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Shure SM4-K

Shure SM4 Studio Recording Microphone User Manual

Model: SM4-K

1. Introduction

The Shure SM4 Studio Recording Microphone is designed to deliver professional-grade audio for vocals and instruments in home studio environments. Featuring a 1-inch brass dual-diaphragm capsule, it provides clean, controlled low-end frequencies and detailed highs for natural sound reproduction. Its patent-pending interference shielding technology blocks unwanted RF noise, ensuring pristine recordings. The robust all-metal construction ensures durability, making it a reliable choice for various recording needs.
This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your SM4 microphone to ensure optimal performance.

2. What's in the Box

Upon unboxing your Shure SM4, verify that all components are present:

- SM4 Microphone
- A4M Swivel-Mount Microphone Clamp
- Brass Mic Stand Adapter
- Zippered Pouch



Figure 2.1: Shure SM4 Microphone and included accessories (Swivel Mount Mic Clamp, Zippered Carrying Bag) as packaged in the box.

3. Setup

3.1 Connecting the Microphone

The Shure SM4 is an XLR condenser microphone and requires phantom power to operate. Ensure your audio interface or mixer provides +48V phantom power.

1. Attach the A4M Swivel-Mount Microphone Clamp to a compatible microphone stand.
2. Securely mount the SM4 Microphone into the swivel-mount clamp.
3. Connect a standard XLR cable (not included) from the SM4 microphone to an XLR input on your audio interface or mixer.
4. Activate the +48V phantom power on your audio interface or mixer. Refer to your interface/mixer's manual for specific instructions.

▶ **Watch video online**
Shure SM4 Studio Recording Microphone - Spotlight

Video 3.1: Shure SM4 Studio Recording Microphone - Overview. This video provides a visual guide to the microphone's features and setup.

3.2 Optimal Placement

The SM4 features a uniform cardioid polar pattern, which provides superior off-axis rejection of unwanted noise. For best results, position the microphone directly in front of the sound source.

- **Vocals:** Position the microphone 6-12 inches from the vocalist's mouth. The integrated pop filter helps minimize plosives.
- **Instruments:** For acoustic instruments, experiment with distance and angle to capture the desired tone. The microphone's high-SPL handling (up to 140dB) allows it to record loud instruments without distortion.



Figure 3.1: Shure SM4 microphone set up for vocal recording, demonstrating its sleek design and placement.



Figure 3.2: Shure SM4 microphone positioned for recording an acoustic guitar, highlighting its versatility for instruments.

4. Operating the Microphone

4.1 Sound Quality and Features

The SM4 is engineered for mix-ready audio, reducing the need for extensive post-production. Its 1-inch brass dual-diaphragm capsule consistently reproduces every element of your performance with remarkable accuracy and exceptional low-frequency control.

- **Interference Shielding Technology:** The microphone incorporates patent-pending technology to block unwanted RF noise from wireless devices like cellphones, laptops, and Wi-Fi routers, ensuring cleaner audio.
- **Integrated Pop Filter:** An internal pop filter and woven mesh Faraday cage minimize plosive sounds and protect against unwanted noise, contributing to clear audio capture.
- **Reduced Proximity Effect:** Designed with a large "sweet spot," the SM4 reduces the proximity effect, offering more consistent audio quality even when close-miking.

▶ **Watch video online**
Shure SM4 Studio Recording Microphone - Technical

Video 4.1: Shure SM4 Studio Recording Microphone - Technical. This video delves into the technical aspects and internal components of the microphone.

5. Maintenance

The Shure SM4 is built with rugged, all-metal construction for legendary durability. To ensure its longevity and optimal performance:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the microphone body. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive materials.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the microphone in its zippered pouch to protect it from dust and physical damage.
- **Handling:** While durable, avoid dropping the microphone or subjecting it to excessive force, as this can damage internal components.

6. Troubleshooting

6.1 Common Issues and Solutions

Issue	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound Output	Phantom power not activated. Faulty XLR cable. Incorrect input selection on interface/mixer.	Ensure +48V phantom power is enabled. Try a different XLR cable. Verify the correct input is selected.
Humming/Buzzing Noise	RF interference from nearby devices. Ground loop issue.	Move wireless devices away from the microphone. Ensure all equipment is on the same power circuit or use a ground loop isolator.
Distorted Audio	Input gain too high. Sound source too loud for microphone.	Reduce the input gain on your interface/mixer. Increase distance from the sound source.

▶ **Watch video online**

Video 6.1: Shure SM4 Studio Recording Microphone - Overview (Preview). This short preview highlights key features that contribute to clean audio, which can help in troubleshooting noise issues.

7. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Name	SM4-K
Brand	Shure

Feature	Detail
Connectivity Technology	XLR
Connector Type	XLR
Polar Pattern	Unidirectional (Cardioid)
Audio Sensitivity	140 dB (Max SPL)
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	75 dB
Power Source	Phantom Power (+48V required)
Material	All-Metal Construction
Item Weight	1.78 Pounds
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	10.03 x 4.65 x 3.15 inches
Special Feature	RF Interference Protection, Integrated Pop Filter

8. Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please visit the official Shure website or contact their customer service. Keep your purchase receipt for warranty claims.
Official Shure Website: www.shure.com

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