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Sony ECMB1M

Sony ECM-B1M Digital Shotgun Microphone Instruction Manual

Model: ECM-B1M

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sony ECM-B1M is a compact and lightweight digital shotgun microphone designed for use with compatible Sony cameras featuring a Multi Interface Shoe. It utilizes advanced digital signal processing and eight microphone capsules to achieve variable directivity, delivering high-quality digital audio directly to the camera. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your ECM-B1M microphone.

2. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Please ensure all the following items are present in your product packaging:

- Sony ECM-B1M Digital Shotgun Microphone
- Windscreen (furry type)
- Carrying Case

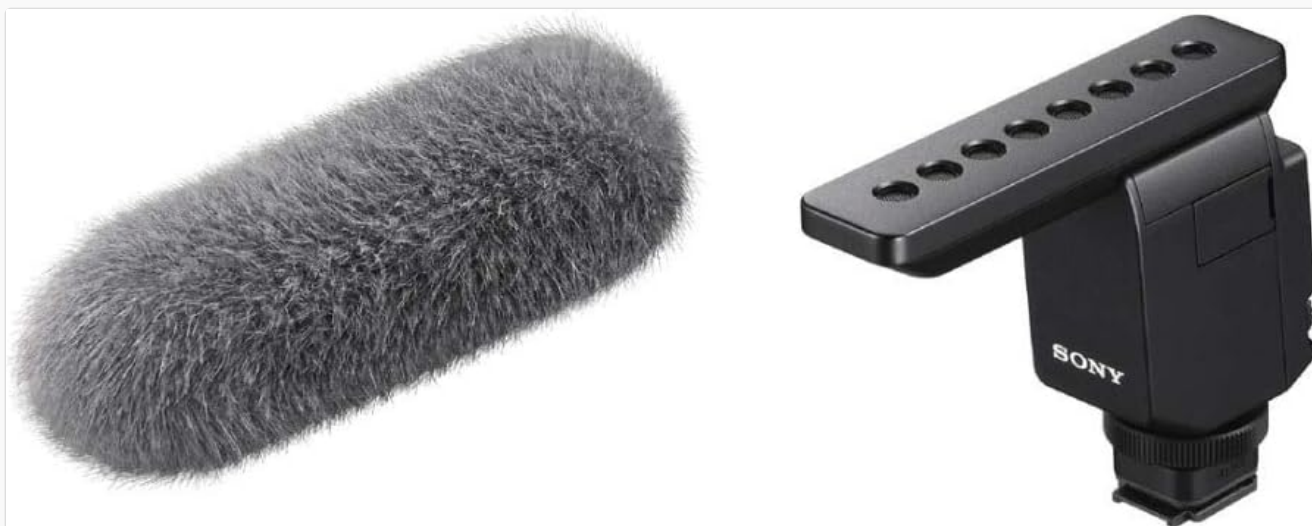


Figure 2.1: The ECM-B1M microphone shown with its furry windscreen, designed to reduce wind noise.

3. PARTS IDENTIFICATION

Familiarize yourself with the various parts and controls of your ECM-B1M microphone.



Figure 3.1: Front-side view of the Sony ECM-B1M Digital Shotgun Microphone, highlighting its compact design and microphone capsule array.



Figure 3.2: A close-up view of the microphone's control panel, displaying various switches and the audio level dial.

Control Panel Overview (Refer to Figure 3.2)

- **DIGITAL / ANALOG Switch:** Selects the audio output mode. DIGITAL mode offers superior quality with compatible cameras.
- **Pickup Pattern Switch:** Allows selection of audio capture directionality.
 - **Super-directional (▲):** Focuses audio capture directly in front of the microphone, minimizing side and rear sounds.
 - **Uni-directional (△):** Captures sound primarily from the front, with some sensitivity to sides.
 - **Omni-directional (●):** Captures sound equally from all directions.
- **FILTER Switch:** Adjusts noise reduction.
 - **NC (Noise Cut):** Reduces ambient noise.
 - **LC (Low Cut):** Reduces low-frequency noise like wind or rumble.
 - **OFF:** Disables filtering.
- **ATT (Attenuation) Switch:** Reduces input sensitivity to prevent distortion from loud sounds.
 - **0dB:** No attenuation.
 - **10dB:** 10 decibel reduction.
 - **20dB:** 20 decibel reduction.
- **AUDIO LEVEL Dial:** Manually adjusts the audio recording level.

