



SM57

Instrument Microphone

Manual for the Shure SM57 unidirectional dynamic microphone
Version: 3.3 (2024-F)

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SM57

Instrument Microphone

General Description

The Shure SM57 unidirectional dynamic microphone is exceptional for musical instrument pickup or for vocals. With its bright, clean sound and carefully contoured presence rise, the SM57 is ideal for live sound reinforcement and recording. It has an extremely effective cardioid pickup pattern which isolates the main sound source while minimizing background noise. In the studio, it is excellent for recording drums, guitar, and woodwinds. For musical instruments or vocals, the SM57 is a consistent choice of professional performers.

Placement

General Rules for Use

- Aim the microphone toward the desired sound source (such as the talker, singer, or instrument) and away from unwanted sources.
- Place the microphone as close as practical to the desired sound source.
- Work close to the microphone for extra bass response.
- Use only one microphone to pick up a single sound source.
- Use the fewest number of microphones as practical.
- Keep the distance between microphones at least three times the distance from each microphone to its source.
- Place microphones as far as possible from reflective surfaces.
- Add a windscreen when using the microphone outdoors.
- Avoid excessive handling to minimize pickup of mechanical noise and vibration.
- Do not cover any part of the microphone grille with your hand, as this will adversely affect microphone performance.

Note: The grille on top of the microphone should rotate freely. This is part of the design and does *not* mean the grille is broken. In certain applications (such as close-miking drums) an audible rattle might occur. A windscreen or a very small piece of foam wedged under the grille can eliminate this problem, but do not apply tape or otherwise cover or block the grille vents, as this disrupts the directionality of the microphone. Please visit the Shure website for more information.

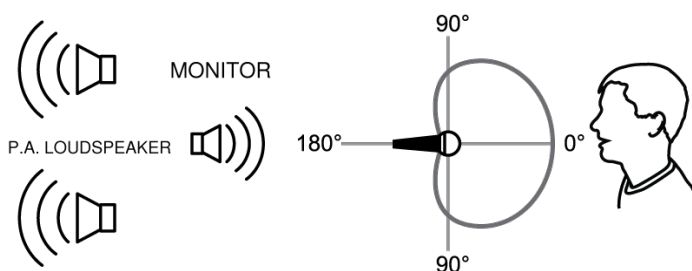
The following table lists the most common applications and placement techniques. Keep in mind that microphone technique is largely a matter of personal taste; there is no one "correct" microphone position.

| APPLICATION | SUGGESTED MICROPHONE PLACEMENT | TONE QUALITY |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Tom-Toms | One mic on each tom, or between each pair of toms, 2.5 to 7.5 cm (1 to 3 in.) above drum heads. Aim each microphone at top drum heads. On double head toms, you can also remove bottom head and place a mic inside pointing up toward top drum head. | Medium attack; full, balanced sound. |
| Snare Drum | 2.5 to 7.5 cm (1 to 3 in.) above rim of top head of drum. Aim mic at drum head. If desired, place a second mic just below rim of bottom head. | Most "snap" from drumstick. More "snare" sound. |

| APPLICATION | SUGGESTED MICROPHONE PLACEMENT | STONE QUALITY |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Guitar & Bass Amplifiers | 2.5 cm (1 in.) from speaker, on-axis with center of speaker cone. | Sharp attack; emphasized bass. |
| | 2.5 cm (1 in.) from speaker, at edge of speaker cone. | Sharp attack; higher frequency sound. |
| | 15 to 30 cm (6 to 12 in.) away from speaker and on-axis with speaker cone. | Medium attack; full, balanced sound. |
| | 60 to 90 cm (2 to 3 ft.) back from speaker, on-axis with speaker cone. | Softer attack; reduced bass. |
| Vocals | Lips less than 15 cm (6 in.) away or touching the windscreen, on axis to microphone. | Robust sound, emphasized bass, maximum isolation from other sources. |

Avoiding Pickup of Unwanted Sound Sources

Place the microphone so that unwanted sound sources, such as monitors and loudspeakers, are directly behind it. To minimize feedback and ensure optimum rejection of unwanted sound, always test microphone placement before a performance.



Recommended Loudspeaker Locations for Cardioid Microphones

Proximity Effect

Unidirectional (cardioid) microphones progressively boost bass frequencies by 6 to 10 dB below 100 Hz when the microphone is at a distance of about 6 mm (1/4 in.) from the sound source. This phenomenon, known as proximity effect, can be used to create a warmer, more powerful sound. To prevent explosive low frequency sound during close-up use, the bass response gradually rolls off. This provides greater control and helps the user take advantage of proximity effect.

SM57 Specifications

Type

Dynamic (moving coil)

Frequency Response

40 to 15,000 Hz

Polar Pattern

Cardioid

Output Impedance

310 Ω

Sensitivity

(@ 1 kHz, open circuit voltage)

-56.0 dBV/Pa[1] (1.6 mV)

Polarity

Positive pressure on diaphragm produces positive voltage on pin 2 with respect to pin 3

Net Weight

0.284 kg (0.625 lbs)

Connector

Three-pin professional audio (XLR), male

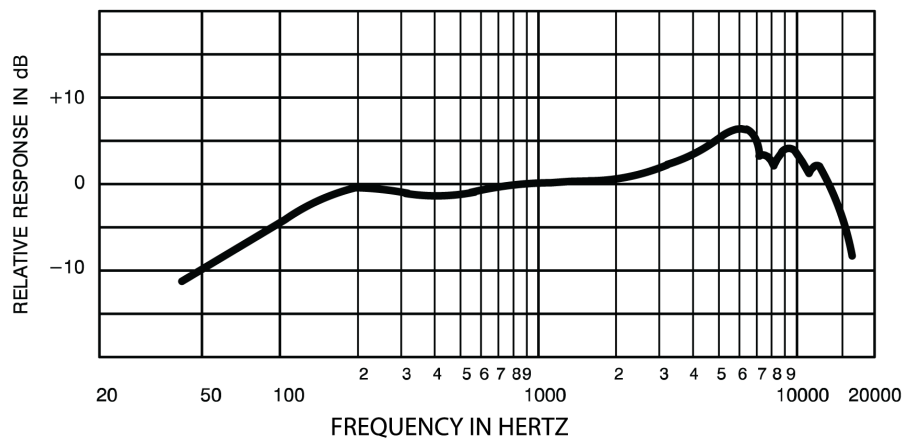
Housing

Dark gray, enamel-painted, die-cast steel with a polycarbonate grille and a stainless steel screen.

