Owner’s Manual
SAFETY RULES

I. GENERAL OPERATION

- Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s) before starting. Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the machine before starting.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts.
- Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
- Clear the area of objects such as rocks, toys, wire, bones, sticks, etc., which could be picked up and thrown by the blade.
- Be sure the area is clear of other people before mowing. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
- Do not operate the mower when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Always wear substantial foot wear.
- Do not pull mower backwards unless absolutely necessary. Always look down and behind before and while moving backwards.
- Never direct discharged material toward anyone. Avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction. Material may ricochet back toward the operator. Stop the blade when crossing gravel surfaces.
- Do not operate the mower without proper guards, plates, grass catcher or other safety protective devices in place.
- See manufacturer’s instructions for proper operation and installation of accessories. Only use accessories approved by the manufacturer.

II. SLOPE OPERATION

Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents which can result in severe injury. All slopes require extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not mow it.

DO:
- Mow across the face of slopes: never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Remove obstacles such as rocks, tree limbs, etc.
- Watch for holes, ruts, or bumps. Tall grass can hide obstacles.

DO NOT:
- Do not trim near drop-offs, ditches or embankments. The operator could lose footing or balance.
- Do not trim excessively steep slopes.
- Do not mow on wet grass. Reduced footing could cause slipping.

III. CHILDREN

Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
- Keep children out of the trimming area and under the watchful care of another responsible adult.
- Be alert and turn machine off if children enter the area.
- Before and while walking backwards, look behind and down for small children.
- Never allow children to operate the machine.
- Use extra care when approaching blind corners, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure vision.

IV. SAFE HANDLING OF GASOLINE

Use extreme care in handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive.
- Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.
- Use only an approved container.
- Never remove gas cap or add fuel with the engine running. Allow engine to cool before refueling.

CAUTION!! BECOME ALERT!! YOUR SAFETY IS INVOLVED.

Look for this symbol to point out important safety precautions. It means CAUTION!!! BECOME ALERT!!! YOUR SAFETY IS INVOLVED.

CAUTION: Always disconnect spark plug wire and place wire where it cannot contact spark plug in order to prevent accidental starting when setting up, transporting, adjusting or making repairs.

WARNING: Engine exhaust, some of its constituents, and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

WARNING: Battery posts, terminals and related accessories contain lead and lead compounds, chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.

CAUTION: Muffler and other engine parts become extremely hot during operation and remain hot after engine has stopped. To avoid severe burns on contact, stay away from these areas.

WARNING: This cutting machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.

IMPORTANT: This cutting machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.
CONGRATULATIONS on your purchase of a new lawn mower. It has been designed, engineered and manufactured to give you the best possible dependability and performance.

Should you experience any problem you cannot easily remedy, please contact your nearest authorized service center/department. We have competent, well-trained technicians and the proper tools to service or repair this lawn mower.

Please read and retain this manual. The instructions will enable you to assemble and maintain your lawn mower properly. Always observe the “SAFETY RULES”.

**PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS**

- **Gasoline Capacity and Type:**
  - 1.6 Quarts
  - (Unleaded Regular Only)

- **Oil Type (API SG–SL):**
  - SAE 30 (above 0°C / 32°F)
  - SAE 5W-30 (below 0°C / 32°F)

- **Oil Capacity:**
  - 20 Ounces

- **Spark Plug:**
  - RJ19LM or J19LM (Gap: .030”)

- **Blade Bolt Torque:**
  - 35-40 ft. lbs.

**CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Read and observe the safety rules.
- Follow a regular schedule in maintaining, caring for and using your lawn mower.
- Follow the instructions under “Maintenance” and “Storage” sections of this owner’s manual.

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Read these instructions and this manual in its entirety before you attempt to assemble or operate your new lawn mower.

**IMPORTANT:** THIS LAWN MOWER IS SHIPPED WITHOUT OIL OR GASOLINE IN THE ENGINE.

Your new lawn mower has been assembled at the factory with the exception of those parts left unassembled for shipping purposes. All parts such as nuts, washers, bolts, etc., necessary to complete the assembly have been placed in the parts bag. To ensure safe and proper operation of your lawn mower, all parts and hardware you assemble must be tightened securely. Use the correct tools as necessary to ensure proper tightness.

**TO REMOVE LAWN MOWER FROM CARTON**
1. Remove loose parts included with mower.
2. Cut down two end corners of carton and lay end panel down flat.
3. Remove all packing materials except padding between upper and lower handle and padding holding operator presence control bar to upper handle.
4. Roll lawn mower out of carton and check carton thoroughly for additional loose parts.

**HOW TO SET UP YOUR LAWN MOWER**

**TO UNFOLD HANDLE (See Figs. 1 and 2)**

**IMPORTANT:** UNFOLD HANDLE CAREFULLY SO AS NOT TO PINCH OR DAMAGE CONTROL CABLES.
1. Raise lower handle to operating position and align hole in handle with one of the height positioning holes in the handle bracket.
2. Insert handle bolt through handle and bracket and secure with knob.
3. Repeat for opposite side of handle.
4. Remove protective padding, raise upper handle section into place on lower handle and tighten both handle knobs.
5. Remove packing material from around control bar.

