The SM90 Microphone is designed specifically for surface-mounted applications. It is a professional-quality permanently-biased condenser microphone with a hemispherical pickup pattern (omnidirectional in the hemisphere above the mounting surface.)

The SM90 takes advantage of the well-known principle that, at a barrier or boundary, sound pressure doubles compared to its value if the boundary is removed. When placed sufficiently near the boundary surface, a microphone has effectively 6 dB higher sensitivity and approximately 3 dB greater rejection of random background noise.

Because of its high sensitivity and extremely flat frequency response, the SM90 can be used for distant pickup in circumstances where close miking would not be practical. The low-frequency cutoff switch in the preamplifier permits using the SM90 even in environments where low-frequency noise (e.g., from fans or air conditioners) would otherwise make distant pickup impossible. And the omnidirectional polar pattern of the SM90 means sound is picked up equally in the full 360° hemisphere around the microphone; there is no off-axis sound coloration or variation.

The SM90 can also be used for close pickup of an individual instrument, mounted, for instance, inside the lid of a grand piano or on the floor next to a bass drum. Experimentation and critical listening will demonstrate the best location for any particular purpose or effect desired.

The carefully optimized design of the SM90 includes an entirely new cartridge, developed at Shure. The result is high output and extremely faithful sound reproduction across the entire audio frequency range. The supplied low-distortion, high-clipping-level preamplifier provides switch-selectable low-frequency Flat or Lo-Cut response for additional help in obtaining the best possible microphone signal even under difficult conditions.

The SM90 is powered either by two readily available 9-volt alkaline batteries (300 hours continuous battery life) or by an 11-to-52 Vdc simplex (phantom) supply from broadcast, sound-reinforcement, or recording equipment.

The SM90 consists of a small, rugged, surface-mounted microphone finished in professional durable matte-black enamel; a 7.6m (25 ft) small diameter two-conductor shielded interconnecting cable with two 3-socket miniature Switchcraft connectors; and a sturdy preamplifier assembly with battery compartment, battery On/Off switch, green LED battery-condition indicator, low-frequency Flat/Lo Cut switch, and standard 3-pin professional audio connector output.

Features:
- Wide flat frequency response for faithful sound reproduction across the audio spectrum
- Switch-selectable 12 dB/octave low-frequency cutoff permits tailoring response to suit conditions
- Omnidirectional polar pattern for pickup in full hemisphere surrounding microphone mounting surface
- High sensitivity and high signal-to-noise ratio
- Very low distortion and high output clipping level
- Battery or simplex powering: uses standard 9-volt alkaline batteries: accepts wide range of simplex voltages - 11 to 52 Vdc
- Low susceptibility to RFI, electrostatic and electromagnetic hum
- Extremely rugged construction of both microphone and preamplifier for outstanding reliability
- Low profile and matte black finish for unobtrusive appearance on-camera or onstage; on floor, table, ceiling, wall, or lectern
- Usable over very wide range of temperature and humidity
SPECIFICATIONS

**Type**
Condenser (electret bias) for surface mounting

**Frequency Response**
20 to 20,000 Hz at 30° incidence to infinite surface (see Figure 1)

**TYPICAL FREQUENCY RESPONSE**

**Polar Pattern**
Omnidirectional in hemisphere above mounting surface

**Output Impedance**
Rated at 150 ohms (90 ohms actual)
Recommended minimum load impedance: 800 ohms (May be used with loads as low as 150 ohms with reduced clipping level)

**Output Level** (at 1,000 Hz, measured with sound source at 30° incidence to flat surface)
Open Circuit Voltage: -66.0 dB (0.5 mV)
0 dB = 1V/µbar

**Preamplifier Output Clipping Level** (at 1,000 Hz, less than 0.1% THD)
800 ohm load: 0 dBV (1.0V)
150 ohm load: -13 dBV (0.22V)

**Maximum SPL** (at 1,000 Hz, sound source at 30° incidence to flat surface)
800 ohm load: 141 dB
150 ohm load: 131 dB

**Hum Pickup**
-19 dB equivalent SPL in 1 mO field (60 Hz)

**Output Noise**
20 dB SPL, A-weighted
23 dB SPL, weighted per DIN 45 405

**Signal-to-Noise Ratio**
74 dB re 94 dB SPL

**Dynamic Range**
121 dB

**Phasing**
Positive pressure on diaphragm produces positive voltage on pin 2 relative to pin 3 of preamplifier output connector

**Power**
**Battery:** Two 9 Vdc alkaline (NEMA 1604A), approximately 300 hours continuous with fresh alkaline batteries

**Simplex Voltage:** 11 to 52 Vdc, operational down to 9 Vdc; 1.8 mA current drain; permissible to use simplex power with batteries in place or removed

**Switches and Indicator**
Two recessed slide switches and green LED indicator on top surface of preamplifier assembly

**Battery On/Off Switch:** Move to On to power from batteries or to use batteries as backup power in case of interruption to external power supply (no battery drain occurs as long as simplex voltage source is greater than total battery voltage). Move to Off to prevent battery drain when unit is not in use.

