

Shure SM58

The **Shure SM58** is a professional cardioid dynamic microphone, commonly used in live vocal applications. Produced since 1966 by Shure Incorporated, it has built a strong reputation among musicians for its durability and sound, and half a century later it is still considered the industry standard for live vocal performance microphones.^{[1][2][3]} The SM58 and its sibling, the SM57, are the best-selling microphones in the world.^[4] The **SM** stands for Studio Microphone.^[5]

Like all directional microphones, the SM58 is subject to proximity effect, a low frequency boost when used close to the source. The cardioid response reduces pickup from the side and rear, helping to avoid feedback onstage. There are wired (with and without on/off switch) and wireless versions. The wired version provides balanced audio through a male XLR connector. The SM58 uses an internal shock mount to reduce handling noise.

A distinctive feature of the SM58 is its pneumatic suspension system for the microphone capsule.^[6] The capsule, a readily replaceable component, is surrounded by a soft rubber balloon, rather than springs or solid rubber. This gives notably good isolation from handling noise, one reason for its being a popular microphone for stage vocalists. Microphones with this feature are intended primarily for hand-held use, rather than on a stand or for instrument miking.

The SM58 is unswitched, while the otherwise identical **SM58S** has a sliding on-off switch on the body. Other suffixes refer to any accessories supplied with the microphone: when a cable is provided, the model is actually **SM58-CN**, while the **SM58-LC** has no provided cable; the **SM58-X2u** kit consists of the SM58-LC and an inline **X2u** XLR-to-USB signal adaptor (capable of providing phantom power for condenser microphones, and offering an in-built headphone jack for monitoring).^[7]



The Shure SM58 microphone

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Specifications

Type: Dynamic^[8] (moving coil)

Frequency Response

50 to 15,000 Hz^[8]

Polar Pattern

Cardioid,^[8] rotationally symmetrical about microphone axis, uniform with frequency

Sensitivity (at 1,000 Hz Open Circuit Voltage)

−54.5 dBV/Pa (1.85 mV); 1 Pa = 94 dB SPL^[8]

Impedance

Rated impedance is 150 ohms (300 ohms actual) for connection to microphone inputs rated low impedance^[8]

Polarity

Positive pressure on diaphragm produces positive voltage on pin 2 with respect to pin 3^[8]

Connector

Three-pin male XLR^[8]

Net Weight

298 grams (10.5 oz)^[8]

Awards

- In 2008, for the second year running, the SM58 microphone won the MI Pro Retail Survey "Best Live Microphone" award.^[9]
- In 2011, *Acoustic Guitar* magazine honored the SM58 with a Gold Medal in the Player's Choice Awards.^[10]

Counterfeiting

The SM58, and SM57, have been extensively counterfeited.^{[11][12][13][14][15][16]} Most of these counterfeit microphones are at least functional, but have poorer performance and do not have the pneumatic suspension. There are many other subtle details which can reveal most of these fakes.^{[17][18]}

See also

- [Shure SM57](#)
- [Shure Beta 58A](#)

References

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Robert Lockwood, Jr using an SM58



Patti Smith performing with an SM58 in Finland

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External links

- SM58 official page (<http://www.shure.com/americas/products/microphones/sm/sm58-vocal-microphone>)
 - Shure Asia SM58 official page (<http://www.shureasia.com/products/microphones/sm58>)
 - Shure SM58 history page (<http://sm58.shure.com/en/history>)
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