Your handles may be adjusted for your mowing comfort. Refer to “ADJUST HANDLE” in the Service and Adjustments section of this manual.
TO ASSEMBLE GRASS CATCHER  
(See Figs. 3 and 4)  
1. Slide grass catcher bag over the frame. Make sure the rear handle is on top (the same side as the front handle) and the strap is on the bottom.  
2. Slip vinyl bindings over frame.  
NOTE: If vinyl bindings are too stiff, hold them in warm water for a few minutes. If bag gets wet, let it dry before using.  
3. Close grass catcher door.  
NOTE: When fully closed, door will “snap” shut over frame and vinyl bindings.

TO INSTALL ATTACHMENTS  
Your lawn mower was shipped ready to be used as a mulcher. To convert mower to bagging or discharging, see “TO CONVERT MOWER” in the Operation section of this manual.

TO PREPARE BATTERY (See Fig. 5)  
NOTE: Your battery must be charged before you can start your lawn mower.  
1. Connect battery charger connector (male) to harness connector (female).  
2. Plug battery charger into 110 volt A.C. outlet.  
3. Leave battery charger connected for 24 hours before starting your engine for the first time.  
4. After charging, disconnect harness connector (female) from battery charger connector (male).  
Connect your battery charger to charge battery after each use.  
IMPORTANT: The engine will not recharge your battery.  
At the end of the mowing season the battery should be charged for 48 hours to protect the battery during winter storage.

CAUTION: Always disconnect the engine connector (male) from the battery connector (female) to prevent accidental starting when transporting or storing your lawn mower after the season.
KNOW YOUR LAWN MOWER

READ THIS OWNER'S MANUAL AND SAFETY RULES BEFORE OPERATING YOUR LAWN MOWER.

Compare the illustrations with your lawn mower to familiarize yourself with the location of various controls and adjustments. Save this manual for future reference.

MEETS CPSC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Our rotary walk-behind power lawn mowers conform to the safety standards of the American National Standards Institute and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The blade turns when the engine is running.

OPERATOR PRESENCE CONTROL BAR – must be held down to the handle to start engine. Release to stop engine.

MULCHER DOOR – allows conversion to discharge or bagging operation.

PRIMER – pumps additional fuel from the carburetor to the cylinder for use when starting a cold engine.

AUXILIARY STARTER HANDLE – used for starting engine.

DRIVE CONTROL LEVER – used to engage power-propelled forward motion lawn mower.

DUAL POINT HEIGHT ADJUSTER – used to adjust cutting height of lawn mower.

KEY START SWITCH – used for starting the engine.

IMPORTANT: This lawn mower is shipped WITHOUT OIL OR GASOLINE in the engine.
HOW TO USE YOUR LAWN MOWER

ENGINE SPEED
The engine speed was set at the factory for optimum performance. Speed is not adjustable.

ENGINE ZONE CONTROL

CAUTION: Federal regulations require an engine control to be installed on this lawn mower in order to minimize the risk of blade contact injury. Do not under any circumstances attempt to defeat the function of the operator control. The blade turns when the engine is running.

- Your lawn mower is equipped with an operator presence control bar which requires the operator to be positioned behind the lawn mower handle to start and operate the lawn mower.

DRIVE CONTROL (See Fig. 6)
- Self-propelling is controlled by holding the operator presence control bar down to the handle and pulling the drive control lever rearward to the handle. The farther toward the handle the lever is pulled, the faster the unit will travel.
- Forward motion will stop when either the operator presence control bar or drive control lever are released. To stop forward motion without stopping engine, release the drive control lever only. Hold operator presence control bar down against handle to continue mowing without self-propelling.

NOTE: If after releasing the drive control the mower will not roll backwards, push the mower forward slightly to disengage drive wheels.

DRIVE CONTROL ADJUSTMENT (See Fig. 6)
Over time, the drive control system may become “loose”, resulting in decreased speed. There is a turnbuckle on the underside of the drive control housing to increase tension on the drive cable. Proceed as follows:

1. Turn unit off and disconnect spark plug wire from plug.
2. Turn nut on underside of drive control to increase drive speed.
3. Operate mower to test drive speed. Readjust as required.
4. If condition fails to improve after the above steps (forward speed remains the same), your drive belt is worn and should be replaced.

TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT (See Fig. 7)
Both front wheels are adjusted by a single lever on the left front wheel. Likewise, both rear wheels are adjusted by a single lever on the left rear wheel.
- Pull adjuster lever toward wheel. To raise mower, move lever forward to desired position. To lower mower, move the lever toward the rear.

Be sure to adjust both front and rear wheels to same height.

TO CONVERT MOWER (See Figs. 8 thru 10)
Your lawn mower was shipped ready to be used as a mulcher. To convert to rear bagging or side discharging:

REAR BAGGING
- Remove knob securing mulcher door to mower housing.
- Open mulcher door and insert tabs of discharge chute into hinge bracket opening and position rear of chute over threaded stud.