- **AUDIO LEVEL AUTO / MAN Switch:** Selects automatic or manual audio level control.

4. SETUP

4.1 Attaching to the Camera

1. Ensure your camera is powered off.
2. Slide the ECM-B1M microphone into the Multi Interface Shoe on your compatible Sony camera until it clicks into place.
3. Rotate the lock ring at the base of the microphone clockwise to secure it firmly.
4. Power on your camera. The camera should automatically detect the microphone.



Figure 4.1: Side view of the ECM-B1M, illustrating the Multi Interface Shoe connector for camera attachment.

4.2 Initial Settings

Before recording, configure the microphone settings based on your environment and recording needs:

- **DIGITAL / ANALOG:** For optimal audio quality with compatible cameras (e.g., Alpha 7R IV), set to **DIGITAL**. If your camera is not fully compatible or you prefer analog, select **ANALOG**. Note that some cameras may only support analog output from this microphone.
- **Pickup Pattern:** Choose **Super-directional** for interviews or focusing on a subject, **Uni-directional** for broader front coverage, or **Omni-directional** for capturing ambient sounds or multiple speakers around the camera.
- **FILTER:** Use **LC** to reduce low-frequency rumble or wind noise. Use **NC** for general ambient noise reduction. Set to **OFF** if no filtering is desired.
- **ATT:** If recording in a loud environment and experiencing audio distortion, switch to **10dB** or **20dB** attenuation.
- **AUDIO LEVEL:** For most situations, start with **AUTO**. For precise control, switch to **MAN** and adjust the dial while monitoring audio levels on your camera.

5. OPERATING THE MICROPHONE

Once attached and configured, the ECM-B1M integrates seamlessly with your camera's recording functions. Audio is recorded directly through the Multi Interface Shoe, eliminating the need for additional cables or batteries for the microphone itself.

5.1 Recording Audio

1. Ensure all settings on the microphone's control panel are appropriate for your recording scenario.
2. Monitor audio levels through your camera's display or headphones connected to the camera.
3. Begin recording on your camera as usual. The microphone will capture audio according to its current settings.

5.2 Using the Windscreen

For outdoor recording or in windy conditions, attach the included furry windscreen over the microphone capsules. This significantly reduces wind noise, improving audio clarity.

6. MAINTENANCE

6.1 Cleaning

- Wipe the microphone body with a soft, dry cloth.
- Do not use alcohol, benzene, thinners, or other volatile chemicals, as they may damage the finish.
- Clean the Multi Interface Shoe contacts on both the microphone and camera periodically with a dry cloth to ensure good connection.

6.2 Storage

- Store the microphone in its carrying case when not in use to protect it from dust and physical damage.
- Avoid storing in areas with extreme temperatures, high humidity, or direct sunlight.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your ECM-B1M microphone, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No audio or low audio level.	Microphone not securely attached. Incorrect audio level setting. Camera audio input settings incorrect.	Ensure microphone is fully seated and locked in the Multi Interface Shoe. Check AUDIO LEVEL switch (AUTO/MAN) and dial. Set to AUTO or adjust manually. Verify camera's audio recording settings.
Distorted audio.	Input level too high for loud sounds. Incorrect filter setting.	Engage ATT (10dB or 20dB) to reduce sensitivity. Ensure FILTER is not set to NC or LC if not needed, or experiment with settings.
Excessive wind noise or rumble.	No windscreen used. LC filter not engaged.	Attach the furry windscreen. Set FILTER to LC (Low Cut).
Handling noise is audible.	Vibrations transferred from camera. LC filter not engaged.	Minimize camera movement during recording. Use a tripod when possible. Engage LC filter to reduce low-frequency vibrations.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
"Device Incompatible" message on camera.	Camera not fully compatible with DIGITAL mode.	Switch the microphone to ANALOG mode. Consult your camera's manual for full compatibility details with the ECM-B1M.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	ECM-B1M
Microphone Form Factor	Shotgun
Polar Pattern	Hyper Cardioid (Super-directional), Uni-directional, Omni-directional
Connectivity Technology	Multi Interface Shoe (Digital/Analog)
Compatible Devices	Sony Cameras with Multi Interface Shoe
Power Source	Camera (via Multi Interface Shoe)
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	70.0 dB
Number of Channels	1
Color	Black
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	5.3 x 2.5 x 5.9 inches (approx.)
Item Weight	2.8 ounces (approx.)

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and customer support, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Sony support website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

