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SHIMANO SL-M315-7R

Shimano SL-M315-7R Right 7-Speed Rapidfire Plus Bicycle Shifter Lever Instruction Manual

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your Shimano SL-M315-7R Right 7-Speed Rapidfire Plus Bicycle Shifter Lever. Please read this manual thoroughly before use to ensure proper function and longevity of your product. This shifter is designed for precise and reliable gear changes on 7-speed bicycle drivetrains.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Shimano SL-M315-7R is a right-hand shifter designed for 7-speed bicycle systems. It features RAPIDFIRE PLUS technology for quick and efficient gear changes, allowing downshifts of up to three gears in one stroke. The optical gear display provides a clear indication of the current gear position. The shifter includes Shimano OPTISLICK cables for improved routing efficiency and corrosion resistance.



Image 1: The Shimano SL-M315-7R Right 7-Speed Rapidfire Plus Shifter. This image shows the complete shifter unit with its two levers for upshifting and downshifting, and the optical gear display indicating the current gear (7 in this view). The Shimano logo is visible on the main body.

KEY FEATURES

- **Slim Main Lever Body:** Ergonomically designed for comfortable and efficient use.
- **Optical Gear Display:** Positioned below the handlebar, it clearly indicates the current gear at a glance.
- **Shimano OPTISLICK Cables:** Features a minimal and uniform electrically coated layer for improved cable routing efficiency and excellent corrosion resistance.
- **RAPIDFIRE PLUS Technology:** Designed for quick shifting, allowing riders to downshift up to three gears in a single stroke.
- **2WAY-RELEASE:** Shifts can be released by pulling with the index finger or pushing with the thumb, offering versatile operation.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for optimal performance. If you are unsure about any steps, it is recommended to seek assistance from a qualified bicycle mechanic.

Tools Required:

- Allen wrenches (3mm, 4mm, 5mm)
- 10mm socket wrench
- Flat-blade screwdriver
- Wire cutter
- Pliers or crimper
- Silicone spray (optional, for cable housing lubrication)
- Bicycle repair stand (recommended)

Installation Steps:

- Preparation:** Place your bicycle on a repair stand. Shift the existing shifter to the highest gear (smallest sprocket). Take photos of the current cable routing from the shifter to the derailleur, paying close attention to how the housing is secured.
- Remove Old Components:** Loosen and remove the old grip, brake lever, and shifter from the handlebar. At the rear derailleur, loosen the screw clamping the cable, cut the cable tip, and pull the cable free from the derailleur and housing.
- Install New Shifter:** Clamp the new Shimano SL-M315-7R shifter onto the handlebar in a comfortable position and tighten it with an Allen wrench.
- Route New Cable:** Carefully thread the new shifter cable through the cable housing. Ensure the housing pieces are correctly inserted into their brackets along the bike frame, referring to your reference photos.
- Connect to Derailleur:** At the rear derailleur, pull the cable taut and secure it under the clamp with the 10mm socket wrench. Ensure the cable housing is properly seated.
- Adjust Shifting:** Test the shifting by pedaling the bike and operating the shifter. Fine-tune the derailleur adjustment if necessary to achieve smooth and precise gear changes.
- Secure Cable End:** Cut any excess cable, leaving about 2 inches. Slide the included cable end cap onto the cut end and crimp it with pliers to prevent fraying.
- Install Brake Lever:** Reinstall your brake lever on the handlebar, positioning it comfortably next to the new shifter.

Video 1: This video demonstrates the process of upgrading a bicycle's derailleur to a Shimano Altus model, highlighting the improved shifting performance. It shows the rear derailleur and cassette, and discusses the benefits of the upgrade.

Video 2: This video provides a detailed guide on installing a 7-speed shifter, including steps for removing the old shifter, routing the new cable, and making adjustments for smooth operation. It emphasizes the ease of installation for this type of shifter.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The Shimano SL-M315-7R shifter is designed for intuitive and precise gear changes. It features two levers for shifting up and down through the 7 gears.

- Downshifting (to a lower gear/larger sprocket):** Use the thumb lever. Pressing the thumb lever will shift the chain to a larger sprocket, making pedaling easier. RAPIDFIRE PLUS allows for multiple gear changes with a single, longer press.
- Upshifting (to a higher gear/smaller sprocket):** Use the index finger lever. Pulling the index finger lever will shift the chain to a smaller sprocket, making pedaling harder but allowing for higher speeds. The 2WAY-RELEASE feature allows you to pull the lever with your index finger or push it with your thumb for upshifting.
- Optical Gear Display:** Refer to the clear numbered display to see which gear you are currently in.

Always ensure you are pedaling lightly when shifting gears to prevent strain on the drivetrain and ensure smooth transitions.

Video 3: This video provides a detailed guide on installing a 7-speed shifter, including steps for removing the old shifter, routing the new cable, and making adjustments for smooth operation. It emphasizes the ease of installation for this type of

shifter.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and extends the life of your shifter.

- **Cable Inspection:** Periodically check the shifter cable for fraying, kinks, or corrosion. Replace the cable if any damage is observed.
- **Cable Lubrication:** Apply a small amount of bicycle-specific cable lubricant to the inner cable where it enters the housing. This reduces friction and improves shifting smoothness.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the shifter body and levers clean from dirt and debris. Use a damp cloth to wipe them down. Avoid using harsh chemicals that could damage the plastic components.
- **Adjustment Check:** Regularly check that the gears shift smoothly and precisely. If shifting becomes sluggish or inaccurate, re-adjust the derailleur tension.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Shifting is sluggish or difficult.	Friction in cable housing, stretched cable, misaligned derailleur.	Lubricate cables, adjust cable tension, check derailleur alignment. Replace cable if worn.
Gears skip or jump.	Incorrect cable tension, worn chain/cassette, bent derailleur hanger.	Adjust cable tension, inspect and replace worn drivetrain components, check and straighten derailleur hanger.
Shifter lever feels loose or unresponsive.	Internal mechanism issue, broken cable.	Inspect cable for breakage. If cable is intact, the shifter may require professional service or replacement.

Specifications

Attribute	Detail
Brand	SHIMANO
Model Number	SL-M315-7R
Speed	7-Speed
Hand Orientation	Right
Shifter Type	Rapidfire Plus
Material	Plastic, Aluminum
Color	Black
Included Components	Shimano OPTISLICK Cables
Item Weight	4 ounces (0.25 Pounds)

Attribute	Detail
Product Dimensions	5.87" L x 4.07" W

WARRANTY INFORMATION

This Shimano product comes with a **Limited Warranty**. For specific details regarding coverage, duration, and claims process, please refer to the official Shimano warranty documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Shimano website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty validation.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or inquiries about your Shimano SL-M315-7R shifter, please contact Shimano customer service through their official website or authorized dealers. You can also visit the [SHIMANO Store on Amazon](#) for product information and resources.