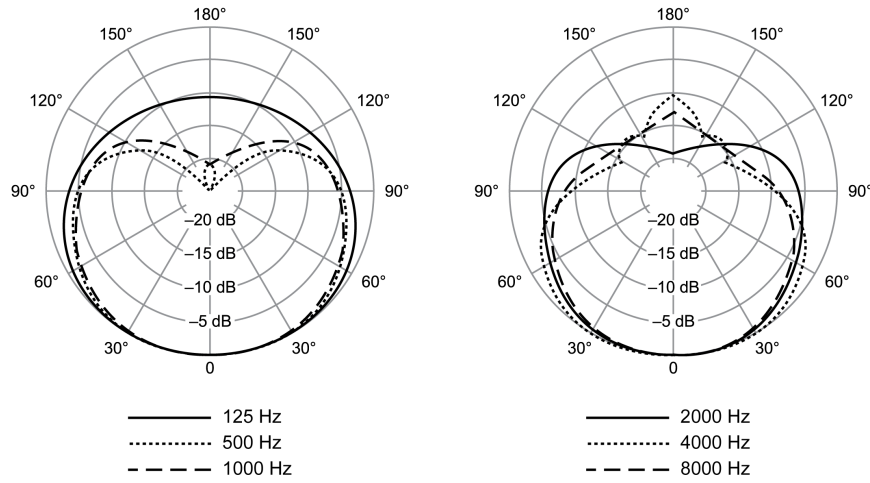
[1] 1 Pa=94 dB SPL

Diagrams

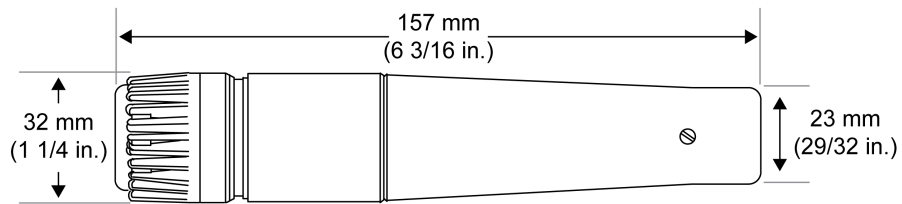
Typical Shure SM57 Frequency Response



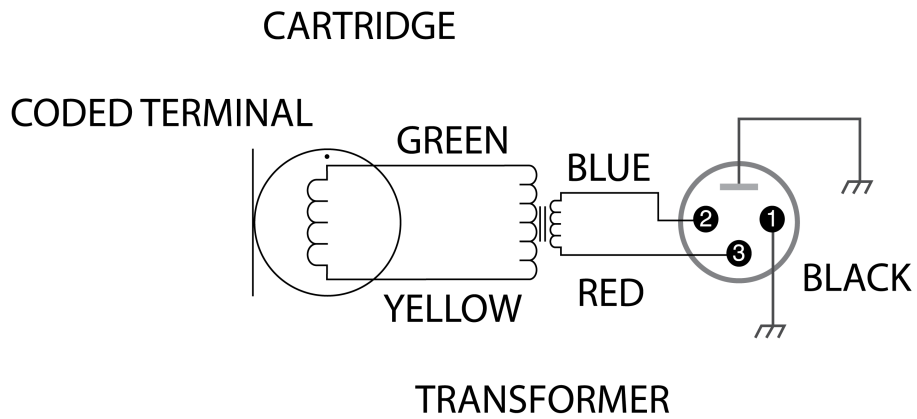
Typical Shure SM57 Polar Patterns



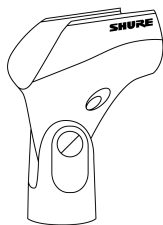
SM57 Dimensions



Internal Connections



Accessories



Microphone Clip



Zippered Carrying Bag

Furnished Accessories

| | |
|---|---------|
| Microphone Clip for SM58, SM57, SM87A, BETA87A, BETA87C, PGA57, PGA58, PGA48, PGA81 | A25D |
| Carrying/Storage Bag | 95A2313 |

Optional Accessories

| | |
|--|----------|
| Gray Locking Foam Windscreen for 545 Series, SM57 | A2WS-GRA |
| Desk Stand | S37A |
| Shock Stopper [®] Isolation Mount | A55M |
| Over/Under Dual Mount for two microphones: SM57, BETA57A or 545 Series microphones | A26M |
| 25 foot (7.5m) Triple-Flex [®] Microphone XLR Cable with Switchcraft connectors | C25E |
| 25 foot (7.5m) Triple-Flex Microphone XLR Cable with chrome connectors | C25F |

Replacement Parts

| | |
|--|--------|
| Grille for Shure SM57 and 545SD | RK244G |
| Cartridge for SM56 and SM57 | R57 |

Certifications

This product meets the Essential Requirements of all relevant European directives and is eligible for CE marking.

The CE Declaration of Conformity can be obtained from: www.shure.com/europe/compliance

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