SHIMANO SL-M315-L

Shimano RAPIDFIRE Plus Shifting Lever SL-M315-L Instruction Manual

Model: SL-M315-L

Brand: SHIMANO

Introduction

Experience smooth, responsive shifting with the Shimano Altus SL-M315-L 3-Speed Left Rapidfire Plus Shifter. This component is designed for mountain biking, hybrid bikes, and various outdoor adventures, offering reliable performance and user-friendly design. It features precision engineering and innovative technologies to enhance your cycling experience.

Key Features

- **RAPIDFIRE Plus Technology:** Enables downshifting of three gears in a single stroke for rapid response during climbs or quick gear adjustments.
- **2WAY-RELEASE System:** Offers flexible shift release by either pulling the index finger or pushing with the thumb, reducing hand fatigue.
- **OPTISLICK Cables:** Proprietary cables with a minimal, electrically coated layer for efficient routing, superior corrosion resistance, and extended longevity.
- **Ergonomic Lever Shape:** Designed for comfortable and intuitive operation.
- **Numbered Gear Display:** Clear gear position display mounted below the handlebar for easy visibility.
- **Compatibility:** Designed to work seamlessly with Mountain components, compatible with double or triple chainring setups.

What's in the Box

- Shimano RAPIDFIRE Plus Shifting Lever (Left)

- Pre-installed Shifter Cable
- Cable End Cap

Setup and Installation

Proper installation of the SL-M315-L shifter is crucial for optimal performance and safety. If you are unsure about any steps, it is recommended to consult a professional bicycle mechanic.

1. **Handlebar Mounting:**

   Position the shifter on the left side of your handlebar. Ensure it is placed comfortably within reach of your thumb and index finger, typically inboard of the brake lever. Secure the shifter clamp to the handlebar using an appropriate hex key. Do not overtighten; tighten just enough to prevent rotation during use, allowing for minor adjustments if needed.



Image: The Shimano SL-M315-L shifter shown mounted on a bicycle handlebar, positioned to the left of the brake lever. The gear indicator is visible at the top.

2. **Cable Routing:**

   The shifter comes with a pre-installed OPTISLICK cable. Route this cable along your bicycle frame, securing it with cable ties or frame guides, towards the front derailleur. Ensure the cable path is smooth and free from sharp bends or kinks that could impede shifting performance.

3. **Connecting to Front Derailleur:**

   Attach the cable to your front derailleur according to the derailleur manufacturer's instructions. Ensure the cable is taut but not overly stretched before securing it. Trim any excess cable and install the provided cable end cap to prevent fraying.

4. **Initial Adjustment:**

   With the chain on the smallest chainring, adjust the low limit screw on your front derailleur so that the chain runs smoothly without rubbing. Shift to the largest chainring and adjust the high limit screw. Use the barrel adjuster on the shifter or derailleur to fine-tune cable tension, ensuring crisp shifts across all three chainrings.

Operation

The SL-M315-L shifter utilizes RAPIDFIRE Plus technology for efficient gear changes. It controls the front derailleur, allowing you to select between 3 chainrings.

- **Upshifting (to a larger chainring):** Push the main lever (the larger lever) with your thumb. This action pulls the cable, moving the chain to a larger chainring. The RAPIDFIRE Plus system allows for multiple shifts in a single stroke.
- **Downshifting (to a smaller chainring):** Use the smaller release lever. You can either pull this lever with your index finger or push it with your thumb (2WAY-RELEASE). This releases cable tension, moving the chain to a smaller chainring.
- **Gear Indicator:** The numbered display on the shifter indicates the currently selected chainring (1, 2, or 3).

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Video: Demonstration of the Shimano SL-M315-L shifter in operation, showing gear changes on a bicycle handlebar.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Shimano SL-M315-L shifter.

- **Cleaning:** Keep the shifter body and levers clean from dirt and debris. Use a damp cloth and mild soap if necessary. Avoid harsh chemicals.
- **Cable Inspection:** Periodically check the shifter cable for signs of fraying, rust, or kinks. Replace the cable if any damage is observed. Ensure the cable housing is also in good condition.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a small amount of light lubricant to the pivot points of the shifter levers and the exposed sections of the cable to ensure smooth operation. Avoid over-lubrication, which can attract dirt.
- **Adjustment Check:** Regularly check gear indexing. If shifting becomes sluggish or inaccurate, fine-tune the cable tension using the barrel adjuster.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Issue	Possible Cause	Solution
Shifting is sluggish or difficult.	Insufficient cable tension, dirty/frayed cable, stiff derailleur.	Increase cable tension with barrel adjuster. Clean and lubricate cable/housing or replace if damaged. Clean and lubricate front derailleur pivots.
Chain does not shift to a larger chainring.	Low cable tension, high limit screw too tight.	Increase cable tension. Loosen the high limit screw (H-screw) slightly.
Chain does not shift to a smaller chainring.	Excessive cable tension, low limit screw too tight.	Decrease cable tension. Loosen the low limit screw (L-screw) slightly.
Ghost shifting or unexpected gear changes.	Loose cable, bent derailleur hanger, worn chain/cassette.	Check cable attachment and tension. Inspect derailleur hanger for alignment. Consider replacing worn drivetrain components.

Specifications

Feature	Detail

Feature	Detail
Model Name	Altus SL-M315 Shift Lever
Part Number	ESLM315LB
Shifter Type	RAPIDFIRE Plus
Speed Compatibility	3-speed (Left)
Hand Orientation	Left
Material	Alloy Steel
Color	Silver (main body is black, levers are silver)
Product Dimensions (LxW)	5.99"L x 4.07"W
Item Weight	0.25 Pounds
Special Feature	Ergonomic, 2WAY-RELEASE
Cable Type	OPTISLICK Steel Cable

Warranty Information

The Shimano SL-M315-L Shifting Lever comes with a**Limited Warranty**. For specific details regarding warranty coverage, terms, and conditions, please refer to the official Shimano warranty documentation provided with your product or visit the official Shimano website.

Support and Contact

For further assistance, technical support, or to explore other Shimano products, please visit the official Shimano store or contact their customer service.
Official Shimano Store: SHIMANO Store on Amazon

Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

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Question

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

Details

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

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