NOTE: The operation of any lawn mower can result in foreign objects thrown into the eyes, which can result in severe eye damage. Always wear safety glasses or eye shields while operating your lawn mower or performing any adjustments or repairs. We recommend standard safety glasses or a wide vision safety mask over spectacles.
**OPERATION**

- Secure rear of discharge chute to lawn mower housing with knob.
- Place rear handle of grass catcher on the crossbar of the lawn mower's lower handle as shown.
- Lift the round door of the discharge chute and place the grass catcher into place on the discharge chute.

**NOTE:** Be sure round door of discharge chute rests on grass catcher as shown.

- Mower is now ready for rear bagging operation.
- To convert to mulching operation, remove grass catcher and discharge chute. Secure mulcher door to mower housing with knob.
- To convert to side discharging operation, remove grass catcher and discharge chute. Install side discharge deflector and secure it to mower housing with knob.

**SIMPLE STEPS TO REMEMBER WHEN CONVERTING YOUR LAWN MOWER**

**FOR MULCHING -**
1. Grass catcher, discharge chute and side discharge deflector removed.
2. Mulcher door secured to mower housing with knob.

**FOR REAR BAGGING -**
1. Side discharge deflector removed.
2. Grass catcher and discharge chute secured to lawn mower housing with knob.
3. Round door of discharge chute resting on top of grass catcher.

**FOR SIDE DISCHARGING -**
1. Grass catcher and discharge chute removed.
2. Side discharge deflector installed and secured to mower housing with knob.

**CAUTION:** Do not run your lawn mower without mulcher door closed; side discharge deflector installed, or discharge chute and approved grass catcher in place. Never attempt to operate the lawn mower with mulcher door or round door removed or propped open.
**OPERATION**

**BEFORE STARTING ENGINE**

**ADD OIL (See Fig. 13)**

Your lawnmower is shipped without oil in the engine. For type and grade of oil to use, see “ENGINE” in the Maintenance section of this manual.

- **CAUTION: DO NOT overfill engine with oil, or it will smoke heavily from the muffler on startup.**

1. Be sure lawnmower is level.
2. Remove oil dipstick from oil fill spout.
3. You receive a container of oil with the unit. Slowly pour the entire container down the oil fill spout into the engine.

**NOTE:** Initial oil fill requires only 18 oz. due to residual oil in engine from the manufacturer’s 100% quality testing. When changing oil you may need 20 oz.
4. Insert and tighten dipstick.

**IMPORTANT:**
- Check oil level before each use. Add oil if needed. Fill to full line on dipstick.
- Change the oil after every 25 hours of operation or each season. You may need to change the oil more often under dusty, dirty conditions. See “TO CHANGE ENGINE OIL” in the Maintenance section of this manual.

**TO EMPTY GRASS CATCHER (See Figs. 11 – 12)**

1. Open round door of discharge chute to move starter rope out and away from grass catcher.
2. Remove grass catcher with clippings from lawn mower using both front and rear handles.
3. Empty clippings from bag using rear handle and strap. The weight of the grass will open the door.
4. Snap door shut over frame before installing grass catcher on mower.

**NOTE:** Do not drag the bag when emptying; it will cause unnecessary wear.

**FIG. 11**

**FIG. 12**
ADD GASOLINE (See Fig. 13)

- Fill fuel tank to bottom of tank filler neck. Do not overfill. Use fresh, clean, regular unleaded gasoline with a minimum of 87 octane. Do not mix oil with gasoline. Purchase fuel in quantities that can be used within 30 days to assure fuel freshness.

CAUTION: Wipe off any spilled oil or fuel. Do not store, spill or use gasoline near an open flame.

Alcohol blended fuels (called gasohol or using ethanol or methanol) can attract moisture which leads to separation and formation of acids during storage. Acidic gas can damage the fuel system of an engine while in storage. To avoid engine problems, the fuel system should be emptied before storage of 30 days or longer. Empty the gas tank, start the engine and let it run until the fuel lines and carburetor are empty. Use fresh fuel next season. See Storage Instructions for additional information. Never use engine or carburetor cleaner products in the fuel tank or permanent damage may occur.

TO STOP ENGINE

- To stop engine, release operator presence control bar.

TO START ENGINE

NOTE: Due to protective coatings on the engine, a small amount of smoke may be present during the initial use of the product and should be considered normal.

1. To start a cold engine, push primer three (3) times before trying to start. Use a firm push. This step is not usually necessary when starting an engine which has already run for a few minutes.

2. Hold operator presence control bar down to the handle and turn the start key.

IMPORTANT: Do not crank engine more than five continuous seconds between each time you try to start. Wait 5 to 10 seconds between each attempt.

- To start engine using the rope starter, follow the steps above. Exchange the use of the starter rope for start key. Pull starter handle quickly. Do not allow starter rope to snap back.

NOTE: In cooler weather it may be necessary to repeat priming steps. In warmer weather over priming may cause flooding and engine will not start. If you do flood engine, wait a few minutes before attempting to start and do not repeat priming steps.

