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SHIMANO ST-EF500-2L

Shimano ST-EF500-2L Shift/Brake Lever User Manual

Model: ST-EF500-2L (ESTEF50024LVSBL)

1. Introduction

This manual provides instructions for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of the Shimano ST-EF500-2L Shift/Brake Lever. This component is designed for the left side of the handlebar, controlling a 2-speed front derailleur and a V-brake system. Read these instructions thoroughly before use to ensure correct assembly and safe operation.



Image 1.1: The Shimano ST-EF500-2L Left 2-Speed Shift/Brake Lever. This image shows the complete unit, including the shift mechanism with its optical gear display, the brake lever, and the mounting clamp.

2. Safety Information

Always prioritize safety when working with bicycle components. Incorrect installation or adjustment can lead to serious injury. If you are unsure about any part of the installation or adjustment process, consult a professional bicycle mechanic.

- Ensure all bolts are tightened to the manufacturer's specified torque settings.
- Verify that brake and shift cables are routed correctly and operate smoothly.
- Regularly inspect components for wear or damage. Replace worn parts immediately.
- Always wear appropriate safety gear when riding.

3. Setup and Installation

3.1 Mounting the Lever

1. Loosen the clamp bolt on the lever body.
2. Slide the lever onto the left side of the handlebar. Position it ergonomically for comfortable reach and operation of both the shift and brake levers.
3. Tighten the clamp bolt securely. Do not overtighten.

3.2 Connecting Shift Cables

1. Shift the lever to the highest gear (smallest chainring position for a 2-speed front derailleur).
2. Insert the shift cable end into the designated slot on the lever body.
3. Route the cable through the housing and attach it to the front derailleur according to the derailleur's instructions.
4. Adjust cable tension using the barrel adjuster on the lever or derailleur for smooth shifting.

3.3 Connecting Brake Cables

1. Ensure the brake lever is in its resting position.
2. Insert the brake cable end into the lever body.
3. Route the cable through the housing and attach it to the V-brake caliper according to the brake's instructions.
4. Adjust cable tension to achieve proper brake lever feel and pad clearance. Ensure the brake pads contact the rim evenly.
5. *Note: This lever is compatible with V-brakes and requires a power modulator for optimal performance and safety.*

3.4 Reach Adjustment

The lever features a reach adjust mechanism to customize the distance from the handlebar to the brake lever. Locate the adjustment screw (typically on the underside of the lever body) and turn it to achieve a comfortable reach for your hand size.

4. Operating Instructions

4.1 Shifting Gears

- The ST-EF500-2L is a 2-speed left shifter, controlling the front derailleur.
- To shift to a **higher gear** (larger chainring), press the main lever (the larger lever).
- To shift to a **lower gear** (smaller chainring), press the release lever (the smaller lever, typically located closer to the handlebar).
- The optical gear display provides a visual indication of the currently selected gear.
- Shift gears only when pedaling forward to ensure smooth transitions and prevent damage to the drivetrain.

4.2 Braking

- The 4-finger brake lever provides control for the front V-brake.
- Apply pressure to the brake lever to engage the brake. Increase pressure for greater stopping power.
- Always apply both front and rear brakes simultaneously for balanced stopping. Avoid sudden, hard application of only the front brake, especially at high speeds or on loose surfaces, as this can cause loss of control.

5. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and extends the lifespan of your shift/brake lever.

- **Cleaning:** Wipe down the lever body and cables with a clean, damp cloth. Avoid using harsh chemicals that could damage plastic or painted surfaces.
- **Cable Inspection:** Periodically check shift and brake cables for fraying, kinks, or corrosion. Replace damaged cables and housing promptly.
- **Lubrication:** Apply a small amount of bicycle-specific lubricant to the pivot points of the brake lever and the internal shift mechanism (if accessible) to ensure smooth operation. Do not over-lubricate.
- **Adjustments:** Regularly check and adjust brake and shift cable tension as needed to maintain precise shifting and effective braking.

6. Troubleshooting

6.1 Shifting Issues

- **Difficulty shifting or slow shifts:** Check cable tension. Too loose, and the derailleur may not move enough; too tight, and it may overshift. Inspect cables and housing for friction or damage.
- **Ghost shifting or unwanted shifts:** Ensure cable tension is correct and the derailleur limit screws are properly set.

6.2 Braking Issues

- **Weak braking power:** Check brake pad wear and alignment. Ensure brake cables are not frayed or stretched. Verify proper cable tension.
- **Spongy brake lever feel:** This often indicates too much slack in the brake cable. Adjust cable tension at the lever or caliper.
- **Brakes rubbing:** Check brake pad alignment and ensure the wheel is properly seated in the dropouts. Adjust cable tension to provide adequate clearance.

For persistent issues, it is recommended to consult a qualified bicycle mechanic.

7. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	SHIMANO
Model Number	ESTEF50024LVSBL
Hand Orientation	Left
Speed Compatibility	2-Speed (Front)

Brake Type Compatibility	V-Brake (requires power modulator)
Material	Aluminum
Features	EZ Fire Plus Technology, Optical Gear Display, Reach Adjust Mechanism
Product Dimensions	7.91"L x 5.03"W
Item Weight	0.43 Pounds
UPC	192790689951

8. Warranty Information

This Shimano product is covered by a Limited Warranty. For specific details regarding warranty coverage, terms, and conditions, please refer to the official Shimano warranty documentation provided with your purchase or visit the official Shimano website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

9. Support

If you encounter issues that cannot be resolved using this manual, or if you require professional assistance with installation or repair, please contact your local authorized Shimano dealer or a certified bicycle mechanic. Do not attempt repairs beyond your technical capability, as this may void your warranty or lead to unsafe operation.
For further product information and technical documents, please visit the official Shimano website.

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