

microSHIFT RD-M5180M

microSHIFT Acolyte Rear Derailleur

8 SPEED | MEDIUM CAGE | MODEL: RD-M5180M

User Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

The microSHIFT Acolyte Rear Derailleur (Model RD-M5180M) is designed for 8-speed bicycle drivetrains, offering reliable and responsive shifting performance. This non-clutch version is an excellent choice for commuter or touring bikes utilizing a wide-range 1x gearing system. It features direct path cable routing for smooth operation and is compatible with 12-42T and 12-46T 9-speed cassettes (when paired with an Advent 9-speed shifter) or 8-speed cassettes (with Acolyte 8-speed shifters).

2. KEY FEATURES

- **Direct Path Cable Routing:** Ensures smooth and responsive shifting by minimizing cable friction.
- **Wide Cassette Compatibility:** Supports 12-42T and 12-46T 9-speed cassettes (requires Advent 9-speed shifter) in addition to standard 8-speed cassettes.
- **Dedicated Shifter Compatibility:** Designed to work seamlessly with Acolyte 8-speed or Advent 9-speed shifters only.
- **Durable Construction:** Made with aluminum components for lightweight strength and longevity.
- **Medium Cage Length:** Optimized for a balance of chain wrap capacity and ground clearance.

3. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

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

3.1. Tools Required

- Hex wrenches (various sizes, typically 5mm)
- Cable cutters
- Chain tool

- B-tension adjustment tool (if applicable)
- Torque wrench (recommended)

3.2. Installation Steps

1. **Mounting the Derailleur:** Attach the derailleur to the derailleur hanger on your bicycle frame. Ensure it is securely tightened to the manufacturer's recommended torque specifications.
2. **Cable Routing:** Route the shifter cable from your compatible microSHIFT Acolyte or Advent shifter to the derailleur. The direct path cable routing design means the cable should run as straight as possible to the anchor bolt. Secure the cable firmly at the anchor bolt.
3. **Chain Installation:** Install your bicycle chain. Ensure the chain passes correctly behind the jockey cage. When viewed from the side, a small portion of the chain should be visible between the jockey wheels. Avoid routing the chain through the channel between the wheels, as this will cause rubbing.
4. **Limit Screw Adjustment:** The derailleur features 'H' (High) and 'L' (Low) limit screws. These screws prevent the derailleur from shifting the chain off the smallest or largest cogs. Adjust them carefully to ensure smooth movement within the cassette range without over-shifting.
5. **B-Tension Adjustment:** Adjust the B-tension screw to set the proper distance between the upper jockey wheel and the largest cog of your cassette. This distance is critical for smooth shifting across the entire cassette range.
6. **Indexing Adjustment:** With the chain on the smallest cog, shift one click at a time, adjusting cable tension at the shifter or inline barrel adjuster until each shift is crisp and precise.



Figure 1: Front view of the microSHIFT Acolyte Rear Derailleur, showing the main body and cage.



Figure 2: Side view of the derailleur, highlighting the medium cage and jockey wheels.

4. OPERATING YOUR DERAILLEUR

Once installed and adjusted, operating your microSHIFT Acolyte derailleur is straightforward. Use your compatible microSHIFT shifter to change gears. The direct path cable routing ensures a smooth and responsive feel.

4.1. Shifting Techniques

- **Anticipate Shifts:** Shift gears before encountering a steep climb or descent to maintain momentum and reduce stress on the drivetrain.
- **Light Pedal Pressure:** Briefly ease off pedal pressure while shifting to allow the chain to move smoothly between cogs.
- **Avoid Cross-Chaining:** Do not use the largest front chainring with the largest rear cog, or the smallest front chainring with the smallest rear cog. This extreme chain angle can cause premature wear and inefficient power transfer.



Figure 3: Close-up view of the microSHIFT Acolyte branding on the derailleur body.

5. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance will extend the life of your derailleur and ensure consistent performance.

- **Cleaning:** Keep the derailleur, especially the jockey wheels and cage, free from dirt and grime. Use a brush and a degreaser specifically designed for bicycle components.
- **Lubrication:** Periodically apply a small amount of bicycle-specific lubricant to the pivot points of the derailleur and the jockey wheel bearings. Avoid over-lubricating, which can attract dirt.
- **Inspection:** Regularly check for any signs of damage, wear, or looseness in the mounting bolt, limit screws, and jockey wheels. Ensure the derailleur hanger is straight.
- **Cable and Housing:** Inspect the shifter cable and housing for fraying, kinks, or contamination. Replace them if necessary, as damaged cables can significantly impair shifting performance.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are some common issues and their potential solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Poor or slow shifting	Incorrect cable tension, dirty cable/housing, bent derailleur hanger, worn chain/cassette	Adjust cable tension using barrel adjuster, clean/replace cable and housing, check/straighten hanger, inspect and replace worn drivetrain components
Chain rubs on derailleur cage	Incorrect limit screw adjustment, bent derailleur hanger, B-tension incorrect	Adjust H or L limit screws, check/straighten hanger, adjust B-tension screw
Chain falls off smallest/largest cog	Incorrect limit screw adjustment	Adjust H (High) or L (Low) limit screws to prevent over-shifting
Noisy operation	Lack of lubrication, dirt, worn jockey wheels, misaligned B-tension	Clean and lubricate, replace jockey wheels if worn, adjust B-tension

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Detail
Brand	microSHIFT
Model Name	RD-M5180M
Drivetrain Speeds	8-Speed
Cage Length	Medium
Rear Derailleur Mount Type	10x1 Standard (Braze-On Mount)
Largest Cog Compatibility	Up to 46T
Chain Wrap Capacity	41 teeth
Color	Black
Material	Aluminum
Item Weight	0.38 Kilograms
Item Package Dimensions	7.05 x 5.51 x 2.99 inches

8. WARRANTY INFORMATION

The microSHIFT Acolyte Rear Derailleur comes with a Limited Warranty. For specific details regarding the terms, conditions, and duration of the warranty, please refer to the official microSHIFT website or contact their customer support

directly. Retain your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

9. CUSTOMER SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical inquiries, or to report any issues not covered in this manual, please visit the official microSHIFT website. You can typically find detailed FAQs, additional product documentation, and contact information for their customer support team there.

© 2024 microSHIFT. All rights reserved.

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.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

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.

Submit question