MOWING TIPS

CAUTION: Do not use de-thatcher blade attachments on your mower. Such attachments are hazardous, will damage yourmower and could void your warranty.

- Under certain conditions, such as very tall grass, it may be necessary to raise the height of cut to reduce pushing effort and to keep from overloading the engine and leaving clumps of grass clippings. It may also be necessary to reduce ground speed and/or run the lawn mower over the area a second time.

- For extremely heavy cutting, reduce the width of cut by overlapping previously cut path and mow slowly.

- For better grass bagging and most cutting conditions, the engine speed should be set in the fast position.

- Pores in cloth grass catchers can become filled with dirt and dust with use and catchers will collect less grass. To prevent this, regularly hose catcher off with water and let dry before using.

- Keep top of engine around starter clear and clean of grass clippings and chaff. This will help engine air flow and extend engine life.

MULCHING MOWING TIPS

IMPORTANT: FOR BEST PERFORMANCE, KEEP MOWER HOUSING FREE OF BUILT-UP GRASS/TRASH. SEE “CLEANING” IN THE MAINTENANCE SECTION OF THIS MANUAL.

- The special mulching blade will recut the grass clippings many times and reduce them in size so that as they fall onto the lawn they will disperse into the grass and not be noticed. Also, the mulched grass will biodegrade quickly to provide nutrients for the lawn. Always mulch with your highest engine (blade) speed as this will provide the best recutting action of the blades.

- Avoid cutting your lawn when it is wet. Wet grass tends to form clumps and interferes with the mulching action. The best time to mow your lawn is the early afternoon. At this time the grass has dried, yet the newly cut area will not be exposed to direct sunlight.

- For best results, adjust the lawn mower cutting height so that the lawn mower cuts off only the top one-third of the grass blades (See Fig. 14). If the lawn is overgrown it will be necessary to raise the height of cut to reduce pushing effort and to keep from overloading the engine and leaving clumps of mulched grass. For extremely heavy mulching, reduce your width of cut by overlapping previously cut path and mow slowly.

- Certain types of grass and grass conditions may require that an area be mulched a second time to completely hide the clippings. When doing a second cut, mow across (perpendicular) to the first cut path.

- Change your cutting pattern from week to week. Mow north to south one week then change to east to west the next week. This will help prevent matting and graining of the lawn.
### MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BEFORE EACH USE</th>
<th>AFTER EACH USE</th>
<th>EVERY 10 HOURS</th>
<th>EVERY 25 HOURS OR SEASON</th>
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</table>

* (if so equipped)

** Electric-Start mowers

*** Power-Propelled mowers

**** Use a scraper to clean under deck

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### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The warranty on this lawn mower does not cover items that have been subjected to operator abuse or negligence. To receive full value from the warranty, operator must maintain mower as instructed in this manual. Some adjustments will need to be made periodically to properly maintain your unit. At least once a season, check to see if you should make any of the adjustments described in the Service and Adjustments section of this manual.

- At least once a year, replace the spark plug, clean or replace air filter element and check blade for wear. A new spark plug and clean/new air filter element assure proper air-fuel mixture and help your engine run better and last longer.
- Follow the maintenance schedule in this manual.

### BEFORE EACH USE

1. Check engine oil level.
2. Check for loose fasteners.

### LUBRICATION

Keep unit well lubricated (See “LUBRICATION CHART”).

**IMPORTANT:** DO NOT OIL OR GREASE PLASTIC WHEEL BEARINGS. VISCIOUS LUBRICANTS WILL ATTRACT DUST AND DIRT THAT WILL SHORTEN THE LIFE OF THE SELF-LUBRICATING BEARINGS. IF YOU FEEL THEY MUST BE LUBRICATED, USE ONLY A DRY, POWDERED GRAPHITE TYPE LUBRICANT SPARINGLY.
MAINTENANCE

LAWN MOWER
Always observe safety rules when performing any main-
tenance.

TIRES
- Keep tires free of gasoline, oil, or insect control chem-
icals which can harm rubber.
- Avoid stumps, stones, deep ruts, sharp objects and
other hazards that may cause tire damage.

DRIVE WHEELS
Check rear drive wheels each time before you mow to be
sure they move freely.
The wheels not turning freely means trash, grass cuttings,
etc. are in the drive wheel area and must be cleaned to
free drive wheels.
If necessary to clean the drive wheels, be sure to clean
both rear wheels.

BLADE CARE
For best results, mower blade must be kept sharp. Replace
bent or damaged blades.

CAUTION: Use only a replacement
blade approved by the manufacturer of
your mower. Using a blade not approved
by the manufacturer of your mower is
hazardous, could damage your mower
and void your warranty.

TO REMOVE BLADE (See Fig. 15)
1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place
wire where it cannot come in contact with plug.
2. Turn lawn mower on its side. Make sure air filter and
carburetor are up.
3. Use a wood block between blade and mower hous-
ing to prevent blade from turning when re-
moving blade bolt.
NOTE: Protect your hands with gloves and/or wrap blade
with heavy cloth.
4. Remove blade bolt by turning counter-clockwise.
5. Remove blade and attaching hardware (bolt, lock
washer and hardened washer).

