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SHIMANO BL-MT501L

Shimano Deore BL-MT501 Left Hand Disc Brake Lever User Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of your Shimano Deore BL-MT501 left hand disc brake lever. Please read this manual thoroughly before use to ensure safe and correct handling of the product. Keep this manual for future reference.

The Shimano Deore BL-MT501 is a high-performance hydraulic disc brake lever designed for mountain bikes, featuring I-spec-II compatibility for integrated shifter mounting and a durable aluminum construction.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

- **Professional Installation Recommended:** If you are unsure about any installation steps, it is highly recommended to have the brake lever installed by a qualified bicycle mechanic.
- **Brake System Compatibility:** Ensure this brake lever is compatible with your existing hydraulic disc brake caliper and hose system. Incompatible components can lead to brake failure.
- **Brake Fluid:** Use only genuine Shimano mineral oil for hydraulic brake systems. Do not mix different types of brake fluid.
- **Tightening Torque:** Always use a torque wrench to tighten bolts to the specified torque values. Overtightening or undertightening can cause damage or failure.
- **Test Brakes:** After installation, always test the brakes thoroughly before riding. Ensure proper braking function and lever feel.
- **Regular Inspection:** Periodically inspect the brake lever, hose, and caliper for any signs of damage, wear, or fluid leaks.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all items are present in the package:

- 1 x Shimano Deore BL-MT501 Left Hand Disc Brake Lever (Black)
- Mounting hardware (e.g., clamp band bolt)

Note: Brake hose, caliper, and brake fluid are typically sold separately or as part of a complete brake set.

4. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

The BL-MT501 lever is designed for left-hand operation and features a clamp band attachment for secure mounting to your handlebar. It is also I-spec-II compatible, allowing for direct mounting of compatible shifters.



Figure 1: Shimano Deore BL-MT501 Left Hand Disc Brake Lever. This image shows the black aluminum lever body, the lever blade, and the clamp band mechanism for handlebar attachment.

4.1 Mounting the Brake Lever

1. **Positioning:** Slide the brake lever onto the left side of your handlebar. Position it so that the lever blade is easily accessible and comfortable for your hand.
2. **Tightening:** Using a 5mm hex wrench, tighten the clamp band bolt. Refer to Shimano's official technical documentation for the precise torque specification (typically around 6-8 Nm). Ensure the lever is securely fastened but can still be rotated with firm pressure in case of a crash.
3. **I-spec-II Integration (Optional):** If using an I-spec-II compatible shifter, align the shifter with the designated mounting point on the brake lever and secure it according to the shifter's instructions.

4.2 Connecting the Hydraulic Hose

Connect the hydraulic brake hose to the lever body. This process typically involves cutting the hose to the correct length, installing a barb and olive, and securing it to the lever. Refer to the specific instructions provided with your Shimano hydraulic brake hose and caliper for detailed steps on hose connection and bleeding the brake system.

4.3 Bleeding the Brake System

After connecting the hose, the hydraulic brake system must be properly bled to remove any air and ensure optimal braking performance. This procedure requires specific tools (e.g., bleed funnel, bleed block, mineral oil) and should be performed carefully. Consult the comprehensive Shimano hydraulic disc brake bleeding instructions for your specific caliper model.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The BL-MT501 brake lever operates by compressing hydraulic fluid, which in turn actuates the brake caliper to slow or stop the bicycle.

5.1 Basic Operation

- **Squeeze the Lever:** Apply pressure to the lever blade with your fingers to engage the brake. The amount of pressure applied directly correlates to the braking force.

- **Modulation:** Practice modulating your braking force to control speed effectively without locking up the wheel.

5.2 Lever Reach Adjustment

The BL-MT501 lever features a reach adjustment screw, typically located on the front side of the lever body, near the pivot. This allows you to adjust the distance of the lever blade from the handlebar to suit your hand size and preference.

- **Adjusting Reach:** Use a small hex wrench (usually 2mm or 2.5mm) to turn the reach adjustment screw. Turning it clockwise typically moves the lever closer to the handlebar, while counter-clockwise moves it further away.
- **Optimal Position:** Adjust the reach so that you can comfortably reach and fully pull the lever with your fingers, ensuring full braking power.

6. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your brake lever.

- **Cleaning:** Clean the lever body and blade with a soft cloth and mild soap and water. Avoid using harsh chemicals or solvents that could damage the finish or seals.
- **Fluid Level Check:** Periodically check the brake fluid level in the reservoir. If the level is low or the fluid appears contaminated, the system may need bleeding or a fluid change. Refer to the full brake system manual for details.
- **Lever Pivot:** Keep the lever pivot clean and free of debris. A small amount of light grease can be applied to the pivot point if it becomes stiff, but avoid getting grease on the brake pads or rotor.
- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect the lever for any cracks, bends, or excessive play. Check the clamp bolt for tightness.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your brake lever, consider the following common problems and solutions:

- **Spongy Lever Feel:** This often indicates air in the hydraulic system. The brake system will need to be bled.
- **Poor Braking Power:** Check for air in the system, contaminated brake pads or rotor, or worn brake pads. Ensure the caliper is properly aligned.
- **Fluid Leaks:** Inspect the hose connections, lever body, and caliper for any signs of fluid leakage. Leaks require immediate attention and repair by a qualified mechanic.
- **Stiff Lever:** Ensure the lever pivot is clean. If the issue persists, the internal mechanism may require inspection by a professional.

For complex issues or if you are unsure about repairs, consult a professional bicycle mechanic.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	SHIMANO
Model Number	BL-MT501L
Hand Orientation	Left
Color	Black
Material	Aluminum
Handle Compatibility	Shimano I-spec II
Handle Attachment Mechanism	Clamp Band
Item Weight	1.76 ounces (0.05 Kilograms)
Product Dimensions	9.45"L x 7.87"W (Approximate)
Special Feature	Easy to Install

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

This Shimano product is covered by the manufacturer's standard warranty. For specific warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Shimano website.

For technical support, spare parts, or further assistance, please contact your local authorized Shimano dealer or visit the Shimano global website for contact information and service centers.