**LED Indicator:** Green LED flashes momentarily when switch is moved to On to indicate at least 8 hours of battery life remaining.

**Flat/Lo Cut Switch:** In Flat position, 6 dB/octave rolloff below 30 Hz; in Lo Cut position, 12 dB/octave cutoff below 80 Hz (see Figure 1)

**Cable**
7.6m (25 ft) two-conductor shielded, small diameter, interconnecting cable with 3-socket miniature Switchcraft connector on each end to mate with microphone output connector and preamplifier input connector

**Case**
**Microphone:** Matte black enamel die-cast base and perforated steel grille with replaceable or cleanable fine mesh screen and foam pad wind/dirt barrier

**Preamplifier:** Matte black enamel die-cast aluminum

**Dimensions**
See Figure 2

**OVERALL DIMENSIONS**

**Environmental Conditions**
**Operating Temperature:** -18° to 57°C (0° to 135°F)
**Storage Temperature:** -29° to 74°C (-20° to 168°F)
**Relative Humidity (Operating or Storage):** 0 to 95%

**Net Weight**
**Microphone:** 280 grams (9.9 oz) less cable
**Preamplifier:** 320 grams (11.3 oz) with batteries
LOCATION
To maintain the flattest possible low-frequency response and the best rejection of random background noise, choose a flat surface as large as possible on which to locate the SM90. The surface can be a floor, wall, ceiling or table.

A small mounting surface causes a low-frequency rolloff beginning at the frequency whose wavelength is comparable to the size of the surface. The rolloff continues at a rate of about 3 dB per octave until it reaches a plateau approximately 6 dB lower than the mid- and high-frequency response. In a similar fashion, a small mounting surface decreases the rejection of low-frequency background noise.

MOUNTING
The SM90 can be permanently mounted to a lectern, tabletop, floor, ceiling, or wall using two No. 6 screws located 50.1 mm (2 in.) apart. The location of two keyhole slots in the base of the microphone is marked on the nameplate. Cut through the marked slots before sliding the base onto the screws.

To avoid ground loops and hum, avoid grounding the microphone preamplifier housing to metal building structures.

POWERING THE SM90
The SM90 can be powered by two internal 9-volt alkaline batteries or by an external simplex supply of 11 to 52 volts dc.

To use batteries, move the Battery On/Off switch to On. The green LED will indicate at least 8 hours of battery life remaining by flashing once when the switch is moved to On. If the LED does not flash, the batteries should be replaced. A battery-powered SM90 preamplifier output can be connected to any balanced-line low-impedance input.

To use simplex power, connect the preamplifier output to a balanced-line microphone input supplying 11 to 52 Vdc (phantom) power. The batteries may be left in place while the unit is externally powered. There will be no battery drain if the battery switch is turned Off, or as long as the simplex voltage exceeds the battery voltage with the battery switch On.

BATTERY INSTALLATION
To install batteries, remove the four screws in the corners of the preamplifier case. Lift off the case cover, exposing the battery compartment. The use of O-volt alkaline batteries (NEMA 1604A or equivalent) is highly recommended. Two batteries are required; always replace batteries in pairs.

Remove the batteries if the unit will not be used for a long period of time.

INTERCONNECTING CABLE
One 7.6m (25 ft) cable is supplied for connecting the SM90 Microphone to its Preamplifier. To retain access to the controls located in the preamplifier, it is sometimes desirable for the units to be located a greater distance apart. Up to 15m (50 ft) of additional cable can be used between the SM90 Microphone and Preamplifier with no loss in response or output.

CLEANING
When the microphone is located in a dusty environment, periodic cleaning may be desirable. This can be easily accomplished by removing the Phillips-head screw on the grille, and lifting off the grille, the fine mesh screen, and the foam pad. Clean the fine stainless steel mesh screen by washing it in soapy water. Dry it thoroughly, and replace the foam pad, screen, and grille. Fasten firmly with the Phillips screw.

GUARANTEE
This Shure product is guaranteed in normal use to be free from electrical and mechanical defects for a period of one year from date of purchase. Please retain proof of purchase date. This guarantee includes all parts and labor. This guarantee is in lieu of any and all other guarantees or warranties, express or implied, and there shall be no recovery for any consequential or incidental damages.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS
Carefully repack the unit, have it insured, and return it prepaid to:
Shure Brothers Incorporated
Attention: Service Department
222 Hartrey Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60204

If outside the United States, return the unit to your dealer or Authorized Shure Service Center for repair. The unit will be returned to you prepaid.
## REPLACEMENT PARTS LIST

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<th>Reference Designation</th>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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