TO REPLACE BLADE (See Fig. 15)
1. Position blade on the blade adapter aligning the two
(2) holes in the blade with the raised lugs on the
adapter.
2. Be sure the trailing edge of blade (opposite sharp edge)
is up toward the engine.
3. Install the blade bolt with the lock washer and hardened
washer into blade adapter and crankshaft.
4. Use block of wood between blade and lawn mower
housing and tighten the blade bolt, turning clockwise.
• The recommended tightening torque is 35-40 ft. lbs.

IMPORTANT: BLADE BOLT IS HEAT TREATED. IF BOLT NEEDS
REPLACING, REPLACE ONLY WITH APPROVED BOLT SHOWN
IN THE REPAIR PARTS SECTION OF THIS MANUAL.

GRASS CATCHER
- The grass catcher may be hosed with water, but must
be dry when used.
- Check your grass catcher often for damage or deterio-
ration. Through normal use it will wear. If catcher needs
replacing, replace only with approved replacement
catcher shown in the Repair Parts section of this manual.
Give the lawn mower model number when ordering.

ENGINE
LUBRICATION
Use only high quality detergent oil rated with API service
classification SG–SL. Select the oil’s SAE viscosity grade
according to your expected operating temperature.

SAE VISCOSITY GRADES

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</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Multi-viscosity oils (5W30, 10W30 etc.) improve
starting in cold weather, and you should check your engine
oil level frequently to avoid possible engine damage from
running low on oil.
MAINTENANCE

Change the oil after every 25 hours of operation or at least once a year if the lawn mower is not used for 25 hours in one year.

Check the crankcase oil level before starting the engine and after each five (5) hours of continuous use. Tighten oil plug securely each time you check the oil level.

TO CHANGE ENGINE OIL (See Fig. 16)

NOTE: Before tipping lawn mower to drain oil, empty fuel tank by running engine until fuel tank is empty.

1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with plug.
2. Remove engine oil cap; lay aside on a clean surface.
3. Tip lawn mower on its side as shown and drain oil into a suitable container. Rock lawn mower back and forth to remove any oil trapped inside of engine.
4. Install cartridge, then replace cover making sure the tabs are aligned with the slots in the back plate. Fasten screw securely.

MUFFLER
Inspect and replace corroded muffler as it could create a fire hazard and/or damage.

SPARK PLUG
Replace spark plug at the beginning of each mowing season or after every 100 hours of operation, whichever occurs first. Spark plug type and gap setting are shown in the “PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS” section of this manual.

CLEANING

IMPORTANT: FOR BEST PERFORMANCE, KEEP MOWER HOUSING FREE OF BUILT-UP GRASS AND TRASH. CLEAN THE UNDERSIDE OF YOUR MOWER AFTER EACH USE.

CAUTION: Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with plug.

- Clean the underside of your lawn mower by scraping to remove build-up of grass and trash.
- Clean engine often to keep trash from accumulating. A clogged engine runs hotter and shortens engine life.
- Keep finished surfaces and wheels free of all gasoline, oil, etc.
- We do not recommend using a garden hose to clean lawn mower unless the electrical system, muffler, air filter and carburetor are covered to keep water out. Water in engine can result in shortened engine life.

CLEAN UNDER DRIVE COVER
Clean under drive cover at least twice a season. Scrape underside of cover with putty knife or similar tool to remove any build-up of trash or grass on underside of drive cover.

1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place where it cannot come in contact with plug.
2. Remove engine oil cap; lay aside on a clean surface.
3. Tip lawn mower on its side as shown and drain oil into a suitable container. Rock lawn mower back and forth to remove any oil trapped inside of engine.
4. Wipe off any spilled oil from lawn mower or side of engine.
5. Slowly pour oil down the oil fill spout, stopping every few ounces to check the oil level with the dipstick.
6. Stop adding oil when you reach the FULL mark on the dipstick. Wait a minute to allow oil to settle.
7. Continue adding small amounts of oil, rechecking the dipstick until oil level settles at FULL. DO NOT overfill, or engine will smoke heavily from the muffler on startup.
8. Always be sure to retighten oil dipstick before starting engine.
9. Reconnect spark plug wire to spark plug.

AIRE FILTER (See Fig. 17)
Your engine will not run properly and may be damaged by using a dirty air filter. Replace the air filter cartridge every 100 hours of operation or every season, whichever occurs first. Service air cleaner more often under dusty conditions.

TO CLEAN AIR FILTER
1. Loosen screw and tilt cover to remove.
2. Carefully remove cartridge.
3. Clean by gently tapping on a flat surface. If very dirty, replace cartridge.
SERVICE AND ADJUSTMENTS

CAUTION: TO AVOID SERIOUS INJURY, BEFORE PERFORMING ANY SERVICE OR ADJUSTMENTS:
1. Release control bar and stop engine.
2. Make sure the blade and all moving parts have completely stopped.
3. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with plug.

