, and physical damage. Store in a cool, dry place away from extreme temperatures.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Shure PGA181 microphone, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

- **No Sound:**

- Ensure the XLR cable is securely connected at both the microphone and the input device.
- Verify that 48V phantom power is enabled on your mixer or audio interface.
- Check the input gain level on your device; it may be set too low.
- Test with a different XLR cable or input channel to rule out faulty equipment.

- **Distorted Sound:**

- Reduce the input gain on your mixer or audio interface. The signal may be too hot, causing clipping.
- Ensure the microphone is not too close to the sound source, especially for very loud instruments or vocals.
- Check for any damaged cables or connectors.

- **Feedback:**

- Reposition the microphone further away from speakers or monitors.
- Reduce the gain on the microphone channel or the overall system volume.
- Utilize the cardioid polar pattern by ensuring the rear of the microphone is facing away from sound sources that could cause feedback.

Specifications

Feature	Specification
Microphone Form Factor	Microphone Only
Polar Pattern	Unidirectional (Cardioid)
Frequency Response	20 Hz - 20 kHz
Audio Sensitivity	45 dB
Connector Type	XLR
Item Weight	2 pounds

Feature	Specification
Product Dimensions	5 x 11 x 9 inches
Model Number	PGA181-XLR

Warranty and Support

Warranty Information

For detailed warranty information, please refer to the official [Warranty \(PDF\)](#) document provided by Shure.

Customer Support

For further assistance, technical support, or service inquiries, please visit the official Shure website or contact their customer support team. You can find more information and resources at the [Shure Store on Amazon](#).

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Question

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

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

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