

[Manuals.plus](#) /

› [Shure](#) /

› Shure SM7dB Dynamic Vocal Microphone User Manual

Shure SM7dB

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Model: SM7dB

Brand: Shure

INTRODUCTION

The Shure SM7dB is a dynamic vocal microphone designed for professional audio applications such as streaming, podcasting, and recording. It features a built-in active preamp, offering up to +28 dB of clean gain, maintaining the classic sound signature of the original SM7B while simplifying your audio setup. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your SM7dB microphone.



Image: The Shure SM7dB microphone, a black cylindrical microphone with a foam windscreen, mounted on a yoke, ready for use.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Upon unboxing your Shure SM7dB, you should find the following components:

- SM7dB microphone
- Close-Talk Windscreen (pre-installed or separate)
- 3/8" Thread Adapter



Image: The Shure SM7dB microphone, its retail packaging, and an additional foam windscreen, laid out on a surface.

KEY FEATURES

The SM7dB incorporates several features designed to enhance your audio production:

- **Legendary Sound:** Delivers the warm, smooth tone characteristic of the original SM7B.
- **Built-in Preamp:** Provides up to +28 dB of low-noise, flat, transparent gain, requiring only +48V phantom power from your interface or mixer.
- **Gain Level Selection:** Choose between +18dB or +28dB gain from the preamp, or bypass it entirely.
- **Preamp Bypass Switch:** Allows you to disengage the built-in preamp for original SM7B performance.
- **Wide Frequency Response:** Captures detailed audio across a 50 to 20,000Hz range.
- **Cardioid Polar Pattern:** Excellent rear-rejection isolates your voice from background noise.
- **EQ Controls:** Switches on the microphone's rear allow for bass roll-off or presence boost to tailor your sound.

SHURE

SM7dB | 5 REASONS TO BUY



1

Same sound signature as the original SM7B

2

Built-In Preamp provides up to +28 dB of gain

3

Compatible with virtually any XLR interface when preamp is activate

4

EQ Controls for Bass-Roll Off and Mid-Range Emphasis

5

Reduces the number of periphal products needed to get that iconic SM7B sound

Image: A graphic illustrating five key features of the Shure SM7dB, including its sound signature, built-in preamp, XLR compatibility, EQ controls, and simplified setup.

SETUP

1. Mounting the Microphone:

Attach the SM7dB to a microphone stand or boom arm using the integrated yoke mount. Ensure it is securely fastened. The 3/8" thread adapter can be used for compatibility with various stands.



Image: A side view of the Shure SM7dB microphone, showing its mounting bracket and the XLR connector area.

2. **Connecting to an Audio Interface/Mixer:**

Connect an XLR cable from the SM7dB's output to an XLR input on your audio interface or mixer. The SM7dB requires +48V phantom power to activate its built-in preamp. Ensure phantom power is enabled on the connected input.

3. **Preamp Gain Setting:**

Locate the preamp gain switch on the rear of the microphone. You can select +18dB or +28dB of gain. For louder sound sources, +18dB or bypassing the preamp may be sufficient. For quiet vocals or podcasting, +28dB is recommended.



Image: A close-up view of the rear panel of the Shure SM7dB, clearly showing the preamp gain switches (+18dB, +28dB, bypass) and the EQ contour switches (bass roll-off, presence boost).

4. Preamp Bypass:

If you prefer to use an external preamp or desire the original SM7B output level, set the switch to "bypass". This disengages the internal preamp.

OPERATING THE MICROPHONE

1. Positioning:

For vocal applications, position the microphone close to the sound source (e.g., 6-12 inches from the mouth) to take advantage of the proximity effect and cardioid pattern for optimal sound isolation.



Image: A person wearing headphones, speaking into a Shure SM7dB microphone mounted on a boom arm, illustrating typical usage for recording or streaming.

2. EQ Adjustment:

Utilize the bass roll-off and presence boost switches on the rear of the microphone to shape the frequency response according to your preference or the specific vocal/instrument characteristics. Experiment with these settings to find your ideal tone.



Image: An angled view of the Shure SM7dB microphone, highlighting the rear panel with its EQ contour switches and preamp controls.

3. Monitoring:

Always monitor your audio through headphones or studio monitors to ensure proper gain staging and sound quality. Adjust the input gain on your interface/mixer as needed, keeping in mind the SM7dB's preamp setting.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the microphone. Avoid using liquid cleaners or solvents.
- **Windscreen Care:** The foam windscreen can be gently removed and cleaned with mild soap and water if necessary. Ensure it is completely dry before reattaching.
- **Storage:** Store the microphone in a dry, dust-free environment when not in use.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound output	- No +48V phantom power - Incorrect cable connection - Preamp bypass engaged with insufficient external gain	- Ensure +48V phantom power is enabled on your interface/mixer. - Verify XLR cable is securely connected at both ends. - If preamp is bypassed, ensure your external preamp provides sufficient gain.
Low output level	- Preamp gain set to +18dB for a quiet source - Preamp bypassed - Low input gain on interface/mixer	- Switch preamp gain to +28dB. - Engage the preamp (+18dB or +28dB). - Increase input gain on your audio interface or mixer.
Unwanted background noise	- Microphone too far from source - Room acoustics - Electrical interference	- Position microphone closer to the sound source. - Improve room treatment if possible. - Check for ground loops or faulty cables.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Recommended Uses	Streaming, Podcast, & Recording
Brand	Shure
Model Name	SM7DB
Connectivity Technology	XLR
Connector Type	XLR
Special Feature	Built in Preamp
Compatible Devices	Amplifier, Laptop, Personal Computer, Speaker, Tablet
Color	Black
Included Components	Large Foam Windscreen
Polar Pattern	Unidirectional (Cardioid)
Frequency Response	50 to 20,000Hz

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Shure website or contact their customer service. You can find more information about Shure products and support resources by visiting the [Shure Store on Amazon](#).

The product typically comes with a manufacturer's warranty. Please retain your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

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