4. Pivot idler arm assembly to slacken drive belt, then remove drive belt from drive pulley, belt keepers and idler arm.
5. Turn lawn mower on its side. Make sure air filter and carburetor are up.
6. Remove screw securing debris shield. Note that the debris shield has a tab which fits into a gap in the housing (See Fig. 20).

7. Use a wood block between blade and mower housing to prevent blade from turning when removing blade bolt. 

NOTE: Protect your hands with gloves and/or wrap blade with heavy cloth.
8. Remove blade bolt.
9. Remove blade, attaching hardware (bolt, lock washer, hardened washer), blade adapter and debris shield as one assembly.
10. Remove drive belt from blade adapter and debris shield; discard old belt.

TO REPLACE DRIVE BELT (See Figs. 18–21)
1. Place new drive belt in the belt retainer of the debris shield. Be sure to route belt between belt keepers and through slot as shown (See Fig. 21).

LAWN MOWER
TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT
See “TO ADJUST CUTTING HEIGHT” in the Operation section of this manual.

REAR DEFLECTOR
The rear deflector, attached between the rear wheels of your mower, is provided to minimize the possibility that objects will be thrown out of the rear of the mower into the operator's mowing position. If the deflector becomes damaged, it should be replaced.

TO REMOVE DRIVE BELT (See Figs. 18–20)
1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and place wire where it cannot come in contact with plug.
2. Remove screws retaining drive cover and remove drive cover from lawn mower housing (See Fig. 18).

3. Remove drive cable from anchor, then detach it and return spring from idler arm assembly (See Fig. 19).

4. Pivot idler arm assembly to slacken drive belt, then remove drive belt from drive pulley, belt keepers and idler arm.
5. Turn lawn mower on its side. Make sure air filter and carburetor are up.
6. Remove screw securing debris shield. Note that the debris shield has a tab which fits into a gap in the housing (See Fig. 20).

7. Use a wood block between blade and mower housing to prevent blade from turning when removing blade bolt. 

NOTE: Protect your hands with gloves and/or wrap blade with heavy cloth.
8. Remove blade bolt.
9. Remove blade, attaching hardware (bolt, lock washer, hardened washer), blade adapter and debris shield as one assembly.
10. Remove drive belt from blade adapter and debris shield; discard old belt.

TO REPLACE DRIVE BELT (See Figs. 18–21)
1. Place new drive belt in the belt retainer of the debris shield. Be sure to route belt between belt keepers and through slot as shown (See Fig. 21).
2. Route the other end of the new drive belt through hole in housing.

3. Reattach debris shield to housing with screw previously removed. Be sure tab of debris shield is in gap of housing.

4. Position blade on the blade adapter aligning the two (2) holes in the blade with the raised lugs on the adapter.

5. Be sure the trailing edge of blade (opposite sharp edge) is up toward the engine as shown (See Fig. 20).

6. Install the blade bolt with the lock washer and hardened washer into blade adapter and crankshaft.

7. Use block of wood between blade and lawn mower housing and tighten the blade bolt, turning clockwise.

- The recommended tightening torque is 35-40 ft. lbs.

**IMPORTANT:** BLADE BOLT IS HEAT TREATED. IF BOLT NEEDS REPLACING, REPLACE ONLY WITH APPROVED BOLT SHOWN IN THE REPAIR PARTS SECTION OF THIS MANUAL.

8. Return mower to upright position.

9. Install new drive belt into idler arm assembly, then around the drive pulley. Be sure belt is inside of belt keepers (See Fig. 19).

**NOTE:** Pulling on the drive belt (to install it on the drive pulley) will cause the other end of the belt to free itself from the debris shield retainer and come into contact with the pulley end of the blade adapter.

10. Reattach drive cable and return spring to the idler arm assembly, then reattach drive cable to anchor.

11. Reattach drive cover with screws previously removed (See Fig. 18).

12. Connect spark plug wire to spark plug.

**TO ADJUST HANDLE** (See Fig. 22)

The handle on your lawn mower has multiple height positions - adjust to height that suits you.

1. Remove knob and carriage bolt on one side of the lower handle.

2. While holding handle assembly, remove knob and carriage bolt from opposite side, align hole in handle with desired hole in handle bracket and reassemble bolt and knob and tighten securely.

3. Align opposite side of handle with same positioning hole and secure with bolt and knob.

**ENGINE**

**ENGINE SPEED**

Your engine speed has been factory set. Do not attempt to increase engine speed or it may result in personal injury. If you believe that the engine is running too fast or too slow, take your lawn mower to a Sears or other authorized service center for repair and adjustment.

**CARBURETOR**

Your carburetor is not adjustable. If your engine does not operate properly due to suspected carburetor problems, take your lawn mower to a Sears or other authorized service center for repair and/or adjustment.

**IMPORTANT:** NEVER TAMPER WITH THE ENGINE GOVERNOR, WHICH IS FACTORY SET FOR PROPER ENGINE SPEED. OVERSPEEDING THE ENGINE ABOVE THE FACTORY HIGH SPEED SETTING CAN BE DANGEROUS. IF YOU THINK THE ENGINE-GOVERNED HIGH SPEED NEEDS ADJUSTING, CONTACT YOUR NEAREST SEARS OR OTHER AUTHORIZED SERVICE CENTER, WHICH HAS PROPER EQUIPMENT AND EXPERIENCE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.

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**STORAGE**

Immediately prepare your lawn mower for storage at the end of the season or if the unit will not be used for 30 days or more.

**LAWN MOWER**

When lawn mower is to be stored for a period of time, clean it thoroughly, remove all dirt, grease, leaves, etc. Store in a clean, dry area.

1. Clean entire lawn mower (See "CLEANING" in the Maintenance section of this manual).

2. Lubricate as shown in the Maintenance section of this manual.

3. Be sure that all nuts, bolts, screws, and pins are securely fastened. Inspect moving parts for damage, breakage and wear. Replace if necessary.

4. Touch up all rusted or chipped paint surfaces; sand lightly before painting.
HANDLE (See Figs. 23 and 24)
You can fold your lawn mower handle for storage.
1. Loosen the two (2) handle knobs on sides of the upper handle and allow handle to fold down to the rear.
2. Remove the two (2) handle knobs and carriage bolts on sides of the lower handle and pivot entire handle assembly forward and allow it to rest on mower.
3. Reinstall knobs and carriage bolts to lower handle or handle brackets for safe keeping.
   • When setting up your handle from the storage position, you must manually lock the lower handle into the mowing position.

IMPORTANT: WHEN FOLDING THE HANDLE FOR STORAGE OR TRANSPORTATION, BE SURE TO FOLD THE HANDLE AS SHOWN OR YOU MAY DAMAGE THE CONTROL CABLES.

ENGINE
FUEL SYSTEM
IMPORTANT: IT IS IMPORTANT TO PREVENT GUM DEPOSITS FROM FORMING IN ESSENTIAL FUEL SYSTEM PARTS SUCH AS CARBURETOR, FUEL FILTER, FUEL HOSE, OR TANK DURING STORAGE. ALCOHOL BLENDED FUELS (CALLED GASOHOL OR USING ETHANOL OR METHANOL) CAN ATTRACT MOISTURE WHICH LEADS TO SEPARATION AND FORMATION OF ACIDS DURING STORAGE. ACIDIC GAS CAN DAMAGE THE FUEL SYSTEM OF AN ENGINE WHILE IN STORAGE.
   • Empty the fuel tank by starting the engine and letting it run until the fuel lines and carburetor are empty.
   • Never use engine or carburetor cleaner products in the fuel tank or permanent damage may occur.
   • Use fresh fuel next season.

NOTE: Fuel stabilizer is an acceptable alternative in minimizing the formation of fuel gum deposits during storage. Add stabilizer to gasoline in fuel tank or storage container. Always follow the mix ratio found on stabilizer container. Run engine at least 10 minutes after adding stabilizer to allow the stabilizer to reach the carburetor. Do not empty the gas tank and carburetor if using fuel stabilizer.

ENGINE OIL
Drain oil (with engine warm) and replace with clean engine oil. (See “ENGINE” in the Maintenance section of this manual).

CYLINDER
1. Remove spark plug.
2. Pour one ounce (29 ml) of oil through spark plug hole into cylinder.
3. Pull starter handle slowly a few times to distribute oil.
4. Replace with new spark plug.

BATTERY
Disconnect the battery from the engine connector and charge battery 48 hours.

OTHER
   • Do not store gasoline from one season to another.
   • Replace your gasoline can if your can starts to rust. Rust and/or dirt in your gasoline will cause problems.
   • If possible, store your unit indoors and cover it to give protection from dust and dirt.
   • Cover your unit with a suitable protective cover that does not retain moisture. Do not use plastic. Plastic cannot breathe, which allows condensation to form and will cause your unit to rust.

IMPORTANT: NEVER COVER MOWER WHILE ENGINE AND EXHAUST AREAS ARE STILL WARM.

CAUTION: Never store the lawn mower with gasoline in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
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<td>2. Out of fuel.</td>
<td>2. Fill fuel tank.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Stale fuel.</td>
<td>3. Empty fuel tank and refill tank with fresh, clean gasoline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Water in fuel.</td>
<td>4. Empty fuel tank and refill tank with fresh, clean gasoline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Spark plug wire is disconnected.</td>
<td>5. Connect wire to plug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Loose blade or broken blade adapter.</td>
<td>7. Tighten blade bolt or replace blade adapter.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8. Control bar in released position.</td>
<td>8. Depress control bar to handle.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10. Fuel valve lever (if equipped) in OFF position.</td>
<td>10. Turn fuel valve lever to the ON position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of power</td>
<td>1. Rear of lawn mower housing or cutting blade dragging in heavy grass.</td>
<td>1. Raise cutting height.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Cutting too much grass.</td>
<td>2. Raise cutting height.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Dirty air filter.</td>
<td>3. Clean/replace air filter.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Buildup of grass, leaves and trash under mower.</td>
<td>4. Clean underside of mower housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Too much oil in engine.</td>
<td>5. Check oil level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor cut – uneven</td>
<td>1. Worn, bent or loose blade.</td>
<td>1. Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Wheel heights uneven.</td>
<td>2. Set all wheels at same height.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Buildup of grass, leaves and trash under mower.</td>
<td>3. Clean underside of mower housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive vibration</td>
<td>1. Worn, bent or loose blade.</td>
<td>1. Replace blade. Tighten blade bolt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Bent engine crankshaft.</td>
<td>2. Contact a Sears Parts &amp; Repair center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starter rope hard to pull</td>
<td>1. Engine flywheel brake is on when control bar is released.</td>
<td>1. Depress control bar to upper handle before pulling starter rope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Bent engine crankshaft.</td>
<td>2. Contact a Sears Parts &amp; Repair center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Blade dragging in grass.</td>
<td>4. Move lawn mower to cut grass or other hard surface before starting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass catcher not filling (if so equipped)</td>
<td>1. Cutting height too low.</td>
<td>1. Raise cutting height.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Lift on blade worn off.</td>
<td>2. Replace blade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Catcher not venting air.</td>
<td>3. Clean grass catcher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard to push</td>
<td>1. Grass is too high or wheel height is too low.</td>
<td>1. Raise cutting height.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Rear of lawn mower housing or cutting blade dragging in heavy grass.</td>
<td>2. Raise rear of lawn mower housing one (1) setting higher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Grass catcher too full.</td>
<td>3. Empty grass catcher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Handle height position not right for you.</td>
<td>4. Adjust handle height to suit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of drive (or slowing of drive speed)</td>
<td>1. Belt wear.</td>
<td>1. Check/replace drive belt.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Belt off of pulley.</td>
<td>2. Check/reinstall drive belt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Drive cable worn or broken.</td>
<td>3. Put belt on pulleys / replace belts if broken.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>4. “Loose” drive control system.</td>
<td>4. Adjust drive control.</td>
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# ROTARY LAWN MOWER -- MODEL NUMBER 917.375950

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**NOTE:** All component dimensions given in U.S. inches. 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

**IMPORTANT:** Use only Original Equipment Manufacturer (O.E.M.) replacement parts. Failure to do so could be hazardous, damage your lawn mower and void your warranty.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY NO.</th>
<th>PART NO.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>KEY NO.</th>
<th>PART NO.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>197012</td>
<td>Drive Control Assembly, Complete</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17060410</td>
<td>Screw 1/4-20 x 1-1/16</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>195761</td>
<td>Cover, Drive Control, Top</td>
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<td>185994</td>
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<td>Gear Case Assembly (See Breakdown)</td>
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<td>Bolt, Hex Head, Shoulder</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>751068</td>
<td>BEARING, BALL (WHEEL)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** All component dimensions given in U.S. inches. 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

**IMPORTANT:** Use only Original Equipment Manufacturer (O.E.M.) replacement parts. Failure to do so could be hazardous, damage your lawn mower and void your warranty.
### KEY NO. | PART NO. | DESCRIPTION
--- | --- | ---
1 | 187530 | Case, Lower
2 | 191245 | Case, Upper
3 | 187532 | Gear, 24 Teeth
4 | 191246 | Shaft, Worm
5 | 183505 | Wireform
6 | 183506 | Bearing, Ball
7 | 183508 | Seal, Output Shaft
8 | 183509 | Washer
9 | 183511 | Bushing
10 | 191247 | Shaft, Output
11 | 183513 | Screw
12 | 183514 | Seal, Worm Shaft
- - | 750369 | Grease, Texaco Starplex Premium 1

(Do not substitute) (1.4 ounce capacity)

**NOTE:** All component dimensions given in U.S. inches. 1 inch = 25.4 mm. **IMPORTANT:** Use only Original Equipment Manufacturer (O.E.M.) replacement parts. Failure to do so could be hazardous, damage your lawn mower and void your warranty.
LIMITED TWO YEAR WARRANTY ON POWER MOWER

For two years from date of purchase, when this Lawn Mower is maintained, lubricated, and tuned up according to the operating and maintenance instructions in the owner’s manual, Sears will repair free of charge any defect in material or workmanship.

If this Lawn Mower is used for commercial or rental purposes, this warranty applies for only 90 days from the date of purchase.

This Warranty does not cover:

- Expendable items which become worn during normal use, such as rotary mower blades, blade adapters, belts, air cleaners and spark plug.
- Repairs necessary because of operator abuse or negligence, including bent crankshafts and the failure to maintain the equipment according to the instructions contained in the owner’s manual.

Warranty service is available by returning the Lawn Mower to the nearest Sears Parts & Repair Center in the United States. This warranty applies only while this product is used in the United States.

This Warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Sears, Roebuck And Co., D/817 WA, Hoffman Estates, Il 60179